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# LUT Universities' Waste Management Policy

LUT Universities, comprising LUT University and LAB University of Applied Sciences, are committed to reducing their environmental impact by ensuring that waste is managed in an effective, responsible, and sustainable manner. This Waste Management Policy supports the implementation of LUT University's and LAB University of Applied Sciences' Sustainability Policies and Climate Action Plans and applies to all university activities, campuses and waste streams, including both non-hazardous and hazardous waste. The policy also applies to outsourced services operating on campuses, such as restaurant services.

LUT University and LAB University of Applied Sciences strive to protect the environment and save procurement and recycling costs by making wise material choices, reducing water usage, minimizing the use of plastic and other packaging materials, promoting reusable alternatives, reducing the use of disposable and single-use products whenever feasible, and continuously improving their operations.

LUT Universities' waste management practices are guided by the Finnish Waste Act (646/2011), applicable EU legislation, and local waste management regulations. Waste management follows the waste hierarchy, with priority given to reducing the amount and harmfulness of waste generated. Where waste cannot be avoided, it is primarily prepared for reuse or, secondly, recycled. If recycling is not possible, waste is recovered in other ways, such as through energy recovery, while disposal is used only as the last resort. By following the waste hierarchy, LUT Universities aim to improve resource efficiency, keep materials in circulation, and support the transition towards the circular economy.

Detailed guidelines for sorting, handling and recycling different waste streams are provided in the LUT Universities' Waste Disposal Guide. Waste on campus is collected and sorted for recycling. The property owners are responsible for campus waste management, including the collection of energy waste, biowaste, dry waste, plastic, paper, cardboard, glass and metal waste, and for delivering these waste streams for further processing. LUT Universities are responsible for the proper disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), hazardous waste, oils and confidential documents, as well as for recycling metal parts generated through large-scale operations.

LUT Universities monitor the amounts of recyclable waste monthly to measure waste management performance and support continuous improvement. The amounts of recycled and landfilled waste are documented in the annual sustainability report. The universities periodically review their waste management practices and objectives to ensure alignment with legislative requirements, sustainability commitments, and stakeholder expectations.

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