CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY

Logic - Wisdom - Equality - Tradition

CLIMATE ACTION POLICY DOCUMENT

Cappadocia University

OCTOBER 2024

FOREWORD

Cappadocia University (KÜN) aims to take a leading role in combating climate change by aligning its educational, research, and community outreach activities with sustainable development goals. The university, involving all its academic and administrative units, is dedicated to developing and implementing comprehensive strategies focused on environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

The KÜN Climate Action Policy Document, prepared within this scope, outlines concrete steps for sustainable campus management, energy efficiency, waste management, and social responsibility projects. This policy, which prioritizes collaboration with local communities and societal contributions, serves as a guide for all stakeholders within and outside the university.

The Climate Action Policy Document aims to raise environmental awareness across various areas, from energy and water management to biodiversity conservation. It also strives to enhance climate resilience by strengthening campus infrastructure to adapt to climate change and prepare for potential disasters. The effective execution of these efforts, with the participation of all stakeholders, will form a cornerstone for building a sustainable future.

The Rectorate and Board of Trustees of Cappadocia University support and encourage climate action policies. By actively participating in this policy's implementation, all university units and students contribute to spreading environmental consciousness. The KÜN Climate Action Policy Document serves as a roadmap that embodies our university’s commitment to sustainability, aiming to create a more livable future with the contributions of internal and external stakeholders.

Prof. Dr. Hasan Ali Karasar
Rector

Funda Aktan
Chair of the Board of Trustees

The KÜN Climate Action Policy Document is based on the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 13, and aligns with SDGs 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 17.



1. MISSION AND VISION OF CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY

Mission

Cappadocia University's mission is to raise new-generation public opinion leaders that will give a voice to Turkey in the 21st century.

The mission of Cappadocia University is to foster new-generation public opinion leaders who will elevate Turkey's presence on the global stage, rooted in an education philosophy that is universally informed and nationally oriented. This policy, aimed at developing sustainable strategies against climate change, supports the cultivation of environmentally conscious leaders who will drive Turkey forward. The university's academic and social responsibility projects encourage students to lead in areas of environmental, social, and economic sustainability, contributing to Turkey's global influence by equipping future leaders who can address the challenges of tomorrow.

Vision

Cappadocia University strives to identify scientific solutions to regional, national and global problems, and to transform Cappadocia into an international center of attraction for academic studies.

The vision of Cappadocia University is to make Cappadocia a hub of international academic studies, providing scientific solutions to regional, national, and global issues. The Climate Action Policy Document is designed to support this vision by turning Cappadocia into a vital center for research and applications focused on climate change and environmental issues. Through projects on energy efficiency, waste management, water conservation, and biodiversity, the university aims to offer practical solutions and exemplary practices at both local and international levels.

2. CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY'S 2023-2028 STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

The Strategic Plan of Cappadocia University includes the following goals related to climate action:

- **Enhancing Education and Research**: Integrate climate issues into academic programs, create environmental solutions through research, develop sustainability projects with student and faculty participation, increase knowledge production, and contribute to society.

- **Sustainable Campus Practices**: Increase energy efficiency, utilize renewable energy sources, reduce carbon footprint, limit fossil fuel consumption, promote biking and public transport, encourage online events, and reinforce the campus's eco-friendly structure.
- **Waste Management and Circular Economy:** Boost recycling, reuse, and composting practices, reduce waste, promote sustainable consumption habits, and implement circular economy principles campus-wide.
- **Water Management and Conservation:** Safeguard water resources, enhance water savings, develop water recovery systems, and promote efficient water usage in campus infrastructure, preparing for potential climate impacts.
- **Climate Resilience and Adaptation:** Create resilient campus infrastructure, adapt to changing climate conditions, implement necessary measures to strengthen the campus environment, and advance in alignment with sustainability goals.
- **Biodiversity Protection and Natural Habitat Support:** Protect biodiversity, ensure ecosystem sustainability, promote projects that support natural habitats around the campus, and uphold environmental sustainability.
- **Strengthening Local and Social Responsibility Projects:** Collaborate with local communities, develop sustainable development projects, support rural agriculture and sustainable gastronomy, and increase local production to contribute to community development.
- **Advancing Sustainable Tourism, Rural Development, and Responsible Supply Chains:** Promote sustainable tourism and rural development, create environmentally and ethically conscious supply processes, reduce the carbon footprint, and support the economic development of local rural communities.
- **Strengthening Implementation and Performance Monitoring:** Track activities related to sustainability goals, present annual reports to the public, regularly review policy practices, develop improvement suggestions, and adapt to changing conditions by enhancing performance.

The university aims to embed environmental sustainability principles across academic and administrative units, implement climate-friendly projects based on energy efficiency and low-carbon practices, and foster a comprehensive structure for climate change awareness through education, management, and research.

3. COMMITMENT TO CARBON NEUTRALITY AND TARGET YEAR

Cappadocia University, in recognition of its responsibility to address climate change and reduce institutional greenhouse gas emissions, commits to achieving carbon neutrality by the end of 2030 for Scope 1 (direct emissions), Scope 2 (indirect emissions from purchased energy) and selected Scope 3 categories (partial), as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. The Scope 3 component of this commitment covers indirect emissions associated with business travel and purchased goods and services. This commitment applies to our academic, administrative and operational activities within the organisational boundaries established in our greenhouse gas inventory.

To achieve this objective, we are committed to preparing an annual institutional greenhouse gas inventory in accordance with ISO 14064-1:2018, systematically monitoring Scope 1, Scope 2 and the selected Scope 3 emissions covered by our commitment, implementing emission reduction measures and evaluating progress towards carbon neutrality. We will also continue to monitor and address other relevant Scope 3 emission categories beyond those included in our carbon neutrality commitment.

Our pathway towards carbon neutrality by 2030 prioritises improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of renewable energy, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, promoting sustainable transport and strengthening resource efficiency across our operations. We prioritise direct greenhouse gas emissions reductions and will assess appropriate, transparently reported and independently verifiable carbon removal or offsetting mechanisms for managing residual emissions in accordance with relevant standards.

The implementation and monitoring of our carbon neutrality commitment are coordinated by Sustainability Office and Sustainability Commission. We regularly review greenhouse gas emissions and carbon reduction performance and communicate relevant progress through our institutional sustainability reporting processes.

4. CLIMATE ACTION ACTIVITIES RESOURCES

Cappadocia University allocates resources from its budget to achieve the climate action goals in the Strategic Plan and those outlined in the Climate Action Policy Document.

5. CLIMATE ACTION ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the Climate Action Policy Document is coordinated through the Quality and Strategic Planning Department, the Sustainability Office, and the Sustainability Commission. The Quality and Strategic Planning Department ensures that climate action policies align with the university's strategic goals and undertakes regular performance monitoring and reporting. The Sustainability Office plans and directs sustainable practices, such as energy efficiency, waste management, and water conservation, and develops projects to achieve environmental, social, and economic sustainability goals. The Office is also responsible for preparing and sharing sustainability reports with the public. The Sustainability Commission, composed of academic and administrative staff and students, plays a key role in determining, implementing, and evaluating sustainability policies. By bringing together perspectives from various disciplines, these bodies aim to implement holistic and effective climate action strategies and foster strong collaboration across all university units.