



Covenant University Marine Pollution Prevention and Reduction Policy

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Introduction

Covenant University is committed to promoting environmental stewardship and protecting water bodies from pollution generated by anthropogenic and land-based activities. Although the university is not located near coastal areas, pollutants and contaminants from campus operations can contribute to marine pollution through runoffs and waste streams that eventually become entrained in larger water bodies. This policy outlines our commitment to minimizing land-based contributions to marine pollution, which sits well with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 – **Life Below Water**. By adopting sustainable practices in waste management, chemical use, and water conservation, Covenant University aims to preserve water quality and protect marine ecosystems.

1. Purpose

This policy aims to prevent and reduce marine pollution by adequately containing wastes originating from Covenant University, such that surface runoffs with high levels of contaminants and pollutants are minimized; also, the wastes are treated to minimize waterborne contaminants that endanger marine life. This policy affirms Covenant University's dedication to environmental sustainability and global marine protection efforts.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, faculty, visitors, and contractors at Covenant University, covering all campus activities that can contribute to pollution.

3. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- i. minimize land-based and anthropogenic sources of marine pollution from campus activities;
- ii. promote responsible waste management and water use practices;
- iii. educate the campus community on the importance of preventing marine pollution;
- iv. comply with local environmental regulations to ensure proper handling of pollutants and contaminants.

4. Policy Guidelines

4.1 Waste Management

- i. **Zero Plastic Waste:** Covenant University is committed to reducing single-use plastics on campus. The use of plastic bags, bottles, and other disposable plastics are discouraged, and alternatives such as reusable or biodegradable containers are promoted.
- ii. **Waste Segregation and Recycling:** Covenant University conducts a waste segregation program where waste is sorted at the source into recyclable, compostable, and non-recyclable categories. Dedicated recycling stations are strategically placed across

campus. Recyclable materials collected will be processed through Covenant University's partners via local recycling and disposal facilities, thus supporting a cleaner campus and promoting environmental sustainability goals.

- iii. **Composting Program:** Covenant University maintains a composting program to manage organic wastes, including food scraps from dining facilities and landscaping debris from campus ground maintenance. This initiative reduces the volume of waste sent to landfills by re-purposing organic material to enrich campus gardens and green spaces, thereby preventing potential contamination of water sources and enhancing soil quality.

4.2 Water and Chemical Use

- i. **Sustainable Landscaping:** Only non-toxic, environmentally friendly fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides will be used for campus landscaping to prevent runoff contamination. Priority will be given to organic or biodegradable products that reduce chemical leaching into waterways.
- ii. **Stormwater Management: Covenant University will develop green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and permeable paving, to manage stormwater** on campus. This will minimize runoffs while allowing water to infiltrate into the ground and reduce the flow of pollutants into water sources.
- iii. **Wastewater Treatment:** The university will ensure that wastewater generated on campus is treated properly before discharge to avoid pollution of local water bodies that could eventually lead to marine pollution.

4.3 Hazardous Materials Control

- i. **Chemical Storage and Disposal:** All chemicals, including laboratory and cleaning agents, will be stored and disposed of in compliance with environmental regulations. Spill prevention plans will be implemented to avoid accidental release.
- ii. **Oil and Grease Management:** Facilities and dining services will ensure that all oil and grease waste generated on campus are properly collected and disposed of to prevent wastewater contamination.
- iii. **Reduction of Microplastics:** Products such as microbeads borne by cleaning agents will not be allowed on campus. The university will also encourage using filters to prevent microfibers from reaching water sources.

4.4 Community Education and Engagement

- i. **Education on Sustainable Marine Pollution Prevention:** Covenant University will include information on marine pollution and sustainable marine pollution prevention practices in orientation programs for new students, employees and visitors.
- ii. **Campus Initiatives and Events:** Events such as clean-up drives, environmental workshops, and challenges related to sustainable marine pollution prevention and control will be organized to raise campus and community awareness.

- iii. **Research and Student Projects:** The university shall encourage its students and researchers to explore innovative pollution prevention and reduction solutions, with opportunities to present findings that can improve campus practices.

5. Compliance and Monitoring

- i. **Monitoring:** The **Covenant University Environmental Health and Safety Unit (CUEHS)** will monitor campus practices related to waste disposal, chemical handling, and water usage to ensure compliance with this policy.
- ii. **Audits:** Regular environmental audits will be conducted to assess pollution control practices and improve areas where marine pollution risks are identified.
- iii. **Reporting Mechanism:** Any incidents of improper waste disposal or pollutant release shall be reported to the **Covenant University Sustainability Office** immediately.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- i. **Covenant University Environmental Health and Safety Unit (CUEHS):** Responsible for overseeing waste and chemical management, pollution control measures, and compliance.
- ii. **Covenant University Sustainability Committee:** Monitors the policy's effectiveness/levels of compliance, proposes updates, and educates the campus community on pollution prevention.
- iii. **Facilities Management:** Facility managers will ensure proper waste disposal and maintenance of sustainable landscaping and water management systems.

7. Penalties for Non-Compliance

Non-compliance with this policy will result in disciplinary actions, including fines or restrictions on on-campus activities. For contractors, non-compliance could result in the termination of their contracts.

8. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it is up-to-date in terms of its alignment with best practices and adaptation to new regulatory requirements of SDG 14.

Policy Approval

This policy is approved by the Vice-Chancellor of Covenant University and takes immediate effect.