



Minimization of Plastic & Paper Consumption, and Disposable Policy

Purpose

The University recognizes its responsibility to minimize the consumption and disposal of both plastic and paper, with a focus on reducing single-use plastic and unnecessary paper waste. Since August 2019, definitive measures have been implemented to promote responsible practices at every level within Iqra University. This policy to minimize plastic consumption, reduce the usage of disposable items, and decrease paper usage has been formulated. The policy formalizes the existing practices and contributes to environmental sustainability, raising awareness, and encouraging responsible behavior among students, faculty, staff, and all stakeholders.

Scope

The policy applies to all of Iqra University's campuses, departments, units, individuals, and associated people, including senior administration, students, faculty, staff, and third-party personnel. It encompasses plastic products such as single-use bottles, bags, cutlery, packaging materials, and disposable items used within the university premises, as well as the use of paper across academic and administrative activities. The policy also extends to events and collaborations involving external partners and vendors.

Introduction

Iqra University's commitment to protecting the environment and implementing sustainable measures in our everyday processes, with the goal of reaching Net Zero Emissions by 2030, plays a central role in strategic decision-making and future initiatives.

Building on the commitments outlined in the Environment Strategy, this policy emphasizes our dedication to promoting a sustainable environment within the university community. By embracing eco-friendly practices and minimizing both plastic and paper consumption, we aim to instill environmental consciousness across the IU community.

Policy Statement

- The University will phase out single-use plastic items such as bottles, straws, and cutlery from all university-owned facilities, promoting the use of reusable alternatives.

- The university will actively encourage the use of reusable water bottles, containers, and bags, and increased the existing numbers of convenient water refill stations across campuses.
- Following the provisions in Sustainable Procurement/Purchasing Policy will collaborate with suppliers and vendors committed to reducing plastic usage, prioritizing partnerships with those offering eco-friendly packaging options.
- Regular awareness campaigns and educational programs will be conducted to educate the university community about the environmental impact of plastic consumption and the benefits of eco-friendly alternatives.
- Efficient waste management systems, including recycling programs and strategically placed recycling bins, will be implemented across campuses to ensure proper disposal and recycling of plastic waste.
- A comprehensive monitoring system will be established to track the progress of plastic reduction initiatives, with regular reports shared with the university community to maintain transparency and accountability.
- All university-sponsored events and activities will be organized using eco-friendly practices, minimizing the use of disposable items and encouraging responsible waste disposal.
- The University will support research and innovation aimed at finding sustainable alternatives to plastic products, fostering a culture of creativity and environmental responsibility.
- Active participation of students and staff will be encouraged through green initiatives, competitions, and recognition programs, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in the university's commitment to reducing plastic consumption

Reporting

In accordance with milestones and key targets developed by the Administration Department, the concerned department will report their quarterly performance to the Office of Sustainability.

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