

Section 4: Reduce and Reuse — Preventing Waste at the Source (2024–2026)

At the top of the waste hierarchy, the principles of “Reduce” and “Reuse” form the most proactive and effective components of IZTECH’s sustainability approach. This section invites the campus community not only to follow established rules but to become part of a culture that prevents waste before it is created.

In the 2024–2026 academic term, initiatives developed under the concept of “IZTECH Smart Savings and Community Support” aim both to minimize environmental impact and to strengthen solidarity and a sense of belonging within the university community



Figure 1: Zero Waste 2026

Zero Waste Activities

Extending the lifespan of existing resources both reduces the environmental footprint and directly contributes to the university’s budget. Last year, several workshops that transformed waste materials into usable products were held on campus. This year, these efforts will be expanded through the establishment of an On-Campus Item Sharing Platform.

On-Campus Item Sharing Platform

The IZTECH Item Sharing Platform will enable one unit to transfer unneeded items—such as office furniture, laboratory equipment, electronic devices, or stationery—to another unit for free use.

- The platform will be web-based and accessible through the university’s official sustainability website.
- All shared items will be classified under “reuse”, which helps reduce disposal costs and prevent unnecessary new purchases.
- All transactions will be coordinated and monitored by the Sustainability Office.

Book, Clothing, and Item Donation Points

To prevent usable items generated during student move-outs or graduation periods from ending up as waste, donation boxes are placed in key areas of the campus.

These donation points are located in:

- Dormitory entrances, libraries, and social facilities,
- Collected items are shared with local municipalities, non-governmental organizations (such as TEMA, LÖSEV, and the Turkish Red Crescent), or schools in need,
- This initiative also strengthens IZTECH's social responsibility vision.

Additionally, during the graduation ceremonies, a waste collection point will be established where graduating students can donate their books and notebooks that they no longer use. In doing so, they will contribute to recycling, recovery, and reuse processes while raising awareness on a meaningful and celebratory day

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4.2. Initiatives to Reduce Single-Use Products

Reusable Cup and Bottle Incentives

Water Refill Station Network:

To reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles, drinking water refill stations have been established across the IZTECH campus.

- These refill points are marked on the campus map and can be accessed through the university website.
- They are also promoted on digital screens with awareness visuals carrying the message "Refill Your Water, Free Yourself from Plastic!"

Such initiatives are already actively implemented on campus and will continue throughout 2026.



Figure: Water Refill Stations

- During university events such as seminars, festivals, and conferences, the use of single-use plastics must be prohibited or minimized as much as possible.
- Participants are encouraged to bring their own reusable bottles.
- Deposit-based and reusable cup systems are preferred at all events to promote sustainable consumption practices.



Figure: Reusable Bottles

In addition, the IZTECH Environmental Society organizes various events within the framework of the Zero Waste initiative. The most significant of these is the annual “Green Summit,” held every May.

During this event, speakers specializing in environmental development and sustainability are invited to share their expertise. The main goal is to contribute to the creation of a society and industry aligned with zero waste principles.

Photos and further details from the annual Green Summit are shared below.

<https://toplumsal.iyte.edu.tr/duyuru/green-summit-2025/>

<https://www.cmo.org.tr/iyte-green-summit-etkinligine-katildik-202405061918>



Green Summit 2025

4.3. Sustainable Procurement Principles

Waste reduction must be supported not only by individual actions but also by institutional decisions. For this reason, the IZTECH Procurement Department prioritizes sustainability criteria in the purchase of goods and services.

Key Principles:

- Preference for products with minimal packaging and recyclable materials
- Selection of durable, repairable, and long-lasting equipment
- Prioritization of materials containing recycled content
- Procurement of reusable alternatives instead of single-use products
- Inclusion of environmental performance and sustainability criteria in supplier contracts

These policies strengthen IZTECH's sustainable public procurement approach and help reduce waste generation at its source.