

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY AND ACTION PLAN

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Background

The global environmental crisis demands the development and application of new methods and strategies by different sectors of society. Generation of waste and associated issues is one aspect of the environmental crisis. The expansion of facilities and population results in the generation of more and more waste. Therefore, it is important to evolve suitable strategies for the management of solid waste.

Besides, the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 published by the Govt. of India on 8th April 2016 clearly specifies the duties of the waste generator.

Education institutions have a special role in management of waste. They play an important role as institutions capable of forming behaviour patterns which have positive impact on the society.

Objectives

1. To develop an action plan for scientific waste management in the campus and thereby avoid adverse environmental impacts of waste generated within the campus.
2. To educate the staff and students and thereby the larger society in sustainable waste management practices.

Principles of Waste Management

The principle of 5R's is followed worldwide for the management of waste. These five R's are refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, and recycle.

1. Refuse: This means to say no to things that one doesn't need. Refuse to buy products that can harm the environment.
2. Reduce: By consuming/using less the amount of waste can be reduced.
3. Reuse: It is a method or a practice of using something again. This can be done to use the product for its original purpose or to fulfil a different function. Reusing a product more than one time benefits us as well as the environment. Reusing also helps in saving time, money, energy and resources.

4. Repurpose: This means when a product can no more be used for the original purpose, think carefully and use it for some other useful purpose.
5. Recycle: It is the process of converting waste materials into new materials and objects. It is the practice of reprocessing and reusing the items in the same or a different form which otherwise could have been discarded as waste. This process saves a lot of time, energy and resources and money. It also reduces the consumption of natural raw material used to produce things. It is thus important to buy recycled as well as recyclable products in order to reduce the pressure on the environment.

Waste Hierarchy

In order to develop an action plan for waste management, it is important to have a look at the waste Hierarchy. The waste hierarchy is a simple ranking system used for the different waste management options according to which is the best for the environment. The most preferred option is to prevent waste, and the least preferred choice is disposal in landfill sites.



The National Action Plan for Waste Management also suggests that each State to have a waste management policy (hierarchy) as under.

- (i) Waste prevention or minimization

- (ii) Waste utilization
- (iii) Waste recycling
- (iv) Waste processing
- (v) Waste-to-Energy
- (vi) Landfilling

Therefore, it is imperative from the part of the institution to formulate an action plan for waste management in tune with the National Policy. The institutional action plan includes actions adhering to waste hierarchy as applicable in the institutional set up.

ACTION PLAN

Waste prevention/minimisation, and reuse

Measures taken

1. Awareness campaign
2. Banning the use of single use plastic and disposable items like cups, plates etc. in the campus except for health/medical purpose
3. Observing green-protocol in every event organised in the campus
4. Providing alternatives in the place of the use of disposable items.

Waste Classification and Management

Establishment of a waste management strategy at the institution level requires waste classification in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. According to the Rule, “every waste generator shall segregate and store the waste generated by them in three separate streams namely bio-degradable, non-biodegradable and domestic hazardous wastes in suitable bins and handover segregated wastes to authorised waste pickers or waste collectors as per the direction or notification by the local authorities from time to time”.

For effective collection and disposal of waste generated within the campus a modified classification of waste is necessary. Therefore, waste is classified in the following manner.

1. Waste requiring daily collection and disposal
2. Waste requiring daily collection and storage
3. Waste requiring occasional collection, storage and disposal

Classification and Plan of Action			
Classification	Feature	Components	Methods followed
Waste requiring daily collection and disposal	Biodegradable (organic)	Food waste and other organic waste	Use in biogas plant, composting, burial
Waste requiring daily collection and disposal	Non-biodegradable	Sanitary waste	Incineration
Waste requiring daily collection and storage	Non-biodegradable	Plastic and paper	Handing over to authorised waste pickers/agencies
Waste requiring occasional collection, storage and disposal	Hazardous and non-biodegradable	E-waste, tube lights, CFLs, parts of electric/electronic equipment, printer cartridges, etc.	Handing over to authorised waste pickers/agencies

Segregation of solid waste is done at the collection point itself. Daily collection of solid waste is done by installing separate waste collection containers for food waste, plastic waste and paper waste at different locations in the campus. Food waste which can be used in the biogas plant will be put in the plant on the same day. Food waste that cannot be used in the biogas plant is buried. Plastic and paper waste are removed from the collection containers on a daily basis and stored for handing over to authorised waste pickers/agencies.

This plan is implemented with the whole-hearted involvement and assistance of the entire students and staff of the institution