



## **Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka**

**Policy Title – Policy on e-Waste Management**

**Policy Number – Policy / SUSL / Gov & Mgmt / 22**

**Effective Date –27.07.2023**

**Revised Dates –NA**

**Approving Authority – The Council, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka**

**Administrative Responsibility – Registrar, Directors of the Centers, Deans of the Faculties, Senate, Council**

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### **1. Overview**

Electronic and electrical equipment facilitates the entire University community. Nevertheless, in view of the new technological advancements and its usage there is a gradual increase of the electrical equipment throughout the university. As a result, an electronic waste is created due to the fact that there is a lifetime for the electrical equipment, and such waste equipment creates hazardous situations to the university community and the environment due to lack of proper management. The mishandling of e-waste results in avoidable pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Electronic waste, or e-waste, is a term for electronic products that have become unwanted, non-working or obsolete, and have essentially reached the end of their useful life.

E-waste is defined as 'electrical and electronic equipment, whole or in part discarded as waste by the consumer or bulk consumer as well as rejects from manufacturing, refurbishment and repair processes. E-waste contains many valuable, recoverable materials such as aluminium, copper, gold, silver, plastics, and ferrous metals. In order to conserve natural resources and the energy needed to produce new electronic equipment from virgin resources, electronic equipment can be refurbished, reused, and recycled instead of being land-filled. E-waste also contains toxic and hazardous materials including mercury, lead, cadmium, beryllium, chromium, and chemical flame retardants, which have the potential to leach into our soil and water. Electronic waste is disposed of by mixing with the normal office waste. Such unprotected disposal of the heavy metals in them, such as Cadmium, Arsenic, Lead and Mercury to the environment could lead to different environmental and health problems. In view of the minimal level of the awareness among the staff of SUSL about the damaging effects of the electronic waste, any interest in handing over those to the collection lessened.

Electronic Waste Management in SUSL is at a weak level due to reasons such as the inadequacy of awareness. As a state institute, SUSL needs a Policy on the Electronic Waste Management to provide for the concept of the responsibility of the university community. A course of action for the creation of an awareness among the academic and non-academic staff at the time of sale of electronic equipment should be implemented. The university administration should establish a database covering all the parties involved in the Electronic Waste Management and ensure updated maintenance. A main policy objective for e-waste management will be to promote a safer environment and protect health through effective, efficient and responsible e-waste management practices that will allow for a sustainable development. The controls in force at present cover only the imported used articles whilst such controls should be set in place for the new articles imported as well.

The management of electronic waste in Sri Lanka is devolved to the Central Environmental Authority. The waste management at present is executed by the Collection of Electronic Waste supervised by that Authority. In addition, there are a large number of collectors who collect such waste informally and their work is not supervised by any institution.

### **1.1 Categories of e-waste items**

#### *Domestic e-waste*

- LCD TVs/Monitors
- LED lamps
- Computer hardware
- Radios, DVD players
- Electric ovens /Microwave ovens
- Table fans and ceiling fans
- Mobile phones / Laptops / Chargers
- Bluetooth speakers/ Earbuds
- Cameras / CCTV equipment

#### *Office e-waste*

- Photocopy machines
- UPS units / UPS batteries
- Printers/ Scanners
- Projectors / Speakers
- Access control equipment (fingerprint machines)
- Network equipment (Routers, Switches, Servers, etc)
- Telephone/Fax/ Intercom equipment

#### *Medical e-waste*

- Ventilators/ Insulin pumps

- Hearing aids / Electric wheelchairs
- Oximeters / Electronic thermometers
- Ultrasound machines and probes
- Spectrophotometers
- Electronic medical record systems
- Glucometers/ Weight scales

*E-WASTE items that cannot be collected by the SUSL e-waste management team*

- CFL bulbs/ Tube lights / Mercury lamps
- Refrigerators
- CRT TVs / CRT monitors
- Leaking batteries
- CT scanners/ X-ray equipment
- Smoke detectors/ Radioactive sources
- Items containing mercury, cadmium, phosphorous
- Biohazardous equipment

## **2. Purpose**

The objective of this policy is to evaluate electronic and electrical equipment of the university and the adverse impacts caused by the disposal of such equipment to the environment and the university to consider the evaluation of the prevailing legal mechanism for the disposal of electronic waste and its operation.

In developing this e-waste policy, SUSL seeks to meet the following objectives:

- To minimise generation of e-waste at source and facilitate repair, reuse and recycling wherever possible, over the disposal of wastes in a cost-effective manner.
- To mobilise and sensitise stakeholders on the proper management and handling of e-waste on a sustainable basis.

- To ensure the safe handling and storage of wastes in University campus.
- To encourage use of environmentally sound e-waste recycling methods.
- To provide guidance on the standards of electronic equipment that is implemented in the University.
- To provide appropriate training for teacher, resident, staff, students and other stakeholders on waste management issues.

### **3. Scope**

This policy is applied for all the stakeholders (staff, student) and Faculties, Departments/ divisions / Centers / Units/ ad hoc committees at the SUSL.

### **4. Legislative context**

N/A

### **5. Definitions**

SUSL	Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
CCS	Centre for Computer Studies
CQA	Centre for Quality Assurance
Council	The Council of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

### **6. 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. The University recognizes the importance of meeting these legal requirements and to manage its waste responsibly, reduce the volume of waste sent to landfill and to sensitise reuse and recycling wherever possible. The University requires all the teaching and non- teaching staff,

students, guests and anyone else making use of the premises to comply with this Policy and associated "solid waste management policy " to ensure compliance with all waste legislations.

## **7. Implementation**

This policy will be implemented by faculties, departments, or centers of the university. All the surplus inventory electronic items, must be discarded with the consent of the Board of Survey to remove the items from the university inventory and then sent to the Director, CCS/E- Waste Management team.

The locally collected items must be stored in an e-waste Collection at the premises and maintained with safety standards. If reusing or repairing the device is not the best option, the device will be disassembled and the components will be separated carefully.

The director, CCS / e-waste management team determines if the surplus electronic device should be donated to local schools as specified by the advisory committee, or should be sold through a public auction as per policy of SUSL, or should be recycled or if not valued discarded.

The e-Waste items must be categorized for recycling purpose or donation purpose or selling purpose or discarding purpose as per recommendation of the advisory committee.

The destruction of electronic waste should not be recommended in the conduct of Boards of Survey in the SUSL.

## **8. Supporting Documents**

- Electronic waste management in Sri Lanka, Retrieved [08.03.2023] from [\[http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.lk/web/images/audit-reports/upload/2016/performance\\_2016/e\\_waste/Electronic-Waste-](http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.lk/web/images/audit-reports/upload/2016/performance_2016/e_waste/Electronic-Waste-)

Management-in-Sri--Lanka---Performance-and-Environmental-Aiudit-Report 1-E.pdf]

- National Policy on Waste Management, Retrieved [08.03.2023] from [[http://www.env.gov.lk/web/images/pdf/policies/National\\_Policy\\_on\\_Waste\\_Management\\_English.pdf](http://www.env.gov.lk/web/images/pdf/policies/National_Policy_on_Waste_Management_English.pdf)]

## **9. Responsibility**

Registrar, or Director CCS or Senate and Council Appointed e-waste management team is responsible for adhering to this policy and will ensure that their subordinates adhere to this policy. Any employees of the e-Waste management team who fail to comply with this policy may be subject to disciplinary action for noncompliance with university policies.

## **10. Promulgation**

- a. This policy will be circulated as a printed document among the staff of the SUSL
- b. This policy will be made available via a 'Downloads' link of the CQA web page of the University website.

**Centre for Quality Assurance**

**June, 2023**

***\*\*\*This policy has been approved at the 274<sup>th</sup> Senate held on 13.06.2023 and 298<sup>th</sup> Council held on 27.07.2023***