



**JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

JULY 2024


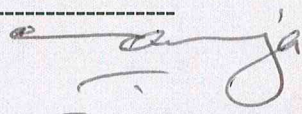
Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science & Technology

Environmental Policy

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Environmental Policy 2024

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EA	Environmental Audit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMCA	Environmental Management and Coordination Act
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
GHGs	Green House Gases
JOUST	Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
OVI	Objectively Verifiable Indicators
SWM	Sustainable Waste Management

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Environment: The physical and biological habitat that surrounds us including all the living and non-living factors that make the surrounding of man.

Environmental Mainstreaming: Integrating environmental considerations into all aspects of decision-making, planning and implementation across the University's processes and programs

Environmental Sustainability: Protection, sustainable management and utilization of ecosystems' natural resources by ensuring equitable access to, and governance of ecological goods and services.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST) was established in 2009 as a Constituent College of Maseno University following which it was granted a charter to a full-fledged public university on the 13th February 2013. The University derives its mandate of teaching and learning, research and community outreach from the Universities Act 2012 and its Charter. Article 7 of the Act gives the functions of the University as; (a) “to provide for the integration of teaching, research and effective application of knowledge and skills to the life, work and welfare of citizens of Kenya; (b) “participate in scholarly work, the discovery, transmission, utilization, preservation and enhancement of knowledge”.

JOOUST as a centre for the production of empirical knowledge endeavours to uphold exemplary performance in environmental matters. For this reason, the University has developed a comprehensive Policy to guide mainstreaming environmental sustainability in its programmes and operations.

1.1 Vision

The beacon of excellence in University Education.

1.2 Mission Statement

To provide quality education that nurtures creativity and innovation through integrated training, research and community outreach for sustainable development.

1.3 Philosophy

A holistic scholarship service to humanity through wisdom, science and technology

1.4 Core Value

- Customer focus
- Impartiality
- Professionalism
- Responsiveness
- Integrity
- Meritocracy

1.5 Motto

Oasis of Knowledge.

2.0 THE POLICY

2.1 Purpose of the Policy

To conduct University operations in adherence with the sound environmental, health and safety practices consistent with the Teaching and Research Excellence

2.2 Policy Statement

JOOUST is committed to finding innovative ways to better protect people and the planet and measuring and improving our environmental health and safety performance

2.3 Policy Objectives

- i) To guide in mainstreaming environmental sustainability into the operations of JOOUST.
- ii) To comply with applicable environmental health and safety laws and regulations
- iii) Promote and encourage sustainability through efficient and appropriate use of resources
- iv) To enhance participation in scientific, technological, cultural and innovative efforts to improve environmental sustainability.
- v) Minimize hazards to stakeholders and the environment

2.4 Guiding Principles

2.4.1 *Environmental Sustainability*

- i) The University shall apply the principles of result-based management and environmental sustainability anchored on sound environmental principles
- ii) All environmental-related activities shall aim at meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- iii) There shall be concerted efforts to balance environmental, economic, and social needs within the University.

2.4.2 *Water use and liquid waste*

The University shall promote a water-saving culture and maintain standards for effluents and portable water.

2.4.3 *Procurement of Services and Equipment*

The University shall procure institutional services and equipment in compliance with the University's regulation and environmental sustainability.

2.4.4 *Disposal of University Assets*

The University shall dispose of institutional assets and parts of equipment in compliance with the waste regulation and environmental sustainability.

2.4.5 *Energy supply and use*

- i) The University shall promote the use of renewable energy and minimize the use of conventional sources as a conservation strategy.
- ii) The use of solar and other renewable sources of energy in every unit shall be encouraged as far as applicable

2.4.6 *Solid waste generation and disposal*

- i) The University shall minimize waste generation to optimum levels through sustainable routine good practices and disposal methods
- ii) The 3 R's Principle of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle shall apply in solid waste management in the University

2.4.7 *Hazardous and Medical Waste*

The University shall strengthen the management of hazardous waste both in laboratories and health units.

2.4.8 *Climate change and carbon footprints*

- i) The University shall endeavour to reduce its carbon footprints to acceptable levels.

- ii) Activities that contribute to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions shall be reduced to levels commensurate with global targets

2.4.9 Environmental mainstreaming and proofing

The University shall mainstream climate change and environmental sustainability into University policies, plans, programmes and infrastructure development projects.

2.4.10 Use Pays Principles

The University shall put measures in place to safeguard the use of its environmental resources by allocating resources to pay for the use of those resources and facilitate management, sustainably and equitably benefits to all stakeholders.

2.4.11 Prevention Principle

- i) The University shall put in place measures to prevent any harm to the environment before it happens.
- ii) Proactive measures shall be encouraged to avoid environmental degradation.

2.4.12 Precautionary Principle

The University shall review all actions or policies that have the potential to cause harm to the environment or human health, and if there is uncertainty about the nature and extent of that harm, precautionary measures shall be taken.

3.0 REDUCTION OF POLLUTION

- i) The University commits to reducing pollution within its environs by ensuring that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is conducted for all new projects and an annual Environmental Audit (EA) for all activities that may have a negative impact on the environment.
- ii) All activities that are likely to cause air, water, noise, and soil pollution shall be subject to the appropriate environmental evaluation.
- iii) Handling of e-waste shall be in accordance with the national e-waste policy
- iv) This policy shall be guided by the National Environmental Policy, legislation and regulations.

4.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The policy shall continually be monitored and evaluated for its effectiveness, performance and relevance.

5.0 AMENDMENTS AND REVIEW

Any amendments to this policy shall be approved by the University Council. The policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years or as and when the need arises.

6.0 REFERENCES

1. Constitution of Kenya 2010
2. Universities Act 2012
3. Environmental Management and Coordination Act EMCA No.8 of 1999

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4. United Nations Convention on Environment and Development 1992
5. JOOUST Charter 2013
6. JOOUST Revised Statutes 2024
7. JOOUST Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027
8. Monitoring and Evaluation Policy Framework, United Nations Institute for Training and Research
9. Research and Development Policy 2024
10. Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions Act, 2016