12.2.6 Policy for Minimization of Disposable Items

2024-2025

AASTMT's Consumption and Recycling Policy sets out its commitment to minimising disposable items. Under Section 4 (Procedures), the Prevention stage increases the use of reusable, biodegradable and recyclable materials, and the Re-use stage reduces single-use packaging, such as coffee cups, in favour of reusable packaging and prepares items for re-use through cleaning, repairing and refurbishing. Section 6 (Actions) records that AASTMT has stopped the use of single-use plastics and the sale of bottled water on campus, and has replaced single-use plastic catering items (food packaging, disposable coffee cups and cutlery) with compostable alternatives in all its food outlets. Section 7 (Objectives) commits AASTMT to prevent or minimise waste wherever possible and to encourage staff, students and employers to limit plastic and carton waste and reduce disposable items.

CONSUMPTION AND RECYCLING POLICY

1. Introduction

AASTMT recognizes the growing global challenges arising from the excessive pressure on natural resources, escalating greenhouse gas emissions, rising sea levels, pollution, and inefficient waste management. These environmental issues threaten both present and future generations, underscoring the urgent need for responsible consumption and effective recycling practices. In alignment with its Environmental Change and Social Responsibility Policy, AASTMT is committed to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals by promoting a culture of sustainability across all its campuses and operations. The Consumption and Recycling Policy reflects this commitment by emphasizing waste reduction, resource efficiency, and responsible material use.

Through this policy, AASTMT aims to minimize environmental impact by prioritizing waste prevention, reusing materials whenever possible, and ensuring proper recycling and disposal in compliance with environmental regulations. By fostering awareness and sustainable habits within its community, the University seeks to create a cleaner, safer, and more resilient environment for future generations.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all AASTMT employees, students, and contractors who are involved in handling, managing, or storing any form of waste, including hazardous and non-hazardous materials. It establishes the framework for ensuring that all waste management activities prioritize recycling, reuse, and responsible disposal in line with the university's sustainability objectives.

Recycling must be integrated at every stage of the waste management process—beginning with proper segregation and collection, followed by safe processing and reuse wherever feasible. A designated responsible person or unit shall oversee the recycling and disposal of

materials to ensure compliance with environmental standards and the adoption of the most sustainable methods available.

By embedding recycling practices into daily operations, this policy aims to minimize environmental impact, promote resource efficiency, and support AASTMT's broader commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

3. Aims of the Policy

The AASTMT policy considers end-of-life disposal costs and environmental impacts when making acquisition decisions involving the construction of new or renovated facilities.

AASTMT adopts the waste hierarchy: prevention, preparation for re-use, recycling, other recovery and, as a last resort, disposal. AASTMT applies processes, methods and activities that comply with environmental legislation and best practice, in order to reduce the overall waste produced and to prevent waste wherever possible. AASTMT also measures and weighs the waste it generates, to track it and to identify the best ways to reduce or recycle it.

4. Procedures

The Waste Treatment Progressive System and Stages Incorporates:

Prevention

- Using less material in design; keeping items in use for longer; using less hazardous material.
- Reduce landfill waste and boost the usage of reusable, biodegradable, and recyclable materials.
- Promote awareness and training programs to encourage responsible consumption and waste minimization across all departments.

RE-USE

- Preparing for re-use: cleaning, repairing and refurbishing.
- Reduce single-use packaging, such as coffee cups, and increase the use of reusable packaging.

Recycle

- Turning waste into another substance or product, including compost for the soil.
- Anaerobic digestion (conversion to biogas for power generation) and incineration with energy recovery.
- Establish accessible recycling stations across campus and ensure regular collection and monitoring of recyclable materials.

Disposal

- Reduce disposal to a minimum, and send hazardous materials only through licensed contractors to authorised hazardous-waste facilities.

- Track disposed items through a third party that records their quantity and disposal cost.
- Ensure all disposal methods comply with environmental laws and safety standards to minimize ecological and health risks.

Ethical Sourcing of Food and Supplies

AASTMT provides healthy food, including vegetarian options, to students, staff and residents across its campuses and student housing. Food and catering services are sourced against the following criteria:

a. Catering operators and food suppliers must hold a valid food-safety certification (ISO 22000 or HACCP), presented before contract award and at each renewal.

b. Local and seasonal produce from Egyptian growers is preferred, to reduce transport emissions and support the local economy.

c. Catering contracts include fair-labour clauses: compliance with the Egyptian Labour Law, no child or forced labour, and safe working conditions for catering staff.

5. Policy Statement

The AASTMT seeks to implement ethical and sustainable practices on all of its campuses. Therefore, the AASTMT has taken crucial measures to implement these practices, such as ecological practices and corporate social responsibility. Through the exchange of information within the Academy's supply chain, these food ethics and practices enable AASTMT to ensure the transparency of information about all suppliers.

- **Trusted Suppliers**

  To accomplish supply chain transparency, one of the primary goals of AASTMT is to identify the most reliable and reputable partners who share the same ethical practices, objectives, and data. To accomplish ethical and sustainable practices, the first step is to identify the most suitable suppliers.

- **Secure Relationships**

  The interaction with suppliers is the second step to keep secure relationships between partners and to reduce the risk. AASTMT is seeking to build a platform and application to increase communication and share important information. That would give the suppliers and partners access to the internal systems they need based on their roles within the ecosystem, sustainability practices, and the food ethics of AASTMT.

- **Tracing the Food Supplies**

  AASTMT traces the origin of its food supplies through supplier certificates (certificates of origin and food-safety certificates), which are checked at delivery and kept with the delivery inspection records before food is accepted on campus.

- **Evaluation of the Process**

AASTMT is monitoring the overall processes between its partners to guarantee healthy and sustainable food for students, staff, and Residents. Based on this monitoring, errors must be fixed, and corrective action must be taken.

AASTMT complies with guidelines, legislation and best practice to limit the risk of immediate and future pollution or harm to health when carrying out its operations.

6. Actions

- AASTMT operates a coordinated waste-management system across all its campuses that oversees the segregation, collection, recycling and disposal of every waste stream the Academy generates.
- AASTMT has stopped the use of single-use plastics on campus, replacing them with a mix of alternative materials, and has stopped the sale of bottled water on campus.
- AASTMT recognises the harm caused by plastic waste from production to disposal, including pollution of the marine environment, and works to reduce plastic use and waste on all its campuses. The following measures are in place for staff and students:
- Single-use plastic catering items (food packaging, disposable coffee cups and cutlery) have been replaced with compostable alternatives in all AASTMT food outlets.
- AASTMT continues to reduce waste by reviewing new products and services that lower plastic use and plastic waste.
- AASTMT segregates hazardous waste at source by stream: chemical, biological, medical, electronic waste, batteries and fluorescent tubes. Each stream is collected by a licensed contractor (Nahdet Misr), a handover record is signed for every collection, and the waste is treated and disposed of in line with the Egyptian Waste Management Law No. 202 of 2020.
- AASTMT manages all hazardous-waste activities under its control, as far as reasonably practicable, so as to minimise harm to human health and the environment.
- AASTMT has procedures that enable staff to meet their duty of care for hazardous waste, and monitors these procedures to ensure compliance.
- AASTMT runs awareness and training programmes for students, staff and contractors on sustainable waste management, recycling and the safe handling of hazardous materials.
- AASTMT records the weight of waste generated, recycled and sent to landfill across its campuses and reports these figures annually.

7. Objectives

Waste should be prevented or minimised wherever possible. AASTMT encourages staff, students and employers to limit plastic and carton waste, and raises awareness of ways to reduce disposable items.

8. Review Program

Document Control	
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Date created:	May 2019
Approving body:	SDG workforce committee
Version:	5
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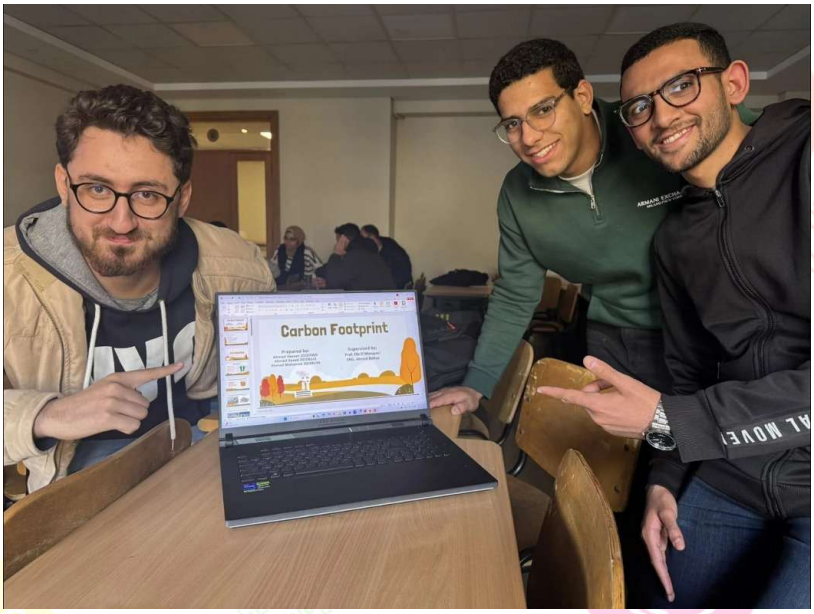
Policy owner:	• Material Affairs and Logistics department, • Facilities, Maintenance department, • Nutrition Affairs Management
Lead contact:	• Head of Facilities and Logistics Department, • Head of the Facilities at the Facilities and Maintenance Department, • Director of the Department of Nutrition Affairs
Approval Signature 	Dean of Scientific Research and Innovation

You can read our Consumption and Recycling Policy on AASTMT website.

More activities are applied and practiced in the AASTMT.

Term 9 Students Showcase Innovative Solutions for Water and Waste Management

On 18 December 2024, Term 9 students presented research projects addressing pressing environmental problems, covering water and wastewater treatment, solid waste handling and disposal, carbon-footprint reduction and desalination. The projects examined current challenges, emerging solutions and best practice in sustainable environmental management. The Academy commended the students on the professionalism and creativity of their work.





Environmental Sustainability in Action: Term 9 Students Showcase Innovative Solutions on AASTMT webpage

Port Training Institute Students Join the “By Fisher to Fisher” Port Cleanup Initiative

On 21 December 2024, students of the seafarers’ basic studies programme at the Port Training Institute took part in the “By Fisher to Fisher” programme, supervised by Global Stars Company under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and Banque du Caire, as part of the wider “Green & Clean” campaign. The initiative supported the first cleanup operations at the fishing ports of Alexandria’s Eastern Harbour and promoted the recovery and recycling of collected waste for reuse in local economic activity. The Institute confirmed it would continue taking part in initiatives that advance environmental conservation and sustainable development.





Port Training Institute Students Participate in By Fisher to Fisher Port Cleanup Initiative on AASTMT webpage

College of Language and Communication Clothing Donation Initiative

On 11 May 2025, the College of Language and Communication (CLC) at AASTMT's Smart Village campus organised a clothing donation initiative, collecting garments from the college community and passing them on to the college's workers and other people in need. Giving clothing a second life through reuse keeps usable textiles out of the waste stream and encourages a culture of responsible consumption among students and staff.



[CLC Supports Its Community Through Clothing Donation Initiative on AASTMT webpage]