Duhok Polytechnic University

Clean Water and Sanitation Policy

Policy information	
Policy number	DPU-POL-EN-07
Policy category	Environment and Campus Operations
Version	1.1
Policy owner	Sustainable Development Goals Policy Development Committee
Responsible office	Directorate of Engineering and Maintenance, with the Deans of colleges and institutes
Approving authority	University Council
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Last review date	30/06/2025
Next review date	30/06/2027
Related policies	Smoke-Free Policy (DPU-POL-HS-03); Quality Education and Equal Access Policy (DPU-POL-AC-04)
SDG alignment	SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)

1. Policy statement

Duhok Polytechnic University (DPU) recognises that water is essential to life and to a sustainable future. Guided by United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6, DPU commits to providing safe drinking water and sanitation on all its campuses, measuring and reducing water use, preventing water pollution, maximising water reuse, and working with local communities and government to protect water resources in Duhok Governorate.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- ensure safe, reliable and free access to drinking water and clean sanitation on all campuses
- measure water use and improve water efficiency across the university
- treat wastewater and prevent polluted water from entering the water system
- maximise the reuse of water on campus
- raise awareness of water conservation among students, staff, visitors and the wider community
- cooperate with local communities, partners and government on water security

3. Scope

This policy applies to all DPU campuses, buildings, laboratories, workshops, dormitories and grounds in the Duhok, Zirka, Zakho, Shekhan, Amedi and Shingal areas, and to all students, staff, contractors and visitors. It covers new building projects, renovations and the day-to-day operation of university facilities.

4. Definitions

Term	Meaning
Inbound water	Water taken from the mains supply or extracted from wells, rivers or other sources for use by the university
Wastewater	Used water from toilets, kitchens, laboratories, workshops and other facilities
Greywater	Lightly used water from handbasins, showers and air-conditioning condensate, suitable for reuse after simple treatment
Water reuse	Using water more than once on campus, for example for irrigation or toilet flushing
Drought-tolerant plants	Native or adapted plants that need little or no irrigation in the local climate

5. Policy provisions

5.1 Water measurement

- All inbound water from the mains supply and from campus wells is measured through meters or water bills, on every campus.
- The Directorate of Engineering and Maintenance records monthly water use by campus and calculates the annual total and the use per person.
- Regular audits identify where water use can be reduced.

5.2 Free and safe drinking water

- Free drinking water is available to all students, staff and visitors through water coolers, dispensers or drinking stations in every university building.
- Drinking water systems are maintained by qualified staff and tested regularly for quality.

5.3 Sanitation and hygiene

- All buildings have clean, accessible toilets and handwashing stations with soap, cleaned regularly.
- Free menstrual hygiene products are available in selected restrooms.

5.4 Wastewater treatment

- Wastewater from every campus is collected through a sealed sewer network or septic system; no untreated wastewater is discharged to open land or watercourses.
- Where municipal treatment is not available, wastewater receives on-site primary treatment (septic tanks, grease traps or sedimentation) before discharge, and septic tanks are emptied by licensed contractors.
- DPU supports the Duhok municipal authorities in connecting campuses to municipal treatment as it becomes available.

5.5 Preventing water pollution

- Laboratory chemicals and hazardous liquids are never poured into drains; they are collected in labelled containers and disposed of through licensed contractors or the Duhok Environment Directorate.

- Fuel tanks and generators have bunds or drip trays, and used oil from workshops is collected for recycling.
- Spill kits are kept in laboratories and workshops, and each campus has an emergency procedure and a responsible person for spills and incidents that could pollute water.

5.6 Water-efficient buildings

- New buildings and renovations follow the DPU Water-Efficient Building Specification, based on the IFC EDGE standard for water efficiency (at least 20% less water use than a conventional building).
- The specification requires water-saving fixtures such as low-flow and sensor-activated taps and dual-flush toilets, and rainwater collection where feasible.

5.7 Water-wise landscaping

- Campus green areas are planted with drought-tolerant native and Mediterranean species, such as olive, pine and pistachio trees and low-water shrubs.
- Irrigation uses drip systems and fixed watering schedules, avoiding the hottest hours of the day.

5.8 Water reuse

- DPU maximises water reuse across the university, including reuse of air-conditioning condensate and laboratory cooling water and collected rainwater for irrigation.
- New buildings are designed to allow greywater reuse for irrigation or toilet flushing where feasible.
- The volume of water reused is measured and reported each year alongside total water use.

5.9 Awareness and community engagement

- Campaigns, signage and workshops promote conscious water use among students, staff and visitors on campus.
- DPU offers educational activities on water management, conservation and hygiene to local communities, schools and farmers.
- DPU supports water conservation off campus through community activities, research and student projects.
- Faculty and students are encouraged to research water purification, sanitation and sustainable water extraction technologies.
- DPU cooperates with local, regional and national government, including the Duhok Directorates of Water, Sewerage and Environment, on water security.
- Water, sanitation and sustainability topics are included in relevant environmental, health and engineering courses.

5.10 Emergency preparedness

- Procedures are in place to maintain water supply during outages and emergencies, including stored water and alternative supply arrangements.

6. Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
University Council	Approves the policy and reviews the annual water report

Role	Responsibility
SDG Policy Development Committee	Owns the policy; coordinates awareness campaigns and community engagement
Directorate of Engineering and Maintenance	Measures water use and reuse; maintains drinking water, sanitation and wastewater systems; applies the building specification
Deans of colleges and institutes	Apply the policy on their campuses; ensure safe handling of laboratory and workshop waste
Laboratory and workshop heads	Manage chemical and oil waste, spill kits and incident procedures
All students, staff and visitors	Use water responsibly and report leaks, faults and spills

7. Monitoring and reporting

1. The Directorate of Engineering and Maintenance compiles annual figures for total water use, water reused and use per person, by campus.
2. Drinking water quality test results and pollution incidents are recorded.
3. The SDG Policy Development Committee presents an annual water report to the University Council.
4. A summary of the water report is published on the DPU website.

8. Related documents

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- IFC EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies) green building standard
- Kurdistan Region and Iraqi regulations on water, sewerage and environmental protection
- DPU Institutional Strategic Plan for University Reform 2024–2027

9. Policy review

The policy is reviewed every two years, or earlier if national regulations change.

10. Version history

Version	Date	Description	Approved by
1.0	30/06/2024	First approval	University Council
1.1	30/06/2025	Revised	University Council

11. Approval

Approved by the University Council of Duhok Polytechnic University, created on 30/06/2024, and revised on 30/06/2025.