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Tantia University

Policy title	POLICY ON PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION
Effective date	22-01-2025
Next scheduled review	Three years after the effective date, or earlier if applicable rules change

Tantia University is committed to minimising plastic pollution by eliminating unnecessary plastic use, reducing plastic consumption, promoting safe and reusable alternatives to single-use plastics, segregating plastic waste at source, and ensuring its authorised recycling or environmentally sound disposal. Through these measures, the University aims to protect land, water resources, biodiversity, and human health while fostering a cleaner, more sustainable, and resource-efficient campus.

The University shall comply with the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended; the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016; applicable directions issued by the Government of Rajasthan and local authorities; and relevant University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines for promoting plastic-free higher education campuses. In cases where applicable legislation, regulatory directions, or consent conditions prescribe stricter requirements, the more stringent provisions shall prevail.

Policy commitments

Prohibition of Restricted Single-Use Plastic Items: The manufacture, procurement, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of single-use plastic items prohibited under applicable Indian laws shall not be permitted on University premises. These include plastic and thermocol plates, cups, glasses, cutlery, straws, trays, stirrers, thermocol decorations, and any other items prohibited through subsequent government notifications.

Reduction of Plastic at Source: All University departments shall minimise unnecessary plastic packaging and disposable materials. Preference shall be given to refillable water stations, reusable bottles, cups, crockery, cutlery, food containers, cloth or jute bags, and durable signage. During meetings, conferences, and University events, single-use plastic water bottles, disposable service ware, and plastic decorations shall be avoided wherever safe and practical alternatives are available.

Sustainable Procurement and Vendor Compliance: All purchase orders, tenders, leases, and vendor agreements shall incorporate requirements for compliance with this policy. Suppliers shall minimise plastic packaging, adopt reusable or returnable transport packaging wherever feasible, and fulfil applicable Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) obligations, including the take-back of covered plastic packaging or products. Campus shops, hostels, messes, canteens, and kiosks shall not stock or distribute prohibited plastic items.

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Waste Segregation and Storage: Plastic waste shall be segregated at source and deposited in clearly labelled dry-waste collection bins. It shall be kept separate from wet waste, biomedical waste, hazardous waste, sanitary waste, electronic waste, and glass waste. Housekeeping personnel shall ensure that plastic waste is stored in clean and secure designated areas and prevent litter from entering drainage systems, agricultural land, gardens, or other open spaces.

Authorised Collection and Recycling: Segregated plastic waste shall be transferred only to the relevant local authority, authorised waste collector, material recovery facility, or registered plastic-waste processor, as applicable. Records of waste quantities, collection, transfer, and disposal or recycling receipts shall be maintained for monitoring and verification. Burning, burying, or open dumping of plastic waste on University premises shall be strictly prohibited.

Plastic Use in Laboratories and Healthcare Facilities: Plastic materials required for patient safety, infection prevention and control, research, or statutory compliance may be used when safe and legally compliant alternatives are unavailable. Such waste shall be segregated, handled, and disposed of in accordance with applicable biomedical waste, hazardous waste, and laboratory waste-management requirements. Plastic waste requiring specialised handling shall not be mixed with general recyclable plastic waste.

Awareness, Training, and Stakeholder Participation: The University shall conduct orientation sessions, display appropriate signage, and organise at least one awareness activity annually to encourage students, employees, patients, visitors, vendors, and surrounding communities to reduce single-use plastic consumption and adopt proper waste-segregation practices. Repeated violations by vendors or contractors may result in corrective instructions, contractual penalties, suspension of services, or termination of contracts, as applicable under the relevant agreements.

Responsibilities

Maintenance Committee: Ensure the availability of appropriately labelled waste bins and water-refill facilities, and oversee plastic-waste collection, storage, vendor compliance, and transfer to authorised waste-management agencies.

Purchase Section: Incorporate plastic-reduction requirements, sustainable packaging provisions, and applicable take-back and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) clauses into procurement processes, purchase orders, and vendor contracts.

Food Security, Safety and Standards Squad: Conduct regular inspections of messes, canteens, kiosks, and food-service vendors to monitor compliance with plastic-reduction requirements and prevent the use of prohibited single-use plastic items.

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Hospital and Laboratory Heads: Ensure that plastic waste generated in healthcare facilities and laboratories is appropriately segregated, handled, and disposed of through the relevant regulated waste-management streams in accordance with applicable requirements.

National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), and Student Bodies: Support awareness campaigns, campus clean-up drives, and behavioural change initiatives to promote responsible plastic use and effective waste segregation.

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC): Compile and review annual data on plastic consumption, waste generation, segregation, recycling, and authorised disposal, while verifying supporting records and evidence to assess policy implementation and identify areas for improvement.

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