

Sustainable Materials Policy	
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Objective

SR University is committed to reducing environmental impact by minimizing the use of plastic and disposable items across its operations. This policy also ensures that the university's sustainability principles are extended to outsourced suppliers and the supply chain, promoting sustainable practices in procurement and operations.

Scope

This policy applies to all stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, outsourced service providers, and suppliers associated with SR University. It governs the use of materials across academic, administrative, and operational activities.

Policy Statement

SR University recognizes its responsibility to promote sustainable practices in material usage. This policy outlines the university’s commitment to:

- 1. Reducing plastic consumption.
- 2. Minimizing the use of disposable items.
- 3. Extending these policies to suppliers and outsourced service providers.

These efforts align with the objectives of the National Educational Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 12, 13 & 14), particularly those focusing on environmental sustainability.

Key Principles

1. Minimization of Plastic Use

- *Plastic-Free Campus Initiative:* The university aims to transition to a plastic-free campus by reducing single-use plastics in all operations.
- *Alternatives to Plastics:* Encourage the use of biodegradable, reusable, or recyclable materials as substitutes for plastic.
- *Ban on Specific Items:* Items such as plastic straws, cutlery, and polythene bags are prohibited on campus.
- *Awareness Campaigns:* Conduct campaigns to educate stakeholders about the adverse environmental impacts of plastic and promote sustainable alternatives.

2. Minimization of Disposable Items

- *Reusable and Durable Materials:* Promote the use of durable and reusable items in place of single-use disposables, such as cups, plates, and packaging.

- *Waste Segregation:* Ensure proper disposal and recycling of unavoidable disposable items through campus waste management systems.

3. *Extending Policies to Suppliers and Outsourced Services*

- *Sustainability Clauses in Contracts:* All agreements with suppliers and outsourced service providers must include clauses requiring adherence to SR University's sustainability principles.
- *Procurement Preferences:* Priority will be given to vendors and suppliers who provide eco-friendly and sustainable products.
- *Training and Support:* Provide resources and training to suppliers to align their practices with the university's goals.
- *Monitoring and Compliance:* Regular audits and evaluations will be conducted to ensure compliance with the policy.

Implementation Strategy

1. *Infrastructure and Resources*

- Install water refill stations to reduce bottled water usage.
- Provide reusable alternatives, such as cloth bags and steel cutlery, through University stores.

2. *Awareness and Engagement*

- Organize workshops, seminars, and awareness drives to engage students and staff in sustainability initiatives.
- Encourage participation in sustainability challenges, such as "Plastic-Free Month" campaigns.

3. *Feedback Mechanisms*

- Establish channels for stakeholders to provide feedback on policy implementation and suggest improvements.

4. *Continuous Improvement*

- Review and revise the policy annually to incorporate advancements in sustainable practices and technologies.


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