Dokuz Eylül University · SDG Progress Report Series 2025

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation — Progress Report 2025

Dokuz Eylül University, İzmir, Türkiye · Published by the DEU Sustainability Office, SUMER & Social Contribution Coordination Office · Reporting period: 1 January – 31 December 2025 (with 2026 continuity updates)

1. Executive Summary

Strategic Focus & 2025 Highlights: In calendar year 2025, Dokuz Eylül University (DEU) achieved a 19.07% reduction in total campus mains water consumption (from 619,947 m^3 in 2024 to 501,695 m^3 in 2025 across all 20 campus locations, excluding the separately metered Research and Application Hospital) and lowered per-capita water consumption by 9.46% to 8.04 m^3 per full-time-equivalent (FTE) student and employee (62,408 FTE in 2025 vs. 8.88 m^3/FTE across 69,848 FTE in 2024). All campus wastewater undergoes on-site primary pre-treatment (4 cafeteria grease interceptors, 2 operational closed grit chambers at Central Campus and 15 Temmuz campuses, and 1 new pre-treatment plant under construction) before conveyance to the İzmir Water and Sewerage Administration's (İZSU) central advanced biological wastewater treatment plants, monitored through TÜRKAK ISO/IEC 17025 accredited analyses (208 parameters) by the DEU Department of Environmental Engineering. DEU reused ≈4,910 m^3 of non-potable water in 2025 (≈4,700 m^3 of settled backwash water from three semi-Olympic swimming pools, ≈200 m^3 from the 48-tonne Technical Workshops rainwater tank, and ≈10 m^3 at Bergama Campus), commenced construction of a 300-tonne underground rainwater storage tank at the 15 Temmuz Health Campus, maintained 1,384,477 m^2 (25.0%) of permeable water-absorbing ground surfaces alongside 3,111,315 m^2 (56.2%) of unirrigated Mediterranean forest, and partnered across local, regional, national, and global levels on water security through SUMER, Horizon Europe WATERLINE, and TÜBİTAK 1071 Water4All.

This report is part of the Dokuz Eylül University SDG Progress Report Series 2025, which publishes the University's audited institutional progress against each of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in a dedicated volume. It covers calendar year 2025 (with continuity milestones from 2026 explicitly marked) and integrates verified data from the Dokuz Eylül University Sustainability Report 2025–2026 (GreenMetric Report DEUSR 26, where DEU ranked 134th globally among 2,016 universities and 11th in Türkiye), the Sustainability Report 2024–2025 (DEUSR 24–25), the 2025 Administrative Activity Report (2025 Yılı İdare Faaliyet Raporu), the DEU Social Contribution Activity Report in Alignment with the UN SDGs (06 June 2026), and the 15 indicator dossiers prepared for the THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2027 (Indicators 6.2.1 through 6.5.7). The number of of locations is different than number of campuses. DEU has additional building at several locations in İzmir.

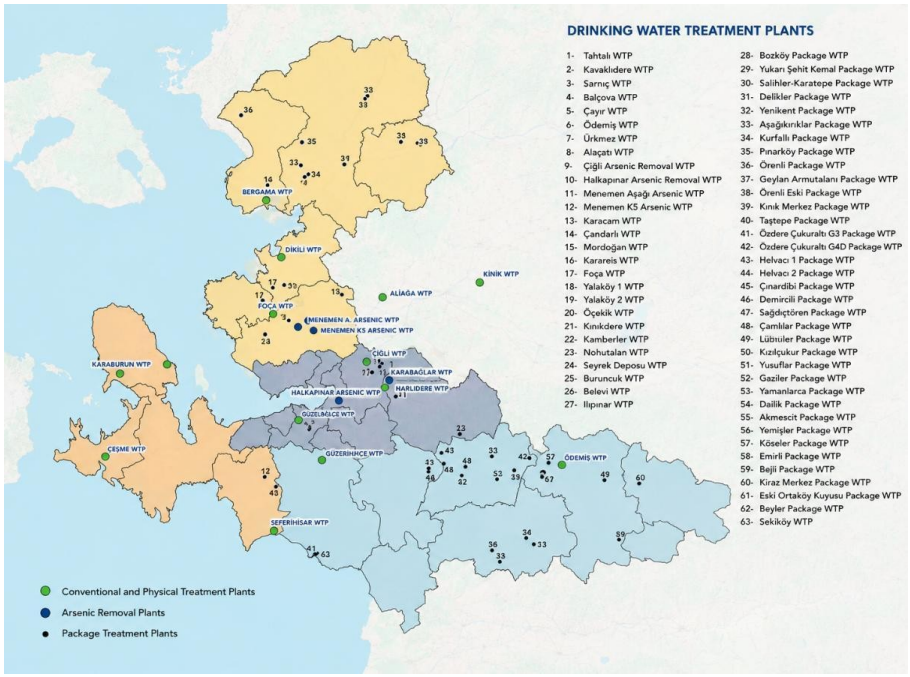

Figure 1: Official network map of the 63 drinking water treatment plants operated by the İzmir Water and Sewerage Administration (İZSU) across İzmir Province, led by the Tahtalı and Balçova treatment plants supplying treated potable water to DEU's 20 campus locations (GreenMetric SR-26, p. 85).

2. Commitment, Governance & Quality Assurance Framework

Water resource stewardship, wastewater pollution prevention, and community water resilience at Dokuz Eylül University are governed through an integrated multi-unit architecture anchored in national water legislation and international management standards:

- **Policy on Maximising Water Reuse Across the University & Environmental Management Policy (Indicator 6.4.1):** Building on the University's 2023 Environmental Management Policy (Çevre Yönetim Politikası, in force throughout 2025) and the Policy on Integrated Waste Management and a Circular Campus, the DEU Sustainability Office published the Policy on Maximising Water Reuse Across the University in July 2026. The policy mandates rainwater harvesting assessments in all new buildings and major renovations, greywater and pool-backwash recovery, drought-tolerant Mediterranean landscaping, strict separation of laboratory/medical effluents, and annual tracking of total, per-person, and reused water volumes.
- **Alignment with National Water Efficiency Legislation (Indicators 6.3.4 & 6.4.1):** DEU's campus water governance implements the Water Efficiency Regulation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Su Verimliliği Yönetmeliği, Official Gazette No. 32765, 27 December 2024), Presidential Circular No. 2023/9 on the Water Efficiency Strategy Document and Action Plan (2023–2033), the National Water Plan (2026–2035), and the March 2025 amendment to the Planned Areas Zoning Regulation (Official Gazette No. 32838, 11 March 2025, amending Article 57 and adding Provisional Article 6), which makes rainwater harvesting mandatory in new public buildings and greywater reuse mandatory in public buildings exceeding 30,000 m².

- **Multi-Unit Operational Governance (Sustainability Office, Yapı İşleri, Sıfır Atık & SUMER):** Operational water tracking and infrastructure investments are executed by the Department of Construction and Technical Works (Yapı İşleri ve Teknik Daire Başkanlığı) and the Department of Health, Culture and Sports (SKS), in coordination with the DEU Sustainability Office and the Zero Waste and Environmental Management Coordination Office (Sıfır Atık ve Çevre Yönetimi Koordinatörlüğü). Scientific research, basin modeling, and governmental water-security advisory work are led by the Water Resources Management and Control of Water-Related Natural Disasters Application and Research Center (SUMER, re-established by Official Gazette Regulation No. 32478 on 3 April 2024) and the Department of Environmental Engineering.
- **Integrated Management System (ISO 14001 / 50001 / 9001), YÖKAK & KALBİS PDCA Monitoring:** DEU operates under an Integrated Management System certified to ISO 14001 (Environmental Management), ISO 50001 (Energy Management), ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management), and ISO 22000 (Food Safety), alongside full 5-year institutional accreditation from YÖKAK (valid until 28 June 2027) and renewed Zero Waste Certificates across all 15 certified campuses (valid until 2031). All unit water-efficiency targets and social contribution outputs are tracked in the KALBİS quality information system across 419 completed Plan–Do–Check–Act (PDCA) cycles.

3. Summary Progress Metrics Across All SDG 6 Indicators (2024 vs. 2025)

Table 1 presents Dokuz Eylül University's verified quantitative and operational performance across all 15 THE SDG 6 indicators (6.2.1–6.5.7) and UI GreenMetric water indicators for calendar years 2024 and 2025:

THE Indicator / Water Stewardship Metric	2024 Verified Value	2025 Verified Value	Change / Status	Primary Source / Verifying Unit
6.2.1 Campus Locations Metered via İZSU Mains	20 locations (100%)	20 locations (100%)	Whole university	Construction & Technical Works Dept
6.2.1 Total Campus Mains Water Use (excl. Hospital)	619,947 m^3	501,695 m^3	-19.07% (-118,252 m^3)	İZSU Invoices & DEUSR 26 (6.2.1)
6.2.1 Research & Application Hospital Water Use	316,124 m^3	289,340 m^3	-8.47% (metered sep.)	İZSU Hospital Subscriber Accounts
6.2.2 Regular On-Campus Students (FTE)	64,318 FTE	56,947 FTE	Excl. 1,203 remote	Student Affairs Dept & DEUSR 26 p. 17
6.2.2 Academic, research & Administrative Staff (FTE)	5,530 (2,805+2,725)	5,461 (2,839+2,622)	Excl. hospital staff	Personnel Dept & Faaliyet Raporu
6.2.2 Total Campus Population (Students + Staff FTE)	69,848 FTE	62,408 FTE	-10.65% FTE base	DEUSR 26 (Indicator 1.15, p. 17)

THE Indicator / Water Stewardship Metric	2024 Verified Value	2025 Verified Value	Change / Status	Primary Source / Verifying Unit
Water Consumption per Person (6.2.2 Numerator ÷ FTE)	**8.88 m³ / FTE / year**	**8.04 m³ / FTE / year**	**-9.46% per person**	**Certified 6.2.2 Portal Value**
6.3.1 Campuses Connected to İZSU Advanced WWTPs	All 20 locations	All 20 locations	100% sewer connection	DEUSR 26 (Indicator 3.17, p. 77)
6.3.1 Cafeteria Grease Interceptors & Grit Chambers	4 grease + 2 grit	4 grease + 2 grit (+1 new)	New plant under const.	15 Temmuz & Central Campuses
6.3.1 Accredited Water/Wastewater Lab Parameters	TÜRKAK ISO 17025	208 TÜRKAK / 197 MoEUCC	AB-0123-T & Y-35/138	Dept of Environmental Engineering
6.3.2 Hazardous Chemical Waste Managed (MoTAT/EÇBS)	≈6,000 kg	44,064 kg	100% licensed disp.	Zero Waste Coord. (DEUSR 26, p. 73)
6.3.2 Sterilized Hospital Medical Waste (EÇBS)	≈663,000 kg	886,914 kg	100% sterilized	Hospital & DEUSR 26 (3.13, p. 73)
6.3.2 Waste Vegetable Oil Recovered (Kept Out of Drains)	4,140 kg	5,125 kg	+23.79% recovered	EÇBS Declarations (DEUSR 26, p. 42)
6.3.3 Campuses with Free Purified Water Dispensers	6 main campuses	6 main campuses (all floors)	Free for all & visitors	SKS Dept (DEUSR 26, pp. 62–63)
6.3.4 Facilities with Sensor / Water-Saving Fixtures	40–60% of buildings	40–60% of buildings	Mandatory in tenders	DEUSR 26 (Indicator 4.4, p. 84)
6.3.4 Smart Buildings Meeting Water Criteria	16 bldgs (233,547 m²)	17 bldgs (236,009 m²)	+1 smart building	DEUSR 26 (pp. 36–38)
6.3.5 Unirrigated Mediterranean Campus Forest Area	3,111,315 m² (56.2%)	3,111,315 m² (56.2%)	Natural pine/oak/olive	DEUSR 26 (p. 13 & p. 82)
6.3.5 / 6.5.4 Permeable Water-Absorbing Area (WR 4.1)	1,384,477 m² (25.0%)	1,384,477 m² (25.0%)	770,550 m² parquet	DEUSR 26 (Indicator 4.1, p. 81)
6.4.1 / 6.4.2 Total Quantified Water Reused on Campus	≈4,910 m³ / year	≈4,910 m³ / year	0.98% of mains (≈1%)	Pools (4,700) + Rainwater (210 m³)
6.4.1 New Rainwater Storage Under Construction / Planned	48-tonne active tank	+300-tonne tank & 5 sites	25–50% plan progress	15 Temmuz & Central Campus (p. 83)

THE Indicator / Water Stewardship Metric	2024 Verified Value	2025 Verified Value	Change / Status	Primary Source / Verifying Unit
6.5.4 Closed-Loop Reinjected Geothermal Heating	1,850,000 kWh	1,943,670 kWh	100% fluid reinjection	15 Temmuz Campus (Law No. 5686)
6.5.1 / 6.5.6 / 6.5.7 Public & Campus Water Outreach	11 events (~1,100 p.)	15 events (>2,300 p.)	Free public access	SUMER, Toplumsal Katkı & SKS
6.5.3 / 6.5.5 Off-Campus Conservation & Gov. Co-op	4 studies / 3 levels	≥5 studies / All 4 levels	Local, Reg., Nat., Global	DSİ, MoAF, MoEUCC, İZSU, EU
6.1 / AVESİS SDG 6 Scholarly Outputs (2025–2026)	78 outputs	91 outputs (56 pubs)	Scopus & AVESİS	AVESİS & Scopus ID 60012686

4. Campus Water Supply, Metering & Per-Person Consumption (Indicators 6.2.1 & 6.2.2)

4.1 Municipal Water Supply Sources & 24-Hour SCADA Quality Supervision (GreenMetric 4.2 & 4.5)

All 20 campus locations of Dokuz Eylül University across İzmir Province (including the Central Campus, 15 Temmuz Health and Art Campus, Buca Faculty of Education, Dokuzçeşmeler, Alsancak Rectorate, Narlıdere, Seferihisar, Urla, and the vocational school campuses in Bergama, Selçuk/Efes, Torbalı, and Kiraz) receive 100% of their potable and utility water from the municipal distribution network operated by the İzmir Water and Sewerage Administration (İZSU). DEU does not operate desalination plants or abstract fresh water directly from rivers, lakes, or aquifers (Indicator 6.2.1 & 6.5.4).

As documented in the Sustainability Report 2025–2026 (GreenMetric Indicator 4.5, pp. 84–86) and Sustainability Report 2024–2025 (pp. 85–88), İZSU operates an integrated municipal water supply network combining surface reservoirs (Tahtalı, Balçova, Gördes, Ürkmez, Güzelhisar, and Alaçatı Kutlu Aktaş dams) and deep wells (Halkapınar, Menemen, Sarıkız, Göksu). In 2025, İZSU operated 63 drinking water treatment plants across İzmir with a combined annual treatment capacity of 619,597,252 m^3/year, supplying approximately 314 million m^3 of treated potable water citywide (following 314,457,735 m^3 across 67 units in 2024). DEU's main campuses are supplied primarily by two major conventional treatment plants:

- **Tahtalı Drinking Water Treatment Plant (Menderes / Görece):** İzmir's largest potable water facility, with a treatment capacity of 520,000 m^3/day and an installed electrical power of 1,250 kVA, treating raw water from the Tahtalı Reservoir through aeration, rapid mixing, clarification, rapid sand filtration, chlorination, and sludge thickening/dewatering.

- **Balçova Drinking Water Treatment Plant (Balçova Dam):** Commissioned in May 1984 with a treatment capacity of 70,000 m^3/day, equipped with aeration, pre-chlorination, rapid sand filtration, filtered water storage, and final chlorination.
- **24/7 SCADA Telemetry & TS 266 Compliance:** Both plants operate 24 hours a day in three shifts and are connected to İZSU's central SCADA telemetry system at the Halkapınar Water Operations Center. Hourly and daily samples from raw water, process units, and treated outlets are analyzed by the İZSU Central Laboratory and the Ministry of Health Public Health Institute Laboratories to ensure strict compliance with Turkish Drinking Water Standard TS 266. Because 100% of DEU's municipal supply undergoes advanced treatment prior to distribution, over 75% (100% of mains supply) of campus water consumption originates from treated water sources (GreenMetric Indicator 4.5).

4.2 University-Wide Water Metering & Per-Capita Consumption Reduction (Indicators 6.2.1 & 6.2.2)

Every campus supply connection is fitted with a mechanical İZSU water meter read periodically for billing, monitored by building energy/resource managers, and compiled annually by the Department of Construction and Technical Works and the Strategy Development Department. In accordance with THE Impact Ratings methodology and DEU's energy reporting standard (GreenMetric SR-26, p. 46), the DEU Research and Application Hospital on the 15 Temmuz Health and Art Campus is metered through dedicated İZSU hospital subscriber accounts and reported separately because it serves over 2.4 million external outpatient visits and 72,884 inpatients annually. Table 2 details the 2024 and 2025 water consumption and FTE population calculations:

Water Consumption & Campus FTE Population Component	2024 Verified	2025 Verified	YoY Change (%)	Unit & Accounting Scope (Indicators 6.2.1 & 6.2.2)
Total Campus Mains Water Consumption — Numerator (A)	**619,947**	**501,695**	**-19.07%**	**m^3/year across all 20 campus locations (excl. Hospital)**
Regular On-Campus Students (1.0 FTE per student, 60 ECTS)	64,318	56,947	-11.46%	persons / FTE (excl. 1,203 remote/online-only students)
Full-Time Academic+research staff Staff (excl. Hospital clinical staff)	2,805	2,839	+1.21%	persons / FTE (Law No. 2914; DEUSR 26 p. 17)
Full-Time Administrative Staff (excl. Hospital staff)	2,725	2,622	-3.78%	persons / FTE (Law No. 657; DEUSR 26 p. 17)
Total Campus Population — Denominator (B = Students + Staff)	**69,848**	**62,408**	**-10.65%**	**Full-Time Equivalents (FTE, GreenMetric 1.15 p. 17)**
Water Consumption per Person (A ÷ B, Indicator 6.2.2)	**8.88**	**8.04**	**-9.46%**	**m^3 per FTE per year (Certified THE 2027 Portal Value)**

Water Consumption & Campus FTE Population Component	2024 Verified	2025 Verified	YoY Change (%)	Unit & Accounting Scope (Indicators 6.2.1 & 6.2.2)
Research & Application Hospital Mains Water (Separate)	316,124	289,340	-8.47%	m^3/year (dedicated İZSU hospital subscriber meters)
Combined University + Hospital Mains Water Volume	**936,071**	**791,035**	**-15.49%**	**m^3/year total İZSU municipal supply across all accounts**

5. Wastewater Treatment, Pollution Prevention & Accredited Quality Control (Indicators 6.3.1 & 6.3.2)

5.1 On-Site Primary Pre-Treatment & Municipal Advanced Biological Treatment (Indicator 6.3.1 & GM 3.17)

Dokuz Eylül University operates a two-tier wastewater treatment system ensuring that zero untreated sewage or contaminated effluent enters natural water bodies (Indicator 6.3.1; GreenMetric Indicator 3.17, pp. 77–78):

- **Tier 1 — On-Site Primary Pre-Treatment (Grease Interceptors & Closed Grit Chambers):** To prevent high-load cafeteria and kitchen effluents from fouling municipal sewers, both the Faculty of Medicine Student Cafeteria and the Central Campus Social Facilities Cafeteria are equipped with two grease interceptor units each (4 units total), retaining oils and fats prior to sewer discharge. In addition, closed grit chamber pre-treatment systems operate at both the Central Campus and the 15 Temmuz Health and Art Campus, and construction is underway on a new dedicated pre-treatment facility for the cafeterias of the 15 Temmuz Health and Art Campus.
- **Tier 2 — İZSU Central Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Plants:** The sewerage networks of all 20 DEU campus locations are connected directly to the municipal collector network operated by İZSU. No campus uses septic tanks or discharges untreated wastewater. All campus effluent is conveyed to İZSU's central large-scale wastewater treatment plants (led by the Çiğli and Güneybatı Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Plants), where it undergoes screening, grit/grease removal, biological nutrient removal (nitrogen and phosphorus), and secondary clarification/disinfection meeting national reuse and discharge standards.



Figure 2: Closed grit chamber pre-treatment facility operating at the 15 Temmuz Health and Art Campus to treat high-load campus wastewater prior to municipal sewer discharge (GreenMetric SR-26, p. 78).



Figure 3: Underground closed grit chamber and grease-retention pre-treatment unit at the Central Campus (GreenMetric SR-26, p. 78).



Figure 4: Aerial view of the İZSU Central Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Plant in İzmir, where all municipal sewer flows from DEU's 20 campus locations undergo tertiary nutrient removal and purification (GreenMetric SR 24–25, p. 76).

5.2 Source Segregation of Hazardous/Medical Wastes, Spill Protocol & Accredited Lab Monitoring (Indicator 6.3.2 & GM 3.13–3.18, 4.6)

To prevent chemical, biological, or oil pollution from enteringcampus drains or stormwater lines (Indicator 6.3.2; GreenMetric Indicators 3.13–3.18 and 4.6), DEU enforces strict source-segregation, digital tracking, emergency spill containment, and accredited laboratory verification:

- **Zero-Drain Hazardous, Medical & Vegetable Oil Recovery (EÇBS & MoTAT):** Under the Policy on Integrated Waste Management and a Circular Campus (July 2026, building on the 2023 Environmental Management Policy), discharging chemicals, solvents, or oils into sinks, floor drains, or rainwater grates is strictly prohibited. All 15 certified campuses maintain secure temporary hazardous waste storage depots (max 180-day storage) and renewed Zero Waste Certificates valid until 2031. Every transfer is tracked via the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change's Mobile Hazardous Waste Tracking System (MoTAT) and declared annually in the Integrated Environmental Information System (EÇBS, which directly supports 10 SDGs including SDG 6, 3, 11, 12, 14, and 15; SR-26 pp. 79–80). In 2025–2026, DEU safely segregated and transferred 44,064 kg of hazardous chemical/laboratory waste, sterilized and disposed of 886,914 kg of hospital medical waste (vs. 663,000 kg in 2024), and recovered 5,125 kg of waste vegetable oil from campus kitchens (up 23.8% from 4,140 kg in 2024).
- **Five-Step Chemical Spill & Emergency Response Protocol:** Under the DEU Occupational Health and Safety Directive (Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi İş Sağlığı ve Güvenliği Yönergesi, Senate-approved August 2025) and external hazardous materials safety consultancy procured in 2025 (SR-26, pp. 24, 27), accidental laboratory or workshop releases follow a mandatory five-step protocol: (1) immediate area isolation and SDS/MSDS verification; (2) peripheral containment using laboratory chemical absorbent spill kits and neutralisers; (3) physical blocking of sinks, floor drains, and stormwater grates; (4) immediate notification of the OHS Coordination Office (isg@deu.edu.tr) and Zero Waste Coordination

Office (sifiratik@deu.edu.tr); and (5) sealed UN-labelled containerization for licensed MoTAT/EÇBS disposal.

- **TÜRKAK ISO/IEC 17025 Accredited Water & Wastewater Laboratory Oversight:** The DEU Department of Environmental Engineering Measurement Laboratories (comprising the Water, Wastewater, Environmental Microbiology, and Sludge Laboratories) perform routine chemical, physical, toxicity (Microtox, Daphnia magna, ZSF), and microbiological (coliform, Legionella, Clostridium, enterococci) analyses of water and wastewater across dining halls, the hospital, and laundry facilities, submitting reports directly to the Office of the Rector. The laboratories hold TÜRKAK TS EN ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation (No. AB-0123-T covering 208 parameters) and Ministry of Environment Competency Certification (No. Y-35/138/2016 covering 197 parameters; cevre.deu.edu.tr).

6. Free Drinking Water, Building Standards, Permeable Landscapes & Water Reuse (Indicators 6.3.3–6.4.2 & 6.5.4)

6.1 Free Purified Drinking Water & Single-Use Plastic Reduction (Indicator 6.3.3 & GM 3.4, 4.5)

Dokuz Eylül University provides 100% free, purified drinking water to all students, academic, research and administrative staff, and campus visitors (Indicator 6.3.3). Mains-fed drinking water dispensers equipped with built-in multi-stage purification units are installed on every floor of student dining halls and social facilities, as well as in libraries and academic/administrative building foyers across 6 main campuses. All dispensers in common areas operate without turnstile or card restrictions so visitors can refill reusable bottles freely. In addition, two industrial compact water treatment systems in the boiler room of the Central Campus Kitchen purify all water used in daily meal preparation (GreenMetric SR 24–25, pp. 89–90). Coupled with Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) on three campuses and the elimination of disposable cups in staff offices, these dispensers form a pillar of DEU's 10+ plastic-reduction programmes (GreenMetric SR-26, pp. 62–63).



Figure 5: Dual compact potable water filtration and softening units operating in the Central Campus Kitchen boiler room, supplementing the free purified drinking-water dispensers installed across all cafeteria and building floors (GreenMetric SR 24–25, p. 90).

6.2 Water-Conscious Building Standards & Smart Buildings (Indicator 6.3.4 & GM 4.4)

In all new construction and sanitary renovation tenders conducted under Public Procurement Law No. 4734, the Department of Construction and Technical Works enforces the Ministry of Environment's General Technical Specifications for Construction Works and DEU's mechanical installation technical specifications, requiring TSE/CE-certified photocell/motion-activated taps, sensor-operated urinals, low-flow faucet aerators (≤6 L/min), and dual-flush toilet reservoirs (3/6 L). Currently, 40–60% of all DEU facilities are equipped with water-efficient appliances (GreenMetric Indicator 4.4, p. 84). Furthermore, 17 campus buildings covering 236,009 m² of floor area are certified as Smart Buildings meeting water-efficiency, automation, and leak-control criteria (up from 16 buildings / 233,547 m² in 2024; SR-26, pp. 36–38).



Figure 6: Motion-sensitive photocell faucets installed across DEU campus restrooms (covering 40–60% of university facilities alongside dual-flush cisterns and sensor urinals; GreenMetric SR 24–25, p. 85).

6.3 Water-Conscious Planting, Permeable Surfaces & Sustainable Resource Extraction (Indicators 6.3.5 & 6.5.4; GM 4.1 & 4.2)

Across its 5.5 million m² total land area, DEU designs and maintains its campus landscapes to maximize natural aquifer recharge and minimize irrigation water demand (Indicators 6.3.5 and 6.5.4; GreenMetric Indicators 4.1 and 4.2, pp. 81–82):

- **56.2% Unirrigated Native Mediterranean Forest (3,111,315 m²):** Over half of DEU's campus area consists of natural Mediterranean forest dominated by drought-adapted Turkish red pine (Pinus brutia), stone pine (Pinus pinea), oak (Quercus spp.), and wild olive (Olea europaea), which requires zero irrigation. In the 686,000 m² of cultivated open landscape, the Environmental Planning and Landscape Maintenance Unit prioritizes drought-tolerant native species—including oleander (Nerium oleander), lavender (Lavandula angustifolia), rosemary (Salvia rosmarinus), laurustinus (Viburnum tinus), Judas tree (Cercis siliquastrum), and olive—irrigated via water-saving drip irrigation lines.
- **25.0% Water-Absorbing Permeable Campus Surfaces (1,384,477 m²):** Beyond forest and planted vegetation, DEU maintains 613,921 m² of unsealed soil surfaces and covers all pedestrian walkways, building surroundings, and parking lots (770,550 m²) with water-permeable interlocking parquet blocks, leaving only 227,579 m² of impervious vehicle roads. In total, 1,384,477 m² (25.0% of the campus) directly absorbs rainwater to recharge local aquifers and reduce surface runoff.
- **Closed-Loop Geothermal Heating with 100% Reservoir Reinjection (Indicator 6.5.4):** At the 15 Temmuz Health and Art Campus, 1,943,670 kWh of clean geothermal thermal energy was supplied between May 2025 and April 2026 through closed-loop plate heat exchangers connected to the licensed Balçova–Narlıdere Geothermal District Heating System (Law No. 5686), where 100% of the geothermal fluid is reinjected back into the deep reservoir without surface discharge or freshwater depletion (SR-26, p. 42).



Figure 7: Satellite mapping of DEU Central Campus showing unsealed water-absorption zones and surrounding unirrigated Mediterranean pine forest (1,384,477 m² permeable absorption area and 3,111,315 m² forest; GreenMetric SR-26, p. 81).

6.4 Water Reuse Policy, Quantified Reuse Systems & New Rainwater Infrastructure (Indicators 6.4.1 & 6.4.2; GM 4.3)

Under the Policy on Maximising Water Reuse Across the University (Indicator 6.4.1) and GreenMetric Indicator 4.3 (pp. 82–84), DEU quantifies every active water reuse system annually (Indicator 6.4.2) and has expanded implementation of its institutional water recycling plan from 1–25% in 2024–2025 to 25–50% in 2025–2026. In 2025, DEU captured and reused ≈4,910 m³ of non-potable water (representing 0.98% [≈1%] of total campus mains consumption, up from 0.79% in 2024) while advancing major new storage investments:

Campus Water Reuse / Harvesting System	Quantification Method & Technical Specs	2024 Volume	2025 Volume	Non-Potable Reuse Application & Status
Three Semi-Olympic Swimming Pools (Central Campus, 15 Temmuz & Seferihisar)	SKS pool logs: daily pH & free chlorine (>0.2 mg/L) checks; filter backwash ≈30 t/pool/week into settling tanks	≈4,700 m³	≈4,700 m³	Settled backwash water reused for landscape irrigation across campus green areas
Central Campus Technical Workshops Rainwater Reservoir ('DEÜ Yağmur Suyu')	360 m² roof (60 m × 6 m) × 716.5 mm annual rainfall × 0.80 efficiency feeding a 48-tonne storage tank	≈200 m³	≈200 m³	Autumn/winter workshop cleaning & summer drip irrigation of 40 fruit and olive trees
Bergama Vocational School Campus Roof Rainwater System	Rooftop gutter collection into polyethylene storage tank and seasonal fill cycles	≈10 m³	≈10 m³	Reused for Bergama Campus garden and landscape irrigation

Campus Water Reuse / Harvesting System	Quantification Method & Technical Specs	2024 Volume	2025 Volume	Non-Potable Reuse Application & Status
Total Quantified Water Reused on Campus (Indicator 6.4.2)	**Sum of metered/logged operational reuse systems (1 tonne = 1 m³)**	**≈4,910 m³**	**≈4,910 m³**	**Share of mains water (6.2.1): rose from 0.79% in 2024 to 0.98% (≈1%) in 2025**
15 Temmuz Health & Art Campus Underground Rainwater Tank	Reinforced-concrete underground storage reservoir (300-tonne capacity) with level/flow sensors	Planning	300 tonnes (under const.)	Major 2025–2026 capital investment for campus non-potable reuse (SR-26, p. 83)
Central Campus 5-Site Rooftop Rainwater Expansion	Procurement initiated for storage tanks and filtration units across 5 Central Campus buildings	—	5 new sites in procurement	Expands institutional water recycling implementation to 25–50% (SR-26, p. 83)



Figure 8: Reinforced-concrete construction of the 300-tonne underground rainwater harvesting tank at the 15 Temmuz Health and Art Campus (GreenMetric SR-26, p. 83).



Figure 9: The 48-tonne 'DEÜ Yağmur Suyu' rainwater storage reservoir at the Central Campus Technical Workshops, capturing roof runoff from a 360 m² catchment to irrigate 40 olive and fruit trees (GreenMetric SR-26, p. 84).



Figure 10: Rooftop rainwater harvesting and storage tank system operating at the DEU Bergama Campus for landscape irrigation (GreenMetric SR-26, p. 84).

7. Water in the Community: Education, Off-Campus Conservation & Government Cooperation (Indicators 6.5.1–6.5.7)

7.1 Multi-Level Government Cooperation on Water Security (Indicator 6.5.5) & Off-Campus Conservation (Indicator 6.5.3)

Through SUMER (Water Resources Management and Control of Water-Related Natural Disasters Application and Research Center, directed by Prof. Dr. Azize Ayol with Deputy Director Prof. Dr. Mustafa Doğan) and faculty researchers across Engineering, Business, and Marine Sciences, DEU actively cooperates with local, regional, national, and global authorities on water security (achieving all 4 levels under Indicator 6.5.5) and leads practical off-campus water conservation projects across lakes, wetlands, aquifers, and industrial zones (Indicator 6.5.3):

Governance Tier	Partner Public Authorities / Consortia	2025–2026 Water Security & Off-Campus Conservation Projects (Indicators 6.5.3 & 6.5.5)
National Government (3 programmes)	Ministry of Environment, Urbanization & Climate Change (MoEUCC); General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSİ); Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry (DKMP Wetlands Branch)	(1) Active membership of SUMER Director Prof. Dr. Azize Ayol and Deputy Director Prof. Dr. Mustafa Doğan in the MoEUCC Scientific Committee (2024–2025); (2) DSİ General Directorate Eğirdir Lake Action Plan Workshop (April 2025) & HİDRO 2025 water-budget projections and evaporation-loss solutions (Doğan et al., 2025; Faaliyet Raporu p. 199); (3) Field hydrogeological study with DKMP Wetlands Branch (5–7 Feb 2025) identifying groundwater around the Somaklıkaya Sinkhole in Ovacık, Marmaris for official wetland registration (p. 199).
Regional Authorities (2 programmes)	DSİ 2nd Regional Directorate (İzmir); Gediz & Küçük Menderes Basin Boards; İzmir Development Agency (İZKA); Tire, Pancar & Torbalı OIZ Directorates	(1) Hydrological drought modeling, flood risk assessment, and fuzzy cognitive stakeholder water governance in the Gediz and Küçük Menderes river basins with DSİ 2nd Regional Directorate (Günaçtı, Çetinkaya, Barbaros, Gül & Onuşluel Gül, 2025); (2) TÜBİTAK 1071 / European Water4All Partnership project developing circular industrial water monitoring, wastewater reuse, and governance in the Tire, Pancar, and Torbalı Organised Industrial Zones (2024–2026).
Local / Municipal Government (3 programmes)	İzmir Metropolitan Municipality; İZSU; İzmir Bay Coordination Board	(1) 'Breath for İzmir: Assessment of the İzmir Bay Ecosystem and Determination of the Effects of Pollution Sources' (28 Nov – 18 Dec 2025, Faaliyet Raporu p. 200) and the İzmir Bay Ecosystem-Based Management Platform & Stakeholder Workshop with İZSU and İZKA (June 2025 – Jan 2026; workshop on 18 Sep 2025); (2) Climate and hydrological streamflow uncertainty modeling for İzmir's primary drinking-water reservoir, the Tahtalı Dam Basin, using İZSU/DSİ operational series (Kirdemir, Fıstıkoğlu & Okkan, 2025); (3) Hydrogeochemical conservation study of the İnciraltı–Çakalburnu Urban Wetland adjacent to the 15 Temmuz Campus (Somay Altaş & Şanlı, 2025).
Global / International (3 programmes)	European Commission (Horizon Europe WATERLINE); EU Delegation to Türkiye; UNCCD COP16	(1) Horizon Europe WATERLINE Project (Grant No. 101071306): shared European digital water governance and R&I strategies presented at the 13th World Congress on Water Resources and Environment (EWRA 2025, Palermo, Italy, 24–28 June 2025 by S. Duman & A. Gül); (2) EU Delegation to Türkiye Green Diplomacy Weeks Forum on 'Green Agriculture, Clean Food & the Resilience of Water' in Mardin (26–29 Nov 2025, keynote & moderation by Prof. Dr. Yaşar Uysal); (3) Invited address by SUMER Director Prof. Dr. Azize Ayol at UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh.

7.2 Free Community Water Education & Conscious Water Usage Campaigns (Indicators 6.5.1, 6.5.6 & 6.5.7)

As documented in the DEU Social Contribution Activity Report in Alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Birleşmiş Milletler Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri Doğrultusunda Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi Toplumsal Katkı Faaliyet Raporu, published on 6 June 2026 at toplumsalkatki.deu.edu.tr) and the 2025 Social Contribution Strategic Analysis Report, DEU's Social Contribution Coordination Office coordinated ~3,900 public activities in 2025 (and 5,925 total public events), including 125 Environment and Sustainability activities across 33 units and 294 social responsibility projects (4th in Türkiye in YÖK's national evaluation). All community water management education events (Indicator 6.5.1, ≈655 participants across 4 flagship programmes in 2025) and broader campus/public conscious water usage campaigns (Indicators 6.5.6 & 6.5.7, >1,650 participants) are provided 100% free of charge:

- **2025 World Water Day Panel & Ideathon (25 March 2025, Indicator 6.5.1 & 6.5.7):** Jointly organized by SUMER, the DEU Faculty of Engineering, and the TMMOB Chamber of Civil Engineers (İMO) İzmir Branch at the Faculty of Engineering Conference Hall (Rectorate announcement E-93867786-639-1334421 of 13 March 2025), moderated by Prof. Dr. Ayşegül Pala with honorary speakers Prof. Dr. Turhan Acatay, Prof. Dr. Ünal Öziş, and Prof. Dr. Ertuğrul Benzeden (~120 public and engineering participants), addressing AI in water management and glacier-melt sea-level adaptation.
- **"Kentlerin Su İhtiyacında Jeofizik" (Geophysics in Urban Water Demand) Public Panel (23 December 2025, Indicator 6.5.1 & 6.5.7):** Co-organized by the DEU Department of Geophysical Engineering and the TMMOB Chamber of Geophysical Engineers İzmir Branch, announced through the DEU Social Contribution Coordination Office (toplumsalkatki.deu.edu.tr/duyurular/kentlerin-su-ihtiyacinda-jeofizik-paneli-23-12-2025/), examining hydrogeophysical exploration and sustainable groundwater management for metropolitan water supply.
- **Geophysical Log Studies in Water Boreholes Webinar (2 May 2025, Indicator 6.5.1):** Free online public seminar organized by the Faculty of Engineering for hydrogeologists, municipal water engineers, students, and community practitioners (~85 participants; GreenMetric SR-26, p. 119).
- **EU Green Diplomacy Weeks: Green Agriculture, Clean Food & the Resilience of Water (26–29 November 2025, Indicator 6.5.1 & 6.5.7):** Hosted at Mardin Artuklu University with DEU Professor Dr. Yaşar Uysal delivering the keynote lecture and moderating the main water-resilience panel for ~150 youth delegates and civil society participants from 18 provinces.
- **WATERLINE Digital Water Workshops & TÜBİTAK 4007 Science Festivals (March, February & September 2025, Indicators 6.5.1 & 6.5.7):** Interactive sessions on digital water management and virtual water footprints delivered by the DEU WATERLINE research group (3 March 2025 Academic-to-Business session) and hands-on public water conservation booths during DEU's two TÜBİTAK 4007 Science Fairs (20–22 February 2025 and the Twin Transition Science Festival on 25–27 September 2025, >300 direct workshop participants and ~8,500 festival visitors), complemented by SUMER Director Prof. Dr. Azize Ayol's public scientific communication on 'Sustainable Use of Water Resources and Its Impact on Biodiversity' via the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA, 29 June 2025).
- **On-Campus Water Conservation Campaigns, Green Collars Training & Student Volunteering (Indicator 6.5.6):** Permanent 'Suyu Koruyalım / Save Water' prompts across washrooms, kitchens, and dormitories on all 15 Zero-Waste-certified campuses; dedicated water-footprint and resource-

efficiency modules in the three-level DEU Green Collars (Yeşil Yakalar) certification programme for students and staff (SR-26, pp. 52–54); the DEU Underwater Student Community (Sualtı Topluluğu) coastal diving and marine clean-up activity on 14–15 June 2025 (45 student volunteers; SR-26, p. 126); and the Vocational School of Health Services water and environmental conservation booth on 16 December 2025 (SR-26, p. 120).

8. Teaching, Curricular Integration & Water Research (Metric 6.1, Scopus & AVESİS)

Across its 18 faculties, 10 graduate institutes, and vocational schools, DEU offers 2,492 sustainability-related courses out of 11,236 total courses (22.2%) across 531 of 884 degree programmes (60.1%; GreenMetric SR-26, pp. 99–111, 143–144). Dedicated undergraduate and postgraduate water curricula are delivered by the Department of Environmental Engineering (operating Türkiye's first and largest accredited environmental laboratory infrastructure across Water, Wastewater, Air, Solid Waste, Microbiology, and Sludge), the Department of Civil Engineering (MSc and PhD programmes in Hydraulics, Hydrology and Water Resources), the Department of Geological and Geophysical Engineering, the Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology (MSc/PhD in Marine Chemistry and Living Marine Resources), and the Graduate School of Natural and Applied Sciences.

Under THE Sustainability Impact Ratings Metric 6.1 (Research on water — 27% of the SDG 6 score, comprising 6.1.1 Water research CiteScore in top-10% journals, 6.1.2 Water research Field-Weighted Citation Impact [FWCI], and 6.1.3 Number of water publications), bibliometric performance is calculated directly from Elsevier's Scopus database (https://www.scopus.com/sources.uri?zone=TopNavBar&origin=searchbasic) under DEU's unified Scopus Institutional Profile (Affiliation ID: 60012686). DEU hydrologists, environmental engineers, and marine scientists publish extensively in top-decile (Top 10% CiteScore) Scopus-indexed water journals—including Water Resources Management, Theoretical and Applied Climatology, Water, Air, & Soil Pollution, Journal of Cleaner Production, and Desalination. In DEU's internal AVESİS Academic Data Management System, 91 scholarly outputs are tagged directly to SDG 6 for the 2025–2026 period:

Peer-Reviewed Publications	Funded Research Projects	Organised Scientific Events	Conference Participations	Postgraduate Theses	SDG 6 Tagged Courses	Total AVESİS SDG 6 Records
56 (Scopus / WoS)	2 (Horizon EU & 1071)	5	16	4	7+ core (many allied)	91

Flagship 2025–2026 water research projects and patented innovations (documented in the Dokuz Eylül University Patent Portfolio Analysis in Relation to the SDGs 2021–2026 and the Externally Funded Projects SDG Project Mapping Report 2021–2026) include: (1) the EU-supported project on pyrolysis of dried municipal sewage sludge for clean energy and biochar production; (2) patented technologies for phosphorus recovery following gasification and manufacturing activated carbon from biochar ash for advanced wastewater adsorption; (3) the Horizon Europe WATERLINE digital water governance

consortium (Grant No. 101071306); (4) the TÜBİTAK 1071 Water4All industrial water circularity project in Tire, Pancar, and Torbalı OIZs; and (5) municipal 'One Health' water and sanitation service dialogues.

9. Alignment with UI GreenMetric World University Rankings Data

Table 5 maps all 16 primary and secondary UI GreenMetric indicators from the Dokuz Eylül University Sustainability Report 2025–2026 (GreenMetric Report DEUSR 26) to SDG 6:

GreenMetric Code	GreenMetric Indicator Title	SDG 6 Relation	2025–2026 DEU Verified Result (GreenMetric Report DEUSR 26)
4.1 (WR.1 / SI.4)	Total Area on Campus for Water Absorption Besides Forest & Planted Vegetation	Primary / Core	1,384,477 m² water-absorbing area (25.0% of total campus area: 613,921 m² unsealed soil + 770,550 m² permeable interlocking parquet blocks; p. 81)
4.2 (WR.2)	Water Conservation Program and Implementation	Primary / Core	25–50% institutional conservation rate; 56.2% unirrigated forest (3,111,315 m²), drip irrigation, sensor fixtures & İZSU Tahtalı Dam supply (pp. 81–82)
4.3 (WR.3)	Water Recycling Program Implementation	Primary / Core	25–50% implementation: ≈4,700 t/yr pool backwash reuse (3 pools) + 48-t Technical Workshops tank (≈200 m³/yr) + Bergama tank + 300-t tank under construction & 5 new Central Campus sites (pp. 82–84)
4.4 (WR.4)	Water-Efficient Appliances Usage	Primary / Core	40–60% of university facilities equipped with motion-activated faucets, sensor urinals, and dual-flush toilet cisterns; 17 smart buildings (236,009 m²; p. 84)
4.5 (WR.5)	Consumption of Treated Water	Primary / Core	>75% (100% of mains supply) originates from İZSU's 63 drinking water treatment plants (619.6M m³/yr capacity; ~314M m³ supplied) + campus kitchen filtration (pp. 84–86)
4.6 (WR.5)	Water Pollution Control in Campus Area	Primary / Core	Option [5] Full Implementation: closed grit chambers, 4 grease interceptors, EÇBS/MoTAT hazardous separation & TÜRKAK ISO 17025 lab testing (p. 86)
3.17 (WS.6)	Sewage Disposal	Primary / Core	100% of campuses connected to İZSU municipal sewer network and central advanced wastewater treatment plants after on-site pre-treatment (pp. 77–78)

GreenMetric Code	GreenMetric Indicator Title	SDG 6 Relation	2025–2026 DEU Verified Result (GreenMetric Report DEUSR 26)
3.18 (WS)	Impact of Waste Management Programs in Supporting SDGs (EÇBS)	Primary / Core	Ministry EÇBS digital tracking across all campuses directly supports 10 SDGs, enforcing wastewater permits and freshwater protection under SDG 6 (pp. 79–80)
3.13 – 3.16 (WS.5)	Toxic & Medical Waste Produced and Treated	Secondary	44,064 kg hazardous waste & 886,914 kg sterilized medical waste (>85%–100% licensed treatment via MoTAT/EÇBS) + 5,125 kg waste vegetable oil recovered (pp. 42, 73–76)
6.1, 6.3, 6.9 & 6.20	Sustainability Courses, Study Programs, Publications & SDG Heatmaps	Secondary	2,492 courses (22.2%), 531 programmes (60.1%), ~2,250 sustainability publications, 91 AVESİS SDG 6 outputs & unit 3D SDG Heatmaps (pp. 99–113, 143–144)

10. Continuous Improvement & Strategic Roadmap (2026–2030)

In alignment with the DEU 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, the Policy on Maximising Water Reuse Across the University (July 2026), and the National Water Efficiency Regulation (Official Gazette No. 32765), DEU's priority water targets for 2026–2027 include:

- **Commissioning the 300-Tonne 15 Temmuz Rainwater Reservoir & 5 Central Campus Systems (6.4.1 & 6.4.2):** Completing construction of the 300-tonne underground reinforced-concrete rainwater storage tank at the 15 Temmuz Health and Art Campus and installing rooftop rainwater harvesting tanks with ultrasonic level sensors and outlet flow meters across five additional Central Campus locations, lifting total quantified water reuse well above 6,000 m^3/year.
- **Commissioning the 15 Temmuz Cafeteria Pre-Treatment Plant (6.3.1):** Bringing the new cafeteria wastewater pre-treatment plant at the 15 Temmuz Health and Art Campus into full operation alongside existing grit chambers and grease interceptors.
- **Expanding Water-Efficient Fixtures Beyond 60% & Campus Water Efficiency Certification (6.3.4):** Increasing the share of motion-sensor taps, aerators, and dual-flush cisterns from 40–60% toward >75% of campus buildings and obtaining official Campus Water Efficiency Certificates under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Water Efficiency Regulation.
- **Sustaining Per-Capita Water Use Below 8.0 m^3/FTE & Expanding Scopus Q1 Water Output (6.1 & 6.2.2):** Building on the 9.46% reduction achieved in 2025 (8.04 m^3/FTE/year) through smart-building leak telemetry while expanding top-decile Scopus CiteScore publications under Horizon Europe WATERLINE and TÜBİTAK 1071 Water4All.

11. Institutional Contact & References

Responsible Units & Contact: DEU Sustainability Office, Water Resources Management and Control of Water-Related Natural Disasters Application and Research Center (SUMER), Department of Construction and Technical Works, Zero Waste and Environmental Management Coordination Office & Social Contribution Coordination Office, Dokuz Eylül University, Cumhuriyet Bulvarı No: 144, 35210 Alsancak, Konak, İzmir, Türkiye · Websites: https://greencampus.deu.edu.tr · https://sumer.deu.edu.tr · https://sifiratik.deu.edu.tr · https://cevre.deu.edu.tr · https://toplumsalkatki.deu.edu.tr · Contact: surdurulebilirlik@deu.edu.tr; sumer@deu.edu.tr; yapiisleri@deu.edu.tr; sifiratik@deu.edu.tr · Last reviewed: 30 October 2026.

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