

Waste Management, Disposal, and Recycling Policy

Policy Objective

O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) aims to establish a comprehensive, sustainable, and environmentally responsible waste management system aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). This policy seeks to minimize waste generation, maximize reuse and recycling, safely manage hazardous and biomedical waste, support campus ecology, and promote a culture of environmental stewardship throughout the university community.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to all waste streams generated across university facilities, including academic, residential, administrative, research, recreational, and healthcare units. It governs biodegradable waste, recyclables, plastics, menstrual hygiene waste, electronic waste, biomedical waste, hazardous chemical waste, and construction debris. The policy responsibilities extend to students, faculty, staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors.

Principles and Commitments

- I. **Source Segregation:** Mandatory adoption of color-coded waste segregation at point-of-generation to ensure proper handling downstream.
- II. **Safe Handling and Disposal:** Comply with all regulatory mandates for biomedical, hazardous, and e-waste disposal using licensed and approved service providers.
- III. **Plastic Reduction:** Enforce ban on single-use plastics on campus; promote alternatives and refill stations for water and other consumables.
- IV. **Resource Recovery:** Maximize composting of organic waste and recycling of materials to reduce landfill dependency.
- V. **Continuous Improvement:** Periodic waste audits, stakeholder education, and technology integration to enhance waste management efficiency.
- VI. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Inclusion of the entire university community in waste reduction initiatives, awareness campaigns, and sustainability programs.

Roles and Responsibilities

- I. **Office of Sustainability:**

- a) Develop and maintain waste management protocols, monitor implementation, and coordinate educational outreach.
- b) Facilitate data collection on waste volumes, recycling rates, and compliance performance for reporting and improvement.

II. Facilities Management:

- a) Provide and maintain designated waste segregation bins, collection points, and ensure timely handling of all waste streams.
- b) Coordinate with authorized waste disposal vendors, maintain records, and ensure adherence to safety standards.
- III. ***Health Centre:*** Supervise segregation, storage, and disposal of biomedical and related hazardous wastes strictly in line with government regulations.
- IV. ***Students, Faculty, Staff, and Contractors:*** Practice correct disposal habits, participate in segregation efforts, engage in educational programs, and support sustainable practices on campus.
- V. ***External Service Providers:*** Ensure lawful, environmentally sound collection and processing of biomedical, hazardous, and e-waste materials.
- VI. ***Research and Academic Departments:*** Integrate sustainability and waste reduction practices in research labs, teaching, and events; encourage innovation in waste processing.

Waste Segregation and Collection

- I. ***Color-coded System:***
 - a) Green bins for organic/biodegradable waste;
 - b) Blue bins for recyclables (paper, metal, glass);
 - c) Black bins for non-biodegradable and hazardous waste.
- II. ***Menstrual Hygiene Waste:*** Provision of specialized bins in all restrooms, with hygienic disposal and treatment arrangements.
- III. ***E-Waste Management:*** Dedicated collection points; organized periodic e-waste drives in partnership with certified recyclers compliant with E-Waste Management Rules, 2023.
- IV. ***Training:*** Regular training sessions for all campus users on segregation methods, location of bins, and waste minimization techniques.

Disposal Guidelines

- I. ***Biomedical and Hazardous Waste:*** Strict segregation and storage in secure areas; disposal through registered Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTF).
- II. ***Single-use Plastics:*** Prohibition across campus events and operations, with alternatives encouraged.
- III. ***Organic Waste:*** Source composting for food and garden waste using on-site or partner-managed compost facilities.
- IV. ***E-Waste and Hazardous Chemicals:*** Safe handling and disposal with certified vendors; banned dumping or mixing with general waste.

Recycling and Resource Recovery

- I. ***Awareness Campaigns:*** Drive engagement through workshops, campaigns, and sustainability events spotlighting waste reduction and resource recovery.
- II. ***Collaborations:*** Partnerships with recycling and composting firms; promotion of research initiatives to innovate sustainable waste solutions.

- III. ***Infrastructure:*** Maintain clear signage and accessible recycling points; incentivize recycling participation through campus programs.

Monitoring, Reporting, and Review

- I. Conduct biannual waste audits assessing segregation effectiveness, waste volumes, recycling rates, and contamination levels.
- II. Prepare annual sustainability reports for governance bodies, outlining achievements and areas for improvement.
- III. Employ digital platforms for real-time waste management data collection and stakeholder feedback.
- IV. Regularly review and update waste management policies aligned with technological advancements, regulatory changes, and stakeholder inputs.

Education and Engagement

- I. Integrate waste management and sustainability into orientation programs, academic curricula, and staff induction.
- II. Foster student-led initiatives and projects focused on innovative waste solutions and environmental justice.
- III. Collaborate with local communities and governmental bodies to enhance regional sustainability efforts.

Reporting Concerns and Retaliation Policy

Reporting Concerns

- I. JGU encourages all campus community members, including students, faculty, staff, contractors, and partners, to report any concerns, violations, or suspected non-compliance related to waste management, disposal practices, and sustainability commitments.
- II. Concerns can be reported confidentially via designated channels such as the Office of Sustainability, campus grievance portals, or directly to Facilities Management.
- III. All reports will be acknowledged promptly and addressed with thorough investigation to ensure compliance and corrective action.

Protection Against Retaliation

- I. JGU strictly prohibits any form of retaliation, whether direct or indirect, against individuals who, in good faith, raise concerns or report incidents related to waste management or environmental violations.
- II. Retaliation includes intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or any adverse employment or academic action.
- III. Any retaliation complaints will be investigated promptly, and appropriate disciplinary measures will be taken against offenders.