

Policy for Waste Management



Internal Quality Assurance Cell

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1. Introduction

In a common man's eyes anything that is unwanted or not useful is garbage or waste. However, scientifically speaking. There is no waste as such in the world. Almost all the components of solid waste have some potential of if it is converted or treated and managed in a scientific manner.

Rama Devi Women's University, established and reputed University under the Department of Higher education, Government of Odisha is setting standards in Teaching and Research in fields of Humanities, Physical and Biological Sciences and Management. It is committed to transform lives and serve the society through quest of excellence in teaching, innovation, lifelong learning and outreach services. The University realizes that sustainable and holistic waste management is essential to provide a safe and healthy work environment for all of its stakeholders. The University needs to make sure that all the campus wastes are disposed of prudently by using proper waste segregation mechanism at the source and if possible, converting it into value added environment friendly product. The purpose of the policy is to facilitate implementation of the action plan brought out in "National Environment Policy 2006" on management aspects of all categories of solid waste including their minimization, environmentally sound management and active promotion of transfer and use of cleaner technologies. The aim of this policy is to facilitate execution of the action plan mentioned in "National Environment Policy 2006".

2. Policy Statement

The University aims at the adoption of the concept of 'Zero Waste' with an objective to reduce the impact of various waste generated in the campus on environment and human health through its philosophy of 4R's- Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The University requires all the stakeholders to act in accordance with this policy. Any solid waste generated in the campus shall be managed and handled in accordance with the compliance criteria and the procedure laid down in Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules 2016 and shall also comply with the various regulations under national and international environmental protection legislation.

3. Policy Objectives

The principal objectives of the Waste Management Policy of Rama Devi Women's University are:

- To ensure that waste management in campus is in accordance with all waste legislative requirements.
- To implement sustainable resource management practices, based on 4R's principles.

- To set and achieve targets for reducing resource use.
- To minimize the use of plastic and other hazardous articles in the University campus.
- To avoid the use of banned disposable items in the University campus.
- To quantify the volume of waste generated in the campus routinely and to maintain the record of it.
- To invest in setting of recycling opportunities in the University campus.
- To ensure safe handling and storage of wastes in campus before final disposal.
- To provide clearly defined roles and responsibilities to identify and co-ordinate activities of the waste management.
- To promote environmental consciousness and organize awareness programmes to in encourage waste minimization, reuse and recycling.
- To create the scope/opportunities for research and Project work on “converting the waste to wealth”.

4. Guiding Principles and Responsibilities

- A. Prevention and Minimization: Rama Devi Women’s University will minimize solid waste generation at source, its reuse and recycling to the minimum and ultimately disposal after treatment of balance waste. The university will also minimize the generation of hazardous wastes and toxic materials. The university will maintain policies and processes for the safe and efficient use, tracking, storage and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials generated if at all.
- B. Re-use and Recycling: The University has given top priority to re-use the waste when it is created inside the campus. But in case of large-scale waste management the University would consider the next option i.e. recycling.
- C. Recovery and Conservation of Energy: Rama Devi Women’s University will reduce resource consumption by promoting proficient use, and by implementing feasible and practical conservation measures in existing buildings during renovations, and at the time new construction.
- D. Environmental-friendly Disposal: The University would dispose all potential waste created inside the campus for which the re-use and recycling options are not possible.
- E. Environmentally-responsible Outsourcing and Acquisition: Rama Devi Women’s University will promote environmental responsibility through its contracting and purchasing choices. When purchasing products and services, the institute will strive to obtain the best value by considering life cycle environmental impacts along with cost and functional performance.

- F. **Environmental Awareness:** The University will provide ongoing education for all employees, contractors and visitors concerning the importance of environmental responsibility in all institute operations.

5. **Organization and Management**

The University shall constitute a committee for the effective implementation of this policy. The Committee will be constituted of 4 or more members to be nominated from the Faculty and Staff of the University and one representative from civil department.

The committee members shall be appointed for a term of three years.

6. **Action Plan**

Following are the key actions undertaken for waste management in the University.

- **Collection and Segregation of Waste:** The University uses dedicated space for segregation, storage, re-use, recycling and disposal of all kind of waste. For example, various types of bins and dumpsters are provided throughout the campus to segregate waste at source of generation.
- **Disposal in Landfill:** The University maintains a landfill in the campus for various solid non-hazardous wastes.
- **Disposal of Plastic Waste and other disposable items:** Plastic and other disposable items are collected and handed over to municipality.
- **Liquid Waste Management:** Waste water from wash-basins is channeled into drains whereas the waste water from bathrooms and toilets is treated in septic tanks followed by soak pits.
- **Hazardous Chemical Waste Management:** The solvents used in the laboratories are reused after distillation to minimize the use of solvents. The waste solvents are separated as halogenated and non-halogenated in plastic containers. To prevent heat generation and gas evolution or other reaction, compatibility of the waste is checked carefully.
- **Electronic and Universal Waste Management:** University promotes segregation, collection, storage, and eco-friendly disposal of e-waste. Electronic gadgets are repaired for minor defects. However for the disposal of end of life electronic and

electrical products an Obsolete Disposal and Auction Committee has been set up at the University level for effective disposal of e waste through auction.

- **Disposal of Construction Demolition Debris:** All material generated during construction, renovation, or demolition of buildings, utilities, or other infrastructures in the campus, are deposited in the demarcated dumpster.
- **Plastic Waste Management:** Use of single use of plastic is strictly prohibited in the campus

7. Glossary

Waste: According to United Nations Statistics Division, waste are “materials that are not prime products (that is, products produced for the market) for which the generator has no further use in terms of his/her own purposes of production, transformation or consumption, and of which he/she wants to dispose. Wastes may be generated during the extraction of raw materials, the processing of raw materials into intermediate and final products, the consumption of final products, and other human activities. Residuals recycled or reused at the place of generation are excluded.”

Hazardous Waste: In Hazardous and other Waste (Management & Trans boundary Movement) rules 2016, hazardous waste means any waste which by reason of characteristics such as physical, chemical, biological, reactive, toxic, flammable, explosive or corrosive, causes danger or is likely to cause danger to health or environment whether alone or in contact with other wastes or substances. Management of hazardous waste includes prevention, minimization, reuse, recycling, recovery, utilization in co- processing and safe disposal.

Non-Hazardous Waste: Non-hazardous waste, does not pose a direct threat to human health or the environment, but it still cannot be dumped into a trash receptacle or a sewer line because of the risks it could pose. For example, paper, plastics, glass, metals, etc. are non-hazardous waste because it is not toxic by nature.

Chemical Waste: Chemical waste is generated from the use of chemicals in laboratories for teaching and research activities carried out in the campus.

Biodegradable Waste: Any organic wastes that can be degraded by microorganisms into simpler stable compound are biodegradable waste.

Non-biodegradable Waste: Any wastes that cannot be degraded by microorganisms into simpler stable compounds are nonbiodegradable waste.

Electronic wastes: (e-waste) includes all kinds of electrical and electronic wastes like CDs and DVDs, cell phones and chargers, used ink jet cartridges, tapes, computers, printers, and TVs.

Universal Waste: Universal waste includes all rechargeable and specialty batteries and fluorescent lamps.