12.2.7 Disposable Policy: Extensions to Services

2024-2025

AASTMT's disposable and waste policies apply to the services it contracts out on campus: catering and canteen operators, cleaning and facility-management contractors, and the licensed contractors that collect and treat waste. The Consumption and Recycling Policy states in its scope that it applies to all AASTMT employees, students and contractors involved in handling, managing or storing any form of waste, and records that single-use plastic catering items (food packaging, disposable coffee cups and cutlery) have been replaced with compostable alternatives in all AASTMT food outlets. The Policy for Minimisation of Disposable Items extends these requirements to subcontractors and vendors, requiring them to adhere to the same consumption and recycling policies, and the Sustainable Procurement Policy below commits AASTMT to write sustainability specifications into its contracts and tenders and to assess the environmental performance of its contractors.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY

Background

The objective of this policy is to delineate the AASTMT's stance regarding the administration of sustainable and ethical procurement. The Sustainable Procurement Policy of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) establishes the essential sustainability criteria for the procurement of products and services by the institution. The policy also establishes the criteria and guidelines for the responsibilities of AASTMT buyers in relation to sustainable procurement activities. The Sustainable Procurement Policy mainly aims at waste reduction, with a hierarchical approach that emphasises reduction as the primary strategy, followed by reuse and ultimately recycling. In line with this perspective, it mainly focuses on minimising superfluous purchases, followed by a prioritisation of acquiring surplus or multi-purpose goods prior to procuring recyclable or compostable alternatives.

Mission and Values

AASTMT is acknowledging that procurement activities exert a substantial influence on the environment. Consequently, a strong dedication is held to minimise this impact to the greatest extent feasible. The present Sustainable Procurement Policy aligns with the principles governing a comprehensive procurement strategy, encompassing production and service, and is consistent with the University's broader environmental sustainability policies, including Climate Action Progress and its dedication to the People.

AASTMT actively promotes and advocates for its suppliers and subcontractors to effectively address and mitigate the environmental and social consequences arising from their business activities. Suppliers and subcontractors are advised to modify their business practises as necessary in order to comply with AASTMT policy and practices. In order to fulfil our obligations, we will:

1. Examine the necessity of procurement and the imperative to minimise consumption while simultaneously addressing user requirements.

2. It is imperative to consider the comprehensive life cycle costs and impacts associated with products and services when making purchasing decisions.
3. It is imperative to incorporate sustainability specifications into all pertinent procurement contracts and tenders, aligning them with the specific product or service being procured.
4. Assess the sustainability and environmental performance of suppliers and contractors, with the objective of promoting their adherence to environmentally conscious practises in their operational activities.
5. It is advisable to procure products that adhere to ethical standards and are traded fairly, thereby abstaining from the exploitation of labour. Additionally, it is recommended to endorse the acquisition of products and services that promote equality and diversity.
6. Enhance the knowledge and skills of personnel engaged in procurement activities, with the aim of promoting the adoption of the Sustainable Procurement Policy.

Policy Statement

The AASTMT recognizes its buying decisions' impact on the economy, society, and environment. AAST uses this as a chance to make ethical and sustainable purchases of goods and services. This policy attempts to incorporate environmental and socioeconomic considerations at each phase of the process of buying goods, mirroring the commitments outlined in the AASTMT's sustainability policy.

To assist us in fulfilling our obligations, the AASTMT seeks to

1. Evaluate the requirement for purchases and curtail consumption while simultaneously attending to user needs.
2. Consider the effects and whole-life costs of goods and services when making decisions about what to buy.
3. Assess suppliers' and contractors' environmental performance and sustainability and motivate them to operate in an environmentally conscious approach.
4. Invest in products that are ethically and fairly traded, refrain from exploiting employees, and encourage purchasing of goods and services that promote diversity and equality.
5. Raise staff members' knowledge and give them training so they will embrace the Sustainable Procurement Policy.

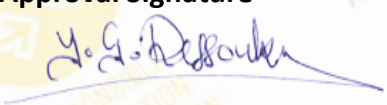
Objectives

1. To indicate the use of sustainable and environmentally friendly products whenever applicable.
2. To incorporate sustainable environmental criteria in the process of awarding contracts, when deemed suitable.

3. To plan the strategic activities related to Procurement strategically
4. To maximize the value for money and reduces operational and financial risk.
5. To adhere and promote the highest standards of professionalism, ethics, and sustainability related to procurement processes.

Supplier Evaluation

1. The suppliers' sustainable environmental credentials are incorporated, to the extent feasible, into the suppliers' evaluation procedure.
2. Advocate for the adoption of sustainable Fair Trade purchasing principles in suitable and feasible contexts.
3. Collaborate with essential suppliers to facilitate transformative initiatives aimed at disseminating sustainability enhancements across the entirety of the supply chain.
4. Engaging in the practise of abstaining from the usage of products containing substances that are known to possess particularly deleterious properties.
5. Promoting the utilisation of economically viable products that incorporate recycled materials.
6. Reduce packaging waste by requiring minimal packaging from suppliers and establishing take-back programmes.
7. Enhance the dissemination of information regarding the University's sustainability policies, objectives, and aspirations within the supply market to foster greater awareness.

Document Control	
Policy title:	Sustainable Procurement
Date created:	May 2020
Approving body:	SDG Workforce Committee
Version:	Version 3
Last review date:	2025
Next review date:	2027
Policy owner:	• Procurement Department • Facilities and Logistics Department
Lead contact:	• Head of Procurement Department • Head of Facilities and Logistics Department
Approval Signature 	Dean of Scientific Research and Innovation

Sustainable Procurement Policy on AASTMT webpage

This policy sets out AASTMT's position on ethical and sustainable procurement, including the sustainability requirements it places on its contractors and subcontractors.

Hazardous Waste Collected by Accredited Contractor Nahdet Misr Under AASTMT Supervision

AASTMT extends its waste policies to outsourced services. Under the Medical and Biohazardous Waste Disposal Program, hazardous waste from AASTMT laboratories and clinics is collected and safely disposed of by Nahdet Misr, an accredited national waste disposal company. Each handover to the contractor is supervised by AASTMT staff to verify safe containment and proper documentation, and certified disposal partners collect chemical waste from the College of Pharmacy laboratories, ensuring that the contractor follows AASTMT's procedures and environmental regulations.



Medical and Biohazardous Waste Disposal Program on Sustainable AASTMT webpage

Medical waste disposal procedures within the Arab Academy on AASTMT webpage

Consumption and Recycling Policy (applies to contractors who handle waste) on AASTMT webpage

Policy for Minimisation of Disposable Items (extends requirements to subcontractors and vendors) on AASTMT webpage