# Glass Recycling Is in My Hands

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## Abstract

Reusing waste materials and raising environmental awareness play an important role in promoting sustainable consumption habits. In particular, engaging young people in practical environmental education activities can contribute to strengthening sustainability awareness across society.

The project *Glass Recycling Is in My Hands* is a collaborative initiative involving public institutions, universities, and the wider community. It aims to repurpose waste glass through upcycling and increase zero waste awareness among young people.

Supported under the ÜNİDES programme of the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Youth and Sports, the completed project was designed around university students participating in environmental awareness training and subsequently sharing their knowledge and experiences with younger age groups.

In the first phase, university students received training on climate change and zero waste from academics and experts. The training programme was complemented by a screening of the film *WALL-E* and practical glass-painting workshops.

In the second phase, the trained university students visited three secondary schools in the Menteşe and Fethiye districts of Muğla, where they delivered similar educational and practical activities using a peer education approach.

As part of the project, waste glass was transformed into decorative objects, providing a practical demonstration of how discarded materials can be repurposed into reusable products.

Although the project initially aimed to reach 100 participants, it ultimately engaged **127 students (66 female and 61 male)**. In addition, promotional activities organised as part of the 19 May celebrations increased the visibility of the project's outcomes at the local level.

The project demonstrates that combining environmental sustainability education with practical activities and peer learning can provide an effective approach to encouraging young people to develop a sense of environmental responsibility.

**Keywords:** Upcycling, waste glass, zero waste, peer education, environmental awareness.

**MİDUG Thematic Area:** Related to WP3 – Living Laboratories, Circular Economy, and Youth.