



Thunchath Ezhuthachan
Malayalam University

Waste Management Policy



Introduction

Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University is deeply committed to environmental stewardship and recognizes the pivotal role that responsible waste management plays in fostering sustainability. As an educational institution, the university not only focuses on academic excellence but also on embedding eco-friendly practices into campus life to reduce its ecological footprint and inspire future generations. This Waste Management Policy outlines a comprehensive strategy for the handling, segregation, recycling, and disposal of waste across the university, including its hostels. It aims to create a zero-waste campus by emphasizing the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle, and by eliminating single-use plastics in favor of sustainable alternatives. The policy also highlights the university's efforts to harness organic waste through biogas plants and composting, turning waste into renewable energy and nutrient-rich compost for campus gardens.

Through regular assessments and awareness programs led by the Green Protocol Officer, the university ensures the effective implementation of this policy, promoting a culture of environmental responsibility within the campus community. This Waste Management Policy is a testament to the university's broader commitment to protecting our environment and serves as a model for sustainable practices in higher education.

Waste Management Strategies on the Campus

Ban on Single-Use Plastics: The University takes a proactive stance in combating plastic pollution by strictly prohibiting the use of single-use plastics and disposable items within its premises. This ban encompasses plastic bags, straws, bottles, utensils, and any other items contributing to plastic waste. To reinforce this commitment, visible signage and 'Plastic-Free Campus' boards will be prominently displayed across campus facilities to raise awareness and encourage compliance with the policy.

Segregation at Source: Effective waste management begins with segregation at the source. To facilitate this process, the University will provide separate bins for the collection of food waste, paper, and plastics at strategic locations throughout the campus. By segregating waste at its point of origin, the university aims to streamline recycling efforts and minimize contamination of recyclable materials.

Biogas Plants: The University recognizes the potential of organic waste as a valuable resource for energy production and nutrient recycling. Suitable food waste generated within the campus and hostels will be diverted to biogas plants for anaerobic digestion. The biogas produced will be utilized as a renewable energy source in the university canteen and hostels, contributing to sustainable energy practices. Additionally, the nutrient-rich slurry byproduct generated from biogas production will be utilized as organic fertilizer in campus gardens, promoting soil health and fertility.

Composting: In addition to biogas production, the University will implement various composting methods to manage organic waste materials effectively. Composting units such as ring composting, bio bins, and Thumboormuzhi model composting units shall be utilized to process leaf litter and other organic waste which are not suitable for biogas production. The resulting compost will be utilized as a nutrient-rich soil amendment in campus gardens, supporting sustainable landscaping practices and enhancing soil health and biodiversity.

Recycling: The University is committed to maximizing the recycling of non-biodegradable waste materials to reduce waste and conserve valuable resources. Recycling initiatives will be implemented to manage materials such as paper, plastics, metals, and other recyclable materials generated within the campus premises. Efforts will be made to raise awareness and promote participation in recycling programs among students, faculty, and staff to ensure the effective diversion of recyclable materials from the waste stream.

Mini Material Collection Facility: To facilitate responsible disposal practices for non-biodegradable waste materials, The university shall establish a designated mini material collection facility on the campus. This facility will serve as a centralized location for the storage and sorting of non-biodegradable waste, promoting efficient waste management practices and facilitating recycling efforts.

Waste Disposal Agreements: The university shall establish agreements with local waste management authorities, including Haritha Karma Sena of Vettom Grama Panchayath or similar organizations, to ensure the regular collection and disposal of plastic waste from the campus premises. Additionally, arrangements will be made for the periodic removal and disposal of electronic waste and other hazardous materials in collaboration with local authorities, scrap dealers, and the Clean Kerala Company to ensure responsible disposal and recycling practices.

Utilization of Digital Platforms: Faculty and students shall be encouraged to utilize the Moodle platform or other digital platforms for the submission of assignments and coursework. By transitioning to digital submission methods, the University aims to minimize paper usage, reduce paper waste, and promote eco-friendly alternatives to traditional paper-based assignments.

Recycling of Answer Scripts: To effectively manage paper waste generated from examinations and assessments, the University will implement a system for the periodic sale of answer scripts to authorized vendors or recycling facilities. This initiative aims to promote responsible disposal practices by repurposing answer scripts for recycling or reuse in paper manufacturing processes.

Assessments of Waste Management Activities: Regular assessments are essential for continuous improvement and tracking progress toward waste reduction and recycling goals. The responsibility for overseeing these crucial evaluations rests with the Green Protocol Officer of the University. The Green Protocol Officer is tasked with conducting thorough assessments of waste management activities, analyzing data, and identifying areas for enhancement. Additionally, the Green Protocol Officer is entrusted with the duty to organize and conduct awareness programs for the university fraternity.