Duhok Polytechnic University

Responsible Consumption and Production Policy

Policy information	
Policy number	DPU-POL-EN-11
Policy category	Environment and Campus Operations
Version	1.1
Policy owner	Sustainable Development Goals Policy Development Committee
Responsible office	Directorate of Procurement and Stores, with the Directorate of Engineering and Maintenance
Approving authority	University Council
Approval date	30/06/2024
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Last review date	30/06/2025
Next review date	30/06/2027
Related policies	Clean Water and Sanitation Policy (DPU-POL-EN-07); Affordable and Clean Energy Policy (DPU-POL-EN-08); Decent Work and Economic Growth Policy (DPU-POL-AD-09)
SDG alignment	SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being)

1. Policy statement

Duhok Polytechnic University (DPU) is committed to leading by example in sustainable practices across all aspects of campus life. DPU sources food and supplies ethically, disposes of hazardous waste safely, measures and reduces its waste, minimises plastics and disposable items, and requires its contractors and suppliers to follow the same principles. DPU reports its progress publicly every year.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- reduce the environmental footprint of university operations
- promote sustainable resource use through ethical sourcing and responsible consumption
- ensure safe, legal disposal of hazardous waste
- measure waste generated, recycled and sent to landfill, and improve recycling
- minimise single-use plastics and disposable items
- extend these standards to outsourced services and the supply chain
- educate students, staff and the wider community on sustainability and waste reduction

3. Scope

This policy applies to all DPU campuses, colleges, institutes, dormitories, laboratories, workshops, cafeterias and offices; to all purchasing of food, supplies, equipment and services; to all university events; and to all contractors and suppliers working for DPU, including catering, cleaning, security, equipment, stationery and building contracts.

4. Definitions

Term	Meaning
Ethical sourcing	Buying goods and services from suppliers that respect workers' rights, local communities and the environment
Hazardous waste	Waste that can harm people or the environment, including laboratory chemicals, medical and biological waste, oils, batteries and electronic waste (e-waste)
Landfill waste	Waste disposed of in a municipal landfill or dumpsite rather than reused, recycled or composted
Single-use plastic	Plastic items designed to be used once and thrown away, such as bottles, bags, cups, straws and cutlery
Supply chain	All contractors, suppliers and outsourced service providers that deliver goods or services to DPU

5. Policy provisions

5.1 Ethical sourcing of food and supplies

- DPU buys food, office supplies and equipment from suppliers that follow ethical and sustainable practices.
- Preference is given to local, seasonal, organic, Fair Trade-certified or environmentally responsible products, and to energy-efficient equipment.
- Supplier contracts are reviewed for environmental and social responsibility, including workers' rights as set out in the Decent Work and Economic Growth Policy.

5.2 Hazardous waste disposal

- DPU follows strict procedures for hazardous waste, including laboratory chemicals, medical and biological waste, oils, batteries and e-waste.
- Hazardous waste is separated at source, stored in labelled containers and never mixed with general waste or poured into drains.
- Disposal is carried out through licensed waste contractors or in coordination with the Duhok Directorate of Environment and health authorities.
- Staff and students who handle hazardous materials are trained in safety and waste procedures.

5.3 Waste measurement and management

- DPU measures the amount of waste generated, recycled and sent to landfill each year, in metric tonnes, by campus.
- Waste is separated where facilities allow, and paper, cardboard, plastic, metal and e-waste are sent for recycling.
- Regular waste audits identify opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle.

5.4 Minimising plastic use

- Single-use plastics are being phased out across campus, including in cafeterias, events and office supplies.
- Reusable, refillable or biodegradable alternatives are promoted, and free drinking water is provided to reduce bottled water.
- Awareness campaigns encourage the university community to reduce plastic use.

5.5 Minimising disposable items

- DPU encourages reusable water bottles, cups and containers.
- University events and catering avoid disposable cutlery, plates and packaging wherever possible.
- Digital documents, electronic forms and online systems are used to reduce printing and paper use.

5.6 Outsourced services and the supply chain

- This policy applies to all outsourced services, including catering, cafeterias, cleaning and waste collection, and to suppliers of equipment, stationery and building works.
- Tenders and contracts require contractors and suppliers to follow DPU's standards on ethical sourcing, hazardous waste, waste measurement and plastic reduction.
- Compliance is checked when contracts are awarded and renewed.

5.7 Green events and campus operations

- University events are planned to be low-waste, with digital invitations, minimal printing and sustainable catering.
- Energy-efficient lighting, motion sensors and water-saving devices are installed in facilities, as set out in the Affordable and Clean Energy and Clean Water and Sanitation policies.

5.8 Education, research and community engagement

- Courses and student projects include environmental stewardship and responsible consumption.
- Faculty and students are encouraged to research sustainable technologies and practices.
- DPU works with local schools, NGOs and government agencies to promote responsible consumption.

5.9 Sustainability reporting

- DPU publishes an annual sustainability report on its website, covering waste, recycling, energy, water and progress on its SDG policies.

6. Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
University Council	Approves the policy and the annual sustainability report
SDG Policy Development Committee	Owns the policy; coordinates awareness campaigns and the sustainability report
Directorate of Procurement and Stores	Applies ethical sourcing and supply chain requirements in tenders and contracts
Directorate of Engineering and Maintenance	Measures waste; manages recycling and waste contractors
Laboratory and workshop heads	Manage hazardous waste and train users
Deans of colleges and institutes	Apply the policy on their campuses, including at events
Contractors and suppliers	Comply with the policy in services delivered to DPU

Role	Responsibility
All students and staff	Reduce waste, separate recyclables and avoid single-use items

7. Monitoring and reporting

1. The Directorate of Engineering and Maintenance records waste generated, recycled and sent to landfill (in metric tonnes) and hazardous waste disposed of, each year.
2. The Directorate of Procurement and Stores reports on supplier compliance with the policy.
3. The SDG Policy Development Committee prepares the annual sustainability report for the University Council and publishes it on the DPU website.

8. Related documents

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- Kurdistan Region and Iraqi environmental protection and waste management regulations
- DPU Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, and Decent Work and Economic Growth policies
- DPU Institutional Strategic Plan for University Reform 2024–2027

9. Policy review

The policy is reviewed every two years, or earlier if environmental 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.

