



WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

ESTATES DIRECTORATE

Policy Number	ED-23	Version Number	4
Publishing Availability	University wide	Review Date	2026 (last reviewed 2024)
Approved By	Peter Erwin, Head of Estates Services	Approval Date	2013
Lead Responsibility		Lead Author	Sara Lynch

Overview

This policy sets down the framework for waste management at the University.

Developed by Estates Directorate
2013

1. Rationale

The University produces a diverse range of hazardous and non-hazardous waste streams and has a duty to ensure that steps are taken to reduce these waste streams where possible and to ensure that these are disposed of responsibly, using approved, fully registered waste contractors.

This policy sets down the framework for waste management at the University.

2. Policy Statement

Queen's University Belfast is committed to improving its environmental performance, thereby reducing the impact of its activities on the environment.

The University will promote leadership in environmental protection and enhancement through continuous improvement in its waste management processes.

The University will adopt the Government 'waste hierarchy' of prevention, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal for the management of waste.



The University has put in place a management structure to ensure the waste management policy objectives are met. The University's Safety Service has management responsibility for Clinical, Chemical and Radioactive wastes. The Estates Department has management responsibility for the remaining wastes including non-hazardous and waste electrical and electronic equipment.

3. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- To reduce and, where possible, avoid creating waste, through the development of effective resource and waste management strategies.
- To ensure waste is managed with minimal impact on the environment and public health.
- Monitor and measure monthly data associated with recycling, anaerobic digestion, composting, landfill, reuse and energy recovery. This data is collected and published publically via the HESA website and our Annual University Report.
- To ensure the health and safety risks associated with the generation, handling, storage and off-site disposal of waste are minimised for staff, students and contractors.
- To ensure all hazardous materials are disposed of safely and correctly, minimising harm to the environment and others.
- To comply with all legislation related to waste management.
- To monitor and audit waste management contractors.
- To work with Procurement and Suppliers to reduce waste where possible.
- To provide appropriate recycling facilities for staff and students.
- Where possible, minimise the use of disposables on campus, including single-use plastics.
- To increase awareness of environmental responsibilities among staff and students.
- Engage with staff and students on initiatives that aim to minimise waste within the university.
- Liaise with stakeholders (internal and external), (e.g. academics, similar organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations and Local authorities, local waste contractors) to share and promote best practice.

4. Procedures

The University's Waste Management Procedure OP_01 and associated Work Instructions (as per the Integrated Management Systems Operational Control Procedures) outline procedures within the University for managing clinical, hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.

5. References

- Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
- Controlled Waste (Duty of Care) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002
- Hazardous Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006

6. Further Information

The University's Safety Manager.

The University's Environmental Manager.