

KARADENİZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY - PLASTIC USE AND WASTE REDUCTION POLICY -

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This policy has been prepared to minimize the generation of plastic waste on Karadeniz Technical University (KTU) campuses. The policy is to correctly separate and recycle existing plastic waste; to develop policies to reduce the use of plastic, to implement circular economy and sustainability principles in educational activities, purchasing processes and all operations; It aims to create a permanent awareness in environmental, economic and social terms by raising awareness of stakeholders.

RELEVANCE OF THE POLICY

Relevant Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Criteria:

- SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)
- SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption)
- SDG 13 (Climate Action)

Relevant Metrics:

- THE Impact Rankings
- UI GreenMetric

SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy covers the reduction and management of plastic waste in all academic and administrative units of KTU, dining halls and canteens, laboratories, libraries and sports facilities, open spaces, activities of student clubs, and all logistics and procurement processes carried out by the university.

- **Target Audience:** KTU students, academic and administrative staff, visitors, subcontractors and suppliers.
- **Application Areas:** All KTU campuses; dining halls/canteens and cafeterias; offices, classrooms, research laboratories; library and social facilities, sports facilities; outdoor activities and storage areas.

BASIC PRINCIPLES AND LEGAL BASES

KTU adheres to the following basic principles regarding the reduction of plastic waste;

- **Reduction and Prevention at Source:** Plastic use is kept to a minimum from the purchase stage; unnecessary use is prevented.
- **Separate Collection and Recycling:** Plastic waste is collected separately from other wastes at the source; it is collected in the relevant plastic waste bins and delivered to licensed recycling facilities.
- **Reuse:** Opt for recyclable or biodegradable alternatives such as glass, metal, paper instead of plastic where applicable; support the use of reusable equipment.
- **Sustainable Supply:** The use of plastic packaging and materials in procurement processes is minimized; plastic reduction and recyclable material terms are added to supplier contracts.
- **Education and Awareness:** Awareness about plastic waste reduction is raised among all stakeholders within the university through regular trainings, seminars, and campaigns.
- **Scientific Support and Continuous Improvement:** Policy implementations are regularly monitored, evaluated, and updated with the contribution of the Zero Waste Coordinatorship and relevant academic units.

- **Legal Bases:** Environmental Law No. 2872; Zero Waste Regulation and other relevant legislation; KTU Zero Waste Directive is KTU's Strategic Plan.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES

Implementing Units:

- **Zero Waste Coordinator/Commission:** Plans, coordinates and monitors policy implementations; conducts and supervises waste collection and recycling processes.
- **Administrative and Financial Affairs Department:** Adds plastic waste reduction criteria to procurement processes; ensures that recyclable or plastic-free alternatives are preferred.
- **Department of Health, Culture and Sports (SKS):** Implements practices that reduce plastic consumption in cafeterias and canteens; uses reusable service equipment instead of plastic containers.
- **Department of Construction and Technical Affairs (YİTDB):** Increases the number and accessibility of plastic waste bins; establishes and maintains the water dispenser and refillable system infrastructure.
- **Library and Documentation Department:** Carries out studies to reduce the use of plastic packaging; provides plastic-free resources and services to users.
- **Corporate Communications Coordinatorship:** Conducts awareness campaigns; announces the plastic waste reduction policy to internal and external stakeholders.
- **Student Affairs Department and Student Clubs:** Develops activities and projects that support plastic waste reduction for students; provides information about policy to new students in orientation programs.
- **Personnel Department:** Organizes training and awareness activities for academic and administrative staff.

Monitoring Units and Responsibilities:

- **Rectorate and Senate:** Gives official approval of the policy and conducts necessary audits. It ensures that the objectives of the policy are achieved in accordance with institutional priorities.
- **Research Coordinatorship:** Monitors the implementation process of the policy, collects and reports data on performance indicators. The Sustainability Unit collects/provides the necessary data for sustainability indices such as UI GreenMetric and THE Impact Rankings. It also analyzes the results of the activities carried out within the scope of the policy and develops improvement suggestions.
- **Strategy Development Department (SGDB):** Ensures the evaluation of implementation results and the alignment of policy objectives with the strategic plan.

APPLICATION STEPS

1. **Initial Inventory and Target Setting:** Annual consumption amounts of plastic products used in each unit throughout the campus are determined (from purchasing and waste data). Reduction targets are determined in line with this inventory.
2. **Planning and Design:** Renewable and reusable alternatives that can be used instead of plastic products are determined. A transformation plan is prepared to be implemented in areas such as canteens, cafeterias, offices, student activities. Coordination between relevant units is ensured.
3. **Implementation and Transformation:** Efforts are carried out to reduce the use of plastic products throughout the campus; In cafeterias and canteens, the use of reusable or recyclable materials is supported instead of plastic cups, plates, containers and cutlery. The number of plastic waste bins in the cafeteria, canteen, office and event areas is increased and/or the existing bins are maintained and monitored. In addition; The purchase of products with plastic packaging is limited, bulk or recyclable packaging is preferred for bulk purchases. Reduction and recycling practices in the use of plastic tubes, pipettes, petri, etc. in the laboratory are reviewed; alternative materials are evaluated. Protocols

are made with licensed recycling companies; Collected plastic waste is recycled at authorized facilities.

4. **Training and Awareness Activities:** Periodic trainings, seminars, posters and digital content will be prepared for staff and students; awareness about the environmental impacts of plastic waste will be raised.
5. **Monitoring, Reporting, and Improvement:** Performance indicators determined during the implementation process are monitored at regular intervals. At the end of each year, the performance of policy implementation is evaluated by the relevant units and the results are reported. The process is improved by making the necessary corrections in policy implementations in the issues where the goals cannot be achieved. Progress and experiences are shared with all internal and external stakeholders.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Goal	Source of Verification
Total amount of plastic waste (tons/year)	30% reduction by 2027	Environmental Problems UYGAR Zero Waste Coordinatorship Audit Reports
Yellow plastic waste bin count and occupancy tracking	a 25% increase in the number of boxes campus-wide by 2026; Occupancy Rate Management	YİTDB inventory Environmental Problems UYGAR Zero Waste Coordinatorship Audit Reports
Rate of use of plastic service equipment in cafeterias/canteens	Ensure complete elimination of the use of plastic service equipment by the end of 2026	Environmental Problems UYGAR Zero Waste Coordinatorship Audit Reports
Plastic packaging reduction clause in supply contracts	Adding a plastic packaging reduction clause to all new contracts from 2025	Environmental Problems UYGAR Zero Waste Coordinatorship Audit Reports
Number of training and awareness events (years)	Organizing at least 4 training or awareness events per year	SKS and PDB reports

AUDIT AND REPORTING

- **Monitoring Frequency:** Performance indicators are evaluated annually; indicators related to the consumption of disposable products are regularly monitored by the relevant responsible units every year. The changes in the values in the indicators during the year are determined and necessary measures are taken in a timely manner.
- **Reporting Frequency:** **Annual** data are recorded in KTU Sustainability Reports within six months following the end of the relevant year and shared with the public on the university's website. Four-year data is compiled to form an input for the next strategic planning period. In addition, the relevant data obtained each year is reported to UI GreenMetric and other international sustainability indices.
- **External Verification:** Participation in national and international certification programs is provided to certify the performance of the university within the framework of the relevant indicators. The participation program and decision are taken by the senate. The implementation and effects of the policy are verified through audits carried out by independent organizations.
- **Revision Conditions:** In case 60% of the targeted values of the determined performance indicators cannot be reached for two consecutive years or in case of changes in

national/international legislation; the policy is reviewed by the implementing units, revision proposals are prepared, and the policy is submitted to the senate for approval again.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy comes into effect from the date it is approved by the KTU Senate. University units are obliged to comply with and implement the provisions of the policy.