1. Introduction

Due to the diverse nature of activities on the University of Leicester campus, a wide variety of wastes are produced and collected ranging from general wastes and recyclable materials, through to special and hazardous wastes. The University has a duty to ensure that all of these wastes are disposed of responsibly, using approved, fully registered waste contractors.

This policy sets down the framework for all waste management at the University. Detailed, up-to-date information on the correct disposal routes for all waste types can be found on the University Environment Team website (www.le.ac.uk/environment).

2. Policy Statement

The University will adopt the principles of the ‘best practicable environmental option’ in the delivery of its waste management services. The University will apply a ‘waste hierarchical approach’ to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover waste products in preference to the disposal of waste to landfill.

There is a legal requirement for all who produce, keep or dispose of waste of any type to comply with the various regulations and the Duty of Care under Environmental Protection legislation. The University recognises the importance of meeting these legal requirements and to manage its waste responsibly, reduce the volume of waste sent to landfill and maximise reuse and recycling where possible.

The University requires all staff, students, contractors and anyone else making use of the premises to comply with this policy and associated University Waste Guidance Notes (WGN’s), to ensure compliance with all waste legislation. In accordance with the policy statement the University will fulfil the following policy objectives.

3. Policy Objectives

3.1. The objectives of this policy are:

3.1.1. To ensure that waste management is performed in accordance with all waste legislative requirements, including the duty of care (appendix 2.3), and to plan for future legislative changes and to mitigate their effects in accordance with the Environmental Sustainability Policy (ESP, line 2).

3.1.2. To minimise waste generation at source and facilitate repair, reuse and recycling over the disposal of wastes, where it is cost effective in accordance with the Environmental Sustainability Policy (ESP, line 6) and Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS2015, p.9).

3.1.3. To provide clearly defined roles and responsibilities to identify and co-ordinate each activity within the waste management chain (appendix 1).

3.1.4. To promote environmental awareness in order to increase and encourage waste minimisation, reuse and recycling in accordance with the Environmental Sustainability Policy (ESP, line 1) and Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS2015, p.9).
3.1.5. To secure where possible revenue from recyclable materials to reinvest into the expansion of sustainable wastes management opportunities on the campus.

3.1.6. To ensure the safe handling and storage of wastes on campus.

3.1.7. To provide appropriate training for staff, students and other stakeholders on waste management issues.

3.1.8. To promote industry waste management best practice in accordance with the Environmental Sustainability Policy (ESP, line 12).

4. Application

This policy applies to all activities undertaken by (or on behalf of) the University of Leicester including those of its staff, students, contractors and suppliers (appendix 1). All waste management activities must adhere to the waste hierarchy where practicable.

4.1. Waste Hierarchy

The hierarchy lists the different ways of dealing with waste in order of preference from the most favourable option (prevention) to the least favourable option (disposal).