

## **MPSU Green Peaks: Zero Waste Policy**

### **I. POLICY TITLE**

**MPSU Green Peaks: Zero Waste Policy**

### **II. RATIONALE / BACKGROUND**

Mountain Province State University (MPSU), as a premier academic institution and public entity, recognizes its responsibility in promoting environmental sustainability and effective solid waste management. In accordance with Republic Act No. 9003 – Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, and in line with the University's commitment to sustainable development, this policy provides a comprehensive framework for the segregation, reduction, collection, reuse, recycling, and proper disposal of solid waste across all campuses.

MPSU plays a key role in advancing the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by integrating sustainable practices in campus operations, education, research, and community engagement. Solid waste management is directly linked to achieving several SDGs, including:

- **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being** – by preventing pollution and health hazards associated with improper waste disposal.
- **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation** – through proper disposal of waste to prevent water contamination.
- **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** – by promoting sustainable campus and community practices.
- **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production** – by reducing waste generation, promoting recycling, and sustainable use of resources.
- **SDG 13: Climate Action** – through waste reduction, composting, and minimizing greenhouse gas emissions from landfills.
- **SDG 15: Life on Land** – by managing organic waste sustainably and supporting biodiversity-friendly practices.

The policy aims to:

- Reduce the University's ecological footprint such as reduction of plastic wastes in the different university campuses.
- Promote an environmentally responsible academic community.
- Serve as a model of sustainable practices for local communities in Mountain Province.

- Integrate solid waste management principles into research, teaching, and extension programs.
- Facilitate sustainable use of biodegradable waste by providing designated areas for collection and distribution of food waste for animal feed.
- Ensure proper disposal of hazardous waste.
- Ensure all solid waste management programs are coordinated with the University Solid Waste Management Committee (USWMC) for oversight and monitoring.

### **III. LEGAL BASIS**

- Republic Act No. 9003 – Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000
- Republic Act No. 9275 – Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004
- Republic Act No. 8749 – Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999
- Republic Act No. 9512 – Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008
- CHED Memorandum Orders on Environmental Sustainability and Green Campuses

### **IV. OBJECTIVES**

1. Institutionalize an efficient and sustainable solid waste management system.
2. Promote waste reduction at the source through responsible consumption and procurement.
3. Ensure proper segregation of waste according to the DENR-EMB waste segregation standards (Figure 1)
4. collection, recycling, and disposal of waste.
5. Increase environmental consciousness among students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders thus everyone should be involved in the any activities such as clean and green programs.
6. Strengthen partnerships with local government units (LGUs), DENR, and other relevant agencies.

7. Establish a monitoring and reporting mechanism to ensure compliance and continuous improvement.
8. Encourage the sustainable reuse of food waste by enabling its collection for animal feed.
9. Ensure coordination of all waste management programs with the USWMC.

## **V. SCOPE AND COVERAGE**

This policy applies to:

- All MPSU campuses, including offices, laboratories, dormitories, cafeterias, and university-managed facilities.
- All stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, visitors, concessionaires, and contractors operating within the university premises.
- All solid waste management programs, projects, and initiatives undertaken by any unit, department, or organization within the University.

## **VI. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

- **Solid Waste** – All discarded materials from households, commercial, institutional, non-hazardous industrial, and agricultural sources.
- **Segregation at Source** – Sorting waste at the point of generation into biodegradable, non-biodegradable, recyclable, residual, and hazardous categories.
- **Biodegradable Waste** – Organic materials decomposable by microorganisms (e.g., food and garden waste).
- **Food Waste for Animal Feed** – Portion of biodegradable waste suitable for livestock or poultry consumption, collected in a designated area for community or farm use.
- **Non-Biodegradable Waste** – Materials that cannot easily decompose (e.g., plastics, metals, glass, styrofoam).

- **Recyclable Waste** – Materials that can be reprocessed into new products (e.g., paper, bottles, tin cans).
- **Residual Waste** – Waste that cannot be reused, recycled, or composted.
- **Hazardous Waste Solid waste** – combination of solid waste which, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible illness, or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of.
- **Infectious Waste** – A specific type of hazardous waste that includes waste materials from medical, health care, or veterinary activities, which are capable of causing disease (e.g., used bandages, syringes, laboratory cultures).
- **Electronic Waste (E-Waste)** – discarded electrical or electronic devices, including broken TV sets/radios/stereos, computer peripherals, and cell phones, which contain hazardous components like lead and mercury, and thus require special handling.

## VII. POLICY STATEMENTS

### 1. Segregation at Source

- o All waste shall be segregated into 7 categories: biodegradable (green bins), recyclable (light blue bins), non-biodegradable (blue bins), residual/hazardous (yellow bins), electronic (gray bins) food waste for animal feed (light green bins) and infectious (red bins)



- o Color-coded bins shall be strategically placed across campuses, with clear labeling and instructions.
- o All programs, initiatives, and activities related to waste segregation must be coordinated with the USWMC.

## **2. Waste Reduction and Minimization**

- o Departments are encouraged to adopt paperless systems, digital documentation, and eco-friendly materials.
- o Single-use plastics and styrofoam are strictly prohibited in campus activities, canteens, and events.
- o Use of reusable containers, cups, and utensils is strongly promoted.
- o Any departmental or student organization initiatives for waste reduction must be coordinated with the USWMC.

## **3. Collection and Storage**

- o Designated personnel or trained student volunteers will collect segregated waste on a fixed schedule.
- o To avoid odors, bugs, and leachate spills, segregated wastes should be kept in closed garbage bags or other containers labeled appropriately.
- o Biodegradable waste will be processed through on-campus composting facilities.
- o Food waste suitable for animal feed will be placed in a designated collection area for pickup by local farmers, livestock owners, or community beneficiaries.
- o Recyclable materials will be sold or donated to accredited recyclers or Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs).
- o The GSO shall regularly monitor waste disposal and maintain daily records, including the weighing of all collected waste to track volume, trends, and effectiveness of the waste management program.
- o All collection and storage initiatives shall be coordinated with the GSO.

## **4. Composting and Recycling**

- o Each campus shall establish or maintain a composting area for organic waste.

- o The University shall coordinate with LGUs and DENR for recycling programs, resource recovery, and upcycling projects.
- o All composting and recycling programs must be coordinated with the USWMC.

## **5. Residual and Hazardous Waste Management**

- o Residual waste shall be handed over to LGU-managed collection systems.
- o Hazardous waste (laboratory chemicals, e-waste, and medical waste) shall be managed per DENR standards and handled only by accredited collectors.
- o Programs involving residual or hazardous waste must be coordinated with the USWMC.

## **6. Handling and Storage of Hazardous waste**

- o Laboratory chemicals, e-waste, medical waste, batteries) must be managed and handled only by accredited collectors and treatment facilities. The University shall not dispose of hazardous waste through standard LGU collection or on-campus residual waste streams.
- o Hazardous materials must be temporarily stored in a secure, designated, and properly labeled area that prevents spillage, leakage, or exposure, as per DENR guidelines. This storage area shall be monitored by the GSO

## **7. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC)**

- o Conduct training, workshops, and awareness campaigns on proper waste management.
- o Organize annual activities such as Clean Campus Drives, Waste Audit Week, and Green Innovation Competitions.
- o All IEC activities and campaigns shall be coordinated with the USWMC.

## **8. Monitoring and Compliance**

- o The USWMC will oversee program implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
- o Departments must submit quarterly compliance reports.
- o Violations are subject to administrative action.

## VIII. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Component	Actions / Strategies	Responsible Parties	Monitoring Indicators
Waste Reduction	Digitalization, eco-friendly procurement, elimination of single-use plastics	Departments, GSO of	% reduction in office and canteen waste; all initiatives coordinated with USWMC
Segregation	Color-coded bins, clear labeling, IEC campaigns	USWMC, Students, Faculty	% of properly segregated waste; programs coordinated with USWMC
Collection & Storage	Scheduled collection, temporary storage areas, designated area for food waste for animal feed, daily weighing of collected waste	GSO, Student Volunteers	Timeliness and completeness of collections; volume and weight of waste collected daily; amount of food waste collected for animal feed; coordination with USWMC
Composting & Recycling	On-campus composting, partnerships MRFs	USWMC, LGU with partners	Quantity of compost produced, recyclables recovered; all programs coordinated with USWMC
Residual Hazardous Waste	Safe disposal, DENR-accredited collectors	GSO, USWMC	Compliance with national disposal standards; coordination with USWMC
Education & Engagement	IEC programs, sustainability competitions	USWMC, Academic Offices	Participation rates, awareness survey results; coordination with USWMC
Monitoring & Evaluation	Waste audits, reporting, review	policy USWMC, GSO	Quarterly and annual compliance reports, daily waste logs; all programs monitored

Component	Actions / Strategies	Responsible Parties	Monitoring Indicators
			and approved by USWMC

## IX. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Stakeholder	Responsibility
University President	Provides overall leadership and policy approval
Campus Directors / Deans	Ensure policy enforcement in their campuses; coordinate programs with USWMC
University Solid Waste Management Committee (USWMC)	Plans, implements, monitors, and evaluates programs; oversees coordination of all solid waste management initiatives
General Services Office (GSO)	Handles waste collection, storage, disposal logistics, and regular monitoring of waste disposal including daily weighing of collected wastes; coordinates all activities with USWMC
Faculty & Staff	Practice proper segregation, mentor students; coordinate departmental initiatives with USWMC
Students	Actively participate in waste management programs; coordinate projects with USWMC
Concessionaires & Vendors	Follow segregation rules, use eco-friendly packaging; coordinate activities with USWMC
Community Beneficiaries / Farmers	Collect food waste from designated areas for animal feed; coordination with USWMC as needed

## X. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- **Monthly:** Waste audits per department or building; review of program coordination with USWMC.
- **Quarterly:** Compliance assessment and reporting to the University President; evaluation of all initiatives coordinated with USWMC.
- **Annually:** Policy review to incorporate emerging sustainable practices and technologies.



## **XI. INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS**

### **Incentives:**

- Departments or organizations demonstrating exemplary compliance may receive certificates of recognition, sustainability awards, or grants.
- Recognition also given to programs well-coordinated with USWMC.

### **Sanctions:**

- Non-compliance may result in written warnings, fines, or suspension of privileges (e.g., operation of canteens, vending).
- Programs not coordinated with USWMC may be suspended or halted until proper coordination is ensured.

## **XII. EFFECTIVITY**

This policy shall take effect immediately upon approval by the University Board of Regents and shall remain in force until amended or repealed.

## **XIII. APPROVED BY:**

University President

Mountain Province State University

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_