



POLICY ON MARINE POLLUTION REDUCTION

Termez State University

Policy on Marine Pollution Reduction

Adopted under the authority of the Charter of Termez State University and in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Environmental Protection” (No. 754-II, 2002), the Law “On Water and Water Use” (No. ZRU-400, 2013) Termez State University hereby adopts this Policy on Marine Pollution Reduction, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water.

I. General Provisions

Recognizing the global urgency of environmental degradation and the direct impact of human activity on aquatic ecosystems, Termez State University adopts this Policy on Marine Pollution Reduction to strengthen its institutional responsibility toward environmental protection and sustainable development. This policy is established in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law “On Environmental Protection” (1992, as amended), the Law “On the Use and Protection of Water Resources” (1993, as amended). It also draws upon the guiding principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 14: “Life Below Water.”

Termez State University, as one of the leading higher education institutions of the Republic, recognizes its duty to promote sustainable environmental practices through education, research, and community service. The policy reflects the University’s belief that scientific institutions bear a moral and civic obligation to reduce pollution, preserve biodiversity, and ensure that future generations inherit a safe and thriving natural environment.

The overarching purpose of this document is to define a consistent framework for the prevention and reduction of marine and water pollution associated with the University’s operations, research activities, and partnerships. It establishes a

foundation for the management of waste, the responsible use of resources, and the minimization of harmful discharges into the environment. By doing so, the University commits to fostering an institutional culture rooted in ecological integrity, transparency, and shared responsibility among all members of the academic community.

This policy shall apply to all colleges, faculties, departments, research centers, and administrative units within Termez State University. It extends to all activities conducted on campus and beyond, including those related to scientific expeditions, industrial collaborations, fieldwork, and community engagement projects that may have environmental implications. The University affirms that every employee, student, and partner shares collective responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for upholding the values it embodies.

The Policy on Marine Pollution Reduction represents not merely a regulatory measure but a declaration of Termez State University's ethical commitment to a sustainable future. It serves as an integral part of the University's broader environmental governance strategy, designed to ensure compliance with national legislation and international environmental standards. The University views this document as a living policy—one that will evolve through continuous review, scientific advancement, and collaboration with governmental, academic, and civil partners to reflect the best available knowledge and practices in marine and water ecosystem protection.

II. Objectives and Scope

The primary objective of this Policy is to ensure that Termez State University takes a proactive and systematic approach to reducing the generation and release of pollutants that may harm marine and aquatic ecosystems, both directly and indirectly. The University seeks to integrate the principles of environmental sustainability into all aspects of its academic, administrative, and operational activities. This includes the

management of water resources, laboratory and research practices, waste disposal, construction, energy use, and community engagement.

The policy aims to contribute meaningfully to Uzbekistan's national environmental strategies and international commitments under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, it supports SDG 14 — “Life Below Water” — by aligning the University's research, education, and outreach activities with efforts to protect marine and riverine ecosystems, prevent pollution from land-based sources, and promote the sustainable use of aquatic resources.

This policy applies to all members of the University community, including administrative staff, academic personnel, students, contractors, and visiting researchers. It also extends to the University's partnerships with external organizations, local communities, and industries. Any project, collaboration, or initiative undertaken in the name of the University shall adhere to the environmental standards set forth herein. The policy covers all forms of pollution that may result from University operations, including but not limited to wastewater discharge, chemical residues, plastics, laboratory waste, and any other contaminants that could enter waterways and ultimately affect marine environments.

Through the implementation of this policy, Termez State University seeks to cultivate environmental consciousness across all levels of its institutional life. The University shall promote a spirit of shared responsibility, encouraging all members of its community to participate in marine protection initiatives and to consider environmental consequences in decision-making processes. The ultimate goal is to create a sustainable academic environment that serves as a model for other higher education institutions in Uzbekistan and beyond.

III. Guiding Principles

This Policy is founded on a set of guiding principles that reflect both national priorities and international environmental ethics. At the core lies the principle of prevention — the understanding that it is more effective to prevent pollution than to address its consequences after harm has been done. The University therefore commits to adopting preventive measures at every stage of its operations, from procurement and waste management to infrastructure development and research design.

Transparency and accountability form another essential foundation of this policy. Termez State University believes that environmental integrity requires openness in both monitoring and reporting. The University will maintain transparent systems for evaluating pollution sources, water usage, and waste management, ensuring that data is regularly reviewed and shared with relevant authorities and stakeholders.

The principle of continuous improvement guides the long-term application of this policy. Environmental protection is not a static goal but an evolving process that must respond to new scientific evidence, technological progress, and regulatory changes. The University shall therefore review and update its practices periodically to remain aligned with the latest environmental standards.

Furthermore, the principle of community engagement underpins the University's environmental vision. Marine pollution reduction cannot be achieved in isolation, and Termez State University recognizes the importance of working collaboratively with local communities, government bodies, and international organizations. By promoting partnerships and educational outreach, the University seeks to raise awareness and inspire collective action for the protection of aquatic ecosystems.

Finally, the principle of sustainability in education and research emphasizes that knowledge generation and academic excellence must serve humanity's ecological well-being. Every educational program and scientific project at Termez State

University should contribute, directly or indirectly, to the understanding and preservation of the environment. Through teaching, research, and innovation, the University aims to empower future generations to become responsible stewards of natural resources.

IV. Commitments and Implementation Framework

Termez State University affirms its institutional commitment to implementing this policy through practical, enforceable, and measurable actions. The University shall establish clear administrative responsibilities to ensure that marine pollution reduction becomes an integral part of its governance structure. The Rector, acting through the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, shall oversee the execution of this policy, supported by designated committees within each faculty and research unit.

The University commits to maintaining high environmental standards in all facilities, ensuring that water, air, and soil quality on and around the campus meet both national and international benchmarks. Continuous monitoring of wastewater systems, laboratory effluents, and waste management processes shall be carried out to detect potential pollutants. Preventive actions will be implemented whenever there is a risk of contamination or non-compliance.

In alignment with the “Green Economy” goals declared for 2024, the University shall prioritize investments in eco-friendly technologies and infrastructure. This includes the modernization of laboratory systems to minimize chemical discharge, the installation of wastewater treatment and filtration facilities, and the adoption of energy-efficient equipment and digital monitoring systems to track water and waste flows.

The University will ensure that environmental protection measures are integrated into all contracts and agreements with external service providers, construction firms, and

suppliers. Partners will be required to comply with sustainable procurement standards and avoid the use of harmful materials or practices that could lead to marine pollution. Termez State University also pledges to promote environmental education as a cross-cutting theme in its academic programs. Courses and research projects addressing marine pollution, water resource management, and sustainable development will be supported and expanded. Faculty members are encouraged to incorporate environmental perspectives into their curricula, while research centers will focus on developing innovative, evidence-based solutions to pollution control.

Beyond campus boundaries, the University shall extend its environmental responsibility to the surrounding communities. Through public lectures, outreach programs, and collaborative initiatives, Termez State University will raise awareness about the causes and consequences of marine pollution and engage citizens in sustainable practices. These efforts will emphasize the connection between local water management and global marine health, encouraging a shared sense of duty to protect Uzbekistan's rivers and the transboundary ecosystems they sustain.

Finally, the University commits to periodic review and reporting on the implementation of this policy. Comprehensive evaluations will be conducted annually to assess progress, identify challenges, and propose necessary revisions. These reports will form part of the University's broader sustainability agenda and will be submitted to relevant governmental and academic bodies for transparency and accountability.

V. Education, Awareness, and Community Engagement

Termez State University recognizes that true environmental change arises not only from administrative action but also from public consciousness. Therefore, the University shall ensure that every student, faculty member, and staff member develops an understanding of the causes and consequences of pollution, as well as the means of preventing it.

Environmental education will be integrated into academic curricula at all levels, ensuring that each discipline—whether in natural sciences, social sciences, or humanities—addresses sustainability and environmental responsibility from its own perspective. Research-based learning and student-led initiatives shall be encouraged to promote innovation and civic responsibility.

The University shall organize regular seminars, open lectures, and awareness campaigns devoted to marine and freshwater protection. These events will highlight issues such as waste reduction, clean water management, plastic alternatives, and responsible consumption. Each year, the University will observe a “Clean Water and Marine Protection Week” to foster cooperation among students, local residents, and regional organizations.

TerSU shall also strengthen ties with surrounding communities. It will work with schools, mahallas, and local enterprises in the Surkhandarya region to promote better waste management, encourage the use of biodegradable materials, and reduce plastic pollution along waterways that feed into larger river systems. Through these efforts, the University aims to cultivate environmental stewardship among future generations and serve as a model of civic engagement in environmental protection.

VI. Collaboration and Partnership

Pollution reduction is a shared responsibility that extends beyond the boundaries of the campus. For this reason, Termez State University shall continuously seek collaboration with national institutions, regional authorities, and international organizations.

At the national level, the University shall coordinate with the State Committee of Ecology and Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Water Resources, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation. These collaborations will

enable the University to remain aligned with national environmental policies, research priorities, and regulatory developments.

Regionally, the University will establish cooperative relationships with local governments, water management organizations, and non-governmental groups to support joint initiatives for cleaning and monitoring river ecosystems. The University will also develop academic partnerships with neighboring universities within Uzbekistan and abroad, particularly those located near river basins or coastal areas, to exchange data, research findings, and technological innovations in marine pollution reduction.

At the international level, TerSU will engage with organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, and the Global Water Partnership to participate in projects that strengthen sustainable water and marine management. Through conferences, internships, and joint research programs, the University will ensure that its students and researchers contribute actively to the global dialogue on ocean and river protection.

These partnerships are not limited to scientific cooperation; they also represent a shared ethical commitment. Every collaboration shall uphold transparency, mutual respect, and the principle of contributing to global well-being through local action.

VII. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting

To ensure accountability and effectiveness, Termez State University shall establish a system of regular monitoring and evaluation of its marine pollution reduction efforts. The system will be administered by the Marine and Water Pollution Reduction Committee, which shall conduct periodic environmental audits of the University's operations.

The audits will examine waste management efficiency, water quality control, air and noise pollution levels, and the overall environmental performance of university units.

Findings from these evaluations shall be compiled into an annual Environmental and Marine Pollution Report, submitted to the Rector and shared with the University community.

The University will apply both quantitative indicators, such as reductions in waste generation or water consumption, and qualitative assessments, such as levels of community awareness and engagement. This dual approach ensures that progress is measured not only through data but also through the cultural transformation taking place within the institution.

Whenever significant environmental risks or violations are identified, corrective measures shall be implemented without delay. The University administration shall have the authority to review and revise internal regulations, enforce compliance, and, when necessary, impose disciplinary measures for serious breaches of environmental standards.

The results of environmental monitoring will also be communicated to local and national authorities to support regional data collection and policy alignment. Transparency in reporting will reinforce public confidence and encourage broader cooperation with external stakeholders.

VIII. Policy Review, Enforcement, and Final Provisions

The Policy on Marine Pollution Reduction shall be reviewed every three years, or earlier if deemed necessary by the University Academic Council or as required by amendments to national environmental laws or international conventions. The review process will include consultations with faculty, researchers, students, administrative units, and external experts in environmental science and policy.

Implementation of this Policy shall be coordinated under the direct supervision of the Rector of Termez State University. The Rector shall ensure that all academic and administrative departments comply with the provisions contained herein, that

Entry into force and review

The policy is effective from 1 January 2025.

It shall be reviewed every three years, or within six months following any relevant legislative change.

Responsible unit and contact

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