

A photograph of the Mahatma Gandhi University entrance gate. The gate has a red tiled roof and a yellow frame. The text 'MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY' is written in red on the yellow frame. The gate is flanked by two red pillars. In the background, there is a large building with a red roof and a courtyard with trees.

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY



Mahatma Gandhi University
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Kottayam, Kerala - 686560

(Re-accredited by NAAC with A Grade)

Waste Management Policy

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Preamble

Environmental degradation is a global concern. One of the major causes of this degradation is the inappropriate means of solid and liquid waste management. Change in water quality and water scarcity are critical rather visible impacts of the Environmental degradation, apart from indirect consequences such as : loss of biodiversity, contamination of the ground water with pathogens and shrinking of water resource etc. Recognising its responsibility and commitment to protect the environment at all levels Mahatma Gandhi University has adopted certain corrective / appropriate measures to conserve the Environment in the campus. To achieve this goal, a few policies have been framed and are being followed strictly by the University and its community. In this context, the waste management policy of University's environmental policy is aimed towards achieving a clean and sustainable environment.

A draft Policy on the different aspects of waste management in the campus is as follows :

Waste Management Policy

- This policy is based on the principle : '**Waste is a resource- not to be wasted**' , this goal is to be achieved by 4 'R's to be followed while managing the waste :
- **Reduce** (quantity of waste generated to be reduced); **Reduce** the production of waste; **Reuse** (Where ever possible reuse the wastes i.e. resources) ; **Recycle** (Convert waste in to Energy – Biogas plants ; convert waste in to Manure – composting / vermicomposting) and **Refuse** to purchase or use the plastic goods, especially single use plastics (SUPs).
- As a first phase of action against plastic use in the campus MGU has released a UO in 2010 to avoid usage of Flex banners in the official meetings /Conferences conducted at the campus. This needs to be ensured in the coming years.
- As a follow-up MGU has also made a positive initiative of insisting 'Green Protocol' to be followed with in the campus during the programs involving refreshments / lunches being served to the participants shall use steel / Glass crockery and avoid use of Plastics especially single use plastics (SUPs) in such gatherings. To ensure the implementation of 'Green Protocol' a Green Protocol Officer has been nominated by the University. The university shall keep vigil on the implementation of Green protocol in the campus.
- Towards plastic waste management MGU has kept many specific waste collection bins exclusively for plastic wastes. The number of such bins needs to be increased and the clearing of the accumulated plastic waste filled in such bins shall be carried out periodically.

- Total **ban on use of plastics in the campus** need to be promoted in future. Also by providing purified water kiosks at several places of the campus will reduce the use of plastic bottles and bottled water consumption. As in many railway stations the plastic bottle crushers can be installed in the campus under the in-charge of Estate section so that the plastic bottles collected from the campus can be crushed and given to the agencies which use such crushed plastics for recycling purpose.
- Colour coded waste collection bins have been placed in each department , division of the administrative section and the cafeteria / canteens and in the road sides in order to segregate (Source segregation)the solid waste in to biodegradable and non-degradable. The policy insists the regular maintenance of these bins and replacement of the same when required has to be done on time.
- Source segregated waste to be processed using appropriate techniques to recover either material, energy or manure. Already few biogas plants and composting / vermicomposting yards have been installed in the campus. This policy document insists the periodic checking for their proper usage and servicing at appropriate time intervals need to be done. The bio-manure obtained from these facilities to be used for horticulture purposes in the campus. The biogas generated from the biogas plants to be properly used in canteens / hostel Mess for cooking.
- The residues which remain after the above mentioned processing are to be disposed safely on earth.
- A **model waste management facility** with the popular waste management infrastructure such as : a composting unit, a biogas plant , a vermicomposting unit an incinerator etc need to be planned under the in-charge of School of Environmental Sciences. This will help in many ways the University such as : to spread the now-how of these techniques in a scientific manner to the various stake-holders of the society. This working model will / can be used to conduct periodic training programs to the needy public. This will benefit the University by training manpower in waste management sector, the same facility will help in solid waste management of the campus and will also generate revenue through the conduct of training programs/ workshops.
- Only the **bio-medical waste** or the animal waste originating from Animal house need to be disposed using modern incinerators provided the incinerators are equipped with proper pollution/emission control systems.
- All other recyclable waste material including plastic, glass bottles, lab glassware, paper waste etc are to be given to scrap dealers.

E-Waste management : To be Properly collected and stored and periodically given to scrap dealers.

Laboratory waste / Hazardous waste management: The liquid chemical wastes / reagents are to be collected with minimal segregation in to separate containers. The same are to be given to recyclers or agencies which deal with the disposal of such kind of wastes.

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