

PLASTIC WASTE PREVENTION AND MINIMISATION POLICY

1. Objective

The purpose of this policy is to promote sustainable practices for the reduction and prevention of plastic waste at Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University (MAKU). The policy aims to protect the environment, reduce the ecological footprint of the university and promote a culture of sustainability among students, staff and stakeholders.

2. Scope

This policy covers all MAKU campuses, academic and administrative units, students, faculty, staff, visitors and external service providers. In addition, all procurement processes, events and facilities run by the university are included in the policy.

3. Definitions

In this policy document;

- Plastic Materials: Disposable or reusable plastic bottles, cutlery, bags, packaging and other products made from synthetic or semi-synthetic materials.
- Zero Waste Unit: The unit within MAKU that oversees waste management practices and ensures compliance with sustainability initiatives.
- Sustainable Alternatives: Refers to products made from reusable, recyclable, biodegradable or renewable resources such as glass, metal, paper or bamboo.

4. Policy principles

- Reducing Single Use Plastics:** Minimise or completely eliminate the use of single-use plastics in all university operations and activities.
- Promote Sustainable Alternatives:** The use of environmentally friendly materials and products will be encouraged throughout the University.
- Supply Chain Management:** Outsourced service providers and suppliers (equipment, stationery, construction contracts, etc.) will be encouraged to offer products that are compatible with plastic waste reduction targets. Sustainability criteria will be taken into consideration in contracts with suppliers.
- Increasing Recycling and Waste Segregation:** Efforts will be made to provide adequate infrastructure and facilities for the proper sorting and recycling of plastic waste.
- Education and Awareness:** Training programmes will be organised to raise awareness of the university community on the impacts of plastic waste and to adopt sustainable alternatives.

5. Application areas

- University Business and Operations: Replacement of single-use plastics with sustainable alternatives in administrative offices, dining halls and classrooms.

- Events and Catering: Banning single-use plastics at events organised by the University. Encouraging the use of biodegradable or reusable materials.
- Collaboration with Suppliers: Collaborating with external service providers and suppliers in the selection of environmentally friendly packaging and materials to reduce plastic waste.
- Campus Facilities: Installation and maintenance of recycling bins and stations in accessible locations throughout the campus.

6. Awareness and education

MAKÜ will organize regular awareness campaigns and training sessions to raise awareness of the university community on the importance of reducing plastic waste. Information will be provided through seminars, workshops, and university communication channels.

7. Monitoring and reporting

The Zero Waste Unit will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy. Regular audits will be conducted and compliance reports will be published annually. Feedback and suggestions will be sought from the university community to improve the effectiveness of the policy.

8. Compliance and sanctions

The whole university is obliged to comply with this policy. Those who do not comply will be given the necessary warnings and action will be taken in accordance with Article 53 of Law No. 2547.

9. Review and update

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to ensure compliance with sustainability practices and legal regulations.

10. Communication

The policy will be communicated to all stakeholders through channels such as the university website, official newsletters and orientation programs. The community will be kept informed about the policy through regular updates and information sessions.

11. Enforcement

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