

# 2023-2024 SDG 6 REPORT



# 6. Clean Water and Sanitation



Scholarly Output:  
**6**



International  
Collaboration:  
**1**



Field-weighted  
Citation Impact:  
**1.32**



Number of Current  
Projects:  
**1**



Number of Annual  
Events:  
**10**

## 1. Water Efficiency Mobilization

“Water Efficiency Mobilization” refers to ensuring welfare, maintaining healthy and high-quality living standards, and leaving a proud legacy for future generations with the principle of “zero loss” in our water resources, and achieving “the same benefit with less water” or “greater benefit with the same amount of water.”

Within the scope of the National Water Efficiency Mobilization launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 2023, it is necessary to take action to prevent water scarcity and protect water resources in the face of climate change, rising temperatures, and the potential for long-term drought periods in the future. The goal is to achieve 25% water savings in buildings. In this regard, Özyeğin University has prepared and implemented a water efficiency plan in its buildings.

Özyeğin University continues to adopt and implement its environmentally friendly approach with its LEED Gold-certified green buildings and its ISO 14001 Environmental Management System Standard, which it has held since 2014. Additionally, the institutional water footprint is calculated and regularly reported according to the ISO 14046 Water Footprint Standard at Özyeğin University. At Özyeğin University, a “Water Efficiency Mobilization Action Plan” has been prepared and implemented within the scope of the “Water Efficiency Mobilization.” The Water Efficiency Mobilization is monitored by the Sustainability, Safety, and Quality Department with the support of the Technical Services Department.

## 2. Past Reflection by Kaan Berke Erol, Kadir Efe Deniz

“Focusing on consumption awareness, ‘Past Reflection’ explores the question, ‘How would a preserved stream look?’ The installation aims to symbolically recreate the former state of the stream at Özyeğin University, visualizing how a preserved stream would impact the campus landscape. Delicately draped blue fabric over wooden poles visually reimagines the ‘reflection of the past’ of Özyeğin’s stream, offering viewers a timeless natural depiction.



*Past Reflection by  
Kaan Berke Erol,  
Kadir Efe Deniz*

### 3. Corporate Water Footprint Reporting

Organizations should identify their impacts on the water crisis and climate change and manage these impacts/risks in a way that prevents environmental dimensions by following national and international climate change policies. This has become an extra and universal criterion, providing strategic awareness and prestige among similar institutions.

Özyeğin University, in line with its environmental approach within the context of the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems, prepares the Corporate Water Footprint Report in accordance with the ISO 14046 Water Footprint standard to analyze its corporate water footprint and support environmental sustainability by referencing its commitment to water resource management.

Özyeğin Üniversitesi 2023 Değerleri (m3)		
Mavi Su Ayak İzi		196,513
Gri Su Ayak İzi	KOİ	255,485
	AKM	57,322
	Toplam	312,807
Yeşil Su Ayak İzi		720

### 4. Sustainable Water Policies for Sustainable Living with FAO & SUEN

ÖZÜ hosted an event with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and Turkish Water Institute to address the critical role of sustainable water management in achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 6, which focuses on clean water and sanitation. Titled “Sustainable Water Policies for Sustainable Living,” this event emphasized the essential role of water resources in the 2030 Sustainability Agenda and highlighted the importance of responsible water use as a foundation for sustainable living. Bringing together participants from universities, research institutions, the private sector, and students, the event served as a collaborative platform for advancing innovative solutions in water policy, aiming to preserve this vital resource and improve water access and quality.

### 5. A Bucket of Memories

The installation titled ‘A Bucket of Memories’ by Nour Jundi, Yusuf Demir approaches the loss of drying streams and disappearing freshwater sources from perspectives of mourning and hope. Flowers placed along the dried stream bed edges not only emphasize the boundaries of the stream but also serve as a reminder of the possibility of life’s renewal.



Talks from Sustainable Water Policies for Sustainable Living with FAO & SUEN



## 6. Following the Lakes Gala & Film Launch: Pedaling in Lost Waters

The OzU Cycling Club organized a meaningful event aimed at raising awareness about environmental and water issues. The “Following the Lakes Gala & Film Launch” event aims to raise awareness about Turkey’s water crisis and highlight environmental issues observed during the cycling tour. It aimed not only to emphasize that the water crisis is not just a future threat but an urgent issue today, but also to underscore the importance of improving the human-nature relationship.

During the cycling tour visiting 7 lakes, the event provided information about the current state and future of these lakes, proposed collective and individual solutions to the water crisis, and encouraged participants to be active parts of the solution. As part of this initiative, a documentary film titled “Pedaling in Lost Waters,” prepared by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Metin Çavuş and Instructor V. Davut Mengi, was launched. The film, completed over 6 days along the shores of 7 lakes, depicted the cycling tour and discussed the challenges facing Turkey’s water sources and lakes, accompanied by presentations from Aydan Çelik and Ömer Madra.



OzU Cycling Club members

# 7. World Water Day Program

World Water Day is celebrated on March 22 each year to highlight the importance of freshwater resources and focus on their sustainable management. To mark this occasion, Yaklaş 2030 organized an event program on March 20, 2024, covering topics such as urban freshwater ecosystems, lost streams, and rewilding, inviting participants to share knowledge in this field and to think together at the stages of awareness and action.

*Yaklaş 2030: World Water Day Program  
March 20, 2024, Wednesday*

## Introduction: The Commons That Bring Us Together

Prof. Dr. Esra Gençtürk, President of Özyeğin University

## First Session: Lost Streams and Rewilding

Moderator: Dr. Özlem Bahadır

- What role do freshwater ecosystems play in urban planning?
- How effective is the connection between preserving historical and cultural heritage and the natural environment in planning decisions and implementations?
- What insights do we gain when evaluating the current state of urban streams from an environmental justice perspective?
- What does the restoration of lost streams signify?

## Presentations:

- Rediscovering Istanbul's Lost Waters: Mapping Cultural and Natural Landscapes through the Example of Lykos Stream  
Assoc. Prof. Kaan Özgün, Özyeğin University
- Ecological Settlement Approach in Urban Planning and Design: The Ömerli Basin, Sancaktepe Example  
Bilge Aydın, Istanbul Technical University
- Watershed Studies in the Environmental Justice Program  
Cemre Kara, Assistant, Environmental Justice Program, Mekanda Adalet Derneği (MAD)
- Rights-Based Approaches to Water Resources  
Didem Köse, Özyeğin University

Scan to watch  
First Session

## Second Session: Approaching Streams Together with Students

Moderator: İlkay Baliç

- What can be done to raise students' awareness of sustainability at a university?
- Can creativity, art, and participatory processes trigger action among students?
- Can a university campus become a field study for potential actions in daily life, the city, and on a larger scale?

## Presentations:

- Making Films Along the Water's Path  
Zeynep Merve Uygun Azizoğlu, Özyeğin University
- New Narratives in the Pursuit of Fiction  
Bilge Aydın, Istanbul Technical University
- Urban Furniture in Campus and Stream Relations: An Architectural Design Studio Experience  
Mehmet Emin Bayraktar, Özyeğin University
- Art in the Flow: A Journey of Awareness along the Campus Stream  
Yasemin Yıldırım

Scan to watch  
Second Session



World Water Day Program

