12.2.5 Policy for Minimization of Plastic Use

2024-2025

AASTMT has implemented a comprehensive policy to align its practices with Egyptian environmental laws, specifically targeting the reduction of non-biodegradable plastic products on campus. Acknowledging the environmental challenges posed by plastic waste, the policy promotes the adoption of sustainable, eco-friendly alternatives to minimize reliance on plastics, thereby reducing the university's environmental footprint and contributing to national efforts to combat plastic pollution. Beyond legal compliance, this initiative reflects AASTMT's broader commitment to environmental sustainability and fostering a culture of responsibility within its community. By educating students, faculty, and staff about the harmful impacts of plastic waste and encouraging sustainable habits, AASTMT aspires to inspire collective action toward environmental conservation. This proactive approach reinforces the university's leadership in sustainability, demonstrating how academic institutions can drive meaningful change and contribute to a greener, more sustainable future. The Consumption and Recycling Policy below sets out these commitments. 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 with compostable alternatives in all its food outlets, using environmentally friendly materials instead.

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	
Policy title:	Consumption and Recycling Policy
Date created:	May 2019
Approving body:	SDG workforce committee
Version:	5
Last review date	Dec 2025
Next review date:	Dec 2027
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.

AASTMT and Nahdet Misr Launch a Pilot Project to Clean Up Alexandria's Beaches (10 October 2024)

On 10 October 2024, Nahdet Misr for Modern Environmental Services — the Arab Contractors company responsible for public cleaning in Alexandria — announced new screening equipment to tackle marine waste, operating under Alexandria Governorate through joint cooperation between Nahdet Misr, AASTMT and the German Ministry of the Environment. Working with the Academy, the company began trial operation of a sand-cleaning system using two new sand-sieving machines that screen sand from public beaches and hotels, coordinated with Alexandria's Central Administration for Tourism and Resorts. The project is aimed at disposing of marine debris safely and reducing the use of single-use plastic.





AASTMT, Nahdet Misr launched a pilot project to clean up Alexandria's beaches on AASTMT webpage

Alexandria Beach Cleaning and Awareness Campaign in Coordination with AASTMT

On 30 May 2025, Alexandria's Central Administration for Tourism and Resorts carried out an expanded cleaning and awareness campaign, in coordination with AASTMT, on the dangers of discarding plastic waste on beach sand or into the sea. The campaign covered six beaches — Tahouna El-Mandara, Wanly, Boïrivage, Geziret El-Dahab, Mahmoud Said and Glym — where waste was collected and separated on site in preparation for recycling. The administration noted that the campaign forms part of national efforts to protect the marine environment and reduce plastic pollution, which harms marine organisms and can transmit disease to humans.



Awareness campaign to clean six Alexandria beaches to protect the marine environment

Enactus AAST Sheraton Crowned National Champions with Rose-Carbon and Aquatica Projects

On 28 September 2024, Enactus AAST Sheraton won the Egypt National Champions title with two sustainability projects: Rose-Carbon — the first local production of activated carbon designed to capture pollutants from waste materials — and Aquatica — a customised animal feed formula using 70% fish and corn waste combined with water hyacinth leaves, addressing waste recovery and food security. The team engaged over 210 members in implementation, demonstrating a circular economy approach that diverts organic and plastic waste from landfill and converts it into high-value products.



Enactus AAST Sheraton National Champions — Rose-Carbon and Aquatica Projects on AASTMT webpage

AASTMT's TouMaLi Project Named "Champion of Plastic Pollution Prevention in the Mediterranean"

In October 2024, the EU-funded TouMaLi project, in which AASTMT is the Egyptian partner, was awarded the honorary title "Champion of Plastic Pollution Prevention in the Mediterranean" in recognition of its voluntary action against plastic pollution. The title was awarded under the regional campaign of the EU-funded Water and Environment Support (WES) project, run in partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean Action Plan of the UN Environment Programme. The campaign focuses on reducing single-use plastics and plastic waste in the Mediterranean, and the award recognises the project's work with the tourism sector, including the hotel waste management and extended producer responsibility activities that AASTMT delivers in Alexandria.



TouMaLi Wins Champion of Plastic Pollution Prevention in the Mediterranean on TouMaLi Project Website

TouMaLi EPR Workshop: Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging Waste in Egypt

On 27–28 January 2025, AASTMT hosted a two-day workshop on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging waste under the EU-funded TouMaLi project at its Alexandria campus. The event brought together Egyptian government officials, private-sector representatives and international waste management experts to discuss the design and implementation of an EPR system for Egypt. Dr. Gasser E. Hassan from AASTMT presented on the TouMaLi project's progress and introduced the Circul8 digital platform for tracking packaging waste data across the value chain. The workshop agreed that AASTMT would compile the list of products used by participating hotels and convert the collected data from items into kilograms for reporting on the Circul8 platform, with data collection already under way at the Sunrise Hotel in Alexandria. As a follow-up, the Landbell Group delivered Circul8 training in Alexandria on 25 February 2025 for Egypt's Waste Management Regulatory Authority (WMRA) to support an EPR register for packaging waste from the

tourism sector. The workshop supports the Academy's community-service mission by extending waste-management knowledge to government and industry stakeholders.



TouMaLi EPR Workshop at AASTMT on TouMaLi Project Website

Circul8 Training for EPR Implementation in Egypt and Tunisia on TouMaLi Project Website

Egyptian Parliament Committee Visits TouMaLi Beach-Cleaning Pilot in Alexandria

On 27 June 2025, AASTMT hosted the Local Development Committee of the Egyptian Parliament on a visit to Alexandria's beaches under the EU-funded TouMaLi – Prevention of Tourism Marine Litter project. The AASTMT team demonstrated the beach-cleaning machines used in the pilot and showed how data on the marine litter collected along the Alexandrian coastline is recorded and analysed to identify where waste accumulates and to target interventions against plastic pollution. The Committee discussed how legislative support could help scale up the pilot's waste collection approach to other coastal regions of Egypt, linking research, practical waste management and policy.



[Parliament Committee Visits Alexandria's Beaches: Strengthening the Fight Against Marine Litter on TouMaLi Project Website]