

 ABDULLAH GÜL ÜNİVERSİTESİ	Reducing Marine Pollution Policy	Document No:	POL-14
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		Revision Date:	10.01.2024
		Revision No:	06

Purpose

The Reducing Marine Pollution Policy at Abdullah Gül University (AGU) reinforces AGU's dedication to minimizing marine pollution, particularly from land-based activities. This policy aligns with AGU's commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainable development, and protecting marine ecosystems through practices aimed at reducing harmful pollutants and preserving aquatic environments.

Scope

This policy applies to all AGU activities with potential marine impact, including research, campus waste management, community outreach, and partnerships. All AGU faculty, students, staff, and contractors involved in activities potentially affecting marine environments are required to support AGU's marine pollution reduction objectives.

Policy Statements

1. Commitment to Marine Pollution Reduction

AGU is dedicated to reducing marine pollution by integrating sustainable practices across campus operations and partnerships. This commitment is aligned with AGU's Aquatic Ecosystem Management Plan, which includes campus-wide strategies for pollution mitigation to safeguard marine habitats, protect biodiversity, and support healthy aquatic ecosystems.

2. Minimizing Land-Based Sources of Pollution

AGU enforces controls to mitigate pollution from runoff and improper waste disposal that may impact marine and coastal ecosystems. Under AGU's Climate Action Plan, the university promotes eco-friendly practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, water usage, and waste. These measures help prevent excess nutrients, chemicals, and runoff from land-based sources from entering marine environments, supporting sustainable marine conservation.

3. Reduction of Plastic Waste

AGU adheres to its Reducing Plastic Use Policy to decrease plastic waste on campus. The Waste Management Committee oversees the implementation of this policy, promoting alternatives to single-use plastics and ensuring responsible disposal practices. These actions are vital in preventing plastic waste from polluting marine environments and contribute to AGU's environmental sustainability goals.

4. Education and Awareness

AGU fosters a culture of environmental awareness through educational initiatives on marine pollution. Workshops, seminars, and outreach campaigns inform the AGU community about reducing land-based pollutants and adopting eco-friendly practices. This educational approach encourages AGU students, faculty, and staff to take an active role in marine protection.

5. Sustainable Research and Partnerships

AGU emphasizes sustainable research practices in projects that may involve or affect marine ecosystems. The university collaborates with NGOs, government bodies, and other academic institutions to develop research, technologies, and practices aimed at reducing marine pollution. These partnerships advance AGU's objectives to protect marine biodiversity and promote sustainable resource management.

6. Continuous Improvement and Compliance

AGU complies with national and international environmental standards related to marine pollution. The university's Sustainable Development Commission regularly reviews and updates policies to ensure they reflect the latest sustainable practices and environmental guidelines.

7. Responsibilities

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- **Sustainable Development Commission:** Oversees the implementation and review of AGU’s marine pollution policies, ensuring that practices align with both national and international standards and fostering a culture of sustainability within the university.

8. Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Sustainable Development Commission, or as necessary, to stay compliant with evolving sustainability standards. Feedback from AGU’s community and external partners will guide updates to strengthen AGU’s marine pollution reduction efforts. This policy underscores AGU’s commitment to responsible environmental management in alignment with the university’s values and goals for sustainable development.