

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Environmental Policy

General Statement

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) pledges to provide a good environment for her staff and students, and to ensure that her activities are complying with relevant legal requirements and conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

PolyU also cherishes campus sustainability. The guiding principles for achieving sustainable excellence and nurturing environmental awareness in future generations are set out in the Sustainability Policy.

Goal

The goals of this Environmental Policy are:

1. To ensure that all activities undertaken in PolyU are complying with all relevant legal requirements on environmental protection and good practices recommended by governmental departments and authorities;
2. To reduce and prevent the introduction of pollutants into the environment through the implementation of environmental management system; and
3. To communicate and educate all stakeholders, including staff members and students, on legal compliance, environmental protection and pollution prevention issues.

Implementation

1. Role of Health, Safety and Environment Office (HSEO) on Legal Compliance

HSEO is responsible to advise PolyU on matters concerning about new development in environmental law and regulations, and to monitor the compliance efforts of all academic and non-academic departments in PolyU.

2. Environmental Impact Assessment for Campus Development Projects

To minimize the impact on the environment, major development projects managed by Campus Development Office (CDO) in PolyU should include an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted by consultants recognized by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). The main purpose of the EIA is to minimize the impact of the development on the general environment. All developments can only be preceded if the result of the EIA shows that they would not cause substantial deterioration to the environment and at the same time, relevant environmental monitoring and auditing mechanism is proposed for implementation.

3. Waste Management

3.1 Chemical Waste

- HSEO will oversee the management of chemical waste on campus to ensure the compliance of relevant regulations. Also, HSEO will be responsible for the management of the Central Chemical Waste Stores and the overall coordination of chemical waste collection by licensed chemical waste collectors.
- Chemical waste producing departments are required to dispose their chemical waste in the proper chemical waste containers supplied by licensed chemical waste collectors. HSEO will provide advice, where necessary, on proper packaging, labeling, transportation and storage of chemical waste.
- The arrangement of the disposal of chemical waste generated by third parties such as contractors should be laid down in the contracts to clearly delineate their roles and responsibilities.

3.2 Clinical Waste

- HSEO will oversee the management of clinical waste on campus to ensure the compliance of relevant regulations, while clinical waste producing departments should obtain premises code for the disposal of clinical waste. Clinical waste producing department should dispose their waste into designated clinical waste bags or containers, and kept properly in the workplace until being collected by a licensed clinical waste collector. HSEO will provide advice, where necessary, on proper packaging, labeling, transportation and storage of clinical waste.
- Besides, HSEO is responsible for the coordination of clinical waste collection by a licensed clinical waste collector regularly or upon request.

3.3 Radioactive Waste

- HSEO will oversee the management of radioactive waste on campus to ensure the compliance of relevant regulations. HSEO also holds valid license for the storage of radioactive waste and responsible for the management of the Central Radioactive Waste Store.
- Upon request by radioactive waste producing departments, HSEO will coordinate the collection and delivery of radioactive waste to the Central Radioactive Waste Store.

4. Air Emissions

All new activities within PolyU that may produce air pollutant must be notified to HSEO before the commencement of such activities. By definition of the EPD, air pollutant means any solid, particulate, liquid, vapor, objectionable odor or gaseous substance emitted into the atmosphere. HSEO would render technical support on monitoring and provide advice as necessary.

5. Noise Control

- Any PolyU premises being a construction site or having construction works as defined in the Noise Control Ordinance must comply with all requirements stated there in. Respective project manager for the activity is responsible to ensure that contractors must abide by the law.
- All air compressors used in PolyU, either by departments or by contractors, must carry noise emission labels issued by the EPD. Owners or users of the equipment must ensure that the appropriate noise emission labels are available and valid, otherwise the equipment must not be used.
- Construction work using percussive piling must have the appropriate noise emission license issued by EPD before the process can be carried out. Respective project manager is responsible for such legal compliance.

6. Wastewater Discharge

Testing for waste water discharge from PolyU would be conducted periodically by the license owner i.e. Facilities Management Office (FMO) to ensure that the discharge standard stipulated by the authority has not been exceeded. HSEO would review the results of water test to ensure that all guidelines and standards are met, and liaise with relevant parties for any remedial actions deemed necessary.