SRM UNIVERSITY – AP, ANDHRA PRADESH

Waste Segregation and Plastic-Free Campus

Sorting Waste Where It Is Created, Handling Every Stream Separately and Saying No to Plastic

SRM University-AP, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh | Data for calendar year 2025

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RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

Waste Segregation and a Plastic-Free Campus

Good recycling starts with sorting. At SRM University-AP, waste is segregated where it is generated, and every waste stream then has its own route: some is turned into compost and biogas on campus, some is reused in the University's own construction, and some is handed to authorised recyclers. The campus also bans plastic carry bags and, under its integrated waste management policy, single-use plastic items more broadly. This page explains how the streams are separated, where they go and how the plastic-free rule is applied.



Image 1: Dry-waste and wet-waste bins outside a building



Image 2: Paired bins outside an academic building



Image 3: "Say No to Plastic Bags" signage along a walkway

SEGREGATION AT SOURCE

Segregation at Source and Awareness

Waste is segregated where it is generated. Paired dry-waste and wet-waste bins with clear pictorial labels stand outside academic buildings, along walkways and in common areas, so that recyclable dry waste and compostable wet waste are separated from the start and reach the right processing route. The same approach is followed in the dining areas. The mess and canteen run on a "clean as you go" principle, and the food and vegetable waste they generate goes to the biogas plant and the vermicompost yard.

The policy backs this practice with clear rules. All waste generated within the campus is segregated at the point of generation into designated categories using clearly labelled and colour-coded containers. Biodegradable waste is separated from recyclable and non-recyclable solid waste, and biomedical waste, e-waste, hazardous waste and construction waste are stored separately in appropriate containers and are never mixed with general waste. Mixed waste is hard to recycle: wet food waste soils paper and plastic, and a single broken tube light or battery can contaminate a whole bin, whereas waste sorted at the point where it is created can be composted, recycled or recovered.

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Image 4: Serving area of the campus mess, run on a "clean as you go" principle

WASTE STREAMS

Waste Streams and How They Are Handled

Waste generated on the campus falls into two groups. Biodegradable waste consists of food waste, vegetable waste, fruit peels, garden waste, dead plants and leaves, and paper. Non-biodegradable waste consists of plastic, aluminium cans, metals, construction waste, e-waste and used oil. Each stream has its own route.

Plastic containers and used oil tins are stored in dedicated areas of the campus until they are collected by third parties, so that they do not mix with other waste or reach drains and open ground.



Image 5: Plastic containers stored in a dedicated area



Image 6: Old oil tins stored in a dedicated area

SPECIAL WASTE

Specialised and Construction Waste

Departments that generate specialised waste such as laboratory chemicals, biomedical materials, electronic components or construction debris ensure safe temporary storage and timely handover to the Directorate of Facility Management or to authorised vendors. Recyclable solid waste is transferred to authorised recycling vendors, and every disposal is supported by quantity records, manifests, invoices, acknowledgements and disposal certificates.

Construction and demolition waste is managed scientifically. It is segregated at source into reusable, recyclable and inert fractions, and reusable materials such as bricks, metal frames, wood, doors, windows, tiles and fixtures are recovered to the maximum feasible extent. Non-reusable debris such as concrete, cement waste, rubble, plaster and excavation material is collected separately and moved only through authorised agencies or municipal-authorised disposal facilities. Contractors, civil works agencies and project management units are responsible for clean work sites and for preventing indiscriminate dumping of debris on the campus.

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PLASTIC-FREE CAMPUS

Single-Use Plastic-Free Campus

Campus signage reinforces the plastic-free rule, with “Say No to Plastic Bags” boards placed along the main walkways and green spaces, which helps keep plastic out of the waste stream. The policy goes further than carry bags: the use, sale, distribution, storage and disposal of single-use plastic items within the campus is strictly prohibited. This includes plastic carry bags, disposable cups, plates, bowls, cutlery, straws, stirrers, one-time-use water bottles, thermocol items, plastic banners, flex sheets and packaging materials wherever sustainable alternatives are available.

Single-use plastics are designed to be used for minutes but persist in the environment for a very long time. They break into smaller fragments, clog drains, harm animals and are hard to recycle when they are thin, dirty or mixed with other materials, which is why the campus prevents them at the point of purchase and use rather than relying on recycling alone.

AWARENESS AND REPORTING

Training, Awareness and Incident Reporting

The University periodically conducts awareness programmes, workshops and sensitisation activities for students, faculty, staff, outsourced personnel and contractors on waste segregation, safe handling, recycling, the plastic-free campus and sustainable construction waste disposal. The requirements apply in full to outsourced services such as housekeeping, catering, security, transport, horticulture and civil works, whose contracts require them to follow segregation and plastic restrictions, hold valid authorisations, submit monthly waste data and allow audits. Any spill, leakage, accidental exposure or unsafe disposal is reported immediately to the Directorate of Facility Management and the concerned department head, and corrective and preventive action is documented.

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