

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Encourage Sustainable Production and Consumption Initiatives

With NIDA's commitment to drive behavioral and lifestyle changes among its community, the Institute introduced and enacted a policy in 2022 to promote sustainable production and consumption. This policy, encapsulated under the banner of "NIDA is Environmentally Friendly," provides a clear guideline for optimizing resource utilization, reducing costs, benefitting society, and preserving the environment in alignment with the principles of sustainable development.

NIDA's environmental policy comprises two primary components:

1. The 5 R's Policy: The policy towards achieving a "zero-waste lifestyle" by embracing the 5 R's approach, with particular emphasis on Refuse and Reduce strategies to minimize waste generation at the source. This approach effectively curtails the volume of waste for further processing.

The 5 R's components are as follows:

Refuse

The critical initial step in waste reduction entails refusing and avoiding the unnecessary use of materials and single-use items, such as food containers, disposable drinking glasses, and plastic shopping bags. A campaign was launched to encourage the adoption of reusable containers, water bottles, personal drinking glasses and bags, thereby promoting the use of recyclable materials.



Reduce

This step focuses on minimizing material consumption, particularly those materials with harmful environmental impacts, such as non-recyclable plastics. NIDA is working with local stores to discourage the distribution of plastic bags, offering discounts to shoppers who bring their reusable bags or containers. The Institute has also embraced electronic documents over paper in meetings, news releases, and educational materials. Additionally, it runs informational campaigns through various media channels to promote economical material usage.

Reuse

NIDA actively promotes the practice of reusing items and discourages single-use habits. This includes the use of reusable food containers and cutlery, as well as the promotion of double-sided paper printing. The institute also encourages the use of reusable drinking glasses and provides convenient hot and cold drinking water dispensers for students, reducing the need to purchase water in plastic bottles from convenience stores.

Recycle

NIDA places a strong emphasis on waste separation and recycling. Prior to waste collection, the institution separates various materials, including plastic bottles, soft drink cans, glass bottles, cardboard and paper. These recyclable materials are sent back into the recycling process through authorized buyers. Additionally, electrical appliances are sold and donated for repair and reuse while unrepairable parts are separated for recycling.

Rot

The final and crucial step involves the conversion of food scraps and organic waste, such as leaves and tree remains, into bio-fertilizers for use within the institute. This practice reduces landfill waste and the need for chemical fertilizers.



2. Waste Management Policy: NIDA's waste management system includes:

- Promotion of Measures to Reduce Waste Generation: NIDA actively implements measures to avoid waste creation, reduce material consumption, and promote reuse.
- Waste Separation: NIDA facilitates waste separation from the outset by providing clearly labeled bins for four categories of waste: general waste, recyclable waste, hazardous waste, and biodegradable waste.
- Measurement of Waste Amount and Component Separation: NIDA has been quantifying waste and separating components since 2017, using this data for analysis and community reporting to raise awareness and foster cooperation in waste reduction.

3. Collection and Appropriate Management of Each Waste Type:

- General Waste: General waste is collected by Bangkok authorities and disposed of in a landfill in the city.
- Recycling Waste: Usable materials, equipment, and supplies are donated to various government agencies, while recyclable materials are given to waste collectors for proper recycling.
- Hazardous Waste: Hazardous waste is securely stored in Bangkok for safe disposal.
- Biodegradable Waste: NIDA utilizes biodegradable waste to produce organic fertilizer for campus use.

Note: It's noteworthy that waste measurement was temporarily halted during the COVID-19 outbreak but has now been fully reinstated in 2023.

