



TERMEZ STATE UNIVERSITY

Policy on Waste Management, Resource Minimization, and Sustainable Practices

PREAMBLE

Termez State University (hereafter “the University” or “TerSU”) recognizes that the responsible management of waste, reduction of resource consumption, and minimization of environmental impact are fundamental to sustainable development and institutional responsibility.

The University affirms its commitment to ensuring that all campus operations, academic activities, and administrative processes are conducted in a manner consistent with the **Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, national environmental legislation, and internationally recognized standards, including the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation, and SDG 13 – Climate Action)**.

This policy aligns with Uzbekistan’s **Law on Environmental Protection (1992, revised 2021)**, the **Law on Sanitary-Epidemiological Safety (2017)**, and regulations concerning hazardous materials, waste management, and sustainable resource use. It also incorporates global best practices recommended by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** and the **Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**.

TerSU acknowledges the environmental responsibility of higher education institutions and recognizes that adopting sustainable practices contributes to operational efficiency, educational excellence, and the University’s leadership in sustainability.

PURPOSE

This policy establishes TerSU’s principles and procedures for:

1. The **safe handling, disposal, and monitoring of hazardous waste** generated by laboratories, workshops, and administrative activities;
2. Measuring, tracking, and minimizing **waste sent to landfill** while maximizing recycling and reuse;
3. Reducing the use of **plastic materials**, particularly single-use plastics, across all university operations;
4. Limiting the consumption of **disposable items**, including paper, cups, and utensils, through digitalization and sustainable alternatives; and
5. Integrating sustainability into educational activities, practical training, and campus operations.

By formalizing these commitments, TerSU aims to reduce its environmental footprint, comply with national and international standards, and provide students and staff with practical opportunities to engage in sustainable practices.

SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This policy applies to:

- All faculties, departments, research laboratories, and administrative units of TerSU;
- Employees, academic staff, research personnel, students, contractors, and service providers operating within University premises;
- Waste streams generated from laboratory work, administrative offices, student services, and campus facilities; and
- Outsourced service providers, including cleaning, catering, maintenance, and recycling contractors.

The policy governs all stages of waste management — generation, collection, storage, treatment, disposal, and reporting — and covers all resources subject to reduction, including paper, plastics, disposable items, and hazardous materials.

POLICY STATEMENT

Termez State University is committed to adopting environmentally responsible practices across all campus operations. The University shall ensure that:

- **Hazardous materials** are stored, handled, and disposed of according to legal and international safety standards to prevent contamination, injury, or environmental harm;
- All **waste is classified, measured, and monitored** to quantify landfill diversion, recycling rates, and the effectiveness of reduction programs;
- **Plastic consumption** is minimized through the elimination of single-use items in canteens, laboratories, and offices, and by promoting reusable, biodegradable, or recyclable alternatives;
- **Paper usage** is minimized via the implementation of fully electronic document management systems, including platforms for correspondence, recruitment, KPI reporting, and student services;
- Educational and research activities incorporate sustainability principles, providing students with opportunities to learn and practice **waste sorting, recycling, and resource efficiency**.

TerSU recognizes that sustainable resource use is not only an operational priority but also an educational responsibility, preparing students to become environmentally conscious professionals.

LEGAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

This policy is implemented in accordance with the following national and international regulations:

National Framework:

- **Law on Environmental Protection (1992, revised 2021)** – governing environmental management and pollution control;
- **Law on Sanitary-Epidemiological Safety (2017)** – addressing safe handling and disposal of hazardous substances;
- **State Waste Management Regulations** – including requirements for waste segregation, storage, recycling, and landfill reporting;
- **Labour Code of Uzbekistan (2022)** – for safe working conditions in laboratories and operational facilities.

International Framework:

- **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** – particularly SDG 6, SDG 12, and SDG 13;
- **Basel Convention (1989)** – for the control and safe disposal of hazardous materials;
- **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** – promoting resource efficiency, circular economy principles, and reduction of single-use plastics;
- **ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standards** – guiding operational practices for sustainability, monitoring, and continuous improvement.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Principles

TerSU shall adopt a “**cradle-to-grave**” **approach** for hazardous materials, including chemical reagents, laboratory solvents, and electronic waste. The University prioritizes risk minimization, containment, and safe disposal procedures to prevent harm to human health and the environment.

Procedures

- Hazardous materials must be clearly labeled and stored in designated areas with controlled access;

- Only trained personnel shall handle hazardous substances, following strict safety protocols;
- Waste disposal contracts shall be limited to licensed and certified companies capable of neutralizing or recycling hazardous materials;
- Incidents, spills, or exposure events must be reported immediately to the **Environmental Safety Office**, and corrective actions documented;
- Regular audits shall ensure compliance with Uzbek law and international safety standards.

Education and Training

Laboratory staff and students involved in chemical, technological, or biological work shall receive mandatory training in hazardous waste management, including disposal, emergency response, and environmental protection principles.

Landfill Reduction and Recycling Practices

Termez State University is committed to minimizing the amount of waste sent to landfills and ensuring that all recyclable materials are properly processed. The University has implemented a comprehensive system for measuring and monitoring waste streams across all campuses. Waste generation data are collected continuously, including office waste, laboratory residues, canteen disposables, and packaging materials from university suppliers. The data are analyzed to calculate the volume of material diverted from landfills and to evaluate the efficiency of recycling programs.

Recyclable materials, including paper, plastics, metals, and electronic components, are separated at the point of generation and transported to certified recycling facilities. The University collaborates with the TexnoBioEko enterprise to ensure that plastic waste is collected, processed, and disposed of without causing harm to the environment. Waste management practices are subject to periodic internal audits, and results are reported annually to the Rector and the University Council. Continuous improvements are implemented based on audit findings, with a focus on increasing recycling rates, minimizing residual landfill contributions, and achieving sustainable campus operations.

PAPER USE MINIMIZATION AND DIGITALIZATION INITIATIVES

Termez State University has implemented a robust program to minimize the use of paper in administrative and academic processes. The primary objective is to replace paper-based documentation with fully electronic systems, ensuring operational efficiency while significantly reducing environmental impact. The University has adopted electronic correspondence and document management through the system,

enabling all communication with governmental and partner organizations in electronic form.

For human resources management, including recruitment and vacancy announcements, the University utilizes the electronic platform allowing candidates to submit all required documents digitally. Many of these documents are obtained directly from the Unified Public Services Portal, further reducing paper use. The integration of digital systems extends to the assessment of staff performance and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Students also benefit from paperless services for admissions, certificates, scholarship applications, accommodation, transfers, and academic documentation. Through the “Single Interactive State Services Portal”, students can complete administrative procedures without submitting paper forms. The University has integrated additional electronic platforms for postgraduate coordination, research document management, and innovation dissemination, including. These systems support research, conference planning, and intellectual property management in a fully digital format.

The Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) facilitates the monitoring of student progress, courses, assessments, and examinations, ensuring that information is exchanged digitally among universities, ministries, and relevant institutions.

PLASTIC REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES

Termez State University maintains a strong commitment to reducing the use of plastics across all campuses. The University has eliminated single-use plastic containers in canteens, laboratories, and office facilities, replacing them with environmentally friendly, biodegradable, or recyclable alternatives. To further reduce plastic consumption, the University provides clean drinking water through permanent installations, eliminating the need for bottled water.

Educational initiatives, including mobile workshops, trainings, and seminars, promote awareness of the environmental and health impacts of plastic. Students participate in practical programs for collecting, sorting, and recycling plastic waste, gaining experience in monitoring recycling efficiency and understanding sustainable material management.

MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Termez State University recognizes that laboratories, workshops, and technical facilities generate hazardous materials, including chemical reagents, solvents, biological specimens, and electronic waste. The University is committed to ensuring that these substances are handled, stored, and disposed of in strict compliance with

national regulations and internationally accepted standards. Hazardous materials must be clearly labeled and segregated from general waste to prevent contamination, accidents, and environmental harm.

Only personnel trained in hazardous materials management are authorized to handle such substances. The University provides regular training sessions for staff and students involved in laboratory work, research, or maintenance activities, ensuring they are familiar with safe handling procedures, spill response, and emergency protocols. These sessions are supplemented with written instructions, risk assessments, and monitoring checklists to reinforce compliance.

Hazardous waste generated by University operations is collected and stored in secure, designated areas until it can be safely transported to licensed disposal or recycling facilities. TerSU collaborates exclusively with certified companies capable of neutralizing, recycling, or disposing of hazardous materials according to Uzbekistan's environmental and waste management legislation, as well as international safety standards. All disposal activities are documented and subject to internal audits.

WASTE MINIMIZATION IN OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The University implements a hierarchy of waste management, prioritizing reduction at the source, reuse, and recycling before disposal. Administrative and academic units are instructed to limit unnecessary paper printing, packaging, and single-use materials. All correspondence, internal approvals, and reporting are conducted digitally wherever possible.

Campus services, including student applications, human resources documentation, and research submissions, are integrated into digital platforms. These systems minimize paper use, streamline operational efficiency, and facilitate data tracking for sustainability reporting. The University also encourages suppliers and contractors to adopt resource-efficient practices, including the use of recyclable packaging and delivery methods that reduce material waste.

Periodic reviews of operational processes identify opportunities to further reduce resource consumption. The University monitors waste output quantitatively, including both paper and plastics, and evaluates the effectiveness of reduction initiatives. Results inform future policy updates, educational programs, and operational decisions to maintain continual progress toward sustainability targets.

MONITORING, REPORTING, AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Termez State University maintains a comprehensive monitoring system to ensure the effectiveness of its waste management and minimization policies. All waste streams,

including hazardous materials, plastics, paper, and disposable items, are recorded and measured to assess volumes diverted from landfills and quantities recycled. The Human Resources Department, in coordination with the Environmental Safety Office, collects and analyzes this data regularly, producing reports for the Rector and University Council.

Annual sustainability reports summarize performance metrics, including reductions in paper and plastic usage, hazardous waste disposal compliance, and recycling rates. These reports are used to evaluate the success of current initiatives and to set future targets. Feedback from faculty, staff, and students is incorporated into policy refinement, operational improvements, and educational programs.

Continuous improvement is guided by national and international standards. The University aligns monitoring practices with Uzbekistan's environmental regulations and with the principles outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Compliance audits are conducted regularly to ensure that all operational units adhere to the policy, and corrective actions are implemented when deficiencies are identified.

INTEGRATION INTO EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Termez State University integrates sustainable waste management and resource minimization into educational programs and research activities. Students enrolled in ecology, chemistry, technological education, and geography programs actively participate in practical training related to sorting, recycling, and monitoring waste streams. These initiatives provide hands-on experience, enhance environmental awareness, and contribute to the University's operational sustainability.

Research projects, conferences, and innovation showcases are conducted using digital platforms and paperless systems, ensuring that academic activities align with sustainability objectives.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The University prioritizes the health and safety of its students, staff, and visitors in all waste management practices. Hazardous waste storage, handling, and disposal comply with established occupational health guidelines. Spill response procedures, personal protective equipment requirements, and environmental safeguards are systematically enforced across all laboratories and operational facilities.

Environmental protection is ensured through proper containment of hazardous substances, reduction of plastics and disposable items, and continuous promotion of recycling practices. By adopting these measures, the University minimizes pollution,

conserves resources, and reinforces a culture of responsibility toward natural ecosystems.

MINIMIZATION OF DISPOSABLE ITEMS

Termez State University recognizes that disposable items, including single-use utensils, cups, and packaging materials, contribute significantly to environmental degradation and unnecessary waste generation. The University is committed to reducing reliance on these items in all campus operations. Canteens, laboratories, administrative offices, and event venues have transitioned to reusable, biodegradable, or recyclable alternatives. Staff, students, and contractors are required to adhere to this standard, ensuring that disposable materials are used only when absolutely necessary and replaced with sustainable options wherever possible.

The University actively educates its community on the environmental impact of disposable items. Awareness campaigns, workshops, and seminars are conducted to demonstrate the consequences of single-use consumption and to promote behavioral change. Compliance with disposable item reduction initiatives is monitored through operational audits, waste measurements, and feedback from facility managers. Continuous improvement is emphasized, and units are encouraged to identify additional strategies to further minimize disposable item use.

PLASTIC REDUCTION PROGRAM

The University has implemented a comprehensive plastic reduction program aimed at significantly reducing the total quantity of plastics used on campus. Single-use plastic containers have been fully eliminated in University canteens, laboratories, and administrative areas. Replacements include biodegradable, recyclable, and environmentally safe alternatives.

A permanent system for providing clean drinking water on campus further reduces the need for bottled water, limiting plastic consumption in everyday operations. TerSU monitors plastic use annually and implements measures to track progress toward reduction targets.

Student engagement is a key component of the plastic reduction program. Practical training in collection, sorting, and recycling of plastics is integrated into academic programs in ecology, chemistry, technological education, and geography. These programs allow students to apply theoretical knowledge, develop practical skills, and actively participate in sustainability initiatives on campus. Plastic waste management also serves as a laboratory for applied learning, enabling students to study recycling

efficiency, monitor outcomes, and propose improvements to waste management strategies.

STUDENT AND STAFF ENGAGEMENT

Termez State University ensures that students and staff are active participants in sustainability initiatives. All members of the University community are informed about waste management policies, resource minimization programs, and plastic reduction measures. Engagement strategies include participation in workshops, hands-on training, volunteer programs, and sustainability projects.

Digital platforms are employed to facilitate paperless administrative interactions, including admissions, diploma submissions, certificate requests, and scholarship applications. By leveraging these systems, the University reduces environmental impact while improving operational efficiency.

Through structured engagement, the University encourages ownership of sustainability practices, fosters environmental responsibility, and provides experiential learning opportunities that reinforce theoretical knowledge acquired in formal education programs.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES AND REPORTING

Termez State University emphasizes data-driven evaluation of its sustainability initiatives. Quantitative measurements of paper, plastic, and disposable item usage are collected annually and reported to the Rector, University Council, and relevant administrative units. Waste streams, recycling rates, and resource consumption statistics provide insight into progress toward sustainability targets and inform future planning.

Results are communicated to stakeholders, including staff, students, and government authorities, to ensure transparency and accountability. Annual sustainability reports are published, highlighting achievements, challenges, and strategies for continuous improvement. These reports support evidence-based decision-making and promote a culture of responsibility and environmental stewardship throughout the University community.

ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

Termez State University requires all faculty, staff, students, contractors, and affiliated partners to comply fully with this policy. Compliance is mandatory and applies to all aspects of waste management, resource minimization, and sustainable operational practices. The Rector and University Council hold ultimate responsibility for ensuring

that all units adhere to the policy. Operational accountability is delegated to department heads, facility managers, and the Office of Environmental Safety.

Non-compliance with the policy, including the improper handling of hazardous waste, failure to reduce disposable item use, or disregard for recycling procedures, may result in disciplinary action. Disciplinary measures are determined according to the severity of the infraction and may include formal warnings, suspension from activities, restrictions on facility access, or termination of employment or contracts. Third-party contractors failing to comply with the policy may face termination of agreements or disqualification from future University procurement processes.

MONITORING AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The University implements a robust monitoring framework to track the effectiveness of all waste management and resource reduction initiatives. Data are collected continuously on hazardous materials handling, landfill diversion, recycling rates, paper and plastic consumption, and engagement with digital systems.

Annual audits are conducted by the Office of Environmental Safety in coordination with the Human Resources Department and other relevant administrative units. Audit findings are reported to the Rector and University Council, with recommendations for corrective action or policy refinement.

TerSU is committed to continuous improvement. Findings from audits, sustainability reports, and stakeholder feedback are used to identify opportunities for further reduction of environmental impact, optimization of operational processes, and enhancement of educational programs in sustainability. Policy updates are undertaken at least every three years, or sooner if required by national legislation or international best practices.

INTEGRATION WITH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Sustainability practices at TerSU are closely integrated with educational and research activities. Students in relevant disciplines, such as ecology, chemistry, technological education, and geography, participate in practical waste management programs. These initiatives provide hands-on experience in recycling, resource efficiency, and monitoring environmental impact.

Research, innovation, and conference activities are conducted using digital platforms, eliminating unnecessary paper use and fostering sustainable academic practices. The University ensures that all teaching, research, and administrative activities are aligned with the objectives of this policy, enabling students and staff to internalize sustainable practices as part of their academic and professional development.

TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING

TerSU publishes annual sustainability reports that detail paper and plastic reduction, landfill diversion, hazardous waste management, and engagement of students and staff. Reports include quantitative data, qualitative analysis, and recommendations for continuous improvement. Reports are submitted to the University Council and made available to government authorities and the public, ensuring transparency and accountability.

The University also maintains a feedback mechanism allowing stakeholders to suggest improvements or report concerns related to waste management practices. All submissions are reviewed and acted upon promptly, with responses communicated to the concerned parties.

POLICY REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This policy will be reviewed every three years or as required by changes in national legislation, international obligations, or University operational needs. Reviews are conducted by the Office of Environmental Safety in coordination with relevant administrative units. Recommendations for amendments are submitted to the University Council for approval.

Minor procedural updates may be authorized by the Rector, provided they do not alter the fundamental objectives or legal obligations outlined in this policy. All amendments are documented, communicated to staff, and integrated into operational procedures.

FINAL PROVISIONS

This policy enters into force upon approval by the Rector and the University Council. It is binding on all employees, students, contractors, and affiliates of Termez State University.

Where conflicts arise between this policy and other internal regulations, the provisions that best protect environmental sustainability and human health will take precedence. Where national legislation differs from the standards established in this policy, national law shall prevail; however, the University will seek to maintain alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals and international best practices.

Through the implementation of this policy, TerSU reaffirms its commitment to environmental stewardship, operational efficiency, and the education of students in sustainable practices. The University positions itself as a leader among higher education institutions in Uzbekistan and internationally, demonstrating that academic excellence and environmental responsibility are mutually reinforcing.

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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