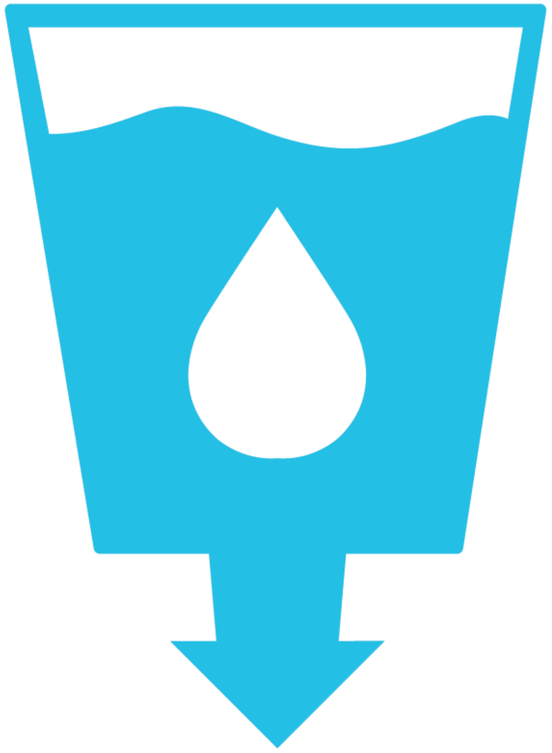
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Water scarcity and pollution threaten billions globally. Özyeğin University contributes to solutions by integrating water efficiency measures on campus, engaging students through awareness events, and conducting research and projects that promote sustainable water management both locally and nationally.



5
Scholarly Publications (2020-2024)

1.53
Citation Impact (FWCI)

1
Funded Projects

4
Student-Led Activities

Raising Awareness of Türkiye's Water Crisis Through Cycling and Film

The ÖzÜ Cycling Club organized the "Following the Lakes Gala & Film Launch" event aimed at raising awareness about Türkiye's water crisis and highlighting environmental issues observed during a cycling tour. The event emphasized that the water crisis is not just a future threat but an urgent issue today, while underscoring the importance of improving the human-nature relationship.

During the cycling tour visiting seven 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 become 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 six days along the shores of seven lakes, depicted the cycling tour and discussed the challenges facing Türkiye's water sources and lakes, accompanied by presentations from Aydan Çelik and Ömer Madra.

Systematic Water Efficiency Management

Özyeğin University adopts a systematic and integrated approach to sustainable water management, guided by its ISO 46001 Water Efficiency Management System in coordination with the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System and ISO 50001 Energy Management System. These frameworks form part of the University's comprehensive sustainability governance model, ensuring that all activities related to water use, conservation, and reporting are continuously monitored and improved. In line with the ISO 14046 Water Footprint Standard, ÖzÜ regularly calculates and updates its Institutional Water Footprint Report, which supports the University's four-year Strategic Plan objective of reducing per-capita water consumption and promoting sustainable water resource management.

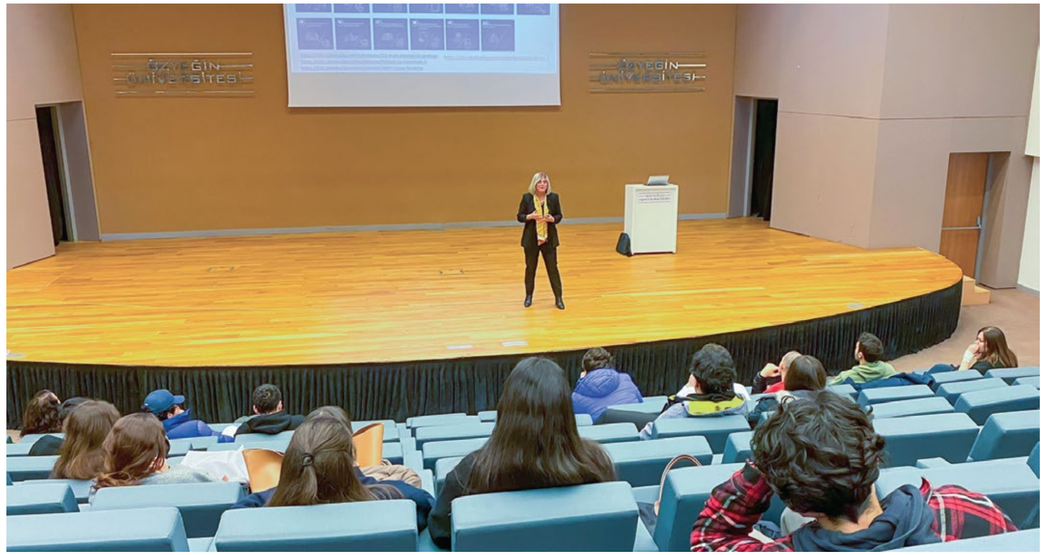
Within the scope of the National Water Efficiency Mobilization initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), Özyeğin University has developed and implemented a Water Efficiency Action Plan. This plan focuses on measurable reduction targets, efficient water technologies, and awareness-raising efforts to strengthen institutional commitment to responsible resource use. The University's LEED Gold-certified buildings feature rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling infrastructure, smart irrigation systems, and drought-tolerant landscape design, significantly decreasing potable water demand and enhancing resilience to climate-related risks such as drought.

Complementing these infrastructural measures, ÖzÜ engages its community through digital awareness tools such as the Water Meter and Carbon Meter applications, developed in collaboration with Commited, a carbot consulting start-up. Accessible via the University website and internal communication platform MyÖzÜ, these tools allow students, staff, and visitors to measure their individual water and carbon footprints, encouraging responsible consumption behaviours. Built on the principle of "reduce, replace, and reuse," the University's Environmental, Energy, and Water Efficiency Policy ensures systematic monitoring, evaluation, and continuous improvement of water management practices.

Building Water Literacy Through Community Engagement

Özyeğin University actively engages students, staff, and the broader community in awareness-raising and educational initiatives that promote responsible water use and sustainable management of natural resources. As part of its holistic Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) approach, the University regularly collaborates with public institutions and experts to foster environmental literacy and behavioural change. On March 20, 2024, ahead of World Water Day, ÖzÜ organized a public event in coordination with Yaklaş 2030, addressing urban freshwater ecosystems, lost streams, and rewilding. The event brought together academics, students, and local stakeholders to share perspectives and co-develop solutions for sustainable water management. In partnership with İSKİ (Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration), the University also hosted the seminar "The Journey of Water," which enhanced understanding of the urban water cycle and efficient consumption practices.

Complementing these activities, ÖzÜ conducts continuous campus-wide awareness campaigns through digital screens, informative posters, and mirror stickers with QR codes in common areas, encouraging efficient water use and environmental mindfulness. Community engagement is further supported through the Water Meter and Carbon Meter applications developed with Commited, enabling individuals to calculate their personal water and carbon footprints and take informed action. Through these civic and educational efforts, Özyeğin University advances SDG 6 by cultivating environmental responsibility and collective commitment to sustainable resource management across its community.



Campus as Living Laboratory for Water Sustainability

At Özyeğin University, research on water sustainability has been embedded in both funded projects and educational initiatives. Within the Erasmus+ project ATTUNE (Activate the University for Climate Change), Özyeğin academics and students collaborated in developing a dedicated water module and facilitated Research Action Teams (RATs) that designed and tested small-scale interventions addressing water use and conservation. These activities generated not only awareness and behavioural insights but also pilot data on community engagement, linking higher education research directly with the targets of SDG 6. By positioning the campus as a living laboratory, the University integrates teaching, research, and applied experimentation to advance sustainable water management practices.