

PREAMBLE

Waste management remains one of the most pressing environmental and social challenges of our time. The annual growth in waste volumes, low levels of separate collection and recycling, and excessive use of single-use materials continue to negatively impact the environment and quality of life. In Ukraine, waste management is regulated at the legislative level, notably through the Law of Ukraine "On Waste Management" (2022), which establishes a hierarchical approach to waste handling and the principles of extended producer responsibility.

National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine (hereinafter **the University, NUBiP of Ukraine**), as a leading higher education institution in the field of environmental sciences and natural resource management, recognises responsible environmental stewardship as a fundamental value of its activities. The University acknowledges that the campus, as the daily living environment of thousands of people, is simultaneously a source of significant waste volumes and a platform for demonstrating exemplary ecological practices.

This Policy has been developed in accordance with the Sustainable Development Strategy of NUBiP of Ukraine, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 12 ("Responsible Consumption and Production"), and the Erasmus+ requirements for the green transition of partner universities. The University adheres to applicable Ukrainian legislation and international commitments, including:

- the Law of Ukraine "On Waste Management" (No. 2320-IX, dated 20.06.2022);
- the Law of Ukraine "On Environmental Protection" (No. 1264-XII);
- the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 12, 13, 15);
- the European Green Deal;
- the Sustainable Development Strategy of NUBiP of Ukraine.

SECTION I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. The Policy on Waste Management under the 3R Programme of the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine (hereinafter **the Policy**) defines the

basic principles, target groups, strategic goals, and measures for the implementation of responsible waste management practices across all areas of University activity.

1.2. The purpose of this Policy is to:

- minimise the volume of waste generated within the University's educational, research, administrative, and operational activities;
- introduce a system of separate waste collection and recycling across all campus facilities;
- foster a culture of environmental responsibility among all categories of the University community;
- ensure compliance with applicable Ukrainian legislation and international sustainable development standards;
- support the positioning of NUBiP of Ukraine as a Green Campus.

1.3. The normative and legal basis of this Policy comprises the Law of Ukraine "On Waste Management" (No. 2320-IX, dated 20.06.2022); the Law of Ukraine "On Environmental Protection" (No. 1264-XII); the Presidential Decree "On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine for the period up to 2030" (2019); the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 12, 13, 15); the European Green Deal; the Erasmus+ Programme Guide (green transition requirements); the Sustainable Development Strategy of NUBiP of Ukraine; and the Statute of NUBiP of Ukraine.

1.4. For the purposes of this Policy, the following terms are used.

3R Hierarchy – an internationally recognised waste management hierarchy comprising three priority levels: Reduce (prevention of waste generation), Reuse (extending the service life of materials and items), and Recycle (processing of waste into new materials or products).

Waste – any substances, materials, or items generated in the course of production or other activities, of which the owner disposes or intends to dispose of through recycling, utilisation, neutralisation, or disposal.

Municipal solid waste (MSW) – waste generated as a result of human activity and accumulated in residential buildings, cultural, educational, and other institutions, including student dormitories and campus common areas.

Special waste – waste generated as a result of the University's educational, research, and operational activities that requires specific handling procedures, including chemical

reagents from laboratory practice, electronic waste, batteries, and biological materials handled at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and the University clinic.

Separate waste collection – the collection of waste with its preliminary sorting and separate accumulation by type at designated collection points across campus facilities.

Green Campus – a university campus that implements a systematic approach to reducing the environmental impact of its activities through the integration of sustainable development standards into all aspects of campus management, including waste handling, energy use, procurement, and community engagement.

Sustainable procurement – a procurement approach that prioritises suppliers and products with minimised environmental impact, reduced packaging, and certified environmental responsibility, applied across all purchasing decisions of the University's administrative and operational units.

SECTION II. TARGET GROUPS AND SCOPE OF IMPLEMENTATION

2.1. The implementation of this Policy is directed at the following target groups: – students and other learners – bachelor's and master's degree students, PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers, and other persons pursuing education at NUBiP of Ukraine under any form or mode of study;

– academic and teaching staff – professors, associate professors, lecturers, researchers, and other scientific and pedagogical personnel whose values, attitudes, and professional practices significantly shape the environmental culture of future generations;

– administrative and technical staff – employees of all administrative, operational, and support units of the University;

– contractors and partners – organisations and individuals carrying out activities on University premises under agreements with NUBiP of Ukraine.

2.2. This Policy applies to all structural units of NUBiP of Ukraine and covers all areas of the University community activity. Its scope encompasses the 17 academic and administrative buildings and 13 student dormitories of the NUBiP campus, as well as research laboratories and scientific centres, the University sports facilities, the Botanical Garden and experimental research farms, and all outdoor campus areas and green spaces. The Policy thus

covers the full range of environments in which waste is generated by the educational, research, residential, and operational activities of the University community.

2.3. All persons belonging to the target groups defined in clause 2.1 are expected to adhere to the principles and requirements of this Policy within the areas defined in clause 2.2, regardless of their form of participation in University life. Compliance with waste management requirements is considered an integral element of responsible conduct on the NUBiP campus and is consistent with the University's broader commitments to environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

SECTION III. STRATEGIC GOALS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT UNDER THE 3R PRINCIPLE Goal 1. Reduce – Prevention and Minimisation of Waste Generation

Waste prevention is the highest priority in the 3R hierarchy and the primary strategic direction of NUBiP of Ukraine in responsible campus management. The University recognises that the most effective way to address the waste challenge is to prevent its generation at source, rather than to manage its consequences.

In the area of digitalisation, the University transitions the maximum share of document circulation to electronic format across all 17 academic and administrative buildings and 13 student dormitories. Mandatory double-sided printing is introduced across all administrative and academic units, and single-use handout materials at University events, conferences, and seminars are replaced with digital alternatives distributed via the University's internal communication platforms. E-textbooks and digital library resources are prioritised in the educational process, reducing the volume of printed materials required by students across all faculties and educational and research institutes.

With regard to procurement, preference is given to suppliers offering products with minimised packaging and documented environmental responsibility. The purchase of single-use plastic tableware and disposable items for University-organised events is eliminated across all campus catering and hospitality functions. When acquiring laboratory equipment, furniture, and technical devices, the environmental characteristics of products, including energy efficiency, durability, and recyclability, are considered alongside standard procurement criteria.

In food services, single-use plastic cups and tableware are prohibited in University canteens and cafés operating across the campus. Staff and students are encouraged to use reusable thermoses and containers, and catering units are expected to optimise preparation volumes and menu planning to minimise daily food waste.

In research and laboratory activities, the shared use of reagents and equipment across laboratories and departments is actively promoted to reduce procurement volumes and minimise chemical waste. Reagent orders are aligned with actual and planned research needs, and surplus materials are redistributed among units within the Faculty of Agrobiological Sciences, the Faculty of Plant Protection, Biotechnology and Ecology, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, and other research-active units, rather than being disposed of prematurely.

Goal 2. Reuse – Extending the Life of Materials and Resources

The second priority in the 3R hierarchy is extending the useful life of materials, equipment, and resources already in circulation within the University. The University establishes an internal redistribution system for office furniture, technical equipment, and devices between its 17 academic and administrative buildings and 13 student dormitories, ensuring that items no longer needed by one unit are systematically offered for reuse by another before any disposal decision is taken.

In the area of learning resources, a University bank of textbooks, manuals, and methodological materials is created to facilitate the transfer of these resources between successive generations of students across all faculties and educational and research institutes. This resource is maintained digitally through the University's existing library infrastructure and complements the priority given to e-textbooks and digital resources under Goal 1. Licensed software and educational content are shared between departments and institutes where licensing terms permit, thereby reducing duplicate procurement and associated material waste.

At the laboratory level, glassware, containers, and reusable inventory across the Faculty of Chemistry, the Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Protection, and other research-active units undergo systematic assessment before disposal: items suitable for cleaning, repair, or repurposing are restored and returned to use rather than discarded. Surplus reagents and

consumables with remaining service life are redistributed between units through a simple internal notification procedure.

At the student level, the University supports the organisation of regular exchange events where students can donate and acquire second-hand books, stationery, and everyday household items. A designated campus space, accessible to students from dormitories and academic buildings, serves as a permanent exchange point for items in serviceable condition. These initiatives are coordinated through student self-governance structures and do not require dedicated institutional funding to operate.

Goal 3. Recycle – Processing of Waste into New Materials

The University introduces a unified colour-coded separate waste collection system across all campus facilities. Collection points equipped with labelled containers are installed on every floor of all 17 academic and administrative buildings, in all 13 student dormitories, in canteens and cafes, in outdoor campus areas, and in all research laboratories and scientific centres. The colour-coding system applied across all collection points is as follows:

Container colour	Waste type
Blue	Paper and cardboard
Yellow	Plastic
Green	Glass
Grey	Metal
Red	Hazardous waste (batteries, medicines)
Brown	Organic / food waste
Black	Mixed non-recyclable waste

Chemical laboratory waste generated at the Faculty of Agrobiological Sciences, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, and other research-active units is collected in certified containers labelled by hazard class and transferred to licensed disposal organisations in accordance with Ukrainian legislation on hazardous waste management. Electronic waste (WEEE), including obsolete computers, laboratory instruments, and office equipment, is first assessed for repair or reuse potential; only when items are found unsuitable for further use are they transferred to

certified WEEE recyclers. Medical and biological waste generated at the University clinic and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is handled strictly in accordance with applicable Ukrainian sanitary legislation and relevant departmental protocols.

A composting system is introduced for organic waste generated in University canteens and from the maintenance of campus green areas, including the Botanical Garden and experimental research farms. The resulting compost is used to fertilise campus grounds and research plots, reducing dependence on synthetic fertilisers and closing the organic waste loop within the University's own operational cycle.

The University concludes formal agreements with licensed waste recycling organisations by waste category and maintains an up-to-date internal database of recycling partners. Given that such agreements are not yet in place, their establishment constitutes a priority implementation step under this Policy. All contractors carrying out activities on campus premises are required to comply with the University's separate collection requirements as part of their operations.

Goal 4. Education and Awareness of the University Community

The University recognises that the long-term effectiveness of any waste management system depends not on regulatory requirements alone, but on the genuine understanding and daily habits of every member of the University community. For this reason, education and awareness-raising are treated as strategic, ongoing priorities rather than one-off activities.

All new students of NUBiP of Ukraine receive mandatory induction briefings on campus waste management rules during the adaptation week held at the start of each academic year. These briefings cover the colour-coded separate collection system, the location of collection points across the 17 academic buildings and 13 dormitories, and the specific requirements applicable to laboratory and special waste. The briefings are conducted by Vice-Deans for Educational Work and Student Affairs in coordination with dormitory management and student self-governance bodies.

Annual training sessions on updated Policy requirements are held for all categories of staff, including academic, administrative, and technical personnel, ensuring that knowledge of waste management practices is refreshed in line with any changes to applicable legislation or internal procedures. Waste management and sustainable development topics are integrated into

the content of relevant academic disciplines across the University's faculties and educational and research institutes, including courses in ecology, environmental protection, agronomy, natural resource management, and public administration, so that responsible environmental behaviour is embedded in the professional formation of students across all fields of study.

Bilingual information materials in Ukrainian and English are placed at every waste collection point across all campus facilities. These materials clearly indicate the types of waste accepted at each container, provide brief guidance on sorting, and reflect the University's commitment to international sustainability standards.

The University maintains regular communication with the University community on the progress of Policy implementation through its official website and social media channels, publishing updates at least once per semester. An annual Green Campus Day is held on campus, bringing together students, academic staff, and University partners to mark achievements, share experiences, and reinforce the culture of environmental responsibility. A recognition system is introduced to acknowledge the most active faculty, student groups, and dormitories in implementing waste management practices, thereby creating positive institutional incentives for engagement across all levels of the University community.

Goal 5. International Positioning and Reporting

NUBiP of Ukraine positions itself as an institution committed to internationally recognised sustainability standards, and the implementation of this Policy constitutes a direct contribution to that positioning. Consistent and documented implementation of the measures set out in this Policy is the primary mechanism through which NUBiP of Ukraine improves its standing in this category over time.

In the context of European cooperation, the University integrates waste management data and green campus indicators into its reporting under active and future Erasmus+ projects, in line with the green transition requirements of the Erasmus+ Programme Guide. International partners and Erasmus+ coordinators of NUBiP of Ukraine are informed of the University's sustainability commitments as part of the institutional profile presented in partnership negotiations and project applications. The bilingual publication of Policy implementation results in Ukrainian and English on the University's official website ensures that this

information is accessible to international partners, ranking bodies, and prospective participants of EU-funded programmes.

NUBiP of Ukraine actively shares experience in sustainable campus management with partner universities through existing networks of international academic cooperation. Campus sustainability practices, including waste management outcomes, are presented at international conferences, within Erasmus+ project activities, and through joint publications where relevant. This exchange of best practices not only strengthens the University's international profile but also contributes to the broader development of green campus culture across the higher education institutions with which NUBiP of Ukraine cooperates.

SECTION IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

4.1. Responsibility for the implementation of this Policy at the faculty and institute level is assigned to the Vice-Deans for Educational Work and Student Affairs of each faculty and educational and scientific institute of NUBiP of Ukraine. At the level of student dormitories, responsibility for compliance with waste management requirements is assigned to the heads of dormitory administrations in coordination with student selfgovernance bodies.

4.2. Responsible persons at the faculty and institute level ensure compliance with the Policy requirements within their respective structural units, conduct primary briefings for new students and staff on waste management rules applicable on campus, collect and consolidate data on waste management practices within their unit on a semester basis, and submit an annual report on Policy implementation to the University administration. Data collected at the faculty and institute levels covers, at a minimum, the volume and composition of waste generated, the functioning of separate collection points, and any incidents of non-compliance with this Policy's requirements.

4.3. The results of Policy implementation are discussed at meetings of the Academic Councils of faculties and educational and research institutes and subsequently at the Academic Council of NUBiP of Ukraine. This ensures that waste management performance is subject to institutional oversight at the highest level of University governance and that any systemic issues are identified and addressed in a timely manner.

4.4. Information on Policy implementation progress is published on the University website in Ukrainian and English at least once per academic year.

4.5. This Policy is subject to regular review in accordance with changes in Ukrainian legislation, international standards, and the evolving needs of the University community. The Policy constitutes an integral part of the strategic development of NUBiP of Ukraine and is updated as necessary to reflect new institutional priorities, regulatory requirements, or lessons learned from monitoring.



**Waste
Management**
under the 3R
Programme
policy
NUBiP of Ukraine
2030

This document sets out the Policy on Waste Management under the 3R Programme of National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, which integrates the 3R hierarchy into the University's educational, research, administrative and operational practices, with the aim of minimising the environmental impact of campus activities. Preference is given to approaches that prevent waste generation at source, extend the life of materials and resources and ensure separate collection and recycling of waste across all campus facilities. The Policy calls for awareness-raising and adaptability to evolving institutional requirements, with implementation overseen by designated responsible persons at the faculty and institute levels.

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