

Air University
Policy - Food Safety & Management

Introduction

1. Food safety is a scientific discipline that focuses on handling, preparation, and storage of food in ways that prevent foodborne illness. This includes a number of routines that should be followed to avoid potential health hazards. The tracks within this line is safety between market and the consumer. The usual thought is that food ought to be safe in the café and the concern is safe preparation, preservation and delivery of the food for the consumer. Food can transmit disease from person to person as well as serve as a growth medium for bacteria that can cause food poisoning. Air University take this discipline very seriously because thousands of students, faculty and staff members dine on daily basis from cafeterias , tuck shops and delivery of food from different food chains with in twin cities.

Key Principles by WHO

2. Food poisoning is 100% preventable, according to WHO following are the key principles:-
- a. Prevent contaminating food with pathogens spreading from people, pets, and pests.
 - b. Separate raw and cooked foods to prevent contaminating the cooked foods.
 - c. Cook foods for the appropriate length of time and at the appropriate temperature to kill pathogens.
 - d. Store food at the proper temperature.
 - e. Do use safe water and safe raw materials.

Benefits of Food Safety and Management

3. Improving the 'Food Safety and Management Culture' within your domains will provide some important benefits:-
- a. Contributes in the social wellbeing by reducing food borne illnesses
 - b. Areas that are known to be pest "hot spots" as well as prone to pollution can be avoided to reduce the risk of contamination.
 - c. Cleanable to a microbiological level
 - d. Hollow areas hermetically sealed

- e. No niches
- f. Validate cleaning and sanitizing protocols
- g. Pest and rodent's control

Waste management

4. Provide appropriate containers and suitable waste storage areas. Establish adequate procedures for the storage and removal of waste. This prevents build-up of waste and pests and reduces risk of contamination of ingredients, equipment and products.

Cleaning

5. Establish cleaning and disinfection programs to ensure the correct hygiene standards are met and reduce the risk of a foodborne illness outbreak. This includes properly cleaning and disinfecting food preparation areas as well as machinery and utensils used within the food processing cycle to eliminate the microorganisms that cause food poisoning. Air University take appropriate measures by removing potential food sources and insect breeding sites.

Personal hygiene

6. Installing the correct facilities for staff to ensure proper personal hygiene is met which contributes towards meeting food safety requirements. Following factors must be considered to ensure personal hygiene:

- a. **Hand Washing** — ensure that effective hand washing techniques are followed at appropriate times.
- b. **Minimize hand contact with food** — try to minimize direct hand contact with raw food by using appropriate utensils and safe use of disposable gloves.
- c. **Personal cleanliness** — cover hair; do not sneeze or cough over food; cover cuts and sores; and do not wear jewelry.
- d. **Wear protective clothing** — wear suitable clean protective clothing and handle appropriately to prevent cross contamination.
- e. **Exclude ill staff** — staff must report illnesses; exclude staff with vomiting or diarrhea.

Environmental & Personal Hygiene

7. Food production and preparation, food safety also has to be applied during handling, storage and transportation, for both incoming deliveries and products going out

to customers. A range of factors needs to be considered during these stages to ensure food products do not become contaminated. Temperature and humidity, hygiene of vehicles, containers and packaging, and even cyber security are all factors which need to consider during these stages of the food supply. Following are key practices are ensured by Air University Administration.

- a. Staff training
- b. Hand hygiene
- c. Safe food storage practices
- d. Safe food handling practices
- e. Cleaning for food safety
- f. Pest, flies and rodent's control
- g. Packaging in authorized packaging material.

Complaint System

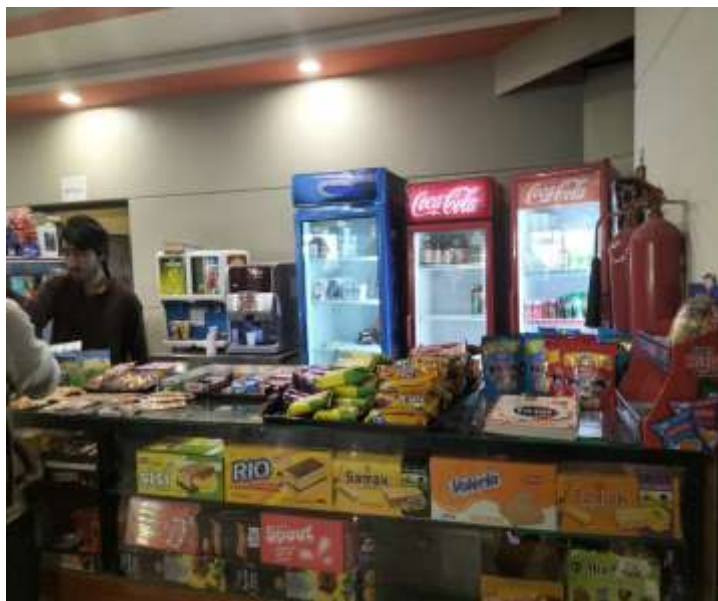
8. Air University has online complaint system, any violation in food safety and management can be immediately reported by students, faculty and staff at any stage. University also encourages good suggestions to improve the overall quality of food and hygiene in the best interest of the community.

Conclusion

9. Compliance to food safety and management procedures is the responsibility of every one working under the umbrella of Air University. Proper hygiene, sanitation and clean environments can lead to a healthy society in general and Air University in particular. Efforts of all stakeholders is appreciated during Covid 19 pandemic scenario and Air University students, faculty and staff generally remained safe and healthy to the optimum levels.

Air University Cafeteria

Air University has implemented a comprehensive recycling and composting program, educating staff and students about proper waste sorting and providing clearly labeled bins to divert waste from landfills. Minimize the use of single-use items by opting for reusable or biodegradable alternatives like cutlery, plates, and cups. Encourage staff and students to bring their own containers for takeout or leftovers, reducing waste generation. Promote energy efficiency by using energy-efficient appliances, such as refrigerators, ovens, and dishwashers, in the kitchen and cafeteria. Install LED lighting throughout the cafeteria to reduce energy consumption. Develop an energy management plan with guidelines for staff to minimize energy usage during non-peak hours. Conserve water by installing low-flow faucets, toilets, and dishwashers.





Encouraging Food Management Awareness for Sustainable Practices

Air University's student affairs department has taken the initiative to educate students about food waste management and its consequences through the establishment of the Shoor Society. Through workshops and activities, the university aims to raise awareness about both national and campus food security. The Shoor Society's main focus is on sustainable development goals and meeting fundamental needs. The Air University Shoor Society successfully planted over 500 plants to contribute to the preservation of the environment and ensure food security.



Role of Aabroo Educational Welfare Organization (Aabroo Foundation)

The collaboration with Aabroo is primarily SDG-driven (especially SDG 2, 3, 12) and supports food safety indirectly through environmental and behavioral change:

Key Contributions:

- Awareness sessions on sustainability and responsible consumption
- Waste segregation systems (reducing food contamination risks)
- Recycling and proper disposal practices
- Staff and student training on hygiene and environmental safety

A joint campus initiative includes:

- Setting up segregation bins & recycling stations
- Conducting workshops on sustainable practices
- Monitoring through a joint committee

Impact on Food Safety:

- **Cleaner environment → safer food handling**
- **Reduced pest contamination**
- **Improved hygiene in food service areas**

Role of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)

The collaboration with SDPI operates at a policy and research level, strengthening food safety through evidence-based practices.

Under the MoU:

- **Joint research on food security and sustainability**
- **Policy dialogue and knowledge exchange**
- **Capacity-building programs and training**
- **Linking academic research with national food policies**

Impact on Food Safety Program:

- **Promotes safe, nutritious, and accessible food systems**
- **Integrates food safety into national sustainability discourse**
- **Supports SDG-aligned research (especially SDG 2: Zero Hunger)**

Enhancing the Food Management Feedback System for Continuous Improvement

Air University's feedback system has been successful in gathering valuable information about customer satisfaction and the performance of food contractors. With high student participation, over 6500 out of 9000 students, the university demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement and meeting community expectations. The majority of students expressed satisfaction with the food's hygienic conditions, reflecting the university's focus on cleanliness and food safety. More than 80% Faculty and staff also expressed high levels of satisfaction, indicating that the meals offered meet their expectations. The monthly feedback forms enable consistent monitoring and evaluation of food services, ensuring responsiveness to evolving needs. The university can use the feedback to identify areas for improvement and make necessary adjustments to enhance the quality of meals served.

Description:

Air University Islamabad has developed a structured Organic Waste Treatment Program in collaboration with the Abroo Foundation to effectively manage and process biodegradable waste generated across campus facilities. With a total population of approximately 9,000 students, faculty, and staff, the University's main sources of organic waste include canteens, cafeterias, student hostels, and green areas.

The program is designed to align with the University's Sustainable Campus Initiative and its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Key features of the program include:

- **Source Segregation:** Organic waste is separated from recyclable and non-recyclable materials at the point of generation. Color-coded bins have been placed across canteens and food courts.
- **Collection & Processing:** The Abroo Foundation, in collaboration with Air University's Sustainability and Facility Management Offices, oversees daily collection of organic waste.
- **Composting Units:** A designated on-campus composting facility processes approximately 300–350 kg of organic waste per day, converting it into nutrient-rich compost.
- **Compost Utilization:** The compost produced is used for campus landscaping, green belts, and organic gardening projects, reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers.
- **Community Awareness:** Regular awareness sessions and volunteer drives are organized to educate students about the 3R approach (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and the importance of sustainable waste management.
- **Data Monitoring:** Waste collection and compost production are monitored through a digital tracking system managed by the ICT Department, ensuring transparency and efficiency.
- **External Collaboration:** The Abroo Foundation also assists in transferring any excess organic waste to municipal composting or biogas facilities, ensuring a zero-waste policy on campus.

Outcomes:

- Reduction of up to 40% in landfill-bound organic waste from campus dining areas.
- Production of approximately 5–6 tons of organic compost annually for use in Air University's green spaces.
- Contribution to the reduction of carbon footprint and promotion of a circular campus economy.
- Strengthened partnerships between academia and community organizations in sustainability-driven projects.

Evidence:

- Composting facility reports
- Waste segregation and tracking records
- Partnership MoU with Abroo Foundation
- Photos and videos of composting activities
- Sustainability progress reports

Timeline:

- Planning & Partnership: Jan – Feb 2024
- Implementation: Mar – Jun 2024
- Monitoring & Evaluation: Ongoing

Responsible Departments:

- Sustainability Office
- Facility Management Office
- ICT Department
- Abroo Foundation (Partner Organization)

Description:

1. Integrated Inorganic Waste Management Program:

Air University Islamabad, in collaboration with the Abroo Foundation, has implemented an integrated inorganic waste treatment system to manage and recycle non-toxic waste across the campus. With a population of approximately 9,000 students and staff, the University generated around 135 tons of inorganic waste this year, marking a 10% reduction from the previous year through continuous awareness, segregation at source, and reuse initiatives.

The program includes the installation of segregated waste collection stations for paper, plastic, metal, and glass, ensuring efficient sorting and treatment. The collected waste is then processed for reuse, down-cycling, and up-cycling, converting materials into usable campus items such as bins, benches, stationery, and eco-friendly packaging.

Through this collaboration, Abroo Foundation facilitates responsible collection, recycling logistics, and coordination with certified recycling partners, ensuring that waste treatment follows environmental safety and circular economy principles.

2. E-Waste and Battery Management Initiative:

Air University has also launched a specialized e-waste management system, targeting Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) such as outdated computers, printers, and electronic devices. E-waste bins have been installed in IT labs and administrative blocks, ensuring proper disposal of electronic materials and batteries.

The Abroo Foundation works with local recycling firms to ensure that precious metals and reusable components from these discarded items are safely recovered. This minimizes environmental harm from heavy metals and contributes to material recovery efficiency. The battery collection project further encourages students and staff to dispose of used batteries responsibly through designated collection points.

3. Sustainability and Social Impact:

The inorganic waste treatment program has not only reduced campus waste but also created a sustainable funding model for education. Proceeds generated from recycling activities are contributed to the Abroo Education Support Fund, providing scholarships for underprivileged students to pursue higher education at Air University.

This initiative integrates both environmental and social sustainability, directly contributing to:

- SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production, and
- SDG 4 – Quality Education.

Air University's "Waste-to-Education" model demonstrates a replicable best practice in Pakistan's higher education sector, showing how waste management can empower communities while protecting the planet.

Air University Islamabad

Description:

Air University Islamabad has implemented a comprehensive and integrated Waste Management Program in collaboration with the Abroo Foundation and the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). These initiatives have contributed significantly to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by promoting sustainable waste practices, advancing the circular economy, and fostering community engagement and awareness.

Key components and impacts of the program include:

- **3R Implementation (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle):**
Air University developed an institutional 3R framework supported by ICT-based monitoring systems to ensure efficient waste segregation at the source — including organic, inorganic, recyclable, and hazardous waste categories.
- **Collaboration with Abroo Foundation:**
A unique partnership with Abroo Foundation allows recyclable waste such as paper and plastic to be collected, processed, and converted into educational scholarships for underprivileged students. This initiative simultaneously supports social equity (SDG 4) and responsible consumption (SDG 12).
- **Partnership with SDPI:**
SDPI provides technical guidance and policy alignment for Air University's sustainability framework, ensuring that all waste management practices adhere to national environmental standards and support Pakistan's SDG commitments.

- **Organic Waste Composting:**
Organic waste from cafeterias and gardens is treated through on-site composting, producing natural fertilizer used for campus landscaping and green spaces, directly supporting SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).
- **E-Waste and Toxic Waste Management:**
Dedicated collection points have been established for e-waste and laboratory waste, ensuring safe disposal through certified vendors in line with environmental compliance standards.
- **Digitalization and Paper Reduction:**
Administrative processes and documentation systems have been transitioned to digital platforms to minimize paper usage and operational waste, supporting SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).
- **Awareness and Student Engagement:**
Regular workshops, seminars, and student-led awareness campaigns are organized to build a culture of environmental responsibility. These activities encourage students to take part in zero-waste initiatives, plastic reduction drives, and sustainable consumption programs.
- **Smart Waste Monitoring:**
Implementation of smart bins equipped with real-time tracking sensors helps in monitoring waste collection, improving operational efficiency, and reducing environmental footprints.
- **Research and Academic Integration:**
Waste management and sustainability concepts are integrated into courses, student projects, and research activities to promote academic contribution toward sustainability goals.

SDG Linkages and Contributions

Air University's waste management initiatives directly contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG	Contribution
SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being	Ensures safe waste handling and reduces health risks from pollution and contamination.
SDG 4 – Quality Education	Provides scholarships for deserving students through recycling initiatives with Abroo Foundation.
SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	Prevents groundwater contamination through proper waste disposal and treatment.
SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	Integrates ICT-based waste tracking and sustainable campus infrastructure.

SDG	Contribution
SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	Promotes green campus initiatives, eco-friendly landscaping, and sustainable facilities.
SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production	Implements a strong 3R framework and promotes circular economy principles.
SDG 13 – Climate Action	Reduces carbon footprint through efficient waste management and reduced landfill use.
SDG 14 – Life Below Water	Prevents plastic and chemical waste from entering drainage channels and waterways.
SDG 15 – Life on Land	Supports composting and reforestation initiatives within the campus.
SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals	Strengthens collaboration with Abroo Foundation, SDPI, and local authorities for sustainability action.







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