



### Policy Name

## Al-Ma'moun University Waste Recycling Program

### Policy Information

Issue Date	2023
Revision Date	June, 2024
Evaluation Frequency	Yearly
Level of Confidentiality	Public
Policy Approval Date	December 30, 2024

### Policy Statement

This program aims to significantly **reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills**, promote the **recycling of recoverable materials**, and foster awareness about **sustainable waste management** within and beyond the university community. It directly contributes to **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**.

### Key Program Objectives:

- **Reduce:** Lower the total quantity of waste generated at the university at the source.
- **Reuse:** Encourage the reuse of materials whenever possible before considering recycling.
- **Recycle:** Increase the proportion of recyclable materials properly collected and processed.
- **Safe and Responsible Disposal:** Ensure the safe and responsible disposal of non-recyclable or hazardous waste.
- **Awareness and Education:** Build a culture of sustainable waste management among all members of the university community.
- **Integration into Research and Education:** Utilize the university as a living model and laboratory for research into waste management solutions.

### Proposed Program Components and Initiatives:

1. **Waste Audit and Characterization:**
  - Conduct an initial study to identify the types and quantities of waste generated in different departments (offices, classrooms, laboratories, cafeterias, student housing).
  - Categorize waste into recyclables (paper, plastic, metals, glass), organic, electronic, and hazardous.

## 2. **Waste Collection and Recycling Infrastructure:**

- **Segregated Waste Bins:** Provide clearly marked and color-coded bins for sorted waste (paper, plastic, metals, glass) across the campus (buildings, corridors, cafeterias, laboratories).
- **Central Collection Points:** Establish central collection points for e-waste, batteries, and hazardous waste (such as laboratory chemicals).
- **Partnerships with Recycling Companies:** Contract specialized companies for the collection and processing of recyclable materials and special wastes.

## 3. **Waste Reduction and Reuse Initiatives:**

- **Reduce Single-Use Plastics:** Encourage the use of reusable cups and bottles, and minimize the provision of plastic bags.
- **Smart Printing:** Promote double-sided printing and reduce unnecessary printing.
- **Digitization:** Transition towards digital documents and electronic communication to reduce paper consumption.
- **Furniture and Equipment Reuse:** Create a system for reusing office furniture and equipment between departments before disposal.
- **Organic Waste Composting:** Investigate the feasibility of composting organic waste from cafeterias and gardens for use in university green spaces.

## 4. **Awareness and Education:**

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Launch regular awareness campaigns for students and staff on the importance of waste segregation and proper recycling.
- **Workshops and Training Courses:** Organize workshops on sustainable waste management and introduce recyclable and non-recyclable materials.
- **Signage and Posters:** Place clear instructional signs on waste bins to guide users on proper segregation.
- **Curriculum Integration:** Encourage relevant faculties and departments (e.g., Environmental Engineering, Sciences) to integrate waste management concepts into their courses and research projects.

## 5. **Research, Development, and Partnerships:**

- **Research Projects:** Support research focused on innovative waste management solutions in the Iraqi context, such as new recycling technologies or waste-to-energy initiatives.
- **Collaboration with Municipalities and Government Entities:** Work with local authorities to improve city-level waste management systems and contribute to national policies.
- **Reporting and Transparency:** Publish regular reports on the university's waste management performance (quantities of waste generated, recycling rate, etc.).

## Expected Benefits:

- **Reduced Environmental Impact:** Lower the amount of waste reaching landfills and decrease associated pollution.
- **Resource Conservation:** Reusing and recycling materials reduces the need to consume new resources.
- **Financial Savings:** Reduce long-term waste disposal costs and potentially generate revenue from selling recycled materials.
- **Enhanced Environmental Awareness:** Build a generation of environmentally conscious individuals who are responsible for their consumption habits.
- **University Reputation:** Strengthen Al-Ma'moun University's position as a leading institution in sustainable practices and social responsibility.