

## **WASTE DISPOSAL POLICY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University (MAKU) is committed to sustainable development, environmental stewardship and waste management practices that reduce its ecological footprint. The University recognises its responsibility to manage waste efficiently, minimise environmental impact and comply with national and local regulations. This policy sets out procedures and guidelines for the proper disposal of waste generated on the university campus and covers all staff, students, contractors, visitors, outsourced suppliers and the supply chain. Furthermore, the university's waste disposal policy is in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically aiming to support SDG 6, SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 15 and SDG 17.

### **2. SCOPE**

This policy covers all types of waste generated at the university, including

- Hazardous waste
- Organic waste
- Recyclable materials
- Electronic waste (E-waste)
- Medical and laboratory waste
- Construction and demolition rubble
- Outsourced suppliers and wastes arising from the supply chain are included.

### **3. TARGETS**

The main objectives of this policy are as follows:

- Minimising waste generation through prevention, reduction, reuse and recycling,
- To ensure that wastes are disposed of in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.
- To raise awareness of waste management practices in the university community.
- To ensure compliance with relevant waste management laws and regulations.
- To contribute to a sustainable campus and environment.
- To measure the amount of waste sent to landfill and recycled, and to set reduction targets over time.
- Minimise the use of plastics and encourage the transition to sustainable alternatives.
- Minimise the use of single-use products and encourage the use of reusable products.
- Extend these policies to outsourced suppliers and the university supply chain.
- Encourage the adoption of circular economy principles to extend the life cycle of materials and resources.
- Integrate sustainable procurement practices that prioritise environmentally friendly and ethically sourced products.

- Align waste management practices with the university's carbon reduction targets.
- Educate the university community on sustainable waste management and link this policy to broader environmental education efforts.

#### 4. WASTE CATEGORISATION

Waste generated at MAKU will be categorised into the following categories for proper management:

- Recyclable Waste: Materials set aside for recycling such as paper, cardboard, plastic, metal and glass.
- Hazardous Waste: Chemicals, oils, solvents and other substances harmful to human health and the environment.
- Organic Waste: Biodegradable waste such as food waste, garden waste and other compostable materials.
- E-Waste: Discarded electrical or electronic devices such as computers, printers, mobile phones and batteries.
- Medical and Laboratory Waste: Waste from medical, laboratory or research activities, biological waste, sharps and materials contaminated with hazardous substances.
- Construction and Demolition Waste: Materials resulting from construction and renovation activities, e.g. concrete, bricks, wood and metal.
- Outsourced Suppliers and Supply Chain Waste: Third party vendors providing services or materials to the University and waste generated throughout the supply chain.

#### 5. WASTE DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

- Recyclable Waste: Bins for recycling paper, plastic, glass and metal are located throughout the campus. Recyclable waste should be sorted at source and placed in appropriate containers. The University will co-operate with certified recycling companies to ensure materials are recycled responsibly. The amount of material recycled will be measured regularly with the goal of increasing recycling rates.
- Hazardous Waste: Hazardous waste needs to be handled with care. Special containers will be provided for hazardous materials and trained personnel will carry out safe disposal through licensed waste disposal services.
- Organic Waste: Composting of organic waste will be encouraged where possible. The University will encourage food suppliers and staff to participate in composting programmes.
- E-Waste: All electronic waste should be collected separately from other waste. Special e-waste collection points have been identified on campus. MAKU will ensure that e-waste is processed by certified e-waste recycling organisations so that electronic components are properly separated and recycled.
- Medical and Laboratory Waste: Medical and laboratory waste must be disposed of in accordance with safety and regulatory standards. The University's Department of Administrative and Financial Affairs will oversee the proper handling and disposal of biological and contaminated waste.

- Construction and Demolition Waste: Contractors and university staff involved in construction activities should segregate waste materials at the project site. Reusable materials will be salvaged and non-reusable materials will be disposed of through licensed waste management companies.
- Outsourced Suppliers and Supply Chain Waste: All suppliers, contractors and external partners providing goods and services to the University must comply with this waste disposal policy, which ensures that waste management practices are aligned with the University's sustainability objectives. The University will work with its suppliers to reduce packaging waste, promote recycling and avoid the unnecessary use of single-use or plastic products in the supply chain.

## 6. REDUCING PLASTIC USE

The University will:

- Reduce plastic consumption by promoting alternatives to single-use plastics.
- Encouraging students and staff to use refillable water bottles and other reusable items with water stations available across campus.
- Work with suppliers to minimise plastic packaging in delivery and food service.

## 7. REDUCING SINGLE-USE ITEMS

The University will actively promote the following:

- Encourage the use of reusable products such as cups, plates and cutlery in dining halls.
- Implement policies that encourage the use of durable and long-lasting products in University operations.
- Reduce the use of disposable materials by encouraging staff, students and suppliers to adopt environmentally friendly alternatives (e.g. reusable bags, tools and containers).

## 8. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- University Management: Ensure the implementation of the waste disposal policy and allocate the necessary resources for waste management programmes.
- University Administrative Management: Responsible for the periodic collection and disposal of waste within the campus and will coordinate with recycling and disposal companies. It will also be responsible for tracking the amount of waste sent to landfill and recycled and reporting progress.
- Staff and Academic Staff: Expected to follow waste disposal procedures, promote waste minimisation and actively participate in efforts to reduce the use of plastics and disposable products.
- Students: Participate in waste segregation, recycling programmes and properly dispose of their personal waste, as well as adopt behaviours to reduce the use of plastics and minimise single-use products.
- Suppliers and Contractors: Adhere to the University's waste disposal guidelines, comply with plastic reduction and avoidance of single-use items, and properly dispose of waste arising from their own activities on campus.

## **9. TRAINING AND AWARENESS**

MAKU will organise regular training and awareness programmes for students, academic and administrative staff and academic staff about the waste disposal policy. Awareness campaigns will emphasise the importance of reducing the use of plastics and eliminating single-use products wherever possible. University:

- Aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills to deal with global waste issues by integrating sustainable waste management practices into the curriculum.
- It will encourage students and staff to adopt waste-free practices by organising waste-free activity workshops and training activities.
- Local administrations will encourage participation in recycling and waste reduction campaigns in cooperation with public and private sector organisations and non-governmental organisations.

## **10. MONITORING, MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING**

The University's Department of Administration and Finance will monitor waste disposal practices across the campus and provide regular reports to management. Key performance indicators will include

- Amount of waste sent to landfill and recycling rates.
- Reduction in plastic use.
- Reduction in the use of single-use products.
- Compliance of outsourced suppliers with waste management policies.
- Reduction of carbon footprint associated with waste disposal. Annual audits of waste management practices will be undertaken to ensure compliance with this policy and to identify areas for improvement. The University will set targets to reduce waste sent to landfill and will monitor progress on an ongoing basis. The University will increase transparency and accountability by publicly reporting its waste management performance.

## **11. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

MAKU is committed to adopting sustainable procurement practices that prioritise environmentally friendly and ethical products and will focus on reducing packaging, minimising waste and selecting suppliers that comply with circular economy principles. The University will favour long-lasting, reusable and repairable products where possible and will encourage the reuse and repair of items.

## **12. LEGAL COMPLIANCE**

MAKU will ensure that all waste management and disposal activities comply with national environmental laws and regulations. These include

- Turkish Environmental Law No. 2872 and
- Türkiye Waste Management Regulation (2 April 2015).

## **13. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

The University is committed to continuously improving its waste disposal practices. MAKU will review this policy annually, take into account feedback from stakeholders and align it with new best practices in waste management and sustainability.

## **14. ENFORCEMENT**

This policy enters into force on the date of approval by the Senate of Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University.