

SUSTAINABILITY

AT KOÇ UNIVERSITY

SHAPING A RESILIENT FUTURE

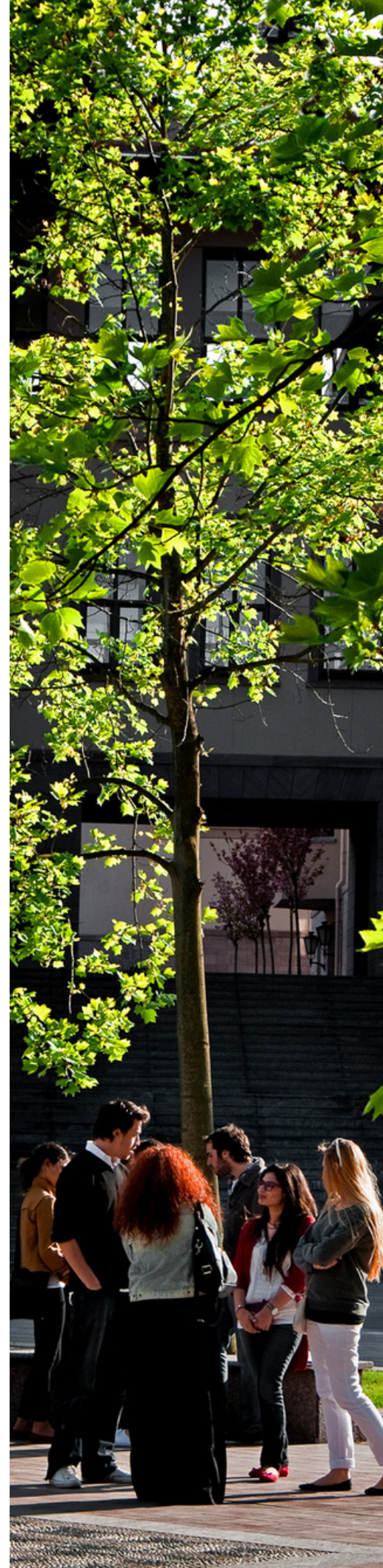


**KOÇ
ÜNİVERSİTESİ**

KEY SECTIONS: EXPLORING KOÇ UNIVERSITY'S SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS

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EXPLORE KOÇ UNIVERSITY'S SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES, RESEARCH, TEACHING, ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS, CULTURE, AND FUTURE VISION. GAIN INSIGHTS INTO ITS LEADING ROLE IN ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY AND SHAPING HIGHER EDUCATION.





INTRODUCTION

Koç University, as a distinguished research institution, is deeply committed to promoting sustainable development in alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Embracing a comprehensive approach, the university prioritizes various dimensions of sustainability, including environmental impact, social responsibility, equality, knowledge exchange, quality of life, and sustainable education, among others. This policy document presents a holistic overview of Koç University's sustainability efforts, encompassing cutting-edge research, impactful teaching endeavors, institutional initiatives for environmental sustainability, and the cultivation of an ethical organizational culture.

Moving forward, the university envisions a comprehensive sustainability strategy encompassing green campus goals, science-driven solutions, the integration of sustainability into its communication agenda, and a robust commitment to innovation and climate change. By intertwining these principles, Koç University aims to be a driving force for transformative change at both local and global levels, contributing significantly to the realization of the SDGs.



RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Koç University demonstrates its commitment to sustainable development through a wide range of research projects and initiatives. The institution's investment in research forums, labs, and centers dedicated to finding solutions to global, national and local sustainability challenges reflects its sustainable investment policy. These research endeavors not only contribute to the generation of knowledge but also shape the entire organization, influencing its mechanisms, structure, philosophy, and vision.

In the domain of circular economy and sustainable design, Koç University researchers are engaged in cutting-edge projects aimed at reducing food waste and promoting sustainable living practices. Their work in co-designing interactive recipe planners and exploring post-use design thinking showcases the institution's dedication to innovative approaches that align with the principles of sustainability.

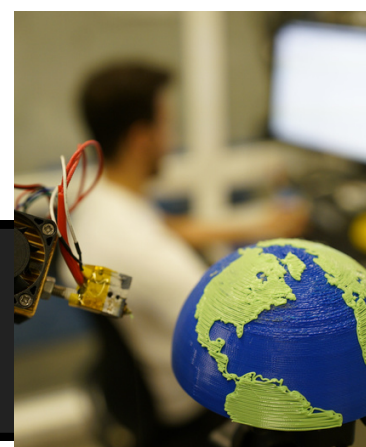
Sustainable innovation and product design are key areas of research at Koç University, with a focus on developing technologies and solutions that support the transition to clean and renewable energy sources. By addressing thermal insulation, emissions control, and the development of green energy systems, the institution contributes to advancing SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy.

The well-being and sustainability of elderly individuals are important research topics, with studies focused on enhancing mental and physical health, work-life balance, and the sustainability of the workforce. These research efforts demonstrate Koç University's commitment to promoting sustainable aging practices and supporting the well-being of aging populations.

In the field of law and ethics, Koç University researchers investigate topics such as climate litigation, green governance, and sustainable finance. By examining the legal and ethical dimensions of sustainability, the institution contributes to shaping policies, regulations, and institutions that foster environmental protection and sustainability.



Animal rights, and ecological conservation are additional areas where Koç University researchers actively contribute to sustainable development. Through projects focused on the preservation of endangered species, habitat monitoring, and sustainable cultural tourism, the institution emphasizes the importance of safeguarding biodiversity and promoting sustainable practices in various sectors.



Collaboration with industry partners is a crucial aspect of Koç University's research efforts, enabling the translation of research findings into practical and sustainable solutions. By bridging academia and industry, the institution facilitates the application of research outcomes to address real-world sustainability challenges.

Sustainable Investment

Highlights: Research Initiatives

FOSTERING SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

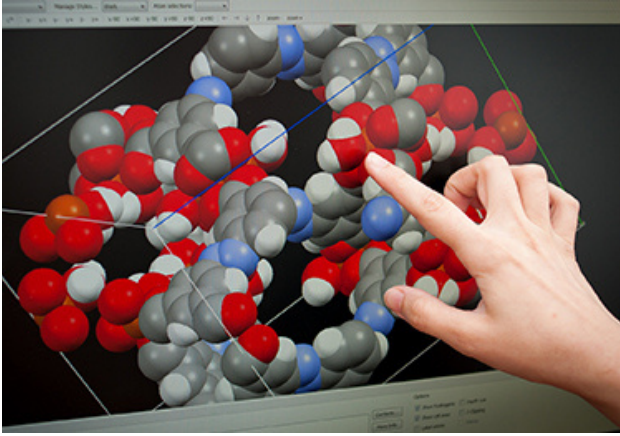
Koç University demonstrates a steadfast commitment to sustainable investment by strategically allocating resources to research centers, labs, and forums that drive scientific excellence for societal and global benefit. Aligned with its mission and strategy, the university prioritizes investments in areas addressing critical global challenges. The following initiatives exemplify Koç University's dedication to sustainable investment, reflecting its unwavering commitment to advancing solutions with positive societal and environmental impacts. These initiatives showcase the university's focus on fostering healthy communities, advancing clean energy solutions, and maximizing the social impact of civil society and social entrepreneurs in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

KUISCID

Koç University İşbank Center for Infectious Diseases (KUISCID) was established in the midst of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, showcasing the university's dedication to sustainable investment in research initiatives. KUISCID's mission is to conduct interdisciplinary research that understands, treats, and prevents infectious diseases while transparently sharing scientific information with the community. This research center focuses on critical areas such as emerging infections, antimicrobial resistance, and infection control, addressing global health challenges. By combining clinical and microbiological approaches, KUISCID investigates pathogens, diseases, diagnostics, treatment, and infection control. Its research projects aim to develop diagnostic kits and evidence-based solutions for infectious diseases. KUISCID aspires to lead research in infectious diseases, contributing to policy-making efforts. Through its vertical learning model, KUISCID fosters a diverse research community committed to immunology, microbiology, infectious diseases, and public health. This pioneering center serves as a platform for sharing scientific findings, promoting sustainable scientific production, and advancing innovative approaches to combat infectious diseases. By focusing on pressing public health problems, KUISCID exemplifies Koç University's commitment to creating scientific excellence for societal benefit and aligns with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: Good Health and Well-being.



KUTEM



KUTEM (Koç University Tüpraş Energy Center) is a pioneering research center exemplifying the university's commitment to sustainable investment in cutting-edge research initiatives. KUTEM's mission is to address critical energy challenges, develop sustainable solutions, and contribute to Türkiye's energy security while aligning with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. Focusing on fossil fuels, biofuels, and solar fuels, KUTEM aims to improve fuel production efficiency, reduce greenhouse emissions, and promote the utilization of renewable energy sources.

KUTEM's research in biofuels aims to find alternative sources that do not compete with food sources, contributing to food security and forest preservation. Moreover, KUTEM focuses on the development of solar fuels and artificial photosynthesis to address the eventual depletion of fossil fuel reserves. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, KUTEM provides an optimal environment for high-tech research opportunities. The center collaborates with academic, industrial, and government partners to address pressing energy challenges. Selected projects include computational simulations for gas separations, the conversion of waste CO₂ into high fuels, and the development of hydrogen gas sensors.

By aiming to become an internationally recognized institution in the field of energy research, KUTEM contributes to Koç University's efforts in delivering world-class education while driving sustainable innovations that positively impact the environment and society.

KUSIF

Koç University Social Impact Forum (KUSIF) stands out with its unwavering commitment to the social sector, nurturing crucial stakeholders of sustainable development: civil society and social enterprises. Empowering them with knowledge and resources, KUSIF catalyzes their progress in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a trailblazer in the Turkish impact ecosystem, KUSIF forges strategic partnerships, fostering a thriving network that amplifies its impact. Actively engaging with social enterprises, private companies, NGOs, and other stakeholders, KUSIF magnifies their connection with the SDGs.

Dedicated to reducing inequalities, KUSIF focuses on supporting young social entrepreneurs. Championing sustainable changes and practices, KUSIF empowers these change-makers to tackle pressing social and environmental problems. Beyond its organizational boundaries, KUSIF reaches environmental groups and local communities, solidifying its reputation as a driving force in creating positive social impact.

KUSIF's unwavering dedication to sustainability sets them apart, making them an invaluable asset in shaping a more inclusive and sustainable society within Koç University and beyond.





Main Collaboration Partners of Koç University - taken from European Commission's Funding & tender opportunities, Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA) webpage (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/org-details/999901512>)

Global Knowledge Exchange

FOSTERING SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The dynamic knowledge exchange approach at Koç University underscores the institution's commitment to driving educational growth, promoting global research partnerships, and advancing the dissemination of knowledge for the betterment of society and academia worldwide. The regional map showcasing the extensive reach of the university's research collaborations within the EU framework and beyond further highlights its transformative role as a leading academic institution fostering regional and international cooperation, contributing to academic excellence and innovation.

Note: The map illustrates Koç University's research collaborations within the EU framework and omits partnerships in other global regions, such as North America, Southeast Asia, and beyond.



EMPOWERING KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION: PIONEERING EFFORTS IN OPEN ACCESS AND DATA SHARING

Open Access Publishing

Over the five-year period from 2018 to 2022, Koç University demonstrated a strong commitment to open access publishing, with 50% (3,459) of its 6,811 scientific publications made available as Open Access documents. Embracing open access ensures that the university's research findings are freely accessible to a global audience, promoting knowledge dissemination and collaboration.

Citation Impact

Koç University's research publications have showcased significant impact, with an average field-weighted citation impact of 1.26 over the ten-year period from 2013 to 2022. This indicates that the university's research outputs received 26% more citations than the global average, emphasizing the institution's scholarly influence and the recognition of its research contributions.

Accessibility of Research Data Sets

Koç University also demonstrated a commendable effort in making research data sets openly accessible. Over the ten-year period from 2013 to 2022, the university produced 118 publications accompanied by accessible research data sets. Moreover, the annual production of openly accessible research data sets increased from 2 in 2010 to an impressive 22 in 2022, reflecting the university's commitment to data sharing and transparency.

TEACHING AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



Koç University's commitment to sustainability extends to its vibrant student community. Various student clubs organize sustainability-focused events and campaigns, fostering awareness and engagement. The Global Learning and Leadership for Sustainability (GLLS) complements formal education by providing experiential learning, leadership development, and skills training in sustainability. These initiatives empower students to become advocates for sustainability and agents of change in their chosen fields.

The university prioritizes accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring equal opportunities for all students. Targeted support services prepare disabled students for the workforce and promote quality education. Koç University's extensive scholarship program enhances accessibility and fosters equality within the student body. The university also emphasizes the mental and physical well-being of its students, providing comprehensive on-campus health and well-being services. Cultural activities enrich the student experience and foster a sense of community. A dedicated unit focuses on diversity and inclusion, offering expert support and resources. Through a holistic approach to education, Koç University equips students with a comprehensive understanding of sustainability, including gender equality and ethics, shaping them into sustainability leaders of the future.



Teaching and student engagement at Koç University are grounded in a commitment to sustainability. The institution offers a diverse range of courses across disciplines that integrate sustainability principles, empowering students to address complex sustainability challenges. Notably, the College of Administrative Sciences and Economics and Koç University Social Impact Forum provides a specialized track program dedicated to sustainability and impact management, offering students a comprehensive education in this critical field. By equipping students with the necessary knowledge and skills, Koç University fosters their ability to drive positive change and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

INSTITUTIONAL EFFORTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & GREEN CAMPUS OPERATIONS

At Koç University, environmental sustainability is deeply ingrained in the institution's operational principles. The university focuses on key areas such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, sustainable resource management, and green building design, aligning with SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. Sustainable procurement practices are prioritized to ensure environmentally responsible supply chains.



Through the establishment of the Koç University Sustainability Task Force (STF) and Koç University Sustainable Campus Operations, the university demonstrates its commitment to sustainable practices. The STF coordinates campus activities, sets goals, and monitors progress, while Sustainable Campus Operations focuses on reducing energy consumption, controlling greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing the use of renewable energy resources.

As an active member of the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN), Koç University collaborates with international institutions to share best practices in sustainable campus operations. The university's campuses are equipped with automatic systems for energy optimization, including motion sensors for lighting and temperature control. In line with the Istanbul Provincial Zero Waste Management System Plan, separate waste collection systems are implemented to manage paper, glass, metal, plastic, and organic waste.



Koç University has achieved significant milestones in its pursuit of environmental sustainability. The Rumelifeneri Campus holds a Basic Level Zero Waste Certificate, demonstrating effective waste management practices and compliance with the Istanbul Provincial Zero Waste Management System Plan. The campus is also certified with ISO 14001:2015 Environment Management and ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management, reflecting its dedication to international standards and continuous improvement in environmental performance.

ETHICAL AND EQUAL ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

Koç University is committed to fostering an ethical organizational culture that promotes transparency, accountability, and integrity. The institution's leadership plays a vital role in upholding these principles by advocating for inclusive decision-making processes and adopting a long-term perspective that considers the well-being of future generations. Stakeholder engagement is a cornerstone of this culture, as Koç University actively involves diverse groups such as young people and civil society organizations in decision-making processes. This collaborative approach aligns with SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, emphasizing the importance of inclusive and collaborative approaches in achieving sustainable development.

Legal Excellence and Ethical Philosophy

Legal excellence permeates through the fabric of Koç University, shaping its legal, moral, and ethical philosophy. The institution's Law School plays a crucial role in promoting a culture of legality and ethical conduct. Koç University upholds the principle of equality as a cornerstone of its operations and management. To further advance gender equality, the university has established the Gender Equality Office, which is dedicated to promoting gender equality in all aspects of university life. Additionally, Koç University has a comprehensive Code of Ethical Conduct, providing guidelines and standards for ethical behavior across the institution.

Sustainable Investment and Procurement

Koç University demonstrates its commitment to sustainability through its investment practices. By allocating financial resources to initiatives that align with sustainability objectives, the university contributes to the broader sustainability agenda. This includes investments in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and research projects aimed at addressing sustainability challenges. Furthermore, Koç University prioritizes sustainable procurement, ensuring that its supply chains adhere to environmentally responsible practices. By partnering with suppliers who share the institution's commitment to sustainability, Koç University supports SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Role Model for Sustainability

Koç University aims to be a role model for sustainability in the higher education ecosystem. The institution recognizes the importance of transparency, ethics, and integrity in building a sustainable organization. In addition to the Code of Ethical Conduct, Koç University has published a Conflict of Interest Policy and an Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy. These policies establish clear guidelines to prevent conflicts of interest, promote unbiased decision-making, and combat bribery and corruption. Through these comprehensive policies, Koç University demonstrates its commitment to fair and responsible practices, aligning with SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.





VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Koç University envisions becoming a global leader in sustainable development, employing a holistic and comprehensive approach that integrates sustainability into all aspects of its operations. The university strives to foster an organizational culture that promotes transparency, accountability, and inclusivity, with a strong emphasis on environmental, health, and socioeconomic sustainability. By embedding sustainability principles throughout the institution, Koç University aims to create a resilient and sustainable future where the well-being of people and the environment are inextricably linked.

By pursuing following objectives, Koç University will advance its sustainability agenda, positioning itself as a transformative force in sustainable development and inspiring positive change within its community and beyond.

ROADMAP FOR FUTURE

OBJECTIVES

1

Build an Integrated Sustainability Master Plan

Koç University will strengthen its sustainability initiatives by creating an institution-wide strategy that consolidates and improves existing micro-level efforts. This collaborative approach will involve all stakeholders, ensuring diverse perspectives shape the cohesive roadmap to achieve sustainability goals.



2

Implement a Green Campus Action Plan

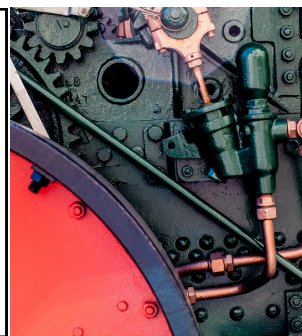
A realistic yet ambitious action plan will be devised to transform the campus into a green and sustainable environment. This plan will prioritize substantial reductions in energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste generation. Koç University will establish sustainable catering systems, enforce strict sustainability criteria for outside vendors, and create mechanisms to foster institution-wide synergy and accountability for achieving carbon neutrality and waste reduction targets.



3

Establish Monitoring and Assessment Systems

Koç University will establish dynamic and robust monitoring and assessment systems to track progress toward green campus goals. These systems will provide regular feedback on the institution's performance, enabling timely adjustments and improvements to sustainability initiatives.



4

Centralize Sustainability Efforts

The institution will centralize its sustainability efforts, ensuring that sustainability leadership, hierarchies, and accountability mechanisms are clearly defined and endorsed by top leadership. This centralization will facilitate streamlined decision-making processes and enhance the institution's overall sustainability performance.



ROADMAP FOR FUTURE

OBJECTIVES

5

Establish Incentive Mechanisms and Synergetic Interventions

The university will establish ambitious and meaningful incentive mechanisms to encourage sustainability efforts and turn the campus into a living laboratory for solving global sustainability challenges. Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary academic endeavors will be strongly encouraged, fostering collaboration and innovation in sustainable solutions.



6

Strengthen Science Communication and Dissemination

Koç University will prioritize the communication and dissemination of sustainability-related research outputs to the public and policy-making circles. This effort aims to raise awareness about sustainability, inspire a science-driven recovery of the environment, and ensure the democratization of knowledge. Climate change and environmental vitality will be central topics in the university's internal and external communication agenda.



7

Encourage Ecologically Sustainable Practices

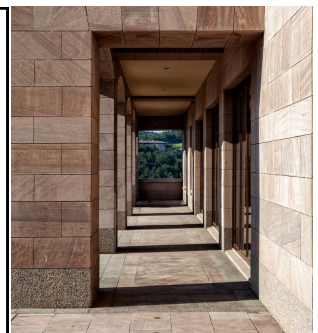
The institution will encourage ecologically sustainable practices in scientific research, promoting green laboratory work and minimizing the environmental impact of academic activities such as travel to conferences. By integrating sustainability into academic work, Koç University seeks to lead by example and inspire a culture of sustainability within the academic community.



8

Establish Sustainable Procurement Systems

Koç University will develop dynamic and sustainability-conscious procurement systems that prioritize providers using renewable energy and adhere to other sustainability criteria. Sustainable procurement will become an integral part of the institution's culture, further enhancing its commitment to responsible consumption and production.



OBJECTIVES

9

Strengthen Sustainability Integration in Teaching Culture

Building upon its existing efforts, Koç University will further emphasize sustainability awareness as a fundamental graduate attribute. The institution will nurture sustainability literacy in students, empowering them with the necessary knowledge and skills to drive sustainable development across diverse fields.



10

Deepen Student Inclusion in Sustainability Decision-Making

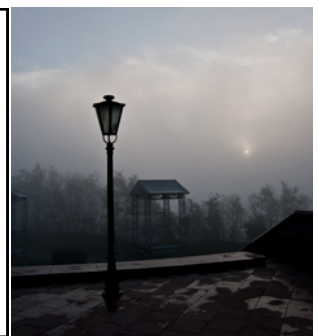
Koç University will further enhance the meaningful inclusion of young people in deliberation and decision-making processes pertaining to sustainability challenges and solutions. The institution will foster platforms for active engagement, empowering young leaders to play a pivotal role in driving sustainability initiatives for a better future.



11

Foster Resilience and Sustainable Well-being

Koç University will develop a roadmap for sustainable mechanisms to respond to potential global shocks, ensuring the resilience and sustainability of ecologically friendly science and infrastructure. The institution will build collaborations at local and global levels to achieve these objectives, prioritizing the well-being of its human resources and the sustainable development of its infrastructure.



12

Strengthen Local and Regional Leadership

Koç University will emphasize educational, research, and outreach efforts geared toward sustainability to strengthen its local and regional leadership in addressing sustainability challenges. By generating context-specific solutions in the region, the institution aims to contribute significantly to international efforts in sustainable development.





SHAPING A RESILIENT FUTURE



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