

## **Waste Policy**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The University of Northampton is one of the youngest Universities in the UK and one of the first to be named as a Changemaker Campus reflecting on social impact. This means that as an institution we work hard to have a positive impact on the world around us, simply put Changemaking is about *'Spotting a social or environmental problem and having the skills and grit to do something about it'*. The University recognises our activities can have a negative impact on the environment, both locally and globally and we are committed to making sustainable development part of its operations, research and curriculum.

This policy will be reviewed by the Environment & Sustainability Team on a 3-year basis or amended in response to changes in future legislation and/or case law.

### **2.0 OWNERSHIP**

The Environment & Sustainability Team owns and manages this policy on behalf of The University of Northampton.

### **3.0 ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE**

This Waste Policy is a corporate policy and applies to all employees (and workers, as applicable) of The University of Northampton including any wholly owned subsidiaries, unless an alternative policy exists, subject to any qualifying conditions.

### **4.0 POLICY STATEMENT**

The University's waste system will be managed according to the principles of the

waste hierarchy concept (Figure 1, DEFRA 2011) and is committed to supporting a circular economy approach.



*Figure 1: Waste hierarchy provided by DEFRA (2011)*

Included in this policy is our commitment to the correct disposal of hazardous materials. The University is committed to ensuring all activities carried out within the control of The University of Northampton that result in the production or handling of hazardous or offensive waste cause no harm or damage to human life or the environment.

All hazardous waste generated by the University as part of University business is included in this policy and includes both solid and liquid hazardous waste and can be split between waste deemed as hazardous or offensive.

To ensure our process of disposal is legally compliant, both Hazardous and Offensive Waste is disposed of using the hazardous waste management service of the University's Waste disposal partner. This also ensures access to an emergency waste removal and clean-up service for 24-hour support, should an incident occur. Our Hazardous, Offensive and Clinical Waste Operating Procedures provide full details of how such waste is handled.

Our approach to engaging our staff and students in the effective management of waste at the University is to embed the principles in conjunction with the three

core elements of the University's strategic plan:

- Super Supportive

Doing the right thing, in the right way, with the right people, for the right reason. Successful waste management requires participation and inclusion by all users of the system. Staff, students and contractors are encouraged to be considerate of the waste generated by their activity and empowered to be impactful through interaction at all stages of the waste journey.

- Social Impact

Betterment of Northampton, Northamptonshire and the wider world. Waste is a multi-disciplinary, long term problem, effected largely by the ingrained culture of an organisation. The can-do attitude promoted by the Universities Changemaker campus ensures staff and students have a positive impact on the world around them. This begins by embedding behaviours at the individual level through behavioural change campaigns which result in a University wide culture of social responsibility.

- Future focused

Forward thinking, innovative and ambitious. Waste is an ever -evolving volatile market, subject to disruption from international players. We will use Waterside as our internal source of disruptive innovation, challenging the status quo of current waste practices and embracing smart technological solutions. Old models of a throwaway society are no longer acceptable and the concept of waste as a resource is firmly established. Procurement plays a key role in ensuring materials coming into the University are compatible with the future of resource recovery.

This policy forms part of and should be read in conjunction with the University's [Environment Policy](#).

## 5.0 DEFINITIONS

5.1 Hazardous waste is defined as any waste with the potential to cause harm to either human health or the environment be it in the immediate term or over a period of time.

5.2 Offensive waste is defined as non-clinical waste that's non-infectious and does not contain pharmaceutical or chemical substances but may be unpleasant to anyone who encounters it.

5.2.1 Healthcare Offensive Waste is defined as outer dressings and protective clothing like masks, gowns and gloves that are not contaminated with body fluids, and sterilised laboratory waste

5.2.2 Municipal Offensive Waste is defined as Hygiene waste and sanitary protection like nappies and incontinence pads

5.3 Clinical Waste is defined as potentially infectious waste containing human or animal tissue, blood or other body fluids, excretions, drugs or other pharmaceutical products, swabs or dressings, or syringes, needles or other sharp instruments, and any waste because of medical intervention.

## 6.0 KEY PRINCIPLES

6.1 The University is committed to delivering on the DEFRA Waste Hierarchy Principles:

- Prevention:

Through effective procurement, operational procedures and raising awareness amongst staff and students i.e. keeping products for longer, smarter purchasing of more durable products where possible, the volume of waste generated can be reduced.

- Re-use:

By ensuring items are maintained, repaired, refurbished, used for spare parts or donated where applicable, the lifetime of items can be maximised, resulting in a

reduced output of waste. Alternative uses can be found for items no longer required for its original purpose.

- Recycling:

The effective segregation and management of waste streams enables materials to be recycled back into useful products, reducing the exploitation of raw materials. The University aims to optimise its ability to manage waste streams of recyclable material through education and awareness campaigns and events throughout the academic year.

- Other recovery:

Where waste streams are not compatible with the above options, recovery of stored energy or useful gases will be prioritised. This includes anaerobic digestion of food, incineration with energy recovery and composting green waste.

- Disposal:

As a last resort, under the waste management hierarchy waste is sent to landfill or incineration. The University sends zero waste to landfill under its current management process and is committed to maintaining this.

## 6.2 Disposal of Hazardous Waste

The Principles applied to the management of hazardous waste by the University as a producer / holder of hazardous waste are as detailed in [gov.uk/dispose-hazardous-waste](http://gov.uk/dispose-hazardous-waste):

- Classification of waste, checking if it is hazardous and applying the relevant code
- Separation and Storage ensure secure storage using the correct containers with clear labelling indicating the type of waste contained whilst ensuring adequate coverage to protect the waste from the elements i.e. from being blown away or rain causing 'contaminated run off'

- Use of an authorized business to collect, recycle, or dispose of hazardous wastes
- Completion of consignment note sections applicable to the University
- Keep a register of hazardous waste

### 6.3 Disposal of Healthcare and Municipal Offensive Waste

The Principles applied to the management of Healthcare and Municipal Offensive of waste by the University is detailed in [www.gov.uk/how-to-classify-different-types-of-waste](http://www.gov.uk/how-to-classify-different-types-of-waste) as listed below:

If more than 7kg of municipal offensive waste is produced, or more than one bag is produced in a collection period, it is to be segregated from any mixed municipal waste.

If less than 7kg is produced, it is disposed of in the universities mixed municipal waste ('black bag') using the classification code 20-03-01.

### 6.4 Disposal of Clinical Waste

The Principle applied to the management of Clinical Waste by the University is utilises the 'yellow bag' procedure of waste management ensuring that items of waste that are potentially infectious and or chemically contaminated are placed in yellow waste bags as detailed in [www.gov.uk/how-to-classify-different-types-of-waste/healthcare-and-related-wastes](http://www.gov.uk/how-to-classify-different-types-of-waste/healthcare-and-related-wastes)

## 7.0 PROCEDURE

- Waste Management Operating Procedure
- Hazardous Waste Operating Procedure
- Offensive Waste Operating Procedure

## 8.0 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

The University of Northampton's associated documents:

- [Environment Policy](#)
- [Waste Action Plan](#) (as part of our liE Manual)
- [Carbon Management Plan](#)
- [Ethical and Sustainable Procurement Policy](#)
- [University Strategic Plan](#)

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment must accompany this document.

## 10.0 VERSION CONTROL

Version Control	Author	Approval	Date Written	Updates	Current Status	Approval of Revision
Version 2	Environment & Sustainability Team, Estates & Campus Services	TU Liaison – 17/11/2020 Sustainability Board – 23/11/2020	26/10/20	26/10/20	Approved	17/11/2022

### Record of Amendments

Dates	Version Number	Details of Change	Approval
March 19	1	N/A	TU Liaison – 17/11/2020
October 2020	2	Transferred to the updated template and included the addition of Hazardous and Offensive Waste Management	Sustainability Board – 23/11/2020

Written: March 2019

Reviewed: November 2020 **7**

December 2022	3	Environment Policy Link updated	VB
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