Gebze Technical University Sustainable Campus Policies 2024

Report by GTÜ Sustainable Office Coordination Unit

NATURE AND ECOSYSTEMS

Gebze Technical University (GTU) is home to diverse and rich land and water ecosystems, among the few on university campuses worldwide. Protecting, enhancing, and sustainably utilizing these ecosystems are core principles of GTU, serving as natural laboratories and providing models of best practices in ecosystem management. Our institution is committed to developing and implementing innovative strategies and new principles in the following areas:

- **Sustainable Practices**: GTU actively supports sustainable methods, such as reducing plastic waste and controlling air pollution emissions, to mitigate land-based impacts on water, air, and marine environments.
- **Monitoring and Data Accessibility**: GTU is establishing observation and predictive systems to monitor the health of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Data from these systems will be publicly accessible online, allowing for transparent access and engagement.
- **Integrated Management for Ecosystem Conservation**: GTU is developing an integrated management strategy to protect local flora, fauna, and ecosystems. This strategy will be showcased on GTU's relevant web pages and serve as a model for other institutions.
- **Biodiversity and Endangered Species Protection**: GTU is creating a comprehensive database cataloging campus biodiversity. As part of our commitment to conservation, we are implementing protective measures for endangered species listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and working to safeguard local ecosystems from invasive species.

Gebze Technical University Smart Agriculture Application and Research Center Guide: (Click For Document)

Animal and Plant Life Conservation Program: (Click For Document)

ZERO CARBON

Gebze Technical University (GTU) is dedicated to reducing its carbon footprint to achieve a zero-carbon campus by 2040. GTU has implemented policies, directives, and projects to guide this transformation, setting a foundation for sustainable practices in education and campus life. GTU's Zero Carbon Action Plan includes:

- **Setting Targets for Energy Reduction:** GTU has established specific goals to reduce energy consumption and has implemented strategies for campus-wide energy efficiency, including using automated systems to monitor and regulate energy use.
- **Building Sustainable Infrastructure:** New and existing buildings on campus incorporate advanced energy-saving technologies such as efficient lighting, energy measurement systems, innovative heating, and thermal insulation.
- **Installing solar panels for renewable energy will enable the campus to run entirely on these sources by 2040.**
- **Reducing Vehicle Traffic:** GTU minimizes on-campus vehicle usage by promoting public transportation, electric vehicles, and bicycle-friendly infrastructure. On our campus, there is one train station for high-speed trains and a [Marmaray metro line](#) (Stop name is Gebze Teknik Universitesi/Fatih)

HEALTHY LIFE ON CAMPUS

GTU's health policy emphasizes public health, individual well-being, and occupational safety, fostering a supportive, inclusive campus environment that protects all students, staff, and visitors. This policy aligns with international health standards and includes the following:

- **Preventive Health and Hygiene**: GTU prioritizes preventive medicine and sustainable public health practices, focusing on school and adolescent health, hygiene, chronic disease prevention, and health for employees, including female and elderly staff. For this purpose, [one medical](#) unit ensures preventive health and hygiene applications in campus life.
- **Occupational Health and Safety Compliance:** The university adheres to national and international safety standards to ensure the well-being of everyone on campus. All employees, regardless of the public and private sector, will be covered by the law, with a preventive approach instead of a prescriptive approach; risk assessment will be carried out in advance to prevent occupational accidents and occupational diseases, health surveillance will be carried out at specific intervals, and the records of occupational accidents and occupational diseases will be made more effective and up-to-date. Emergency action plans will be prepared, employees will be trained and effective, and administrative sanctions will be applied to implement the law. The related unit is working on the [Occupational Health and Safety Compliance insurance.](#)
- **Awareness and Health Education:** GTU actively promotes health education initiatives covering topics such as personal hygiene, nutrition, and lifestyle choices, helping individuals to take proactive steps towards improved health. The academic departments and administrative units organize awareness meetings or programs on wellbeing.

- **Environmental Health Initiatives:** GTU takes sustainable and proactive approaches to addressing critical environmental health issues, including water safety, waste management, and air quality. GTU, with all related departments, leads the innovation-based solution to create an impact on society in terms of environmental health issues.

TOBACCO SMOKING

GTU promotes a tobacco-free environment to support the health and safety of all community members. GTU's tobacco policy follows national regulations to prevent tobacco-related harm, creating a safe campus where students and staff are encouraged to make responsible choices regarding tobacco use.

Smokeless area percentage: 99,99%

Smokeless Zone Directive: (Click For Document)

INORGANIC WASTE AND RECYCLING

GTU views solid waste and recyclables as valuable resources contributing to sustainable development. The university's waste and recycling policy includes:

- **Minimizing Disposable Material Use:** Disposable plastic, aluminum, and foam products are prohibited in dining areas. Reusable products are encouraged in all campus academic, social, and dining spaces.
- **Electronic Document Management:** To reduce paper waste, GTU has implemented an electronic document management system that minimizes the need for physical documents and printouts.

    GTU actively uses electronic document management systems EBYS with e-signatures.

- **Waste Reuse and Recycling:** GTU has established systems to convert waste materials into usable products, promoting environmental health and sustainability. This policy also includes guidelines for suppliers requiring reusable or recyclable packaging.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND REDUCING FOOD WASTE

GTU's sustainable food policy aims to minimize food waste and promote responsible sourcing.

Waste Reduction Efforts: GTU tracks food waste throughout all stages, from preparation to disposal, and has implemented programs to reduce waste, including smaller portions and awareness initiatives.

Nutritious Food Options: GTU ensures that affordable and healthy food choices, including vegan and vegetarian options, are widely available on campus.

Local and Sustainable Procurement: GTU prioritizes sourcing food from local producers who adhere to sustainable practices, supporting environmental health and community economies.

Gebze Technical University Waste Management Directive: (Click For Document)

Meals and related calories

ACADEMIC FREEDOM, INTEGRITY, INCLUSIVENESS, AND EQUALITY

Gebze Technical University (GTU) is committed to fostering an environment that supports innovative and creative academic work, including research in both primary and applied sciences, while promoting scientific practices based on rigorous research. All members of the GTU community pledge to uphold fundamental principles that honor freedom of thought and embrace diverse academic pursuits. In all educational activities—education, research, and projects—GTU adheres to ethical standards grounded in human rights, respect for the rights of other living beings, and care for the environment. Researchers at GTU are responsible for transparently and accurately reporting their methods and findings, ensuring accountability to the university and the scientific community.

GTU is dedicated to sustainable development, placing universal human rights, justice, equality, and non-discrimination at the heart of its mission. In alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, GTU prioritizes academic activities that support global values, aiming to address inequalities, foster an inclusive and peaceful community for all, and protect the planet and its natural resources. GTU is committed to transformative steps to build a sustainable university, leveraging education and research as forces for change. The university ensures access to inclusive and equitable quality education for all, including individuals with disabilities and those in vulnerable situations, while providing lifelong learning opportunities to educate everyone for a sustainable future. GTU aims to equip all members of its community with the knowledge and skills necessary to create sustainable systems through education for sustainable development. With a continuous focus on advancing research capacity, GTU scholars contribute to scientific knowledge and policy discussions aimed at poverty eradication, sustainable social and economic growth, climate change action, and other pressing environmental challenges.

To further promote diversity and equality within the GTU community, the university commits to:

- We thoroughly track all students' admission, success, and completion rates and provide financial support, mentorship, and advisory support to aid their education.

- Implementing affirmative action policies in recruiting and admitting international students from low- and middle-income countries.
- Ensuring employment equality concerning gender, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

Gebze Technical University (GTU) is an independent learning and research hub committed to exploring, generating, sharing, and passing down knowledge for the public good. GTU's responsibility to society and the global community is to uphold scientific rigor and maintain the quality of education. To meet this obligation, GTU's research and teaching are committed to being "morally and intellectually independent of all political authority and economic power," echoing the principles outlined in the "Magna Charta Universitatum," signed by university leaders worldwide in Bologna in 1988.

GTU's commitment to academic freedom is embodied as follows:

- All members of the GTU community involved in teaching and research are entitled to freedom in conducting their classes and research and publishing, discussing, and interpreting research outcomes.
- The university's faculty and administration support each member's right to artistic expression and to express scholarly opinions openly.
- GTU respects the private civic expression of opinions and association of its community members without interference or control over individual viewpoints.

With academic freedom comes the responsibility to:

- Uphold ethical obligations and responsibilities to the university community and the broader academic field.
- Strive for excellence and innovation, advancing knowledge in teaching and research through individual and collaborative efforts.
- Distinguish between personal viewpoints and responsibilities to the university, ensuring that personal expressions do not represent the institution.

As an institution, GTU contributes significantly to societal progress, locally and globally, by advancing education, arts, sciences, and technology. This role is evident in the visible works produced by faculty and students and through equipping students with the skills to engage in original research and scholarly pursuits.

GTU values academic integrity as a core principle in all research, creative work, and learning. Integrity is a critical commitment to the world of knowledge, society, each other, and ourselves. Therefore, GTU's faculty, students, and administrators collectively pledge to uphold and safeguard academic integrity.

Through developing critical and creative thinking skills and building upon established knowledge, GTU students contribute original perspectives and produce new academic work. This process instills responsibility, expertise, and confidence, preparing students to bridge past knowledge with future innovations.

GTU faculty, who guide students through this process, adhere to an ethical code in their academic work, ensuring fairness in the assessment process. Students are expected to complete academic

tasks—including exams, assignments, reports, presentations, and theses—based on their work and ideas while citing all sources accurately to maintain academic ethics.

GTU students and faculty adhere to intellectual property and copyright laws when preparing academic materials. Information and resources are used responsibly and respectfully, ensuring that intellectual property rights are upheld in all academic outputs.

Related documents according to university policies:

Ethical committee directive

Academic promotion directive

Mission, vision, and core values

Gebze Technical University Gender Equality Plan 2022-2027: (Click For Document)

Gebze Technical University Unimpeded Unit Directive: (Click For Document)

Gebze Technical University Women and Family Studies Practice and Research Center Guide: (Click For Document)

Gebze Technical University Ethical Principles: (Click For Document)

Equal opportunities and anti-discrimination Directive: (Click For Document)

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

GTU prioritizes science communication and citizen science initiatives, ensuring that society appreciates the value of scientific inquiry and advancement. The university shares its knowledge, activities, and results with the broader community, focusing on public benefit. GTU is committed to strengthening internal and external communication, making interactions with all stakeholders meaningful, continuous, and impactful.

Social Impact Coordination Unit

Sustainability Office Coordination Unit