

AVCILAR2022

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW



UTKU CANER CAYKARA



COLOPHON

Avcılar Municipality

Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary Local Review - Progress Report

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FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

The Voluntary Local Review we published was a commitment document that showed the world the steps we took as cılar towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and our commitment to these goals. Now, we are happy to share the achievements we have made, the challenges we have faced and the projects we have realized in this process as a progress report. The Progress Report for 2022–2023 is not just a review, but also a badge of our commitment to creating a more inclusive, more resilient and more sustainable Avcılar.

This report presents concrete indicators of the transformation in our city, ranging from environmental sustainability to social equality, economic growth, innovation and infrastructure. By blending the global perspective of the Sustainable Development Goals with our local realities, we have not only shaped our vision in accordance with these goals, but also we have taken important steps towards realizing these goals with concrete actions. Each successful implementation that emerges from our district aims to be a source of inspiration at the national and international level.

Our voluntary local review process is based on participation and transparency principles. The projects we put forward in cooperation with local governments, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector demonstrate the power of shared wisdom and solidarity. In line with the 2030 Agenda's "Leave No One Behind" principle, we will continue to deepen our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels.

I believe that this report will be a valuable resource not only for our rict, but also for other cities and communities striving to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all our stakeholders who are walking with us on this challenging but meaningful journey to leave a more livable world for future generations. I firmly believe that together, we can create a more just, equal and sustainable world.

UTKU CANER ÇAYKARA

Mayor of Avcılar Municipality

NEW-GENERATION MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE

Published in 2022, our Voluntary Local Review was an important step that demonstrated our municipality's commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Today, we are excited to share the progress we have made towards these goals.

The 2022-2023 Progress Report records the sustainable development efforts of Avcılar Municipality and shows what local governments can achieve with a strong vision and effective cooperation. In the preparation of this report, the coordinated work of all relevant units and the effective operation of bureaucratic processes have increased the quality of the result.

This report is aligned with our municipality's strategic goals and reflects our commitment to creating sustainable cities and communities. I would like to thank all my teammates and stakeholders who contributed to the preparation of the report. I sincerely believe that this report will be both a guide and a source of motivation in our efforts to make Avcılar a more fair, equitable and sustainable city with our new-generation municipal governance approach.

Sincerely yours,



AN INSPIRING JOURNEY

The Voluntary Local Review (VLR), which we published as Avallar Municipality in 2022, was an important step towards the Sustainable Development Goals in our district. As someone who led the preparation of our first report, I am now excited to share the progress and concrete accomplishments we have made towards achieving these goals.

The 2022-2023 Progress Report not only records the steps we have taken towards international sustainable development, but also reflects our vision for the future. In writing this report and coordinating the process, I have had the opportunity to once again deeply feel and understand the real efforts and collaborations behind each of the goals. This process has been a clear demonstration of what local governments can achieve with a strong strategy and an inclusive approach.

Preparing such an important study also brings with it a great responsibility. Every piece of data, every analysis and every project is the product of a dedicated team working in the field. Writing this report and coordinating the process was not only a professional task, but also an expression of a deep responsibility towards the community.

I believe that this report will be a guide in our efforts to make Avcılar a place that is more livable, sustainable and that offers equal opportunity for all.

We will continue to work together for a better future.

Best regards,



AVCILAR'S HISTORY

The history of Avcılar dates back to prehistoric times. Today, excavations in the Küçükçekmece Lake basin in the Firuzköy neighborhood have uncovered the remains of the ancient port city of Bathonea. Scientific analysis of the historical artifacts found in these excavations revealed items used in daily life dating back to the BC era and archaeological evidence of the Vikings. This geographical area, where we live today, has been home to many civilizations in the past, and today it is the center of the migration routes of both humans and birds. It was revealed that the ancient city, where excavations continue, was used even during the Eastern Roman Period (Erbil, 2014). It is also known that Greek citizens settled in Avallar during and after the conquest of Istanbul in 1453

The name of Avcılar ("Hunters" in Turkish) comes from the fact that this region was frequented by hunters during the hunting season in the past. Ambarlı, one of the first settlements of Avcılar District before the proclamation of the Republic, was a small Greek village with 60 households.

During the population exchange, Turks living in the Greek village of Ömberiya were settled in Ambarlı, which was left by the Greeks, with approximately 5 acres of land per population.

People from 60 Turkish households in Balcıbük (Maden Buk) Village of Ortaköy (Ivaylovgrad) district in Bulgaria were settled in Firuz Farm on December 14, 1928 and lived there as registered to the Ambarlı Village Administration Office until 1930. In 1930, they gained a separate village status and the newly created village was named Firuzköy. People of two villages from Vetova and Razgrat came to Avcılar in 1929 and took refuge in the Amindos farmhouse and animal shelters.



The status and name of Amindos Farm was then changed to Avcılar Village in order to allow the refugees to take out loans and buy the places they already inhabited. In 1934, Avcılar Village was established by merging two villages (Avcılar and Ambarlı).

With the increasing rate of urbanization in Istanbul since 1950, citizens living in Istanbul started to buy land in Avcılar Village. Thus, summer and winter houses started to be built in Avcılar, which has a lake on one side and the sea on the other, and thus, new neighborhoods were formed. After 1960, the opening of the Turkish Electricity Corporation, concrete companies and factories operating in other industries contributed to the development of Availar. The E5 (D-100) highway passing through the district, the presence of Istanbul University Cerrahpaşa Avcılar Campus, the natural gas filling facilities and thermal power plant in the west of Ambarlı and the industrial facilities on Firuzköy Boulevard have contributed to the economic, cultural and social development of Avcılar. On August 17, 1999, Avcılar was also affected by the 7.4-magnitude Marmara Earthquake whose epicenter was Gölcük, Kocaeli. 27 buildings collapsed, 246 people died, and hundreds of buildings suffered heavy and medium damage. The earthquake changed the demographic and sociological structure of Avcılar.

GEOGRAPHICAL STRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

Avcılar is a district on the European side of İstanbul, bordered by Küçükçekmece Lake and Küçükçekmece District to the east, Marmara Sea to the south, Beylikdüzü and Esenyurt to the west, and Başakşehir District to the north, with an area of 42 million m².



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ECOLOGICAL STRUCTURE

The Küçükçekmece Lake basin is within the boundaries of West Istanbul Pastures, one of the Important Plant Areas. Rare and endemic plants have been identified in the protected area where excavations of the ancient city of Bathonea continue. Five species that need to be protected according to the Bern Convention have been identified as threatened. Agricultural areas in the basin have been damaged by increasing pollution over the years; agricultural areas, forests and green spaces have been replaced by settlements, transportation axes and open spaces.

When the availability of green areas in Avcılar is analyzed, according to 2021 data, 198,999.21 m² (19.90 ha) of 71 parks, refuges and recreation areas in 301,268.76 m² (approximately 30 ha) under the responsibility of Avcılar Municipality are green areas. Despite being one of the districts of Istanbul with the highest number of urban trees, according to 2020 data, the green area in Avcılar is 1.89 m²/capita, which is far below the amount (10 m² per capita) specified in the Zoning Law. On the other hand, Avcılar ranked 2nd out of 138 districts in Türkiye with a score of 78.19 in the Environmental Performance Index, which includes items such as services for stray animals, disasters, water

treatment performance, presence of green areas/forests, continuously irrigated areas, percentage of water bodies in the HDI-I survey of 2020.

Avcılar's greenhouse gas emissions were calculated as 1,089,334 tCO2 in 2019. Of this amount, 51.4% is from buildings, 38.1% from transportation, 10.4% from solid waste and wastewater, and the remaining 0.1% from agricultural irrigation and other emissions from livestock. Availar is a settlement where migration routes have converged for centuries, where different communities and cultures have known each other and learned to live together. In addition, even though our district has been affected by major disasters for centuries and many settlements have been destroyed by earthquakes, people have not given up on this geography.

Today, Avcılar is a more resilient and egalitarian district, fighting against income inequality, developing by producing solutions in harmony with nature and leaving no one behind, where everyone is welcome and where everyone belongs.

METHODOLOGY

The 2022-2023 Progress Report prepared by Avcılar Municipality adopts a comprehensive methodological approach in the process of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and evaluating them with measurable outputs. This report, as a continuation of our previously published Voluntary Local Review (VLR), discusses the progress made over a two-year period and reveals the concrete steps we have taken towards sustainability.

Participatory and Transparent Approach

During the preparation of the report, all relevant stakeholders were consulted and a participatory approach was adopted. Meetings and workshops held with the city council, local non-governmental organizations, academics and relevant departments of our municipality have increased data accuracy and strengthened collective consciousness.

Data Collection Process

Our progress report is based on data sets provided by our municipal directorates. In addition, the strategic plan of our municipality, annual activity reports, local and national statistics, and data obtained within the framework of collaborations with NGOs and academic institutions have strengthened the information infrastructure of our report.

Scope and Method of Analysis

This report is structured around the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, providing a detailed analysis of the projects, activities, and outcomes achieved over the past two years under each goal. The data have been evaluated using both qualitative and quantitative methods and are supported by visuals and graphics.

Reporting Process

The reporting process has been thoroughly examined by interpreting the indicators set for each SDG within the framework of local conditions and global targets.

Continuous Improvement

At the core of our methodology lies the belief that every reporting process is a learning opportunity. Therefore, the experiences gained while preparing the progress report will serve as a valuable guide for our future work.

This methodology reflects Avcılar Municipality's commitment to sustainable development and its effort to manage this process in an inclusive, transparent, and measurable manner.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

REPORTING PROCESS

SCOPE AND METHOD OF ANALYSIS

DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

PARTICIPATORY AND TRANSPARENT APPROACH



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An Overview of Our VLR Progress Report

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Avcılar: A Journey from the Past to the Future

As Avcılar Municipality, we embarked on this journey in 2022 with the publication of our Voluntary Local Review (VLR), aiming to localize global goals and establish a model within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In our first report, we conducted a detailed analysis of our city's situation at the time within the scope of the 17 SDGs, demonstrating our commitment to achieving global goals through local solutions.

Our 2022-2023 Progress Report serves as a guide for both Avcılar and similar communities by highlighting key developments, innovative projects, and local-level achievements made along this journey.

A Commitment to SDGs in 2022

Avcılar holds a leading position in the local implementation of global goals. Our 2022 VLR data represented our first major steps in aligning local development goals with the SDGs. Through these steps, we provided a detailed analysis of our city's social, economic, and environmental situation, laying the groundwork for long-term strategies to enhance citizens' well-being. Notably, key projects were identified and implementation plans were developed in the areas of social inclusion, economic resilience, and environmentally friendly policies.

Leading in SDG Localization in 2023

The year 2023 marked a period in which our efforts toward the SDG targets advanced even further. During this time, we made significant progress in areas such as gender equality, support for employment and economic growth, sustainable infrastructure projects, and climate action. At the same time, we contributed to notable success stories at both national and international levels.

A Plan for Future in Line with the SDGs

Avcılar envisions a city that not only addresses today's challenges but also seeks solutions for the future. The projects implemented in our city are supported by strategies aligned with the SDGs, demonstrating strong local commitment. From air quality monitoring systems to ecological initiatives, from public awareness campaigns to urban renewal, a wide range of practices reflect a multifaceted approach to sustainability.

Avcılar: Contributing to Global Goals through Local Solutions

This progress report details the efforts made to build a city aligned with the SDGs while highlighting Avcılar's leading position in sustainable development. The significant step we took in 2022 has been reinforced by tangible achievements in 2023. Our report not only underscores the importance of local governments in ensuring a sustainable future but also aims to serve as an inspiration for other municipalities.







THE FIRST AND ONLY LOCAL4ACTION HUB IN TÜRKİYE



AN INSPIRING MODEL FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Developed and implemented by Avallar Municipality's Social Projects and Permaculture Units, the Eko-Bil Project (Learn, Experience, and Act on Ecology Scientifically) is an innovative social entrepreneurship initiative designed to make a meaningful local contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. Addressing key issues such as natural resource conservation, climate crisis mitigation, and social awareness, the project aims to enhance local community capacity and foster innovative solutions.

Avcılar Eko-Bil has been selected by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) as part of the Local4Action HUB program, establishing itself as a globally recognized model for sustainability. As the first and only local government in Türkiye to join this program, Avcılar Municipality has led inspiring initiatives to create an impact from the local to the global level in support of Sustainable Development Goals



STRENGTHENED LOCAL CAPACITY THROUGH TRAINING, AWARENESS AND EXPERIENCE WORKSHOPS

Eko-Bil has stood out with awareness campaigns, workshops, talks, and technical tours that engage all segments of society, from local residents to students, universities, and civil society organizations. Training programs have been organized in key sustainability areas such as circular economy, waste management, energy efficiency, permaculture, and climate change. These programs have not only transformed individuals' daily habits but also enabled them to create long-term environmental impacts.

Events like the "Circular Economy Training" and "Compost Workshop" have taught individuals how to adopt sustainable lifestyles, while "Green Entrepreneurship" and "Project Management" trainings have contributed to the local economy by fostering innovative ideas.





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AN INSPIRING SUCCESS STORY

Eko-Bil Local4Action HUB has been designed in direct alignment with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The social entrepreneurship projects presented during the project's idea marathon and those that advanced to the pre-incubation stage have also contributed indirectly to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

Successfully implemented across areas such as awareness, innovation, and global collaboration, this model has demonstrated the critical role local governments can play in achieving sustainability goals. By proving once again that global targets can be reached through local solutions, Avoilar Municipality continues to be a leading actor in shaping a sustainable future.



















A LEADING ACTOR IN GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY: AVCILAR

The selection of Eko-Bil Local4Action HUB by UCLG is one of the most concrete examples of how local governments in Türkiye can play a leadership role in global sustainability discussions, not just for Avcılar but also across the country. Within the framework of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, Eko-Bil has functioned as a platform for knowledge sharing and capacity building among local governments. This model has set an example for other cities and countries, creating success stories in the localization of Sustainable Development Goals.















TRAINING THE ECO-FRIENDLY GENERATION OF THE FUTURE

CHILDREN'S ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION PARK

Opened by Avalar Municipality, the Children's Ecological Education Park has introduced an educational model that strengthens children's connection with nature and enhances environmental awareness for a sustainable future. Inaugurated in 2023, the park quickly reached approximately 9,000 children aged 5-12, setting an example for innovative approaches in education. As a pioneering project in Türkiye, it has contributed to both individual and collective awareness through nature-based learning and interactive educational programs.

EDUCATION MODELS INTEGRATED WITH NATURE

At the Children's Ecological Education Park, which encompasses science, art, ecology, and more, various workshops are offered, designed to support children's physical and mental development. Through educational themes such as Science, Art, Ecology, Storytelling, Nature-Based Living, and Cultural Heritage, children gain both theoretical knowledge and enrich their learning experience through hands-on activities





A MODEL FOR THE FUTURE

The Children's Ecological Education Park has been designed in alignment with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). This project not only contributes to raising environmentally conscious children but also presents an inspiring model for sustainable development. By nurturing individuals who learn from and protect nature, we continue to take steps toward a greener future.









EXPERIENCES ENRICHED WITH CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC EDUCATION

"Cultural Heritage" and "Art Workshops" are organized to build bridges between society and nature, foster children's creativity, and enhance awareness of cultural heritage. The "My Dream Avcılar" workshop supports children's collective thinking skills, while activities like "Tree Trunk Pattern Study" demonstrate how art can be harmonized with nature.





MOVEMENT IN NATURE

The "Sports in Nature Workshop" supports children's physical development while offering games that enhance their social skills. Activities designed with natural materials help improve their motor skills and guide their energy in a positive way.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS WORKSHOPS

The workshops held at the Children's Ecological Education Park not only transfer knowledge but also aim to inspire children toward a sustainable lifestyle. Through activities such as Seed Bank, Bokashi Compost, and Vermicomposting workshops, children have learned about the culture of recycling and gained an understanding of nature's circular systems. Additionally, hands-on activities like "Transforming Our T-Shirts" have demonstrated how upcycling can be integrated into daily life.





THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development





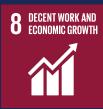




































1 NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere







END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Poverty is not merely an economic issue but a multidimensional phenomenon that hinders social equality and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In line with the SDG 1: No Poverty target, comprehensive social policies have been developed to eliminate all forms of poverty. These policies aim to support the economic independence of disadvantaged groups, meet their basic needs, and strengthen social solidarity.

The adopted social policies go beyond a charity-based approach and are shaped by an inclusive vision that seeks to enhance individuals' long-term economic and social well-being. In this context, the initiatives and outcomes achieved under the "No Poverty" goal reflect the concrete steps taken to mitigate the effects of poverty in Avallar.







EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

Through the Employment Center, 2,003 citizens in 2022 and 2,028 citizens in 2023 were employed in the private sector. The total employment of 4,031 individuals represents a significant achievement in the fight against unemployment.

In 2022, the Youth Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship Workshop provided 16 young participants aged 18-25 with the opportunity to develop solutions for social issues, turn them into projects, and present them before a jury. These projects enabled young people to take an active role in social entrepreneurship and encouraged them to become entrepreneurs.





SUPPORT FOR HOUSEHOLDS

In 2022, 10,896 households and in 2023, 5,500 households received food and clothing assistance. This decline highlights the need to enhance distribution processes. We aim to establish a more inclusive service model through international donation programs and public private sector collaborations.

Furniture and household appliance support was provided to 130 families in 2022 and 65 families in 2023 across Avallar. Additionally, 1,490 citizens in 2022 and 602 citizens in 2023 received regular hot meal assistance. Despite this decrease, we plan to improve logistical infrastructure, increase local community engagement, and diversify funding through donation campaigns to reach our 2024 target of 10,000 beneficiaries. Hot meal assistance not only meets a physical need but also serves as a symbol of social solidarity.





SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2022, 80 individuals, and in 2023, 124 individuals received medical devices and wheelchair support. This 55% increase indicates a more effective response to the needs of vulnerable groups.

Additionally, 51,600 adult and child diapers were provided in 2022, and 55,320 in 2023. These aids help alleviate the burden on families facing economic hardships and strengthen social solidarity.



SUPPORT AND COLLABORATIONS FOR REFUGEES

In 2022, two projects were implemented for refugees, and in 2023, Turkish language courses were launched in response to the increasing wave of migration. To further support the social integration of refugees, we will strengthen international collaborations to expand these projects.

These efforts not only address individuals' basic needs but also establish a social policy framework that mitigates the long-term effects of poverty. By aligning with national and international guidelines, we are committed to strengthening social equality and solidarity in line with the "No Poverty" goal. Ending poverty is a fundamental step toward building a more sustainable and inclusive society.





ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture







END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Hunger is one of the starkest forms of social inequality and a global crisis that directly threatens efforts toward sustainable development. Ending hunger and ensuring food security are at the core of social policies. As a local government, we adopt a sustainable, inclusive, and long-term approach to contribute to this global goal.



Hunger and poverty are two closely related fundamental issues. Reducing poverty directly affects individuals' access to food security. In this context, we believe that combating hunger should not be limited to food aid alone. Therefore, through the Career Center, we aim to empower individuals economically by providing employment opportunities. The employment of 4,031 citizens in the private sector in 2022

and 2023 has strengthened families' ability to meet their own food needs. This strategy is seen as a sustainable approach to fighting hunger. Our key priorities include developing inclusive service models, ensuring resource diversification, and implementing sustainable food policies.

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FOOD SECURITY AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

In 2022, regular hot meal assistance was provided to 1,490 citizens, while in 2023, this number dropped to 602. This decline highlights the need to enhance service sustainability and reach a broader population. To increase the number of beneficiaries, we will strengthen our logistical infrastructure, diversify resources, and encourage greater participation from local communities. Hot meal assistance not only meets a physical need but also serves as a symbol of social solidarity.



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SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2022, food assistance was provided to 10,896 households, while in 2023, this number dropped to 5,500. This decline highlights the need to improve the efficiency of distribution processes. Food assistance not only helps meet households' daily nutritional needs but also supports their economic resilience.



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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS AVCILAR'S GREEN FLAG STANDS

In 2022, organic waste such as vegetables and fruits collected from neighborhood markets within Availar was processed using the compost machine at our waste collection center, turning it into compost products. These efforts have raised awareness among market vendors and the public about zero waste.

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AWARENESS OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE CITY

As part of the "Awareness of Sustainable Agriculture in the City" program launched in 2023, a total of 183 participants, including children, youth, and adults, took part in four different events held at various times. During these events, compost training was provided, and composting kits were distributed, raising awareness among urban residents about sustainable agriculture and waste separation.



GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



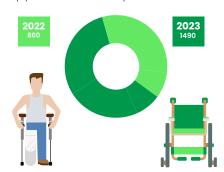




ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

We recognize the right of every individual in our community to lead a healthy and high-quality life. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, we develop comprehensive policies to improve access to healthcare services, enhance quality of life, and promote social well-being.

We take firm steps, particularly in providing counseling services for individuals with disabilities and their families, as well as in animal rehabilitation and public health initiatives. These policies aim to foster social justice and equality, making Avcılar a healthier and happier community.



Number of Individuals with Disabilities and Family Members Who Received Counseling





The number of individuals with disabilities and their families who received counseling services was 860 in 2022 and increased to 1,490 in 2023. This growth demonstrates improved accessibility and effectiveness of our services. Expanding service capacity, organizing awareness campaigns, and promoting social sensitivity have played a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families, contributing to social inclusion and equality.



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HOME CARE SERVICES

In 2022, home care services were provided to 1,137 residents in need within Avcılar, increasing to 1,291 in 2023. This rise demonstrates that the needs of elderly and retired citizens are being met with on-site healthcare solutions.





COMBATING DRUG ABUSE AND ADDICTION

Combating drug abuse and addiction is essential not only for protecting public health but also for strengthening the social fabric. In this regard, the "Addiction Treatment and Monitoring Center," operated in collaboration with Yeşilay, continues its efforts to reduce substance addiction in our city, reintegrate affected youth into society, and ultimately eliminate this public health issue.

We are working to deepen our partnership with Yeşilay, secure the necessary resources and infrastructure, and establish a rehabilitation center. This center will provide both preventive and rehabilitative services, supporting individuals in their journey toward a healthier life.



REHABILITATION OF STRAY ANIMALS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Stray animals that pose a threat to human health in urban life are rehabilitated through humane methods and allowed to live in their natural environment. Globally, there are approximately 200 zoonotic diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans through contact, blood, bites, scratches, or airborne particles. Therefore, the rehabilitation of stray animals is crucial not only for ensuring animal welfare but also for protecting public health. In this context, the capacity of the temporary care and rehabilitation center, which accommodated 92 animals in 2022, was expanded to 110 animals in 2023.

The processes of neutering, vaccinating, and treating stray animals are carried out with great care. In 2022, 2,051 animals were vaccinated, and in 2023, this number increased to 26,249. These efforts play a vital role in preventing the spread of zoonotic diseases and safeguarding public health.

Number of Rehabilitated Stray Animals



At the local level, the significant progress made over the past two years under the Healthy and Quality Life framework demonstrates both our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a strong upward trend. However, it also highlights the need for greater effort toward the targets that have yet to align with this trend.







QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all







ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Education is a fundamental element in enabling individuals to reach their potential and fostering social development. Various projects and services have been implemented to ensure access to quality education for all and to promote lifelong learning opportunities.



KNOWLEDGE HUBS OF FUTURE TH-ROUGH DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL LIB-RARY SERVICES

In 2022, our municipality established two new libraries, serving a total of 83,160 students and readers. Additionally, the District Public Library provided services to 16,246 visitors. In 2023, 167,750 readers benefited from municipal libraries, while the District Public Library served 19,329 readers. This increase reflects the growing public engagement with library services and the rising accessibility of knowledge.

In 2022, 80,000 users accessed our digital library, and in 2023, this number increased to 85,000. The expansion of access to digital resources has facilitated knowledge acquisition and supported learning processes.







SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2022, 35 educational programs, including English, Bulgarian, and German language courses, literacy courses, and basic education support programs, benefited 4,411 participants. In 2023, this number increased to 9,788.

In 2022, 5,780 students attended courses designed for both adults and children. In 2023, a total of 3,318 participants enrolled in similar courses. These programs provide citizens with opportunities to enhance their education, develop lifelong learning skills, and access cultural enrichment. In 2022, 11 hobby courses served 2,386 participants. In 2023, 16 artistic courses were introduced, benefiting 18,140 participants.

Number of Participants in Educational Programs

9788 2022



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CHILDREN'S PLAYHOUSE AND CHILDREN'S CLUB SERVICES

In 2022, 11,501 children benefited from the Children's Playhouse and Children's Club services, increasing to 13,736 in 2023. This growth indicates the positive impact on children's social and educational development.





TECHNICAL TOURS AND ON-SITE OBSERVATION TRAININGS

In 2023, technical tours and on-site observation trainings were organized for 185 students from various fields. Students received insights from experts in factories and production lines related to their future professions. These activities provide students with practical knowledge and hands-on experience.

CHILDREN'S ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION PARK

In 2023, in collaboration with INSEV, the Children's Ecological Education Park was opened on a 6,000-m² area for children aged 5-12. The park offers educational programs on science, ecology, and arts and culture. Opened on April 23, National Sovereignty and Children's Day, the park has been visited by a total of 9,000 children to date. Our goal for 2024 is to expand the park's educational programs and reach more children.



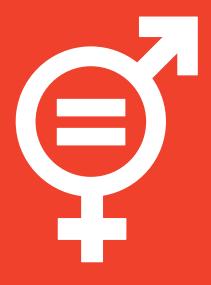






5 GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls







ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Gender equality is one of the key pillars of a democratic and just society. We develop comprehensive policies to ensure women's equal participation in social, economic, and cultural life. In this regard, we implement various initiatives such as counseling services for women, handmade goods markets, gender equality events, and women's counseling centers, aiming to empower women and promote gender equality.



WOMEN'S COUNSELING SERVICES AND CENTERS

We aim to provide a safe and comfortable environment where women can feel secure, supporting their empowerment and solidarity. To increase the number of centers where women can access the support they need, one new Women's Counseling Center was opened in our district in 2022 and another in 2023. These centers provide psychological, legal, and social support to women living in the district



In 2022, counseling services were provided to 487 women, while in 2023, this number was 356. Psychological counseling services were offered to 1,480 women who applied to the Women's Counseling Center in 2022 and to 1,163 women in 2023.

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SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

As part of the Entrepreneurial Training for Women Project, more than 32 women entrepreneurs received training in entrepreneurship and digital transformation in 2022, and this number exceeded 35 in 2023. These trainings support women's participation in the economy and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem. To further promote women's economic participation, two women's handmade goods markets were organized in 2022, with 60 women participating. In 2023, 47 women set up stands at these markets

In 2022, courses were held in punch needle embroidery, literacy, macramé, stuffed doll making, jewelry design, bag and accessory making, and needle lace, with a total of 266 women participating.







To raise awareness of gender equality, 15 events were organized in 2022 and 6 in 2023. Additionally, over two years, 36 different awareness activities were held to promote social equality for women. These activities included seminars, panels, workshops, and training programs.

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE RECENTLY GIVEN BIRTH

In our district, 175 women who had recently given birth in 2022 and 127 in 2023 used our Baby Taxi service, which transported them and their newborns from the hospital to their homes.

NOT A MAN'S JOB, BUT A JOB OF EFFORT

In 2022, under the title "Not a Man's Job, But a Job of Effort," training sessions on vehicle maintenance, repair, and home plumbing were organized to help women develop skills beyond traditional gender roles and make their daily lives easier. As of June, six sessions had been held, with 87 women participating.



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GLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all







ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Clean water and sanitation are fundamental to a healthy society. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, significant steps are being taken in our district to improve access to clean water and ensure effective wastewater management. Through infrastructure projects and collaborative efforts, we aim to protect natural resources while enhancing the quality of life for our citizens.



RAINWATER DRAINAGE CHANNEL CONSTRUCTIONS

To prevent flooding and ensure effective water management, Avcılar Municipality constructed 2,250 meters of new rainwater drainage channels in 2022 and 4,500 meters in 2023. Rainwater channels and pumping stations improve water management efficiency while reducing flood risks and easing pressure on infrastructure. These investments are key steps toward minimizing flood risks and enhancing the quality of life in our district.





WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AND WATER RECLAMATION

The reclamation and reuse of wastewater are critical for an environmentally responsible urban life. The Ambarlı Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Plant plays a vital role in protecting local water resources and preventing environmental pollution. With a daily capacity of 400,000 m³, the facility serves approximately 1.6 million people. In 2023, a total of 252,100,496 m³ of wastewater was treated across 90 wastewater treatment plants in the district, compared to 144,575,543 m³ in 2022.

The amount of reclaimed wastewater reached 799,711 m³ in 2022 and increased to 935,433 m³ in 2023. This achievement contributes significantly to the sustainable use of water resources and the reduction of environmental impacts. Through sludge dewatering and drying units, the solid content of sludge was increased to 90%, producing dried sludge that can be used as a secondary fuel in industrial facilities.

AMBARLI
ADVANCED BIOLOGICAL
WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT







AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all







ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

While shaping our energy policies in line with accessible and clean energy goals, we act with full awareness of our environmental responsibilities. Our Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use, increase the adoption of renewable energy sources, and promote energy efficiency.

As part of this plan, an 8% reduction in emissions was achieved between 2021 and 2022. The 2022-2023 interim report confirmed that the two-year emission reduction remained at 8%. We are steadfast in our commitment to reaching our 40% reduction target by 2029.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (SECAP)

As part of our efforts to combat climate change, the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) aims to reduce energy consumption and make our district more resilient to climate risks. This plan is designed to encourage stakeholder participation and support capacity building. It outlines a total of 57 actions, including 21 aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and 36 focused on climate change adaptation.







DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all





PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

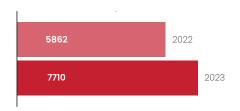
Sustainable economic growth and the provision of decent job opportunities are critical for enhancing social welfare and reducing poverty. In line with the Sustainable Development Goal of Decent Work and Economic Growth, various projects and services have been implemented in our district to increase employment, promote entrepreneurship,

and support economic growth. In this context, we provide support to residents through structures such as the Availar Career Center and the Applied Solutions and Innovation Center. By ensuring decent job opportunities for all and fostering sustainable economic growth, we aim to improve social welfare in our district.





INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH



Number of People That Applied for Job Placement

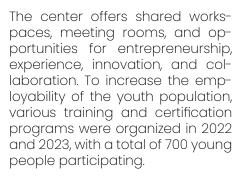
Established to alleviate unemployment in Avcılar, the Avcılar Municipality Career Center connects job seekers with employers looking for personnel. In 2022, applications were received from 5,862 citizens, resulting in the employment of 2,003 individuals in the

private sector. In 2023, the number of applications increased to 7,110, with 2,028 individuals securing employment, indicating a placement rate of 28.5% among applicants.

The Avcılar Applied Solutions and Innovation Center (AVÇİM), launched by Avcılar Municipality to boost employment, encourage entrepreneurship, and support economic growth, serves as an open hub for entrepreneurs, students, researchers, and anyone looking to develop their skills.



To support women's participation in production and employment processes, training programs were organized for women entrepreneurs, and participants received certificates. After completing the four-week program, 35 women entrepreneurs earned their certificates and took steps toward establishing their own businesses.









ECONOMIC GROWTH

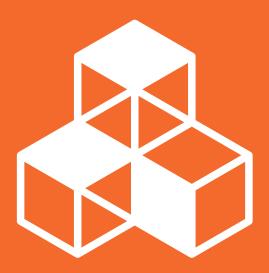




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INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation





BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

One of the key pillars of sustainable development is the creation of resilient infrastructure, supporting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and promoting innovation. Various projects and services have been implemented in our district to enhance the sustainability and inclusivity of industry and infrastructure.



Opened in 2022, the Avalar Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center supports green job opportunities and economic growth. Over the past two years, 700 residents have benefited from the center, which aims to create a sustainable economic growth model, support ecological and economic sustainability, promote green job opportunities and innovation, and enhance the economic well-being of local communities

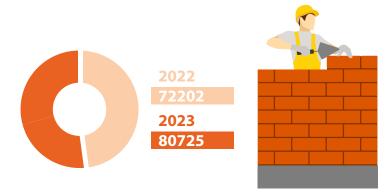
The center provides significant services in supporting and implementing innovative ideas, particularly catering to the needs of manufacturers. Industrial business owners can participate as inves-





tors in initiatives that benefit their own businesses, thereby increasing their business productivity and contributing to regional economic growth. This collaboration model strengthens the integration of the industrial and entrepreneurship ecosystems, supporting sustainable industrialization. By supporting small-scale industries and micro-entrepreneurs aiming to engage in research and development, the center significantly contributes to local development.

Infrastructure Projects and Development of the Transportation Network (m2)





INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Avcılar is located on a strategic trade and transportation network. The Ambarlı Port, which handles some of the heaviest traffic in Istanbul, and the E-5 and TEM highways, which connect Türkiye to Europe, are within the borders of our district. In our efforts to build a more sustainable, livable, and safe city, new infrastructure investments are being made to protect the environment, create new living spaces, and improve accessibility for all.

In this regard, road repairs covering 72,202 m² were completed in 2022, and 80,725 m² of road repairs and sidewalk renewals were carried out in 2023. Additionally, in areas with heavy pedestrian traffic, projects for road widening and improving pedestrian pathways have been implemented to ensure safe and comfortable transportation for our residents.

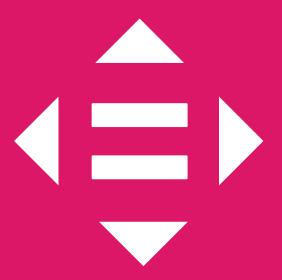






10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries







GENDER EQUALITY UNIT AND LOCAL EQUALITY ACTION PLAN

To promote gender equality, Avcılar Municipality established the Gender Equality Unit in 2022 and developed the Local Equality Action Plan in 2023. This plan aims to ensure equal access for individuals to healthcare, education, social services, and employment opportunities, support equal participation in urban services, and increase involvement in decision-making processes.

During the preparation phase, meetings were held with public institutions, the city council, local leaders, and civil society organizations to ensure a participatory approach. Additionally, input and suggestions were gathered from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Gender Equality Monitoring Association (CEID).



The plan includes short, medium, and long-term goals and activities under the categories of Urban Services, Education, Health, Employment and Economic Empowerment, Participation in Decision-Making Mechanisms, and Combating Violence. It consists of a total of 6 goals, 20 targets, and 93 activities. The plan has been developed in alignment with Avcılar Municipality's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and Resilience Action Plan, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals. 80% of the proposed actions in the Local Equality Action Plan is complete.

In 2022 and 2023, 6 events were organized each year as part of the gender equality initiatives.

From 2022 to 2023, a total of 1,490 people benefited from the Disabled Life Center. Although our target for 2024 was set at 1,000, the current figures indicate a rise above our goal. This success demonstrates the effectiveness and accessibility of services provided for individuals with disabilities.





SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable





MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

INCLUSIVE AND SAFE CITY VISION

We view sustainable and inclusive urbanization as a fundamental priority. In line with the global goal of Sustainable Cities and Communities, we are developing policies aimed at making our cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable for everyone. Our primary mission is to strengthen our city's infrastructure, increase social and environmental resilience, and support social equality.

Security and Resilience: Creating resilient urban infrastructure to face natural disasters, climate change, and other risks.

Sustainable Urban Renewal: Renovating risky buildings to create safer, more environmentally friendly and modern living spaces. Green and Healthy Living Spaces: Increasing green areas across the city, developing sustainable landscape models, and reducing carbon footprints are our key principles.

These policies aim to meet not only today's needs but also the requirements of the future, ensuring that Availar becomes a resilient, livable, and environmentally friendly city.





URBAN RENEWAL AND SAFE BUILDINGS

The renewal of risky buildings and the construction of safe housing are fundamental elements of a sustainable city vision. Significant This information has enabled our steps have been taken for the renewal of risky buildings, with 259 new building permits issued in 2022, 211 of which were for risky structures. In 2023, 177 new building permits were issued, 203 of which were for risky structures.

During the urban renewal processes in 2022 and 2023, there was a high demand. In this process, 534 drawn and 1,200 written zoning status documents were issued, making it easier for our 3,986. citizens to access information.

In 2023, 372 drawn zoning status documents were issued.

citizens to make informed decisions about urban renewal and new building processes, accelerating the construction process.

As part of the "Building Safe Lives" policy in Avcılar, 117,654 citizens living within the district benefited from urban renewal, securing their futures in safe buildings. In 2022, the number of renewed independent units was 1,044, and in 2023, this number increased to





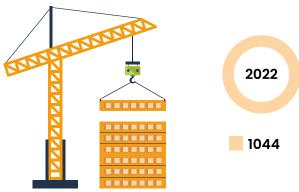


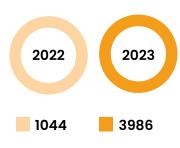
FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL AND ABANDONED BUILDINGS

The fight against illegal and abandoned buildings is crucial for maintaining the safety and aesthetics of the city. Under the Urban Renewal Law, 218 demolition permits were issued in 2022 and 223 in 2023. These permits ensure that risky buildings are demolished safely, allowing for the construction of more resilient structures.

In 2022, 60 illegal buildings were identified, and 16 out of 18 abandoned buildings were demolished, while two were renovated and made suitable for use. In 2023, 60 illegal buildings were identified, and action was taken on six abandoned buildings. These efforts not only increase urban safety but also eliminate structures that pose aesthetic and traffic-related problems.

Number of Renewed Independent Units





67 66 **SUSTAINABLE CITIES**

GREEN SPACES AND AFFORESTATION

In Avcılar, 1,350 trees were planted in 2022 and 2,103 trees in 2023. Additionally, 2,500 trees brought from the Kaz Mountains were replanted in our district, helping to preserve the ecological balance and reduce our carbon footprint by 8% over two years. The updated landscape model also resulted in 20% water savings.

In 2023, the total green space was increased to 364,385 m², representing a 15% increase. As part of this, 6 new parks were created, and extensive functional additions were made to 25 parks, with renovation works carried out.

Number of Planted Trees







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ACCESSIBILITY AND SPORTS AREAS

In 2022, 4,609 participants received sports training across 17 different disciplines, while in 2023, 3,489 people benefited from these programs. These trainings promote a healthy lifestyle and strengthen social solidarity.

To increase accessible sports areas, a project was initiated in 2023 to establish sports centers in neighborhoods. As part of this initiative, the foundation was laid for a sports complex in Cihangir neighborhood. This facility, covering 5,000 m², will feature a semi-Olympic swimming pool, basketball courts and other modern amenities.









68 SUSTAINABLE CITIES 69





RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns





ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Developing responsible production and consumption habits is crucial for a sustainable world. Through waste management and recycling initiatives, we support environmental sustainability and aim to raise public awareness. From recycling programs to circular economy education, composting efforts to awareness workshops, we implement various projects to promote efficient resource use and environmental conservation.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS

RECYCLABLE WASTE COLLECTION POINTS

In 2022, 390 recyclable waste collection points were established, while in 2023, this number was 300. This infrastructure of waste collection points is designed to increase citizens' participation in the recycling process and ensure the orderly collection of waste.



✓ VEGETABLE WASTE OIL RECOVERY

In 2022, 41 tons of vegetable waste oil were collected and recycled, increasing to 43 tons in 2023. This effort has helped reduce environmentally harmful waste while making a significant contribution to the economy.

MIXED PACKAGING WASTE AND ELECTRONIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

In 2022, 2,342 tons of mixed packaging waste were collected, decreasing to 1,200 tons in 2023. However, there was a significant increase in the collection of electrical and electronic waste, rising from 450 kg in 2022 to 550 kg in 2023.

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TEXTILE WASTES

In 2022, 329,000 kg of textile waste was collected, increasing to 357,000 kg in 2023. Usable textile items were distributed to those in need, while recycled waste was reintegrated into the economic system.







SOCIAL AWARENESS AND EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Raising public awareness and encouraging individuals to adopt sustainable production and consumption habits are crucial for environmental sustainability. Over the past two years, various training programs and projects have been implemented to educate the community on environmental awareness, circular economy, composting, waste management, and climate change. These efforts have not only transformed individual behaviors but also helped promote sustainable lifestyles within communities. Education and awareness initiatives serve as a foundation for building a more environmentally conscious, resilient, and responsible society in the long term.



Green Flag Stalls

In the covered marketplaces of Avcılar, vendors generating biodegradable waste have been required to separate their waste, which is then composted and recycled.

Circular Economy Trainings

Through Circular Economy Trainings, participants have been made aware of sustainability, environmental consciousness, waste management, and climate change.



Green Entrepreneurship Workshops

At the Green Entrepreneurship and Upcycling Workshop held in 2023, participants were informed about the use of electronic waste as advanced recycling material and encouraged to take an active role in this field.

AND PRODUCTION



Circular Economy Discussion and Waste Fabrics Workshop

In this event supporting the upcycling of waste fabrics, participants gained theoretical knowledge about the circular economy while gaining new perspectives on adapting to the climate crisis.

These steps taken in Avcılar in line with SDG 12 demonstrate our commitment to promoting environmental sustainability, raising social awareness, and ensuring the efficient use of resources.

72 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION





13 CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts





TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

Climate change is one of the greatest global challenges of our time. As Avallar Municipality, we are committed to taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by implementing comprehensive projects and strategic initiatives to mitigate its effects and promote adaptation. From coordinating nature-friendly initiatives to enhancing energy efficiency, from air quality monitoring systems to circular economy practices, we are determined to build a more resilient and sustainable city.

INITIATIVES IN HARMONY WITH NATURE AND GREEN ENERGY APPROACHES

Established in 2021, the Permaculture Unit has been responsible for coordinating efforts to promote a nature-compatible lifestyle and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. Additionally, work on the Sustainable Energy and Climate Adaptation Action Plan continued in 2022-2023, and feasibility studies for solar energy panels were conducted at the Climate Change and Zero Waste Directorate building. These efforts aim to increase the use of renewable energy sources and reduce our carbon footprint.



MONITORING AIR QUALITY AND FIGHT AGAINST POLLUTION

To monitor environmental pollutants across Avcılar, sensor units have been installed in five different locations. These sensors continuously measure parameters such as PM2.5, PM10, NO2, SO2, and O3, analyzing their effects on human health. Data from 2023 indicates that the highest air pollution levels were recorded in the Cihangir and Denizköşkler neighborhoods, while Firuzköy and Üniversite had the best air quality. Based on these analyses, inspections and measures have been implemented to address industrial and traffic-related pollutants.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

In 2022-2023, various types of waste, from textile waste to wood waste, were recycled in line with circular economy principles and reintegrated into the economy.



• **Textile Waste:** In 2022, 329,000 kg of textile waste was collected and recycled, while in 2023, this amount increased to 357,000 kg.

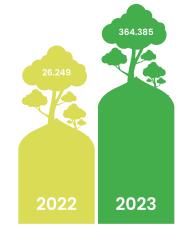


• Wood and Furniture Waste: In 2022, 6,589 tons and in 2023, 4,800 tons of wood waste were repurposed for the energy sector. These projects have contributed to the conservation of natural resources and the reduction of waste.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING EFFORTS

Various training programs and workshops have been organized to raise public awareness of climate change and sustainability. Discussions and workshops on topics such as the circular economy, permaculture, composting, and combating the climate crisis help citizens develop environmentally conscious habits.

During technical tours to the Nesin Foundation, participants gained hands-on experience with practices aimed at enhancing soil fertility.



Green Space area (m2)



AFFORESTATION WORKS

In 2022, 1,350 trees were planted, and in 2023, this number increased to 2,103. These efforts have expanded urban green spaces, reduced carbon emissions, and contributed to Avalar's ecological balance.





ACTION

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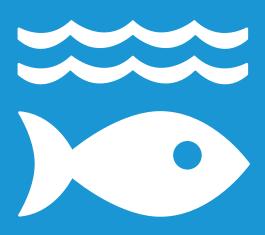
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1 LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development





CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

lity of these essential resources.

Oceans and seas are vital to Protecting oceans and seas is maintaining the balance of the not only an environmental neglobal ecosystem. In addition to cessity but also a key factor for acting as carbon sinks that slow economic and social sustainabiglobal warming, they directly lity in line with Sustainable Devesupport the food security, liveliho- lopment Goals. Preserving marine ods, and economic well-being of ecosystems requires the conscibillions of people. However, hu- ous and balanced use of marine man-induced pressures such as resources. In this context, measupollution, overfishing, and climate restaken at both local and global change threaten the sustainabi- levels will safeguard natural balance and ensure a better quality of life for future generations.





Within this scope, we are implementing various projects to restore the ecological balance of Küçükçekmece Lagoon, located within our district boundaries, and to establish urban green corridors.

In 2022, concrete steps were taken to rehabilitate Küçükçekmece Lagoon. A bioremediation system initiated that year aimed to reduce pollution in the lake. Water samples were collected in tanks for trial studies, and the results were analyzed and recorded. In collaboration with Istanbul University's Faculty of Aquatic Sciences, a study was launched in Küçükçekmece Lagoon to assess water pollution levels. This study aims to provide upto-date records on the lake's pollution status, bacterial composition, sediment contamination, and heavy metal accumulation.

WATER

80 LIFE BELOW 81





15 LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss





Terrestrial ecosystems are the foundation of our planet's biodiversity and a vital resource for sustaining human life. Forests play a key role in combating global challenges such as desertification, land degradation, and biodiversity loss. They act as carbon sinks that slow climate change, regulate the water cycle, enhance soil fertility, and provide habitats for millions of species.

The sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems, conservation of biodiversity, prevention of land degradation, sustainable forest management, and efforts to combat desertification are essential for both environmental and economic sustainability.

Green City Action Plans raise environmental awareness in society, encouraging individuals, institutions, and governments to take responsibility. These plans view the protection of terrestrial life not merely as a goal but as a necessity for a more livable and resilient world. By ensuring the continuity of essential ecosystem services such as clean air, fertile soil, and sustainable water resources, they lay a strong foundation for the future.

To provide a strategic roadmap for the protection and sustainable use of terrestrial life, the Green City Action Plan was developed in 2022. The vision of the Availar Green City Action Plan is "to become the district with the highest environmental quality in Türkiye through strong green infrastructure." Within this vision, the plan aims to enhance the quality of green spaces based on sustainable and ecological landscape design principles, increase resilience to climate vulnerabilities, and create a cleaner, healthier, and more environmentally conscious city. By effectively implementing the Green City Action Plan and preserving the district's natural wealth to preserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable use of ecosystems, we aim to leave a more livable environment for future generations.





PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels





PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

As Avcılar Municipality, we provide services aimed at building a peaceful and inclusive society to enhancing the satisfaction of citizen. Our commitment to accountability, inclusion, and efficiency is supported by innovative solutions that simplify daily life for our residents.









CONSISTENCY IN CITIZEN SATISFACTION

In 2022 and 2023, our municipal police services and call center operations received top marks from citizens.

- Municipal Police Service Satisfaction Rate: Municipal Police Service Satisfaction Rate
- Call Center Satisfaction Rate: Maintained a 100% satisfaction rate in both years. These figures reflect Availar Municipality's commitment to an effective and solution-oriented approach in public relations.



EFFECTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE CALL CENTER SERVICES

Our call center operates with a 24/7 service approach to resolve citizens' issues and respond to their needs promptly.

- 2022: 230,067 calls were answered, and requests were forwarded to the relevant units reaching to 100% citizen satisfaction rate.
- 2023: 261,744 calls were handled, maintaining a 100% citizen satisfaction rate.

This service provides Availar residents with a direct and efficient communication channel for addressing their concerns quickly.



Under SDG 16, we are steadily advancing toward our goal of creating a peaceful, just, and inclusive society by providing responsive and solution-oriented services that address the needs of our citizens. High satisfaction rates reflect our success in building strong institutions. We remain committed to ensuring public trust and satisfaction in the future.

- City Council General Assembly Meetings: 60 meetings were held in both years.
- **NGO Collaborations:** A total of 48 meetings and events were organized in 2022 and 2023.



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development





STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The success of sustainable development at both local and international levels requires the establishment of strong, cooperative partnerships. By forming national and international partnerships, we have carried out projects that set an example in knowledge sharing and economic collaboration.

These partnerships, ranging from Uganda to Côte d'Ivoire, from the Turkey-Africa Business Forum to United Nations Summits, translate the power of global cooperation into concrete local actions and contribute to sustainable development goals. These efforts demonstrate how local governments can have a meaningful impact on a global scale.





AVCILAR MUNICIPALITY AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

In 2022, Availar Municipality participated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Summit, where the Avcılar Voluntary Local Review was shared at an international level. Additionally, the municipality took part in the International Disability Rights Summit, held in Avcılar with the support of the United Nations and USDHR, bringing together representatives from over 60 countries across six continents. In 2023, Availar's resilience initiatives were presented at the United Nations International Forum on Resilient Cities in Dubai, where the "Avcılar Model" was introduced on a global scale. This process highliahts the potential of local governments to contribute to global sustainable development.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN URBAN TRANSFORMATION WITH THE AVCILAR MODEL

In 2022, a delegation from Uganda's Ministry of Environment and Urban Development visited Avcılar to study the "Avcılar Model," a leading example in urban renewal. This model was presented as a guiding solution for the development of nine new cities in Uganda. This collaboration demonstrates how local experiences can create value on an in-

ternational scale, contributing to the development of global partnerships for sustainable development.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INVESTMENT FORUMS

In 2023, Avcılar Municipality participated in the Bulgarian Investment Forum and the Bulgarian-Turkish Business Forum, taking significant steps to promote economic cooperation between the two countries. Additionally, at the istanbul Balkan Tourism Exchange Fair, Avcılar's historical and natural attractions were showcased, fostering regional tourism partnerships.

That same year, a delegation from Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Construction, Housing, and Urban Development visited Availar, where detailed information on local projects was shared. Furthermore, during the Türkiye-Africa Business Forum, meetings were held with the consuls of Ghana and Nigeria to explore economic cooperation opportunities.



STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY AND LOCAL PARTICIPATION

In 2022 and 2023, local participation was strengthened through City Council General Assembly meetings and events organized in collaboration with civil society organizations:

- City Council General Assembly Meetings: 60 meetings were held each year.
- **NGO Collaborations:** A total of 48 meetings and events were organized in 2022 and 2023. These efforts enable local governments to enhance public participation, contributing to the development of more inclusive and resilient cities.





INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS OF WHICH WE ARE A MEMBER

















