SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

AKSARAY UNIVERSITY

About This Report

The **Aksaray University Sustainability Report 2025** presents the University's sustainability vision, governance structure, achievements, and performance for the 2025 reporting period. It has been prepared to transparently communicate the University's environmental, social, economic, and institutional sustainability initiatives to students, staff, researchers, policymakers, partners, and the broader community. As a public higher education institution, Aksaray University recognizes its responsibility to contribute to sustainable development through education, research, campus operations, innovation, and community engagement. Sustainability is regarded not only as an environmental commitment but also as a guiding principle that supports social well-being, economic resilience, responsible governance, and climate action. This report demonstrates how sustainability principles have been integrated into university management and daily operations and highlights measurable progress achieved in 2025. It also outlines the University's future priorities and long-term commitment to continuous improvement.

Reporting Period

This report covers activities, projects, policies, and performance indicators implemented from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. Where appropriate, historical data from prior years are included to illustrate trends and evaluate progress over time.

Reporting Scope

The report covers sustainability-related activities across the University's academic, administrative, operational, and community engagement functions. Major reporting topics include:

- Sustainability governance and institutional commitment
- Education and research
- Campus operations and environmental management
- Climate action and greenhouse gas reduction
- Energy and water management
- Waste management and circular economy practices
- Sustainable transportation
- Biodiversity and green campus development
- Progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Reporting Framework

The report has been prepared with reference to internationally recognized sustainability frameworks and higher education assessment systems, including:

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)
- UI GreenMetric World University Rankings
- Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings
- Türkiye Zero Waste Regulation and National Sustainability Policies

- Relevant strategic plans, institutional policies, and sustainability action plans of Aksaray University.

Data Collection

The information presented in this report was compiled through collaboration among academic and administrative units of Aksaray University. Quantitative indicators were obtained from official institutional records, while qualitative information was gathered from sustainability projects, research activities, campus initiatives, policy documents, and verified institutional reports. All reported data were reviewed and consolidated by the **Sustainability and Climate Change Coordination Office** to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Our Commitment

Aksaray University is committed to fostering a resilient, inclusive, and environmentally responsible campus that contributes to local, national, and global sustainability efforts. Through interdisciplinary education, scientific research, responsible campus management, and active stakeholder engagement, the University will continue to strengthen its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building a climate-resilient future.

Reporting Period	**January–December 2025**
Institution	Aksaray University
Prepared by	Sustainability and Climate Change Coordination Office
Report Language	English
Reporting Cycle	Annual
Contact	surdurulebilirlik@aksaray.edu.tr

1. UNIVERSITY PROFILE

1.1. About Aksaray University

Established in **2006**, Aksaray University (ASÜ) is a dynamic public higher education institution located in the heart of Central Anatolia, Türkiye. Since its foundation, the University has experienced continuous academic and physical growth, becoming an important regional center for education, scientific research, innovation, and community engagement. Aksaray University currently offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs through its faculties, vocational schools, institutes, and research centers. The University provides an interdisciplinary learning environment that encourages scientific excellence, innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

Recognizing sustainability as one of its strategic priorities, Aksaray University integrates environmental responsibility, social inclusion, economic efficiency, and institutional governance into its educational activities, research agenda, campus operations, and stakeholder engagement. Through the Sustainability and Climate Change Coordination Office, the University actively promotes sustainable campus management while supporting national and global sustainability initiatives.

1.2 Vision and Mission

Vision

To become an internationally recognized university that generates knowledge, educates responsible individuals, contributes to sustainable development, and leads society through scientific excellence, innovation, and environmental responsibility.

Mission

Aksaray University is committed to advancing knowledge through high-quality education and research, fostering social development, protecting natural resources, promoting sustainability, and preparing future generations to address global environmental and societal challenges.

1.3 Campus Overview

Aksaray University operates on a modern campus designed to provide a sustainable, safe, and accessible environment for education, research, and campus life. The campus integrates academic facilities, green spaces, social amenities, and research infrastructure, and it continuously invests in environmentally responsible campus development. The University's sustainability strategy prioritizes resource efficiency, biodiversity conservation, renewable energy, climate resilience, sustainable transportation, and responsible resource management. These principles guide campus planning and infrastructure investments.

Campus Facts (2025)

Indicator	Value
Total Campus Area	4,693,505 m^2
Building Footprint	244,772 m^2
Ground Floor Area	191,287 m^2
Open Space	95.8%
Green Area	520,000 m^2
Number of Trees	Appx. 40,000
Students	18,866
Academic Staff	947
Administrative Staff	331
Total University Population	20,144
University Bicycles (ASÜBİS)	396
Municipal Shared Bicycles	Appx. 200

1.4 Sustainability Governance

Aksaray University has established an institutional governance structure to coordinate sustainability-related policies, projects, reporting, and stakeholder engagement across the campus. The **Sustainability and Climate Change Coordination Office**, operating under the Rectorate, leads the University's sustainability agenda by integrating sustainability principles into education, research, campus operations, community engagement, and institutional decision-making.

The Coordination Office works collaboratively with academic units, administrative departments, students, public institutions, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and industry partners to implement sustainability initiatives aligned with the University's Strategic Plan and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Its main responsibilities include:

- Coordinating institutional sustainability policies and strategies
- Preparing sustainability reports and international ranking submissions
- Monitoring sustainability performance indicators
- Supporting climate action and carbon management initiatives
- Promoting sustainability education and awareness
- Strengthening stakeholder collaboration and community engagement
- Coordinating GreenMetric, THE Impact Rankings, and other sustainability assessments

1.5 Strategic Commitment to Sustainability

Sustainability is embedded in Aksaray University's institutional development strategy and long-term vision. The University is committed to continuously improving environmental performance, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing resource efficiency, protecting biodiversity, and fostering an

inclusive and resilient campus. Through interdisciplinary education, research excellence, and responsible campus management, Aksaray University seeks to actively contribute to achieving the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** while supporting Türkiye's national sustainability and climate policies.



2. 2025 SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

2.1 Strengthening Institutional Sustainability Governance

In 2025, Aksaray University further strengthened its institutional commitment to sustainability through the activities of the Sustainability and Climate Change Coordination Office. Sustainability became increasingly integrated across university governance, campus management, education, research, and stakeholder engagement, supporting a whole-institution approach to sustainable development.

2.2 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings

Aksaray University continued its participation in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings by expanding campus-wide sustainability initiatives. Comprehensive improvements were implemented in energy management, water conservation, waste reduction, sustainable transportation, biodiversity protection, and climate action, while strengthening evidence-based sustainability reporting.

2.3 Climate Change and Sustainability Master's Program

One of the University's most significant achievements in 2025 was the approval of the interdisciplinary Master's Program in Climate Change and Sustainability. The program aims to prepare future professionals to address climate challenges through multidisciplinary education, research, and innovation.

2.4 Leadership in the UNIKOP Sustainability Commission

Aksaray University assumed the leadership role in sustainability-related activities within the UNIKOP Regional Development Project framework, coordinating collaborative efforts among member universities to advance sustainable campus development and regional cooperation.

2.5 Research Supporting Sustainable Development

Researchers at Aksaray University continued to advance national and international sustainability research through projects funded by TÜBİTAK, BAP, and other national and international programs. Major research topics included climate change, renewable energy, environmental pollution, carbon footprint assessment, biodiversity conservation, water management, and sustainable technologies.

2.6 Sustainable Mobility

The University expanded sustainable transportation options through the ASÜBİS bicycle-sharing system and cooperation with Aksaray Municipality. Nearly 600 bicycles became available to students and staff, encouraging active mobility and reducing greenhouse gas emissions on campus.

2.7 Zero Waste and Circular Economy

The University strengthened its Zero Waste Management System through source separation, composting, recycling, awareness campaigns, and responsible waste management practices. Paperless administrative processes, reusable products, and digital communication further reduced resource use.

2.8 Water Conservation

Water-saving technologies, smart monitoring systems, and awareness campaigns continued to improve water efficiency across the campus. Sensor-based fixtures, efficient irrigation practices, and regular water-quality monitoring contributed to responsible water management.

2.9 Biodiversity and Green Campus

The University maintained approximately **520,000 m^2** of green space and more than **40,000 trees**, supporting biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and climate resilience while continuously improving the campus landscape.

2.10 Community Engagement

Throughout 2025, Aksaray University organized seminars, workshops, awareness campaigns, school visits, tree planting events, World Environment Day activities, Zero Waste campaigns, and collaborations with local governments, NGOs, and public institutions to promote sustainability beyond campus.


2. SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS 2025
Key achievements and milestones of Aksaray University in advancing sustainability, climate action, and responsible campus management.
AKSARAY UNIVERSITY
Sustainability Report 2025
SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİRLİK VE İKLİM DEĞİŞİKLİĞİ KOORDİNATÖRLÜĞÜ
1 STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE
The Sustainability and Climate Change Coordination Office further strengthened its role in 2025, integrating sustainability into governance, campus management, education, research, and stakeholder engagement.
2025
Aksaray University
2 UI GREENMETRIC WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
Continuous improvements in energy, water, waste, transportation, biodiversity, and climate action enhanced our performance in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings.
İKLİM DEĞİŞİKLİĞİ VE SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİRLİK YÜKSEK LİSANS PROGRAMI
3 CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY MASTER'S PROGRAM
The interdisciplinary Master's Program in Climate Change and Sustainability was approved in 2025 to educate future professionals and produce solutions for climate challenges.
UNiKOP
BÖLGE KALKINMA ODAKLI ÜNİVERSİTELER BİRLİĞİ
4 LEADERSHIP IN THE UNIKOP SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Aksaray University leads sustainability activities within the UNIKOP Regional Development Project, promoting collaboration among member universities for sustainable development.
5 RESEARCH SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Our academics carried out national and international research projects (TÜBİTAK, BAP, Horizon Europe, etc.) on climate change, renewable energy, water management, carbon footprint, biodiversity, and sustainable technologies.
6 SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY
Through the ASÜBİS bicycle-sharing system and cooperation with Aksaray Municipality, nearly 600 bicycles are available for students and staff, encouraging active mobility and reducing emissions.
SIFIR ATIK
GELECEĞE DEĞER KATAR
7 ZERO WASTE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY
Zero Waste Management System was strengthened through source separation, composting, recycling, awareness campaigns, paperless processes and reusable products.
8 WATER CONSERVATION
Water-saving technologies, smart monitoring systems and awareness campaigns improved water efficiency and promoted responsible water management across campus.
9 BIODIVERSITY AND GREEN CAMPUS
The University maintains 520,000 m² of green area and more than 40,000 trees, supporting biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and climate resilience.
SIFIR ATIK
TEMİZ BİR GELECEK İÇİN EL ELE
10 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Seminars, workshops, tree planting events, Zero Waste activities, school visits and collaborations with local governments and NGOs expanded the impact of sustainability beyond the campus.
OUR COMMITMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3. EDUCATION & RESEARCH



3.1 Driving Sustainability Through Education, Research and Innovation

Education and research constitute the foundation of Aksaray University's contribution to sustainable development. The University is committed to equipping future generations with the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to address global environmental, economic, and societal challenges. Through interdisciplinary education, scientific research, innovation, and stakeholder collaboration, sustainability has become an integral component of the University's academic mission.

In 2025, Aksaray University further strengthened its commitment by expanding sustainability-oriented education, supporting interdisciplinary research, establishing the **Climate Change and Sustainability Master's Program**, and increasing research activities aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The University promotes a holistic approach that integrates classroom learning with laboratory work, fieldwork, research projects, and community engagement, enabling students and researchers to develop practical solutions to real-world sustainability challenges.

3.2 Sustainability Education

Aksaray University considers sustainability an essential component of quality higher education. Sustainability concepts are integrated across academic programs through interdisciplinary teaching, applied learning, research-based education, and extracurricular activities. Students are encouraged to understand the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainable development while developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and leadership skills required for the green transition. Teaching activities are continuously enriched through laboratory applications, technical field visits, seminars, workshops, graduation projects, and collaborations with public institutions, industry, and civil society organizations. The University's educational philosophy aims not only to provide academic knowledge but also to foster responsible citizenship and sustainable lifestyles among students.

Key Features

- Integration of sustainability concepts across multiple disciplines
- Research-based and experiential learning
- Laboratory and field applications
- Interdisciplinary education
- Student-centered teaching approaches
- Community-based learning activities

3.3 Sustainability Across the Curriculum

Sustainability-related topics are integrated into undergraduate and graduate curricula across the University. Courses covering environmental protection, renewable energy, climate change, sustainable resource management, the circular economy, biodiversity conservation, pollution prevention, and environmental legislation are offered across academic programs. Students are encouraged to apply theoretical knowledge through laboratory studies, project-based learning, internships, technical excursions, and graduation projects, enabling them to develop both scientific knowledge and practical competencies.

Representative sustainability-related subject areas include:

- Climate Change
- Environmental Engineering
- Renewable Energy Technologies
- Sustainable Energy Systems
- Water Resources Management
- Waste Management
- Circular Economy
- Environmental Pollution
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Sustainable Urban Development
- Biodiversity Conservation

- Carbon Footprint Assessment

3.4 Undergraduate Education

Sustainability education at the undergraduate level is delivered through a broad range of faculties and departments. Students are introduced to sustainability concepts early in their academic journey and progressively develop advanced technical and analytical skills through discipline-specific courses and practical applications. Many undergraduate programs integrate sustainability into design projects, laboratory courses, engineering applications, environmental monitoring studies, and community engagement activities. This multidisciplinary approach helps students understand the interconnected nature of environmental, social, and economic sustainability while preparing them for professional careers that contribute to sustainable development.

The University also encourages undergraduate students to participate in scientific research projects, innovation competitions, technical workshops, student clubs, and voluntary sustainability initiatives that enhance both academic achievement and social responsibility.

3.5 Climate Change and Sustainability Master's Program

One of the most significant milestones achieved by Aksaray University in 2025 was the establishment of the **Master's Program in Climate Change and Sustainability**. Developed through an interdisciplinary approach, the program responds to the growing global demand for professionals capable of addressing complex environmental, climate, and sustainability challenges.

The program aims to educate highly qualified graduates who can contribute to climate adaptation, greenhouse gas mitigation, sustainable resource management, the circular economy, the renewable energy transition, environmental governance, and sustainable development policies. It combines scientific knowledge with practical applications, enabling students to develop innovative, evidence-based solutions to national and global sustainability challenges.

Unlike conventional graduate programs confined to a single discipline, the Master's Program draws on expertise across engineering, environmental sciences, architecture, economics, agriculture, health sciences, social sciences, and public administration. This interdisciplinary structure reflects the multifaceted nature of climate change and sustainability and fosters collaboration across diverse academic fields.

Program Objectives

The Master's Program has been designed to:

- Develop advanced knowledge on climate change science and sustainability.
- Train professionals capable of designing evidence-based climate policies.
- Promote interdisciplinary research addressing environmental challenges.
- Support national and international climate commitments.
- Strengthen institutional capacity for sustainable development.

- Foster innovation through scientific research and technological solutions.
- Contribute to regional and national sustainability transformation.

Interdisciplinary Structure

The program brings together faculty members from different academic disciplines to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of sustainability challenges. The curriculum integrates engineering, environmental sciences, natural sciences, economics, management, and policy studies to ensure graduates acquire both technical expertise and systems-thinking skills. This interdisciplinary framework enables students to evaluate climate change from scientific, technological, environmental, economic, and societal perspectives while developing practical solutions for sustainable development.

Students conduct research on a wide range of sustainability topics, including:

- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- Carbon Footprint and Greenhouse Gas Accounting
- Renewable Energy Systems
- Sustainable Urban Development
- Circular Economy
- Environmental Pollution Control
- Sustainable Water Resources Management
- Waste Management and Resource Recovery
- Environmental Risk Assessment
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Green Technologies
- Climate Policy and Environmental Governance

The program combines theoretical education with practical experience through:

- Research-based learning
- Laboratory applications
- Field studies
- Project-based education
- Scientific seminars
- Case studies
- Stakeholder engagement
- National and international research collaborations

Students are encouraged to participate actively in scientific projects, conferences, workshops, and interdisciplinary research teams throughout their graduate education.

Graduates of the Master's Program are expected to contribute to:

- Climate-resilient cities and communities
- Sustainable industrial development
- Green transformation of public institutions
- Environmental consultancy
- Carbon management and reporting
- Academic research and innovation
- National and international sustainability projects
- Evidence-based policy development

The program also supports Türkiye's transition toward a low-carbon economy while contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3.6 Research for Sustainable Development

Research is a principal driver of Aksaray University's contributions to sustainable development. Through interdisciplinary scientific research, innovation, and collaboration with national and international partners, the University develops practical solutions to environmental, social, and economic challenges and supports evidence-based decision-making. Research activities address critical sustainability issues, including climate change, renewable energy, environmental pollution, biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, water resources management, the circular economy, digital transformation, and environmental health. In 2025, Aksaray University further strengthened its research capacity by expanding externally funded projects, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and increasing research directly supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The University's sustainability-oriented research focuses on several strategic themes:

Climate Change and Carbon Management

Research is conducted on greenhouse gas emissions, carbon footprint assessment, climate adaptation, climate resilience, and carbon neutrality strategies to support national and global climate goals.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Projects investigate renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency, smart energy systems, hydrogen technologies, and sustainable energy management to facilitate the transition toward low-carbon energy systems.

Water Resources and Environmental Protection

Research addresses sustainable water management, wastewater treatment, water quality monitoring, pollution prevention, ecosystem protection, and integrated watershed management.

Circular Economy and Waste Management

Researchers develop innovative approaches for waste minimization, recycling, resource recovery, composting, industrial symbiosis, and circular production systems that support sustainable resource use.

Air Quality and Environmental Monitoring

Scientific studies focus on atmospheric pollution, particulate matter, emission inventories, environmental monitoring systems, exposure assessment, and human health impacts using advanced analytical and modelling techniques.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation

Research contributes to protecting natural ecosystems, restoring biodiversity, conserving habitats, and promoting sustainable land management practices in response to climate change and environmental degradation.

Research Highlights in 2025

Major sustainability-related research activities included:

- TÜBİTAK-funded research projects
- Scientific Research Projects (BAP)
- National and international collaborative projects
- Environmental monitoring studies
- Climate change adaptation research
- Carbon accounting studies
- Renewable energy applications
- Water conservation projects
- Sustainable agriculture research
- Smart environmental monitoring technologies

The University's research contributes to:

- Supporting evidence-based environmental policies
- Developing sustainable technologies
- Strengthening regional resilience to climate change
- Improving resource efficiency
- Enhancing environmental quality
- Supporting national sustainability strategies
- Increasing international scientific collaboration



3.7 Research Centers and Laboratories

Aksaray University maintains a modern research infrastructure that supports high-quality scientific studies across a broad range of disciplines. Research centers and laboratories provide advanced analytical capabilities for environmental monitoring, renewable energy, material characterization, biotechnology, water quality analysis, and sustainability-related research. These facilities enable academic staff, researchers, and graduate students to conduct interdisciplinary research while strengthening collaborations with public institutions, industry, and international partners.

Key research infrastructure includes:

- Aksaray University Science and Technology Application and Research Center (ASÜBTAM)
- Environmental Engineering Laboratories
- Central Research Laboratories
- Faculty-based specialized laboratories
- Sustainability and Climate Change Coordination Office (research coordination and reporting)

The University continues to invest in research infrastructure to support innovation, technology development, and sustainable solutions for regional and global challenges.

3.8 Research Projects and Strategic Partnerships

Scientific research is a key pillar of Aksaray University's sustainability strategy. Through nationally and internationally funded projects, the University generates scientific knowledge, develops innovative technologies, and helps address environmental, social, and economic challenges at regional, national, and global scales. In 2025, Aksaray University significantly expanded its research portfolio, undertaking projects in climate change, disaster resilience, environmental monitoring, water management, renewable energy, biodiversity, digital technologies, and sustainable development. These initiatives strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration and directly contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

TÜBİTAK-Funded Research

Research projects supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) continued to grow in both number and funding. In 2025, 15 TÜBİTAK projects were approved, with a total budget exceeding TRY 10.2 million, representing the highest annual TÜBİTAK funding the University has received. The projects cover a wide range of sustainability topics, including climate adaptation, environmental engineering, air quality, renewable energy systems, smart environmental monitoring, sustainable agriculture, and digital technologies.



Scientific Research Projects (BAP)

The University's Scientific Research Projects Coordination Unit (BAP) continued to provide institutional support for innovative research across multiple disciplines. In 2025, **79 BAP projects** were funded with a total budget of **TRY 2.86 million**, more than doubling the number of projects supported in the previous year. These projects play a crucial role in strengthening research infrastructure, supporting graduate education, and encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration.

National and Regional Collaborative Projects

In addition to TÜBİTAK and BAP funding, Aksaray University successfully implemented projects supported by national programs such as **KOP, BOREN, TAGEM, and other governmental funding mechanisms**. These projects focus on regional development, sustainable agriculture, natural resources, and technological innovation while strengthening collaboration with public institutions and industry.

AFAD Collaboration for Disaster Risk Reduction

A major milestone in 2025 was the cooperation protocol signed between Aksaray University and the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) to produce sinkhole susceptibility maps and develop an early warning system. The project integrates geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, geological investigations, and environmental modeling to improve disaster preparedness and reduce geological risks in Central Anatolia.



IoT-Based Boron Pollution Monitoring Project

Supported by TÜBİTAK, this innovative project develops an **Internet of Things (IoT)-based environmental monitoring system** to detect and manage boron pollution. By integrating sensor technologies, real-time monitoring, and digital data analysis, the project contributes to more effective environmental management and sustainable water quality monitoring.


Aksaray Üniversitesi
Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Uygulama ve Araştırma Merkezi

Hakkımızda İç Kontrol Kalite Başvuru Cihazlar Merkezimiz Labsis Otomasyon KALİTE EN
İletişim

Anasayfa / Haberler / Bor kirliliğinin temizlenmesi ve IoT Tabanlı izleme projesine TÜBİTAK'tan destek

Bor kirliliğinin temizlenmesi ve IoT Tabanlı izleme projesine TÜBİTAK'tan destek

28.11.2025 11:27:00

Aksaray Üniversitesi (ASÜ) Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi Öğretim Üyesi Prof. Dr. Onur Can Türker tarafından yürütülecek proje kapsamında bor kirliliğinin mikrobiyal yakıt hücreleri kullanılarak giderilmesi ve sürecin IoT tabanlı sensör sistemleri ile anlık olarak izlenmesi üzerine bilimsel çalışmalar yürütülecek. ASÜ Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi Moleküler Biyoloji ve Genetik Bölümü Öğretim Üyesi Prof. Dr. Onur Can Türker tarafından yürütülecek Sediment ve Bitki Temelli Mikrobiyal Yakıt Hücreleri ile Bor (B)'un Elektrokinetik Taşınımına Dayalı Remediasyonu ve Bor Kirliliğinin IoT Tabanlı İzlemenin Araştırılması" başlıklı TÜBİTAK 1002-A Hızlı Destek Programı kapsamında destek almaya hak kazandı. Proje kapsamında, bor kirliliğinin mikrobiyal yakıt hücreleri kullanılarak giderilmesi ve sürecin IoT tabanlı sensör sistemleri ile anlık olarak izlenmesi üzerine bilimsel çalışmalar yürütülecek. Projede, Dr. Öğr. Gör. Atıl Emre Coşgun ve Dr. Anıl Yakar, Araştırmacı Mert Erdoğan ise bursiyer olarak görev alacak.

Water Scarcity and Sustainable Water Management

Researchers at Aksaray University continue to investigate the impacts of water scarcity, climate variability, and sustainable water management. Studies focus on efficient water use, groundwater protection, irrigation efficiency, and water quality, providing scientific evidence that supports regional water security and climate adaptation.

International Recognition: Seal of Excellence

One of the University's outstanding achievements was receiving the **Seal of Excellence (Mükemmeliyet Mührü)** for an internationally evaluated research proposal. This prestigious recognition demonstrates the scientific quality, innovation potential, and international competitiveness of Aksaray University's research activities.



3.9 Research Performance and Scientific Excellence

Aksaray University has demonstrated remarkable growth in research productivity and competitiveness over recent years. Continuous increases in research funding, project numbers, publication quality, citation impact, and doctoral education reflect the University's commitment to scientific excellence and sustainable development. During 2025, the University achieved its strongest research performance to date by securing record levels of competitive funding and the highest annual number of approved research projects. Research funding increased substantially between 2020 and 2025, supported primarily by BAP and TÜBİTAK programs.

Year	BAP (TRY)	TÜBİTAK (TRY)	Total (TRY)
2020	506,962	966,671	1,473,640
2021	588,797	2,677,472	3,266,269
2022	775,164	4,432,644	5,207,808
2023	1,277,785	2,689,142	3,966,927
2024	1,303,192	7,620,502	8,923,694
2025	**2,857,366**	**10,268,160**	**13,125,530**

Between 2020 and 2025, total competitive research funding increased from **TRY 1.47 million to TRY 13.13 million**, representing an increase of approximately **791%**.

Growth in Funded Research Projects

The University's research portfolio expanded significantly during the reporting period.

Year	BAP	TÜBİTAK	Other	Total
2019	36	6	3	45
2020	41	5	7	53
2021	31	11	–	42
2022	36	12	–	48
2023	40	6	–	46
2024	37	10	–	47
2025	**79**	**15**	**4**	**98**

With **98 funded research projects**, 2025 marked the most successful year in the University's history in terms of research activity.

Academic Performance Indicators

The University continuously monitors its scientific performance using nationally recognized academic indicators.

Indicator	2019	2025
Article Score	105.22	105.59
Citation Score	109.67	118.12
Scientific Document Score	93.81	110.39
Doctoral Graduate Score	41.12	54.76
Faculty/Student Score	51.51	56.71

The steady improvement in citation impact, scientific output, and doctoral education demonstrates the University's growing research quality and international visibility.

Key Research Achievements in 2025

- **TRY 13.13 million** in competitive research funding.
- **98 funded research projects**, the highest annual total to date.
- **15 TÜBİTAK-funded projects** with a record funding level.
- **79 BAP-supported projects**, reflecting strong institutional research support.
- Continued improvement in publication quality and citation impact.
- Expansion of interdisciplinary research addressing sustainability and climate challenges.

4. CAMPUS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

4.1 Building a Resilient, Green and Low-Carbon Campus

Aksaray University is committed to creating a sustainable campus that minimizes environmental impacts while enhancing the quality of life for students, staff, and visitors. Through integrated environmental management, the University continuously improves energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, sustainable transportation, biodiversity protection, and climate resilience. Sustainability principles are embedded in campus planning, infrastructure development, operational management, and daily campus life. These initiatives help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect natural resources, promote responsible consumption, and support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The University's green campus strategy combines innovative technologies, institutional policies, and community participation to create a healthier, safer, and more sustainable learning environment.



4.2 Green Campus and Infrastructure

Aksaray University is committed to developing a sustainable campus where education, research, and environmental stewardship coexist in harmony. Sustainability considerations are integrated into campus planning, infrastructure development, landscape management, and daily operations to create a resilient, healthy, and resource-efficient environment for the entire university community. Located on a spacious campus spanning 4.69 million square meters, the University maintains a balanced relationship between built infrastructure and natural landscapes. Extensive open spaces, landscaped green areas, tree plantations, and pedestrian-friendly design contribute to environmental quality, enhance biodiversity, and improve campus life. The University's long-term campus development strategy prioritizes sustainable land use, climate resilience, accessibility, and ecological preservation. Continuous investments in green infrastructure, landscape improvement, and environmentally responsible planning support the University's commitment to reducing its environmental footprint while providing a modern learning environment.

Indicator	Value
Total Campus Area	4,693,505 m^2
Total Building Area	244,772 m^2
Ground Floor Building Area	191,287 m^2
Open Space Ratio	95.8%
Landscaped Green Area	520,000 m^2
Number of Trees	Approx. 40,000
Students	18,866
Academic Staff	947
Administrative Staff	331
Total University Population	20,144
University Bicycle Fleet (ASÜBİS)	396
Municipal Shared Bicycles	Approx. 200

Sustainable Campus Planning

The physical development of Aksaray University adheres to sustainable planning principles that prioritize environmental protection, efficient land use, and long-term resilience. The campus is designed to preserve extensive open spaces while accommodating modern academic buildings, research facilities, recreational areas, and transportation infrastructure. Wide pedestrian routes, bicycle paths, green corridors, and accessible public spaces promote sustainable mobility and encourage outdoor activities. These features not only improve environmental performance but also enhance the health and well-being of students, academic staff, administrative personnel, and visitors.

Green Infrastructure and Landscape Management

Green infrastructure is central to the University's sustainability strategy. Approximately 520,000 m^2 of landscaped green space are maintained across the campus, including lawns, ornamental landscapes, tree-lined avenues, and afforested zones. More than 40,000 trees support carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, microclimate regulation, and improved air quality. In recent afforestation campaigns, 8,300 additional saplings were planted to further strengthen ecological resilience and expand green coverage. Landscape management prioritizes drought-tolerant and climate-adapted vegetation, efficient irrigation, and ongoing maintenance to ensure the long-term sustainability of campus ecosystems.

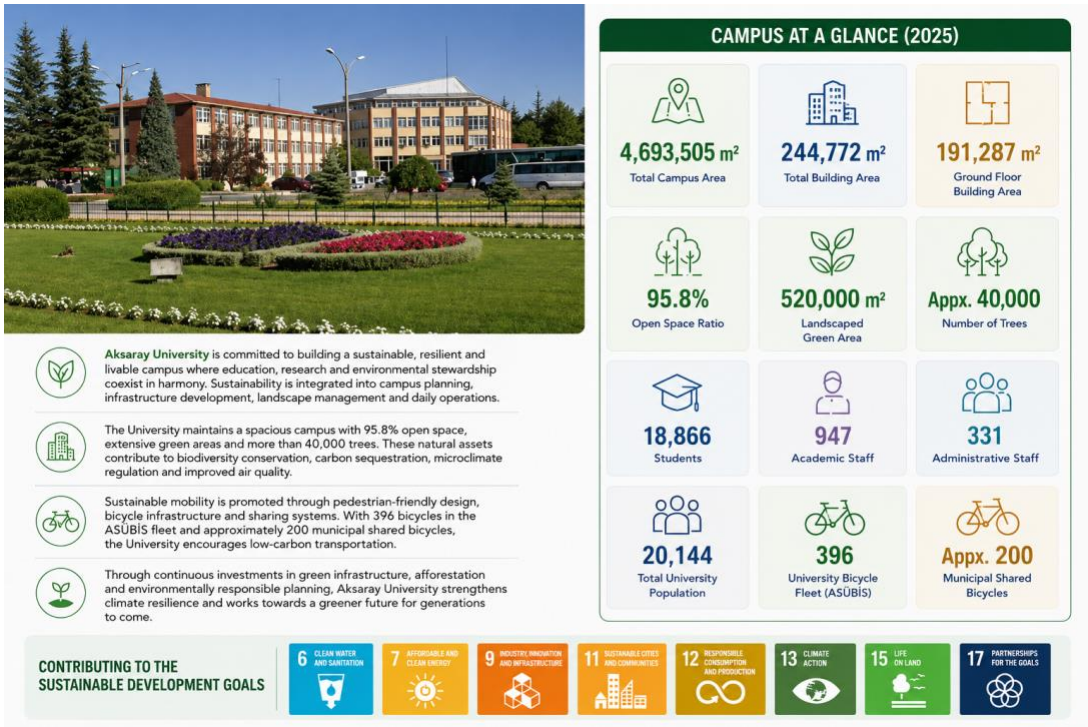
Campus Mobility and Accessibility

Aksaray University supports sustainable transportation by promoting walking and cycling as preferred modes of mobility on campus. The University operates the ASÜBİS Bicycle Sharing System, which provides 396 bicycles for students and staff, while approximately 200 additional shared bicycles are supplied through the Aksaray Municipality's public bicycle program. The integration of

pedestrian infrastructure, bicycle lanes, and shared mobility systems helps reduce vehicle dependence, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and foster a healthier campus environment.

Key Achievements in 2025

- Maintained a campus area of **4.69 million m²** with **95.8% open space**.
- Preserved **520,000 m²** of landscaped green areas.
- Maintained approximately **40,000 trees** across the campus.
- Expanded green infrastructure through the planting of **8,300 new saplings**.
- Supported sustainable mobility with **396 university bicycles** and approximately **200 municipal shared bicycles**.
- Continued integrating sustainability principles into campus planning and infrastructure development.



4.3 Energy and Climate Action

Aksaray University is committed to improving energy performance and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through systematic energy management, efficient resource use, and climate-conscious campus operations. The University continuously invests in modern infrastructure, energy-efficient technologies, and institutional practices that support the transition toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient campus. A major milestone in 2025 was the implementation of the **ISO 50001 Energy Management System**, demonstrating the University's commitment to internationally recognized standards for energy performance, continuous improvement, and sustainable energy

management. The certification establishes a structured framework for monitoring energy consumption, identifying efficiency opportunities, and integrating energy management into institutional decision-making. In 2025, Aksaray University successfully implemented the **ISO 50001 Energy Management System**, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable campus operations and responsible energy use.

The certification provides a systematic approach to:

- Improving energy performance across campus facilities
- Monitoring and evaluating energy consumption
- Increasing energy efficiency through continuous improvement
- Reducing operational costs
- Supporting institutional climate action objectives
- Strengthening environmental sustainability

Implementation of ISO 50001 also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions while supporting the University's long-term sustainability strategy.



The University's energy management program focuses on continuous monitoring, efficient operation, and infrastructure modernization. Key initiatives include:

- ISO 50001 Energy Management System implementation
- Campus-wide transition to LED lighting
- High-efficiency HVAC systems
- Energy-efficient laboratory equipment
- Smart energy monitoring practices
- Preventive maintenance programs

- Building insulation improvements
- Energy awareness campaigns for students and staff

Aksaray University integrates climate action into institutional planning through greenhouse gas accounting, sustainable transportation, afforestation programs, and environmental awareness initiatives. Key actions include:

- Annual greenhouse gas inventory preparation
- Carbon footprint assessment
- Tree planting and afforestation programs
- Bicycle-sharing system (ASÜBİS)
- Expansion of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure
- Reduction of private vehicle use on campus
- Climate awareness campaigns

Key Achievements in 2025

- **Implementation of the ISO 50001 Energy Management System.**
- Continuous improvement of campus energy efficiency.
- Expansion of LED lighting systems.
- Annual greenhouse gas inventory completed.
- Promotion of sustainable transportation through the ASÜBİS bicycle-sharing system.
- Integration of climate action into campus planning and operations.



4.4 Water Management

Water is one of the most valuable natural resources, particularly in semi-arid regions such as Central Anatolia. Recognizing the importance of responsible water stewardship, Aksaray University has adopted an integrated water management approach that emphasizes conservation, efficient use, continuous monitoring, pollution prevention, and public awareness. The University implements a range of technological and operational measures to reduce potable water consumption while maintaining water quality across the campus. Smart monitoring systems, water-efficient fixtures, sustainable irrigation practices, and regular laboratory analyses contribute to the long-term

protection of water resources and support the University's environmental sustainability objectives. Water management activities are coordinated in accordance with national regulations, the University's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Aksaray University manages water resources through a comprehensive strategy that combines technological innovation, infrastructure improvement, and awareness-raising activities.

The main components of the programme include:

- Smart water meters and digital monitoring systems
- Sensor-based faucets and water-saving fixtures
- Efficient landscape irrigation practices
- Regular water quality monitoring
- Wastewater management and pollution prevention
- Water conservation awareness campaigns
- Collaboration with public institutions and stakeholders

These initiatives help improve water efficiency while reducing unnecessary water consumption across campus.

The University has implemented numerous measures to encourage efficient water use and minimize water losses. Key initiatives include:

- Installation of sensor-operated faucets and urinals
- Low-flow plumbing fixtures
- Periodic inspection of water distribution systems
- Leak detection and preventive maintenance
- Optimization of irrigation schedules
- Use of drought-resistant landscaping
- Educational campaigns promoting responsible water use

Together, these actions contribute to reducing overall water demand while maintaining a safe and comfortable campus environment.

Water quality is regularly monitored through laboratory analyses conducted by the Environmental Engineering Department and the Aksaray University Science and Technology Application and Research Center (ASÜBTAM). Routine analyses include:

- Physical parameters
- Chemical parameters
- Microbiological quality
- Drinking water compliance
- Environmental monitoring of campus water resources

Continuous monitoring ensures that water used across the campus complies with applicable standards and supports the protection of public health.

Landscape irrigation is managed using efficient irrigation practices that minimize water losses while maintaining the University's extensive green areas. Priority is given to:

- Efficient irrigation scheduling
- Seasonal water demand management
- Climate-adapted landscaping
- Preventive maintenance of irrigation infrastructure
- Continuous monitoring of irrigation performance

These measures contribute to the sustainable management of the University's **520,000 m²** of landscaped green areas.

Key Achievements in 2025

- Continued implementation of smart water monitoring systems.
- Expansion of water-saving fixtures across campus buildings.
- Regular laboratory-based water quality analyses.
- Improved irrigation efficiency for landscaped areas.
- Ongoing awareness programs promoting responsible water consumption.
- Strengthened collaboration with public institutions on water sustainability.



4.5 Waste Management and Circular Economy

Aksaray University is committed to minimizing waste, maximizing resource efficiency, and promoting circular economy principles across campus operations. Guided by the national Zero Waste Initiative and the University's sustainability strategy, comprehensive waste management practices have been implemented to reduce environmental impacts and encourage responsible consumption among students, staff, and visitors. The University's integrated waste management system covers the entire waste cycle—from waste prevention and source separation to collection, recycling, recovery, treatment, and awareness-raising activities. These efforts support efficient resource use, reduce landfill disposal, and contribute to a cleaner, healthier campus environment.

The University's waste management program is based on four fundamental principles:

- **Waste Prevention** – Reducing waste generation through sustainable procurement and digital transformation.
- **Source Separation** – Collecting recyclable and hazardous waste separately to improve recovery rates.
- **Resource Recovery** – Recycling, composting, and material recovery to extend the life cycle of resources.
- **Awareness and Participation** – Engaging students and staff through education, campaigns, and behavioral change initiatives.

Dedicated collection points for paper, plastic, glass, metal, electronic waste, batteries, waste oils, and hazardous waste are available throughout the campus. Aksaray University actively implements the principles of the national **Zero Waste Program** by integrating waste reduction into daily campus operations. Major initiatives include:

- Campus-wide waste segregation
- Recycling collection stations
- Electronic waste collection campaigns
- Battery and waste oil collection
- Composting of organic waste
- Digital document management (EBYS)
- Paper-saving policies
- Plastic reduction initiatives
- Reusable cup and mug campaigns

These initiatives help reduce waste generation while increasing recycling and recovery rates.

The University has significantly reduced paper consumption through the widespread use of the **Electronic Document Management System (EBYS)**, digital workflows, online forms, electronic correspondence, and paperless administrative procedures. To reduce single-use plastics, Aksaray University has implemented several initiatives, including:

- **"Bring Your Mug" campaign**
- Promotion of reusable bottles and cups
- Reduction of disposable plastic products
- Digital communication instead of printed promotional materials

These actions support responsible consumption while reducing waste generation across the campus.

Organic waste generated from cafeterias and landscape maintenance is separately collected and managed through composting and recovery practices. Food waste, leaves, and grass clippings are diverted from landfill and transformed into valuable organic material that can be reused in landscape maintenance, contributing to nutrient recycling and circular resource management. The University's composting program reduces greenhouse gas emissions associated with organic waste disposal while improving soil quality within campus green areas.

Hazardous waste is managed in accordance with national environmental legislation and relevant regulations. Separate collection systems are maintained for:

- Laboratory chemicals
- Electronic waste
- Toner cartridges
- Batteries
- Waste oils
- Fluorescent lamps
- Medical waste

All hazardous waste is temporarily stored under controlled conditions and transferred to licensed recovery or disposal facilities.

The success of the University's waste management program relies on the active participation of students and staff. mAwareness activities include:

- Zero Waste Day events
- Environmental awareness campaigns
- "Zero Waste Microphone" interviews
- Sustainability training programs
- Recycling awareness activities
- Student club initiatives
- Social media campaigns

These activities encourage behavioral change and strengthen environmental responsibility across the university community.

Key Achievements in 2025

- Comprehensive campus-wide waste segregation system maintained.
- Expansion of recycling collection infrastructure.
- Continued implementation of the Zero Waste Management System.
- Increased composting and organic waste recovery.
- Reduction in paper consumption through EBYS.
- Promotion of reusable products through the **"Bring Your Mug"** campaign.
- Continued safe management of hazardous and electronic waste.
- Ongoing awareness campaigns supporting circular economy principles.



4.6 Sustainable Transportation

Aksaray University is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation by promoting environmentally friendly, accessible, and sustainable mobility options. The University's transportation strategy prioritizes walking, cycling, public transportation, and efficient campus planning to minimize dependence on private motor vehicles. By integrating sustainable transportation into campus development, Aksaray University contributes to cleaner air, lower carbon emissions, healthier lifestyles, and an improved quality of campus life.

The University's sustainable transportation policy is based on the following principles:

- Encouraging active transportation
- Reducing fossil fuel consumption
- Expanding cycling infrastructure
- Improving pedestrian accessibility
- Supporting public transportation
- Reducing the environmental footprint of campus mobility



Cycling has become one of the main sustainable transportation options at Aksaray University through the **ASÜBİS Bicycle Sharing System**. The system currently provides **396 university-owned bicycles**, distributed across multiple bicycle stations strategically located throughout the campus. To further strengthen sustainable mobility, approximately **200 additional bicycles** are provided through the **Aksaray Municipality Public Bicycle Sharing System**, giving students and staff convenient access to zero-emission transportation. Together, these systems significantly reduce vehicle use within the campus while encouraging healthy and environmentally responsible lifestyles.

The University continuously improves its cycling infrastructure by providing:

- Bicycle stations across campus
- Secure bicycle parking areas
- Dedicated bicycle lanes
- Integration with municipal bicycle services
- Safe cycling routes connecting academic buildings and social facilities

These investments support the transition toward low-carbon transportation and improve accessibility throughout the campus.

The campus has been designed to encourage walking by providing:

- Wide pedestrian pathways
- Accessible walkways
- Safe street crossings
- Green walking corridors
- Barrier-free access for individuals with disabilities

Walkability contributes not only to reduced emissions but also to improved public health and social interaction.

As part of its sustainability strategy, Aksaray University has implemented measures to discourage unnecessary private vehicle use. One significant achievement was reducing parking area from 44,257 m^2 in 2024 to 36,257 m^2 in 2025, a decrease of 18.1%. This initiative reflects the University's commitment to preserving green spaces and promoting more sustainable modes of transportation. The space recovered from parking areas has been allocated to green infrastructure and pedestrian-oriented campus improvements.

Key Achievements in 2025

- **396 bicycles** available through the ASÜBİS Bicycle Sharing System.
- Approximately **200 municipal shared bicycles** integrated into campus mobility.
- Continuous expansion of bicycle infrastructure.
- Improved pedestrian accessibility throughout the campus.
- **18.1% reduction** in parking area compared with the previous year.
- Ongoing promotion of low-carbon transportation.

4.7 Biodiversity and Landscape Management

Aksaray University recognizes biodiversity as an essential component of a sustainable campus. Through continuous afforestation, ecological landscape planning, habitat enhancement, and green infrastructure development, the University actively contributes to biodiversity conservation while improving environmental quality and climate resilience. The campus provides an extensive network of green spaces that support native vegetation, enhance ecosystem services, improve air quality, and create attractive recreational environments for students, staff, and visitors. Biodiversity considerations are incorporated into campus planning to ensure that future development remains environmentally responsible and ecologically balanced. Green infrastructure is a cornerstone of the University's environmental sustainability strategy. Approximately **520,000 m^2** of landscaped green areas are maintained across the campus, including lawns, ornamental landscapes, tree-lined avenues, and afforested zones. These green spaces contribute to:

- Carbon sequestration
- Urban heat mitigation
- Stormwater infiltration
- Habitat creation
- Improved air quality
- Enhanced campus aesthetics

Aksaray University continues to expand its green campus through annual afforestation campaigns. During recent planting programs:

- Approximately **40,000 trees** are currently maintained on campus.
- **8,300 new saplings** were planted through institutional afforestation initiatives.
- Tree planting activities were carried out in collaboration with public institutions and community partners.

These initiatives strengthen biodiversity while supporting national climate action and ecosystem restoration goals.

Landscape management practices prioritize environmental sustainability by emphasizing:

- Native and climate-adapted plant species
- Drought-resistant landscaping
- Efficient irrigation practices
- Seasonal maintenance
- Protection of existing vegetation
- Expansion of ecological green corridors

This approach minimizes maintenance requirements while increasing ecosystem resilience under changing climatic conditions.

The University actively participates in national tree-planting initiatives, including **National Afforestation Day**, where students, academic staff, administrative personnel, and local stakeholders collectively contribute to expanding green areas and raising environmental awareness. These activities strengthen environmental responsibility while encouraging active community participation in climate action.



Üniversitemiz Akademik Öğrenci Araştırma E-Üniversite Kalite International

Anasayfa / Haberler / ASÜ'de Milli Ağaçlandırma Günü'nde yüzlerce fidan toprakla buluşturuldu

ASÜ'de Milli Ağaçlandırma Günü'nde yüzlerce fidan toprakla buluşturuldu

11.11.2025 18:11:00

11 Kasım Milli Ağaçlandırma Günü dolayısıyla Aksaray Üniversitesi (ASÜ) kampüsünde fidan dikim töreni gerçekleştirildi. Üniversite Camii mevkiinde düzenlenen etkinlikte, doğaya katkı sunmak ve çevre bilincini artırmak amacıyla yüzlerce fidan toprakla buluşturuldu. ASÜ Genel Sekreterliği ve Yapı İşleri ve Teknik Daire Başkanlığı tarafından organize edilen Milli Ağaçlandırma Günü etkinliğine, ASÜ Rektör Yardımcıları Prof. Dr. Ömer Köse ve Prof. Dr. Erşan Sever, Genel Sekreter Ahmet Bülbül, Yapı İşleri ve Teknik Daire Başkan Vekili Fatih Yoldaş, akademisyenler, idari personel ve çok sayıda öğrenci katıldı. Etkinlik, katılımcıların yoğun ilgisiyle renkli ve anlamlı bir atmosferde gerçekleşti. Etkinlikte öğrenciler, akademisyenler ve üniversite yöneticileri çam fidanlarını dikti. Fidanların dikiminin ardından katılımcılar, "can suyu" vererek fidanların toprağa uyum sağlamasına yardımcı oldu. Etkinliğe katılan öğrenciler, böyle anlamlı bir günde doğaya katkı sunmanın mutluluğunu yaşadıklarını ifade etti. Ağaçlandırma etkinliğiyle birlikte, hem kampüs alanının yeşil dokusunun güçlendirilmesi hem de çevre bilincinin geliştirilmesi amaçlandı. Aksaray Üniversitesi, "Yeşil Kampüs" vizyonu doğrultusunda çevre dostu uygulamalara öncülük etmeyi sürdürürken, öğrencilerine de çevreye karşı sorumluluk bilinci kazandırmayı hedefliyor.

Dikilen her fidan gelecek nesiller için nefes olacak

Aksaray Üniversitesi Genel Sekreteri Ahmet Bülbül, yıl boyunca farklı zamanlarda ağaçlandırma ve çevre farkındalığı etkinlikleri düzenleyerek doğaya olan duyarlılığı artırmayı hedeflediklerini dile getirdi. Bülbül, sözlerine şu şekilde devam etti: "Çevreye duyarlı bireyler yetiştirmek üniversitemizin öncelikli hedeflerinden biridir. Her yıl olduğu gibi bu yıl da Milli Ağaçlandırma Günü'nde bir aradayız. Bugün diktiğimiz her bir fidan, gelecek nesiller için nefes olacak. Ağaç dikmek sadece doğaya değil, insanlığa yapılan en önemli yatırımlardan biridir. Aksaray Üniversitesi olarak sürdürülebilir bir kampüs anlayışıyla çevreye katkı sağlayan projeleri hayata geçirmeye devam edeceğiz."

Biodiversity conservation is also promoted through educational and outreach activities including:

- Tree planting events
- Environmental awareness campaigns
- Student volunteer activities
- Sustainability workshops
- Nature conservation seminars
- Community engagement programmes

These initiatives help foster environmental stewardship among future generations.

Key Achievements in 2025

- Maintained approximately **40,000 trees** across the campus.
- Expanded green infrastructure through the planting of **8,300 new saplings**.
- Preserved **520,000 m^2** of landscaped green areas.
- Continued participation in National Afforestation Day.
- Strengthened biodiversity conservation through sustainable landscape management.
- Increased environmental awareness through community engagement activities.

4.8 Environmental Awareness and Community Engagement

Sustainability at Aksaray University extends beyond campus operations and infrastructure. The University is committed to fostering a culture of environmental responsibility by engaging students, academic staff, administrative personnel, and the wider community in sustainability initiatives. Through awareness campaigns, educational programs, volunteer activities, public events, and collaborative projects, Aksaray University encourages active participation in environmental protection and climate action. These initiatives help strengthen sustainability literacy, promote behavioral change, and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Throughout 2025, the University organized a wide range of environmental awareness programs designed to promote sustainable lifestyles and responsible resource use. Major activities included:

- World Environment Day events
- Zero Waste Awareness Campaigns
- Climate Change Awareness Programs
- National Afforestation Day activities
- Sustainability seminars and conferences
- Environmental exhibitions
- Student volunteer activities
- Social media awareness campaigns

These initiatives provided opportunities for students and staff to actively engage in sustainability while strengthening environmental awareness across the campus community. The Sustainability

and Climate Change Coordination Office plays a leading role in organizing educational activities that encourage environmental responsibility. The University's outreach efforts include:

- Sustainability training programs
- Climate change seminars
- Zero Waste education
- Water conservation awareness
- Energy efficiency campaigns
- Recycling education
- Public conferences and workshops

These programs support lifelong learning and strengthen collaboration between the University and society. Students are active partners in the University's sustainability journey. Student engagement includes:

- Tree planting campaigns
- Campus clean-up activities
- Recycling initiatives
- Bicycle promotion events
- Sustainability volunteer programs
- Awareness campaigns organized by student clubs
- Participation in environmental projects

These activities encourage leadership, civic responsibility, and environmental stewardship among future generations. Aksaray University collaborates with municipalities, public institutions, non-governmental organizations, schools, and regional partners to promote sustainability beyond the campus. Examples include:

- Joint environmental campaigns
- Climate awareness projects
- Tree planting programs
- Waste reduction initiatives
- Sustainable development workshops
- Regional cooperation through **UNIKOP**
- Projects with AFAD and local authorities

These partnerships expand the University's contribution to regional sustainable development and strengthen knowledge sharing among stakeholders. The University regularly shares sustainability achievements and environmental activities through:

- Official website
- Sustainability web portal
- Social media platforms
- Public announcements
- News releases

- Educational videos
- Interviews, including the **"Zero Waste Microphone"** series

Transparent communication helps increase public awareness while encouraging greater participation in sustainability initiatives.

Key Achievements in 2025

- Organized numerous sustainability awareness events throughout the year.
- Increased student participation in environmental volunteer activities.
- Expanded public engagement through seminars, workshops, and campaigns.
- Strengthened cooperation with regional stakeholders and public institutions.
- Continued promoting sustainability through digital communication channels.
- Enhanced environmental literacy across the university community.



5. FUTURE COMMITMENTS (2026–2030)

Aksaray University views sustainability as a continuous process of improvement that requires innovation, collaboration, and long-term commitment. Building on the achievements presented in this report, the University will continue integrating sustainability into every aspect of institutional life while supporting regional development and contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over the next five years, Aksaray University will focus on strengthening environmental performance, enhancing research and innovation capacity, promoting sustainable education, and expanding partnerships that generate positive social and environmental impacts. The University is committed to creating a resilient, low-carbon, and resource-efficient campus that serves as a model for sustainable higher education.



By 2030, Aksaray University aims to be recognized as a leading sustainable university that integrates environmental responsibility, social impact, academic excellence, and innovative research into every aspect of institutional life. Through continuous improvement and collective action, the University will continue contributing to national priorities while supporting global efforts to build a more sustainable and resilient future.

6. CLOSING MESSAGE

The achievements highlighted in this Sustainability Report reflect the collective efforts of our students, academic staff, administrative personnel, institutional partners, and the broader community. Sustainability at Aksaray University is not a single project or initiative; it is a shared institutional culture that guides our decisions, inspires innovation, and shapes our future. As global environmental and societal challenges continue to evolve, universities have an essential responsibility to generate knowledge, educate responsible citizens, develop innovative solutions, and lead by example. Aksaray University embraces this responsibility with determination and optimism. We remain committed to protecting natural resources, advancing scientific research, improving the quality of education, fostering community engagement, and creating a resilient campus for future generations. Through collaboration, continuous improvement, and a shared vision, we will continue to contribute to a more sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous future.

Together, we are building a greener campus, a stronger university, and a better future for generations to come.