Erciyes University Sustainable Education Policy

Erciyes University aims to lead a sustainable future by basing its mission on the principle of sustainability, nurturing individuals who internalize their environmental and social responsibilities and add value to our students, academic and administrative staff, society, and other stakeholders. In this context, the goal is to instill not only academic knowledge and skills but also critical thinking, ethical values, leadership, and collaboration related to sustainability in our students. In this way, our students develop their ability to act with consideration for both their individual success and the welfare of society and the environment. Our university's vision is to become a global pioneer in the field of sustainability and to create effective change in this area. By integrating scientific research, educational practices, and social interaction, we strive to enhance the awareness of sustainability among our students, academic and administrative staff, society, and other stakeholders and strengthen their problem-solving abilities.

In this regard, we promote innovative research related to sustainability and create various platforms to disseminate the results of these studies to society and industry. Additionally, we aim to train a new generation of experts who will lead in the field of sustainability and make them recognized global partners. In this way, our university goes beyond being merely a knowledge-producing institution, providing a concrete contribution to the sustainability of society and our planet.

Objectives of the Sustainable Education Policy

1. To offer an interdisciplinary education that equips students with the skills to understand, analyze, apply, and evaluate the concept of sustainability.

2. To support academic and administrative staff through training on sustainability and assist them in integrating this principle into their work processes.

3. To organize awareness programs related to sustainability for the community and other stakeholders, facilitating collaboration and their participation in this process.

4. To implement sustainability principles on the university campus, creating an example that is environmentally friendly and contributes to society.

5. To encourage and support the development of research and innovative projects in the field of sustainability.

6. To establish collaborations at local, national, and international levels regarding sustainability, enhancing knowledge and experience sharing.

7. To foster students' sense of social responsibility and ensure they grow as individuals sensitive to societal issues.

8. To equip students with sustainable living skills and promote environmentally friendly behaviors.

9. To raise awareness among students regarding topics such as environmental protection, waste management, and energy efficiency.

10. To cultivate sensitivity towards social justice, equality, and diversity, enabling students to internalize these values.

11. To support students in combining their theoretical knowledge with practical experience by providing internship and collaboration opportunities in related fields.

12. To organize events, conferences, and seminars related to sustainability to raise societal awareness.

13. To ensure that graduates integrate the principle of sustainability into their professional lives and personal activities.

14. To help students develop leadership qualities in sustainability and empower them to create effective change in their communities.

15. To collaborate with the local community to increase knowledge and awareness levels regarding sustainability.

16. To promote the use of environmentally friendly technologies and renewable energy sources, conducting research and development in this area.

17. To integrate sustainability principles into curricula and course materials, providing students with knowledge on this topic.

18. To encourage students to undertake projects addressing sustainability issues and develop solutions.

19. To initiate and support sustainability-related projects and initiatives in cooperation with the community.

20. To effectively utilize media and other communication tools to inform and raise awareness about sustainability among the public.

Implementation of the Education Policy
Our university is committed to the effective implementation of the sustainable education policy. The implementation of this policy aims to enhance the knowledge, skills, and awareness of our students, academic and administrative staff, society, and other stakeholders regarding sustainability. In this regard, the following steps will be taken for the implementation of the policy:

1. **Adopting an Interdisciplinary Approach:** The concept of sustainability will be recognized as an important component in all disciplines of our university. Therefore, sustainability-related courses and modules will be offered to all students, forming a significant part of the curriculum. Additionally, interdisciplinary collaboration and project-based learning methods will be encouraged.

2. **Providing Practical Education Opportunities:** To encourage students to apply sustainability principles, practical experiences such as internships, projects, and field studies will be offered. These opportunities will enable students to address sustainability-related issues, develop solutions, and gain real-world experience.

3. **Continuous Education for Academic and Administrative Staff:** Regular training on sustainability will be provided to our academic and administrative staff to ensure the effective implementation of the sustainable education policy. These trainings will be designed to include current scientific developments, best practices, and examples related to sustainability.

4. **Promoting Sustainability Practices on Campus:** Concrete steps will be taken to promote and support environmentally friendly practices on the university campus. These will include energy efficiency measures, waste management programs, promotion of sustainable transportation alternatives, and environmentally friendly building design and construction.

5. **Collaboration with the Community and Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaboration will be established with the local community and other stakeholders to organize sustainability-related events, projects, and campaigns. These partnerships will play a significant role in raising community awareness about sustainability, promoting information and experience sharing, and producing local solutions.

6. **Evaluating and Improving Sustainability Criteria:** The effectiveness and impact of the education policy will be regularly evaluated, and necessary improvements will be made to ensure the policy achieves its objectives. These evaluations will include student and staff satisfaction surveys, performance indicators, and external evaluation processes.

Evaluation Process

1. **Data Collection and Analysis:** Various data sources will be used to assess the effectiveness of the policy. These sources include student and staff satisfaction surveys, academic achievement data, observations of sustainability practices, and external evaluation reports. Collected data will be regularly analyzed to evaluate the performance of the policy.

2. **Setting Goals and Measurable Indicators:** Measurable indicators to be used in the evaluation process will be determined, considering the established goals of the policy. These indicators will help objectively measure the effectiveness of the policy and will be used to monitor performance.

3. **Stakeholder Consultations and Feedback:** Regular consultations will be held with stakeholders to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy, and feedback will be collected. These consultations will allow students, academic and administrative staff, the local community, and other stakeholders to share their experiences and satisfaction with the policy and contribute to its improvement.

Improvement Process

1. **Improvement Plans Based on Evaluation Results:** Concrete steps for improving the policy will be determined based on the data and feedback obtained from the evaluation process. These steps will aim to address the weaknesses of the policy and further strengthen its strengths.

2. **Training and Development Activities:** Training and development activities will be organized for academic and administrative staff to enhance the effectiveness of the policy. These activities will focus on increasing knowledge and skills related to sustainability.

3. **Policy Updates and Revisions:** Based on evaluation results, the policy may be updated and revised as necessary. These revisions will be made to ensure the policy more effectively achieves its objectives.

In this way, the evaluation and improvement processes will continuously allow us to monitor the effectiveness of our university's sustainable education policy and make necessary improvements. These processes will ensure the sustainable implementation of the policy and the achievement of its goals.