

Policy Statement | Kaupapa

Reducing waste to landfill and improving resource efficiency is the responsibility of all Staff, Students and third-party providers to the University. The University is committed to following the principles of Waste Minimisation Hierarchy, where we first avoid creating waste, or if waste must be created, it can be diverted from landfill. Landfill-only options are to be avoided wherever possible.

The following must therefore be considered by Staff, Students and third-party providers to the University:

Purchasing, Procurement and the Circular Economy

The University is committed to considering environmental factors when procuring goods and services. This includes purchasing products made from recycled materials, using local suppliers and considering the environmental impacts of the production process. Staff should look to buy from our preferred supplier directory, where some preferred suppliers meet the requirements at tender to ensure that they provide a sustainable solution to the University. Buying from outside of this directory is considered a breach of policy.

Where it is essential to purchase items, first priority should be given to options that can be easily composted or otherwise safely returned to the soil. Second priority should be given to items which are re-usable, easily recyclable within New Zealand and for which the University's waste services provider can offer a viable waste diversion solution.⁴ Items which can only be sent to landfill after use should not be purchased unless there is no viable alternative.

Paper and Cardboard

The University will continue to recycle paper and cardboard, and provide appropriate systems and infrastructure to support this.

Plastics

The University is committed to steadily reducing the use of plastics wherever possible. It is particularly focused on the removal of single use plastics from the waste stream. The University will develop and resource plans with clear targets to support this intention.

Landfill

The University will accurately measure and report on the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Construction Waste

The University will set clear expectations for Staff and contractors regarding reducing construction waste. Recycling and reusing materials from demolished or renovated buildings can help reduce waste and lower the environmental impact of the construction industry. Salvageable materials, such as bricks and timber, can be reused in new construction projects. A waste management plan can help identify the types and quantities of waste generated during construction and outline strategies to reduce, reuse and recycle waste.

Hazardous Waste

The University will abide by all regulations related to the disposal of hazardous waste. It also commits to accurately monitoring and reporting this.

Education

The University will continually educate Staff and Students about correct disposal options for waste.

Leadership

The University will remain a thought leader in the area of waste minimisation. It will do this by remaining an extension for

UC Policy Library | Te Pataka Kaupapa Here

[Procurement Policy](#)

[Sustainability Policy](#)

UC Website and Intranet | Te Pae Tukutuku me te Ipurangiroto o UC

[Sustainability Plan](#)

[Waste Plan](#)

[Sustainable Food and Drink Plan](#)

External | Māwhero

New Zealand Government Procurement – [Government Procurement Rules 4th Edition 2019](#)

Ministry for the Environment, [Te Hanga Māhiora - Circular economy](#)

Ministry for the Environment, [Compostable Packaging Position Statement](#)

Document History and Version Control Table

Version	Action	Approval Authority	Action Date
1.00	Creation and addition of new Policy to Policy Library	Pro-Vice-Chancellor Sustainability	Aug 2023