

# SEEKING ECO GIANTS

## POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

"izmir region"

### *Introduction*

Within the “SEEKING ECO GIANTS” Project supported by Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, local events has been planned in partnering countries; Spain, Italy, Latvia and Turkey which share common issues about the effects of climate change, namely water scarcity, floods and risks of more droughts in future as the statistics indicate. One of the local event series took place in izmir,Turkey with the aim of including young people in the decision making process, providing them a space to discuss among their peers for local and regional policies. In order to do that, along with the free discussion sessions, formal education methodology has been used to guide them to reflect their ideas through a climate simulation. The activity is based on analyzing the reasons of the climate change and its effects on our daily life and finally finding out the measures which should be taken on personal and community levels.





### Local Analysis: İzmir Region

A simple desktop research shows that İzmir has been facing water scarcity issues due to a combination of factors, including population growth, urbanization, and changing climate patterns. Water scarcity is a significant concern in many parts of Turkey, and İzmir, being a major city, has not been exempt from these challenges. Here are some of the key factors contributing to water scarcity in the region:

- **Climate Change:** Changing climate patterns can lead to alterations in precipitation and evaporation rates, impacting the overall water availability in the region. This can exacerbate water scarcity issues during periods of drought or reduced rainfall.
- **Inefficient Water Management:** Inadequate water management practices, such as water wastage and inefficient irrigation methods, can contribute to the depletion of water resources.
- **Over-Extraction of Groundwater:** Over-extraction of groundwater for various purposes, including agriculture and industrial use, can lead to declining water levels in aquifers, resulting in water scarcity.



- **Limited Water Resources:** İzmir's water supply heavily relies on surface water sources like rivers and reservoirs, as well as groundwater from wells and aquifers. The availability of water from these sources can be affected by changes in precipitation patterns and increased water demand.
- **Urbanization and Population Growth:** Rapid urbanization and population growth in İzmir have increased the demand for water, both for domestic use and industrial purposes. This places additional pressure on the existing water resources.

- **Water Pollution:** Contamination of water sources due to industrial discharges, agricultural runoff, and improper waste disposal can reduce the availability of clean water for various uses.
- **Water Infrastructure Challenges:** İzmir's water distribution infrastructure may face aging and maintenance issues, leading to water losses and inefficiencies. Addressing water scarcity requires a comprehensive approach involving efficient water management practices, conservation efforts, and investment in sustainable water supply systems. This may include implementing water-saving measures, promoting water reuse and recycling, investing in water infrastructure, and raising public awareness about water conservation.





## Take Action Personally!

Individuals can play a crucial role in addressing water scarcity on a personal level by adopting water-saving practices and promoting responsible water use. Here are some measures that individuals can take to conserve water in İzmir or any water-scarce region:



- **Water Garden Wisely:** If you have a garden or plants, water them early in the morning or late in the evening when the temperatures are cooler to reduce evaporation. Use a drip irrigation system or a soaker hose to deliver water directly to the roots of plants.
- **Collect Rainwater:** Consider setting up rain barrels to collect rainwater that can be used for watering plants or other non-potable purposes.
- **Recycle Water:** Reuse water whenever possible. For example, use leftover water from cooking or washing dishes to water plants.
- **Raise Awareness:** Educate family members, friends, and neighbors about the importance of water conservation and share water-saving tips with them.

- **Reduce Water Consumption:** Be mindful of your daily water usage. Turn off the tap while brushing teeth, washing hands, or soaping dishes. Fix any leaks in faucets or pipes promptly to avoid unnecessary water wastage.
- **Water-Efficient Appliances:** Choose water-efficient appliances like washing machines and dishwashers that consume less water per load. Look for products with high water efficiency ratings.
- **Install Water-Saving Fixtures:** Install low-flow showerheads and faucets, which can significantly reduce water consumption without sacrificing comfort.

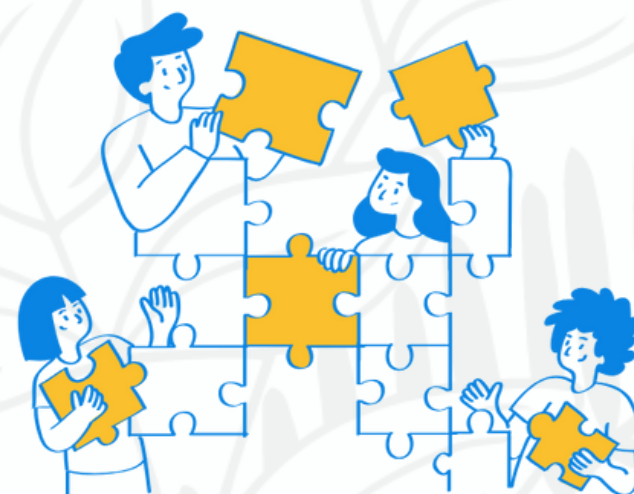


- **Be Mindful of Water Use During Droughts:** Be especially conscious of water use during periods of drought or water restrictions. Follow any water-saving guidelines issued by local authorities.
- **Adopt Responsible Cleaning Practices:** Avoid unnecessary washing of vehicles or driveways and use a broom instead of a hose whenever possible.
- **Support Water Conservation Initiatives:** Participate in local water conservation programs or support initiatives that promote sustainable water management.



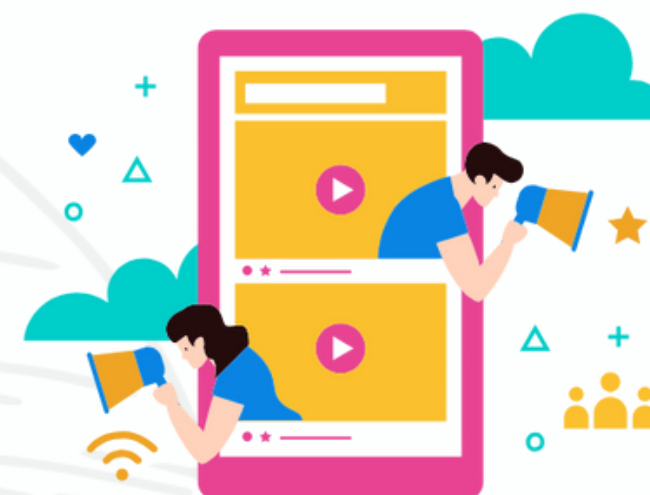
## Do it Together! Measures on Community Level

Addressing water scarcity on a community level in İzmir requires collaborative efforts and coordinated actions by various stakeholders, including local authorities, community organizations, businesses, and residents. Here are some measures that can be taken at the community level to combat water scarcity:



- **Rainwater Harvesting:** Encourage the installation of rainwater harvesting systems in public buildings and community spaces to collect and use rainwater for non-potable purposes.
- **Water Recycling and Reuse:** Explore opportunities for water recycling and reuse in community facilities, industries, and agricultural activities.
- **Collaboration with Local Businesses:** Engage local businesses in water conservation efforts and promote sustainable water practices in commercial operations.

- **Water Conservation Campaigns:** Launch community-wide water conservation campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation and educate residents about water-saving practices.
- **Public Outreach and Education:** Organize workshops, seminars, and educational programs on water conservation for residents, schools, and community groups.
- **Greywater Systems:** Encourage the installation of greywater systems in residential and commercial buildings, which reuse water from sinks, showers, and washing machines for irrigation purposes.



- **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Foster cooperation between government agencies, local communities, NGOs, businesses, and academia to develop and implement effective water scarcity policies.
- **Drought Preparedness and Management:** Establish drought management plans that outline actions to be taken during periods of water scarcity, including water conservation measures and emergency response protocols.

“Remember that individual and community actions, when combined, can have a significant impact on water conservation. By taking these measures, you can contribute to mitigating water scarcity and help build a more sustainable water future for İzmir and other water-stressed regions.”