

# The University of Winnipeg Waste Minimization Policy

**TITLE:** WASTE MINIMIZATION POLICY      **NUMBER:** 90.0008

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2007

**AUTHORITY:** Vice-President (Human Resources, Audit & Sustainability)

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**Purpose:**

The University of Winnipeg (the “University”) Waste Minimization Policy (“Policy”) establishes a framework within which the University will incorporate waste minimization and management into its overall sustainability management system. Moreover, this Policy aims to encourage a transition to practices in the selection and use of materials that, to the degree practicable, eliminates waste in all University facilities and programs.

**Scope:**

This Policy applies to the facilities and activities as specified in Appendix “A” – Scope of the Sustainability Policy.

**Legal Authority:**

The legal authority for this Policy includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following acts and regulations:

Manitoba Sustainable Development Act

Manitoba Waste Reduction and Prevention Act

Manitoba Environment Act

**Responsibility:**

The Vice-President (Human Resources, Audit & Sustainability) is responsible for the maintenance, communication and administration of this Policy. Responsibility for maintaining, reporting and analysis of all waste generation and recycling data will rest with the Sustainability Office. Physical Plant is responsible for updates to the Procedures in this Policy.

### **Definitions:**

**Full-cost Accounting** – means accounting for the economic, environmental, land use, human health, social and heritage costs and benefits of a particular decision or action to ensure no costs associated with the decision or actions, including externalized costs, are left unaccounted for.

**Life Cycle Accounting** – means basing cost comparisons of products and services on the combination of initial purchase price *and* the cost of operation over the predicted service life of a product, its cost of disposal or recycling, and with the energy and resource costs that may be incurred during its use and disposal.

**Life Cycle Assessment** – a method for assessing the environmental impacts of a product or service over its entire life cycle, and identifying opportunities for reducing these impacts. It assesses resource extraction and processing, product manufacture, marketing, product use, and recycling or disposal, and includes transportation and energy.

**Waste** - includes rubbish, litter, junk, or junked obsolete or derelict motor vehicles, or obsolete or derelict equipment, appliances or machinery; slimes, tailings, fumes, waste of domestic, municipal, mining, factory or industrial origin; effluent or sewage; human or animal wastes; solid or liquid manure; or waste products of any kind whatsoever or the run-off from such wastes [Manitoba Environment Act.].

### **Goals:**

1. Strive toward zero waste emissions from the University's use of energy and materials through the hierarchical application of resource demand reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery.
2. Manage hazardous wastes in compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations, striving to minimize the use of hazardous materials, and wherever practicable, eliminating the use of hazardous materials which may become waste.
3. Plan and develop transportation infrastructure on the University campus that encourages and supports reduction of wastes that may be incurred from transportation sources, (e.g., use of space for parking which might otherwise be allocated to green space, discharge of substances like used motor oils to the waste stream, etc.).
4. Accept that the act of procuring of materials and energy implies a responsibility of stewardship for any wastes that are generated from them.
5. Make decisions respecting waste management with due regard for their impact on the environment, including plant, animal and human health, and that waste management measures be instituted with due regard for their economic impact.
6. Ensure that University policies, programs and decisions take into account the need to rehabilitate any part of the environment that is damaged or degraded as a result of its own waste disposal and management activities.
7. Develop and implement waste reduction policies and procedures which comply with or exceed the ISO14001-2004e standard for environmental management systems.

8. Encourage research, education and innovation respecting waste reduction and prevention with a view to preventing and reducing adverse impacts on the environment and the economy now and for future generations.
9. Report the University's waste management performance to internal and external stakeholders and make this Policy available to them.

### **Responsibilities**

The Vice-President (Human Resources, Audit & Sustainability) will ensure that the Administration

- Uses full-cost / life-cycle accounting in making waste management decisions.
- Provides for training of administration, faculty and students about waste reduction and recycling issues and methods.
- Regularly reviews technologies for their applicability to this Policy.
- Develops procedures, at both the institutional and departmental levels, that achieve the goals set in this Policy.
- Develops, maintains and monitors information useful for tracking progress, identifying priorities, evaluating the impact of any initiatives and ensuring accountability.
- Establishes and maintains an accountability structure.

### **Accountability**

- The University will set and review waste minimization objectives on a bi-annual basis.
- Targets will be publicly available and in a format amenable to quantification. So far as practicable, the University will use standards, definitions and indicators that are consistent with the requirements of both federal and provincial legislation and those necessary to secure and maintain ISO 14001-2004e registration.
- Progress will be audited against the targets established in the objectives.

### **Related Policies**

Air Quality Management Policy  
Energy Management Policy  
Land Use Planning and Property Management Policy  
Green Procurement Policy  
Risk Management and Emergency Response Policy  
Sustainability Policy  
Water Use Management Policy

**Policy Review**

This Policy is to be reviewed at least once every five years.