香港科技大學
THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HKUST Waste Management Policy

Last Reviewed: September 2024

HKUST Sustainability

Introduction

HKUST strives to become a global leader in sustainability education by transforming the Clear Water Bay campus into a living laboratory for experiential learning, demonstrating cutting-edge research and sustainable operations within a vibrant and engaged community. As a research-oriented institution, certain waste categories are generated from operations that require special handling before disposal. This policy outlines requirements to achieve waste reduction on campus and the management of waste under regulatory control.

This policy is supported by HKUST's Sustainable Catering Policy, Sustainable Events Guidelines, Sustainable Office Standards & Guidelines, Operational Guidelines on Sustainable Purchasing, High Performance Building Standards & Guidelines, the Health, Safety and Environment Office's Disposal of Hazardous Materials and Items under Regulatory Control , Liquid Effluent , and Liquid Effluent and Protection of Watershed and Aquatic Environment regulations.

This policy addresses the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing

SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

SDG 14 – Life Below Water

SDG 15 – Life On Land

1. Waste Reduction

1.1. General Waste Measurement

- Campus waste must be regularly measured and monitored for continuous review and improvement.

1.2. Food Waste

- Caterers must comply with all measures introduced by the University to ensure that the least amount of food waste enters the landfill, including separating and recycling food waste (both post-consumed food waste and pre-treatment/kitchen food waste) into compost/animal feed, providing incentives and promotion on less rice/portion menus as well as donating leftover usable food to NGOs for redistribution to underserved populations.
- Caterers shall provide and will cooperate with the University's food waste recycling program (e.g., "Less Rice").
- For any events that involve food, organizers should ensure that food waste is minimized (by ordering the right amount and take home any left-over food). Contact the Campus Services Office for options and arrangement of food waste collection and recycling. Develop a plan for what to do with any left-over food, including request to caterer for donation to food charities like Food Angel or Feeding Hong Kong.

1.3. Printed Materials

- All University members should reduce printing as much as possible by utilizing electronic resources for filing, forms, communications, and other documentation. If necessary, use 100% recycled paper or paper from sustainable sources (such as FSC certified) with soy-based ink printing, double-sided (Media Technology and Publishing Center (MTPC) orders meet these criteria).
- For any promotional events, consider the newly introduced product of FSC certified water-resistant paper for producing event banner with much lower cost and durable feature with similar performance to the foam board or vinyl banner. Or consider the biodegradable cloth banner option for outdoor decoration.

1.4. Furniture and Equipment

- Consider whether the product or service is actually necessary prior to the purchase. When possible, existing furniture and equipment from the original office or other locations in the HKUST campus should be used to minimize waste and the cost of renovation.
- Rethink the need for purchase and ensure that this purchase will serve multi-

purpose uses to extend the use phase of the product. Should this be insufficient, offices should consider purchasing second-hand furniture and/or environmentally friendly options.

- Even a similar product might have different impacts based on the way the supplier packages or delivers the product to the University.
- Consolidating purchases or buying in bulk can reduce transportations impacts, and requesting vendors to reduce packaging can eliminate landfill waste.

1.5. **Construction waste**

- Contractors and design consultants should provide a Site Waste Management Plan on how they minimize waste, ensure valuable resources are not disposed of in landfills and make certain that most waste is sorted at all stages during a construction project.
- All new buildings and renovations over 1,000m^2 or $25 million in capital costs must at least achieve 60% recycling level of construction and demolition waste to be in line with BEAM Plus 8 requirements.

2. Minimization of Disposable Items

2.1. **For Caterers**

- During one-time events, caterers must arrange required facilities to separate and recycle materials and provide food and drinks in reusable (washable) containers.
- Caterers should undertake measures to reduce waste from eat-in and take-away orders by adopting reusable dining wares for dine-in, providing biodegradable ware or reusable containers for takeaway orders, encouraging customers to bring their own reusable wares through incentives and charges for disposables, and ensuring that any disposables used can be collected and recycled or composted.

2.2. For Offices

- Offices are encouraged to establish convenient recycling collection locations with proper signage in the office and separate recyclable (paper, plastic, metal and glass) from general trash. Check periodically to ensure that diverted items are going into the appropriate containers.

3. Minimization of Plastic Waste

3.1. **For Offices and Caterers**

- Caterers must undertake measures to reduce the use of plastic, particularly one-time use disposable plastic. Efforts should include eliminating the free provision of plastic items (e.g., straws, utensils) and adopting measures to reduce the

overall amount of plastic packaging.

- Where plastic is consumed, additional measures should be in place to ensure that it is separated, collected, and recycled to reduce the overall landfill load.
- Offices should purchase from suppliers in bulk to reduce packaging and minimize the use of plastic.
- Plastic bottle ban: Since 2017 the campus maintains a ban on the sale and distribution of plastic disposable one-time use bottled water below 1 liter on campus. To support this:
  - Caterers should provide clean, filtered water in ways that do not necessitate disposable plastic water bottles.
  - Offices and their suppliers are prohibited from the use of plastic, single-use bottled beverages at meetings and events.
  - Offices are encouraged to install a pipe filtration water refilling system to eliminate the use of bottled water.

4. Water Discharge

4.1. **Liquid Effluent**

- Adhere to environmental standards set by the Environmental Protection Department and conducts regular monitoring and analysis.
- Prohibit the disposal of hazardous materials into the sewer system and therefore reduce marine pollution.
- Maintain guidelines to protect water resources and the environment, and prevent contaminations from entering water bodies, safeguarding water quality, ensuring access to clean water and sanitation for everyone.
- Adhere to environmental standards set up by Environmental Protection Department and conducts to draw, use and discharge seawater back to marine environment with treatment.
- Prohibit the discharge of effluent into storm water drains and adhere to relevant standards if exception is made.

5. Toxic / Hazardous Waste Management

5.1. **Disposal**

- The University has strict regulations for the disposal of hazardous materials, with waste management planning in place that covers chemical waste, biological waste, radioactive waste, sharps, lead-acid and rechargeable batteries, and items / equipment contaminated with hazardous chemical, biological or radioactive materials.

- Unless otherwise specified, hazardous materials must not be disposed into the sewer system.

5.2. **Pollution Prevention**

- Ensure that no toxic / hazardous waste enters the sewer system and pollute the water system by adhering to the Hong Kong Water Pollution Control Ordinance, Cap 358, S21, and conducting regular sampling of the sewage waste stream at various monitoring points.