MEDHAVI SKILLS UNIVERSITY
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Medhavi Skills University

Policy on Plastic Use Minimization

W.e.f.: 19th November 2024

The University recognizes that plastic pollution, particularly from single-use plastics, poses significant risks to human health, wildlife and the environment. This Policy establishes a framework for reducing plastic consumption and promoting the responsible use, reuse and disposal of materials across the University campus. It builds on the University's environmental awareness initiatives, Plastic-Free Living Campaign and awareness programmes highlighting the adverse impacts of single-use plastics. Through awareness, stakeholder participation and sustainable alternatives, the University aims to foster a cleaner, healthier and more environmentally responsible campus.

Scope

This Policy applies to all faculties, constituent colleges, hospitals, laboratories, hostels, offices, canteens, event venues and other premises owned, operated or managed by the University. It covers all staff, students, visitors, contractors, suppliers, vendors and other stakeholders involved in university activities, ensuring collective responsibility for reducing plastic consumption, avoiding single-use plastics and adopting sustainable alternatives across the campus.

Definitions

Single-use plastic: Plastic items intended to be used once or for a short period before being discarded.

Outsourced suppliers: Suppliers of goods, including but not limited to equipment, stationery and building contracts.

Policy Statement

The University will avoid plastic wherever a practicable alternative exists, reuse plastic items where they cannot be avoided, and ensure that unavoidable plastic waste is segregated and recycled through authorized channels. It will comply with the Plastic Waste Management Rules, including the prohibition on identified single-use plastic items.

Commitments

1. **Prohibited items.** Single-use plastic items prohibited under the Plastic Waste Management Rules shall not be bought, sold, distributed or used on campus.

2. **Carry bags and packaging.** Cloth, jute or paper bags shall replace plastic carry bags. Units shall avoid plastic wrapping and choose packaging that is recyclable or reusable.



3. **Drinking water and food service.** The University shall promote refill points and personal water bottles. Canteens and hostel messes shall use reusable or non-plastic crockery, cutlery, cups and containers.

4. **Events and publicity.** Conferences, rallies, celebrations and campaigns shall avoid plastic flex, thermocol, plastic decorations and plastic giveaways, using cloth, paper or digital alternatives.

5. **Offices and stationery.** Departments shall prefer refillable pens, paper-based files and stationery with minimal plastic.

6. **Clinical and laboratory areas.** Plastic items essential for patient safety, infection control or laboratory work may continue to be used. Units shall avoid over-ordering, shall use reusable alternatives where acceptable, and shall dispose of such waste in accordance with the University's Policy on the Disposal of Hazardous Waste Materials.

7. **Segregation and recycling.** Unavoidable plastic waste shall be collected in dry-waste bins and passed to authorized recyclers, as described in the University's Policy on Waste Disposal to Landfill and Recycling.

8. **Awareness.** The University shall continue to run campaigns, cleanliness drives and student-led activities to encourage plastic-free living.

Monitoring

All University units shall maintain records of the procurement and use of key plastic items, including plastic bottles, bags, disposable tableware and plastic packaging. The Maintenance Committee shall consolidate and review these records, compare annual consumption against the baseline established during the first year of implementation, and assess progress in reducing plastic use across the University. The Committee shall prepare an annual monitoring report highlighting achievements, areas requiring improvement and recommendations for further reduction, and submit it to the Registrar office for review and appropriate action.

Plastic Minimisation Across Suppliers and the Supply Chain

The University shall extend its plastic minimisation efforts to outsourced suppliers, vendors, contractors and other stakeholders involved in its supply chain, including those supplying equipment, stationery, building materials and other goods and services. Suppliers shall be encouraged and, where contractually applicable, required to minimise plastic content in their products and packaging, avoid prohibited single-use plastic items, and adopt recycled,



recyclable or reusable packaging wherever practicable. Where feasible, suppliers shall also be requested to collect and take back packaging materials for reuse or appropriate recycling.

Review

This Policy shall be reviewed at least once every three years, or earlier if required due to changes in applicable legislation, regulatory requirements, University operations or identified opportunities for improvement.

