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Tantia University

Policy title	Policy on Hazardous Materials and Waste Measurement
Effective date	16-01-2024
Next scheduled review	Three years after the effective date, or earlier if applicable rules change

The University is committed to protect students, staff, visitors and surrounding communities, and to safeguard the ecosystems, by ensuring that all hazardous materials and wastes are managed safely and that all campus waste streams are measured, monitored and continuously reduced.

The University will:

- Prevent and minimize waste generation at source.
- Ensure safe handling, storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes.
- Systematically measure waste sent to landfill and waste diverted through recycling, reuse, composting and energy recovery.
- Use data to set targets and demonstrate progress

Scope

This policy applies to all campuses, departments, laboratories, workshops, residences, food services, maintenance units, and contracted services operating on behalf of the University. It covers general solid waste, recyclable and organic waste, hazardous chemical, biological, radiological and clinical waste, e-waste, batteries, construction and demolition waste, and any other waste that may harm humans, animals or the environment.

Definitions

Hazardous material: Any chemical, biological, radiological or physical agent that has the potential to cause harm to humans, animals or the environment by itself or through interaction with other factors.

Hazardous waste: Waste that is toxic, reactive, corrosive, flammable, infectious or radioactive and therefore requires special handling, storage, treatment and disposal.

Landfill waste: Waste that is ultimately disposed of in engineered or controlled landfill facilities.

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Recyclable waste: Materials such as paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, glass and suitable electronic components that can be reprocessed into new products.

Waste measurement: Systematic quantification of all waste streams, typically in kilograms or tons, including waste sent to landfill and waste diverted through recycling, reuse, composting or recovery.

Governance and responsibilities

The University establishes Sustainability Office/Committee as the lead authority for implementing this policy. This unit will develop procedures, maintain inventory and data systems, coordinate internal audits, and prepare annual waste and sustainability reports.

Facilities and Maintenance will operate collection, segregation, storage and weighing systems, maintain records by waste category, and liaise with municipal authorities and licensed waste contractors.

Academic departments, laboratories and departments will identify hazardous materials and wastes, maintain Safety Data Sheets, ensure correct segregation and labeling, and complete disposal documentation as required.

Students and staff will follow segregation rules, use designated bins and containers, and report incidents, spills or unsafe practices.

Hazardous materials and waste management

- The University will comply with all applicable hazardous-waste and environmental regulations and obtain necessary authorizations for biomedical, chemical and other hazardous wastes.
- All hazardous materials and wastes will be identified and classified.
- Containers will be appropriately designed, color-coded and clearly labeled with contents, hazard symbols, date of generation and responsible person; mixing of incompatible wastes is prohibited.
- Temporary storage areas will be secure, ventilated, leak-proof and regularly inspected, with secondary containment to prevent soil and water contamination.
- Internal transport of hazardous waste will be undertaken by trained personnel using closed containers and safe routes, minimizing exposure and risk.
- Treatment and final disposal (e.g., autoclaving, chemical disinfection, approved incineration, secure landfill, or authorized e-waste recovery) will be carried out only through licensed facilities and vendors, with traceable documentation and proof of safe disposal.

Spills, leaks or accidental exposures must be reported immediately to the Sustainability Office/Committee. Emergency procedures will cover containment, possible evacuation, decontamination and medical evaluation, supported by spill kits, personal protective equipment and clear emergency contacts.

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Waste measurement, landfill reduction and recycling

The University will operate an integrated waste-measurement system to track all major waste streams and to distinguish waste sent to landfill from waste diverted through recycling, reuse, composting and recovery.

Waste will be collected in color-coded, clearly labeled bins for wet/organic waste, dry recyclable waste and residual landfill waste, located in academic buildings, residences, food courts, laboratories and outdoor spaces.

Waste/garbage generated on campus will be weighed at regular intervals, with records maintained at central stores or sustainability data systems for compliance and analysis.

The University will publish annual waste-performance data, including total waste generated, per-capita waste, landfill share, recycling and composting rates, and trends over time, enabling benchmarking against national and global peers.

Based on these data, the University will set medium-term targets to reduce landfill disposal and increase recycling and recovery and will review progress regularly.

Training, awareness and continuous improvement

The University will provide regular training and induction programs on hazardous-materials management, waste segregation and emergency procedures, and will conduct awareness campaigns to promote responsible consumption, reuse and recycling.

Sustainability Unit will carry out inspections and audits of hazardous-material areas, waste-collection points and data records; non-compliance may lead to corrective actions, retraining or disciplinary measures under University regulations.

The policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or earlier if required by changes in law, technology or sustainability frameworks, to ensure that the University continues to improve its performance on hazardous-waste management, landfill reduction and recycling, and remains competitive in national and international sustainability assessments.

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