

## **ERCIYES UNIVERSITY PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION POLICY**

Plastic products are widely used across various products worldwide due to their lightweight, low cost, ease of production and coloring, and resistance to corrosion and adverse conditions. The continuously increasing population, rapid urbanization, and industrial advancements have led to an increase in the quantity of products produced. Therefore, it is inevitable that the plastic waste generated becomes one of the primary inorganic solid waste fractions in our solid waste production alongside the increase in consumption amounts.

Erciyes University acknowledges its responsibility to protect the environment while achieving its strategic goals related to research and education and recognizes the need to target this responsibility. It supports policies and encourages awareness activities to prevent the increasing production of plastic waste.

In this context, Erciyes University's plastic waste reduction policy includes:

- Reusing office supplies such as plastic folders without waste,
- Using materials like paper clips or staplers instead of plastic folders in information notes and correspondence,
- Avoiding single-use plastic products and opting for long-lasting, sustainable materials instead,
- Increasing the number of drinkable water sources on campus to reduce plastic waste from bottled water,
- Using glass thermoses instead of plastic products,
- Preferring cloth bags over plastic bags,
- Integrating the concept of sustainability into business processes in all units to foster a sense of responsibility,
- Encouraging the use of cleaning materials in smaller, necessary amounts, applying this sensible approach to all areas and resources.

With the increase in population and consumption, especially the dependency on ready-made and single-use plastic products, pollution is also on the rise. It is known that everyone has a role in combating the negative effects of plastic pollution observed in our country and around the world and should contribute to this effort.

Along with education, teaching, and research activities:

- The environmental management system is focused on continuous monitoring and improvement,
- All processes related to the control and management of waste produced within the university must fulfill obligations,
- All activities required under the legislation to prevent environmental pollution are to be carried out according to a plan,

- Achieving sustainable success by promoting all sub-policies regarding environmental management, primarily to staff and students, to the community is aimed.