



## European University of Lefke

### Waste and Recycling Program

Conservation and reuse of resources of our surrounding Cittaslow city Lefke are major concerns to our sustainable waste and resources management program. At the European University of Lefke (EUL), we want to ensure that our resources are managed and used effectively through our waste management and recycling principles. Therefore, we are committed to reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills, generation of solid waste, encouraging the reuse of waste, and maximizing our recycling rate.

Our waste management and effective use of resources contain an extensive audit of waste management practices that primarily addresses actions such as:

- *Reusing waste*
- *Reducing waste*
- *Recycling waste*

We also consider the disposal of *non-recyclable waste* in collaboration with local governmental bodies.

#### A. Reusing Waste

EUL takes initiative on reducing the amount of virgin resources and wastes being sent to landfills by encouraging students to donate and reuse items and furniture. For this aim, EUL assists students through an online portal for their items and furniture that they no longer want or need when they move out of their accommodations at the end of their studies. It is an online platform for our students to hand over these unwanted resources voluntarily with each other within the university. There are also student-friendly social media accounts that

assist students in need of selling or buying their items. Items include furniture, stationery, electronic items, and educational resources. EUL does not take initiative on larger disposals as they may require specialist companies and thus, could contribute to transportation cost and environmental impact.

## **B. Reducing Waste**

### ***Paper Reduction***

There is a tremendous amount of paper being used in the university. EUL takes action in order to reduce paper use within the university. Some of the actions taken are as follows:

- EUL encourages staff to deposit used one-sided paper to junk boxes provided within the university for re-use purposes by staff and students.
- All printers have “print on both sides” facilities and all print rooms have been equipped with appropriate signs to increase awareness for more environmentally friendly printing options.
- Teaching activities are aimed to be paperless and course materials are uploaded on the university electronic portal “Moodle” in order to minimize hand-out circulation in the lectures. This is highly encouraged after the COVID-19 pandemic. Interaction between academics and students are avoided. Students are also encouraged to study paper-free through university teaching platforms, Moodle and MS teams.
- EUL staff is encouraged to re-use envelopes for internal mailing purposes.

### ***Food Waste Reduction***

A considerable amount of food waste is being produced on campus. EUL aims to reduce the amount of food waste through increasing awareness and providing food recycling bins in canteen (kitchen) areas. For university catering events, left-over food is offered to staff and students on or near the campus. In addition, food waste is being collected once a week and taken to a facility where it is treated for composting and re-using on campus. Office kitchens are also supplied with waste collection boxes that are emptied every day.

Food waste includes; cooked or raw food, sandwiches, fruit peels, coffee grounds, tea bags. Apart from university catering events, there are some steps that we suggest staff and students follow to reduce their food waste as shown below:

**On-campus;**

- EUL hosts a considerable amount of street animals as their habitat. Thus, EUL provides facilities where staff and students can put their leftover food wastes to these street animals. In addition, there are food waste bins available for leftovers to be collected for composting purposes.
- For common areas, the staff is expected to use fridges provided more effectively. Thus, the fridge should be kept clean and maintained to keep their food fresher for a longer time that would allow staff more time to eat.

**At residences;**

- Freeze your food when you do not eat them. It is important to know most of the daily products we consume can be frozen (such as milk, bread and etc.). These products can be defrosted and used within 24 hours by cooking in very hot conditions.
- Cook for correct portion sizes (avoid unnecessary extra portions)
- Do your food shopping responsibly. Avoid buying unnecessary food.
- Check the labels and best before dates when you purchase

***Plastic Reduction***

Plastic use has irreversible effects on the built environment. Thus, the EUL program aims to reduce plastic use throughout the campus. Staff and student contributions are kindly appreciated on this matter. There are several ways to minimise the use of plastic:

**On-campus (for catering events);**

- EUL discourages the use of plastic by providing compostable cups and cutleries at the university events.

- Reusable water bottles can be refilled as much as possible, especially considering the hot weather conditions in the country.
- Catering services are strict about the number of food ordered (as usually food is brought in plastic containers, therefore avoiding extra plastic use if necessary).

### **At residences;**

- Buy shopping bags which you can use several times to reduce plastic bag consumption and shop in bulks when possible.
- Avoid using plastic packaging as much as possible when you buy fruits and vegetables.
- Ask not to have plastic straws and plastic cutlery when you order drinks or food.
- Avoid buying ready meals in black plastic as it cannot be recycled.

## **C. Waste Recycling**

### ***Paper, Bottles/Can, Plastic, Metal and Glass***

Solid waste recycling is an important factor for an environmentally friendly community. Hence, external recycling bins are located in several locations on campus to collect paper, bottles/can, plastic, metal, and glass for recycling.

### ***Techno Trash***

Techno Trash is a term for all waste electrical and electronic equipment that are peculiar to the digital era that we live in. Techno Trash can recycle computers, monitors, keyboards, mobile phones, cables, batteries, CDs, and DVDs. There are a variety of hazardous (toxic) and non-hazardous materials under Techno Trash. Thus, it is important to recycle and reuse these items in order to reduce the use of resources. Techno Trash Recycling Bins are available in specific locations on campus. Hazardous Techno Trash is identified as hazardous items of electrical and electronic waste and mostly includes fridges and computer monitors. Removal

and handling of these items should be treated with extra care and collection is made on request. Non-hazardous Techno Trash is also collected on request.

### ***Laboratory Waste***

Laboratory waste is classified into two groups: hazardous and non-hazardous. They both may require different procedures for disposal and handling. Hazardous laboratory waste mostly consists of chemical wastes. Our university aims to provide safer disposal of chemical wastes. Non-hazardous wastes include dry recyclables such as paper, hand towels, cardboards, and packaging for lab materials. Labs are equipped with recycling bins where necessary.

### **D. Non-recyclable Waste**

Non-recyclable items include the following:

- Food waste including tea bags, banana skins and etc.
- Hot drink cups
- Paper towels, paper napkins, and used paper plates
- Foil gift wraps and food packets
- Plastic bags, films, or sporting goods
- Packing peanuts and bubble wrap
- Hazardous chemicals
- Photographs,
- Cigarettes
- Wood
- Light bulbs
- Polystyrene and Styrofoam
- Medical masks

Students and staff are asked to throw their medical masks to medical waste disposal as much as possible. When there is no access to medical waste disposal, it is advised to seal the mask

in a small bag before putting it in the garbage bin. Collected non-recyclable waste is sent to local municipalities and then these waste materials are sent to Güngör Solid Waste Landfill Centre, that was established with European Union contributions is 2012.