

Istanbul Topkapı University Waste Management and Reduction of Environmentally Harmful Products Policy

Waste Management

Waste management encompasses the prevention of waste generation, reduction at source, reuse, separation, collection, transport, recycling, disposal, and the monitoring, control, and supervision of processes following disposal operations. In line with its vision of creating an environmentally conscious and sustainable campus environment, Istanbul Topkapı University has developed a comprehensive policy to reduce the use of environmentally harmful products in all its activities and to ensure waste management.

Policy Objectives

This policy aims to contribute to environmental sustainability by reducing waste at source, promoting recycling, and ensuring the efficient use of natural resources. Istanbul Topkapı University commits to developing various measures and incentives to ensure waste management across the campus and limit the use of environmentally harmful products.

Core Values

The fundamental values underpinning Istanbul Topkapı University's Waste Management and Reduction of Environmentally Harmful Products Policy are shaped by principles that prioritise environmental awareness and support sustainable development. These values are as follows:

1. **Sustainability Principle:** The priority of our university is to use resources efficiently for the sustainability of nature and to leave a liveable world for future generations. Sustainability awareness guides all our activities.
2. **Environmental Leadership:** Istanbul Topkapı University has taken on the mission of leading society in waste management and reducing environmentally harmful products. Our university strives to be a pioneer in decisions made in this area and to create positive change in society.
3. **Innovation and Technological Integration:** We follow innovative technologies in our waste management processes and integrate technological solutions that do not harm nature, save energy and increase efficiency. We work with a focus on continuous improvement.
4. **Social Participation:** Creating awareness on environmental issues and involving our students, staff and local community in these processes are among our priorities. Waste management is carried out not only within the campus, but also in collaboration with our local and international stakeholders.
5. **Ethical Responsibility and Transparency:** We adhere to the principle of transparency in our waste management policies and prioritise ethical values in all decision-making processes. We support transparent and responsible behaviour in the efficient use of resources.
6. **Environmental Education:** Ensuring that our students are educated with environmental responsibility is one of our most important objectives. Environmental awareness is

integrated into all forms of education provided by the university and is built on a foundation of respect for nature.

7. **Social Responsibility:** The University has a social responsibility to create a positive environmental impact not only within the campus boundaries but also on the surrounding areas and communities.

Policy Strategies

Istanbul Topkapı University has adopted the following strategies in its waste management and reduction of environmentally harmful products policy:

1. **Current Practices and Feedback:** The university's waste management strategy is updated in line with best practice examples from universities and relevant civil society organisations worldwide, government guidelines and feedback received.
2. **Waste Segregation and Planning:** Waste generated from university activities is identified, appropriately separated for recycling, and a planned system is established.
3. **Budgeting and Needs Analysis:** The university ensures the establishment of an effective system by planning the necessary budget and resources for waste management.
4. **PDCA Cycle Implementation:** All waste management processes are conducted in accordance with the 'Plan-Do-Check-Act' (PDCA) cycle framework.
5. **Healthy and Safe Conditions:** All necessary measures are taken in all waste management processes to ensure a healthy and safe environment on campuses.
6. **Monitoring Technological Developments:** The methods to be used in waste management and disposal are determined in line with relevant technological developments.
7. **Waste Reduction at Source:** The aim is to minimise the use of waste materials by prioritising efficiency in the selection of materials and methods.
8. **Safe Disposal:** Waste is separated at source, collected and safely transported off campus for disposal.
9. **Education and Awareness Activities:** Students and personnel are provided with the necessary training in line with the waste management strategy. Penalties for non-compliance with policies are clearly stated.

Objectives

The objectives of Istanbul Topkapı University's Waste Management and Reduction of Environmentally Harmful Products Policy are aimed at directly reducing environmental impacts and creating a sustainable campus environment. These objectives are as follows:

1. **Minimising Waste Quantity:** Minimise waste generation across the entire campus and, in particular, limit the use of single-use products. Reduce waste quantities through source separation methods.
2. **Zero Waste Goal:** To ensure that the university operates in accordance with its 'zero waste' policy in the long term. To achieve the zero waste target by increasing recycling rates through our waste management strategies.

3. **Energy and Water Conservation:** Implementing projects that reduce energy and water consumption and ensuring the efficient use of existing resources. Accelerating the transition to green energy sources.
4. **Reduction of Environmentally Harmful Substances:** Minimising the use of harmful chemicals across the university and replacing them with sustainable and environmentally friendly alternatives.
5. **Promoting Environmental Awareness:** Organising environmental awareness and sustainability training programmes for both students and staff, and promoting this awareness.
6. **Innovative Recycling Projects:** Encouraging students and academic staff to develop innovative recycling projects. Implementing these projects in collaboration with local authorities and contributing to society.
7. **Green Campus Vision:** To adapt the physical structure and surroundings of our university to green campus standards. To reduce our carbon footprint by implementing environmentally friendly building and landscaping measures.
8. **Community Collaboration and Contribution:** Contributing to environmental sustainability projects by collaborating with local authorities, civil society organisations and other universities. Minimising environmental impacts by developing regional and international partnerships.
9. **An Inclusive Approach to Waste Management:** Involving all university stakeholders (students, academic and administrative staff, external stakeholders) in the waste management process and acting with a shared sense of responsibility.
10. **Continuous Monitoring and Improvement:** Establishing performance indicators for waste management and the reduction of environmentally harmful products. Conducting continuous monitoring in line with these indicators, and taking improvement and corrective measures.

Monitoring and Improvement

The achievement rates of these targets are measured regularly and necessary corrective and improvement measures are taken based on the data obtained. The success of the policy is monitored through various performance indicators and continuous improvement is ensured.

This policy is an essential part of Istanbul Topkapı University's mission to create an environmentally conscious and sustainable campus.