The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Waste Management Policy

General Statement

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) upholds the principles of waste management and is committed to the proper handling and disposal of all wastes generated on campus and to minimizing the disposal of waste to landfill. All waste handling practices shall comply with relevant legislation and codes of practice and shall have no harmful effect on the environment and human health.

Goals

The goals of the policy are:

1. To apply the 5R Waste Management Hierarchy principles – Rethink, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – to minimize waste generation, ensure responsible disposal, and send waste to landfill only as a last resort;
2. To enhance general awareness of the importance of reducing waste generation and disposal to landfill;
3. To provide adequate and appropriate facilities on campus to facilitate source separation and waste recycling; and
4. To achieve quantifiable management goals that help to drive overall performance.

Implementation

PolyU will:

1. Strive to reduce waste generation and disposal to landfill through green procurement practices, administrative approaches and awareness enhancement.

2. Explore every reusing opportunity and collaborate with external organisations and through social learning projects in reusing/recycling unwanted goods, e.g., electrical appliances, to minimise waste generation. Additionally, PolyU will put emphasis on life-cycle thinking in waste management.

3. Request its consultants and contractors to follow similar practices in their operations to reduce waste generation and promote reuse/recycling regarding building design, construction site and catering operation.

4. Measure the quantities of waste recycled and disposed of in landfills to obtain a comprehensive understanding of waste management performance. This data will subsequently be utilised to monitor progress and strengthen our waste reduction strategies.

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Currently, PolyU encourages the use of information technology to promote and disseminate information. It also seeks to reduce as far as practicable the production of, for example, such waste-creating materials as printed matter and souvenirs, and does its best to maximise the recyclability of all materials used, through such promotional initiatives as its “Bring Your Own” (BYO) culture. The University also encourages staff and students to use fewer disposable items such as plastic bags, cutlery and food containers, and buy less bottled water.

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