

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Committee on Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development

Waste Management Policy

The Policy

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) recognizes the environmental impact of the products and services we use, in particular our ecological footprint and the impact of our waste on the local and global environment.

As a socially responsible educational institution committed to sustainable development, we strive to reduce these impacts by adopting sound and pragmatic procurement and waste management practices. We also engage our stakeholders by raising awareness, promoting sustainable behaviour and embracing the “Polluter Pays” principle where appropriate.

The University’s Waste Management Policy is based on a “waste management hierarchy” which emphasizes the so-called “6Rs” principle: Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle. We accord top priority to reducing waste at source, and encourage the cyclical use of resources. We regard disposal as the last resort. The “6Rs” principle, elaborated in the Waste Management Guidelines, has been applied to all aspects of waste management relevant to a university setting.

We are determined to establish an effective waste management regime that exceeds Hong Kong’s legislative and regulatory requirements. We strive to put in place procedures which prevent immediate and future pollution or harm to health, and are committed to continually improving our performance.

Implementation

1. The Waste Management Policy applies to the operations of all academic, research, and professional and administrative service units of the University.
2. A set of Waste Management Guidelines, developed in consultation with the relevant professional and administrative service units and maintained by the Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Office, is provided to inform all university members of CUHK’s requirements and practice for waste management.
3. The Committee on Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development is responsible for steering the implementation and monitoring the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Policy.
4. The Committee on Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development delegates responsibility to the Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Office to:

- Communicate and implement the Policy;
- Develop and promulgate relevant guidelines or procedures;
- Coordinate activities with relevant academic, research, and professional and administrative service units to ensure the successful implementation of the Policy; and
- Review the Policy, assess its impact and recommend improvements as appropriate.

(November 2022)