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E-Waste Policy

1. Introduction

Vivekanandha College of Engineering for Women (VCEW) features a variety of labs, including state-of-the-art computer labs, electronics and communication engineering labs, machine shops, and so on. Faculty and staff at VCEW recognize that obsolescence and technology upgrades occur on a regular basis in all of these labs. Of course, with these upgrades and obsolescence, we produce older equipment that need proper disposal and management. To maintain its commitment to global excellence and continuous progress, VCEW Tiruchengodu recognizes the importance of efficient E-waste management and disposal. VCEW Tiruchengodu has implemented an E-waste policy to address this issue. The strategy aims to reduce E-waste generation, prevent and control it, and establish rules for its management.

1.1. Electronic Waste

Electronic waste (E-waste) refers to outdated electronic products that need to be disposed of. These products include harmful substances like lead, mercury, and cadmium. Improper disposal of electronic waste releases toxic poisons into the environment, creating widespread health concerns and environmental deterioration.

Modernization and urbanization have resulted in the development of new technologies and increased demand for electrical devices in everyday life. Increased demand, along with rapid economic expansion, results in large output of electronic garbage, or E-wastes. E-waste refers to electronic goods that have been abandoned by their owners after reaching the end of their useful life. Furthermore, the replacement of new updated models adds a large quantity of e-products to the waste stream. Increasing e-waste generation poses a concern to the environment, necessitating a legislative framework to mitigate this risk.

PRINCIPAL,
Vivekanandha College of Engineering
for Women, (Autonomous)
Tiruchengode (Tk.) Namakkal (Dt.)
Tamilnadu - 637 205.

To reduce environmental contamination, it's important to dispose of e-waste responsibly, including recycling. Vivekanandha College of Engineering for Women (VCEW) Tiruchengodu generates E-waste by the use of electronic devices such as computers, PCBs, wires and cables, air conditioners, CROs, power supply, laboratory equipment, trainer kits, and CRT monitors. Thus, the institution must develop an E-waste management policy.

2. E-Waste Policy Principles

The following are the guiding principles of the e-waste policy:
1. Environmental conservation - The Institution prioritizes environmental conservation and protects against the consequences of e-waste.
2. Safe disposal - The institution prioritizes ensuring the safety of its staff, students, operations, and stakeholders when disposing of electronic waste.
3. Public awareness is crucial for effective e-waste management. The Institution recognizes this fact.
4. Policy framework: The institution recognizes the need for clear standards on e-waste management.

3. Objectives of the Policy

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

    i.   Minimize e-waste generation.
    ii.   Promote sustainable e-waste management among stakeholders.
    iii.   Creating and implementing a skilled workforce for e-waste management.
    iv.   To promote ecologically friendly e-waste recycling.
    v.   Provide guidelines for importing electronic equipment into the institution.

4. Scope of The Policy

This policy applies to VCEW Tiruchengodu's campus, faculties, departments, and sections. This includes all electronic equipment, devices, and e-waste generated by staff and students at the College.

This policy is based on legal frameworks, ecologically responsible e-waste management, awareness and information dissemination, and resource mobilization.

4.1. Legal Framework

The E-waste Management Rules, 2016, established by the Indian government, serve as the foundation for the E-waste management policy.

4.2. Environmentally Sound Management of E-Waste

Recycling that is environmentally sound does not have a negative influence on the environment or human health. To accomplish environmentally sound e-waste management, the following procedures will be implemented

1. E-waste can be recycled at authorized/centralized sites.
2. Use environmentally friendly technology to increase recovery and reduce waste output.
3. Identify appropriate recycling technologies to source.
4. Encourage training and skill development for eco-friendly e-waste processing practices.

5. E-Waste Policy Implementations

The implementation of the E-waste policy is carried out by the institution's E-waste management committee.

5.1. E-waste Management Committee

The E-waste Management Committee shall
1. Identify e-waste inside the institution.
2. Collect e-waste at the conclusion of each semester and store appropriately.
3. Approve the recommendations of the Disposal Committee.
4. Implement the Disposal Committee's recommendations and write a report for Institution Management.   5. Review feedback from all stakeholders.
6. Monitor policy implementation and provide feedback to institution management as needed.
7. Recommend reviewing and improving this policy periodically.

5.2. Staff and Skills

The institution shall promote the development of skills required for the implementation of E-waste management activities. Staff will receive necessary instructions, techniques, and equipment for e-waste management operations.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Strategies

6.1. Monitoring and Evaluation

To achieve the policy's objectives, the output indicators must be consistently monitored and evaluated. To ensure that the policy is reviewed midterm, a monitoring and evaluation structure must be designed.

6.2. Review of Policy

A Policy Review committee is being formed at the college level, chaired by the Principal, to ensure that we are kept up to date on changes as they occur, by E-waste rules. If this policy is not reviewed within five years, it will be required to be revisited at the conclusion of that term.

7. Continuum

The Institution's e-waste management policy aims to align with its worldwide vision and strategic goals. This policy document outlines important measures for establishing e-waste management infrastructure, raising awareness and education, developing human resources, and mobilizing resources. The policy includes guidance for environmentally responsible e-waste management.

Furthermore, the institution has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with E-waste recycling facilities to dispose of such material, ensuring that it does not accumulate at the college level.

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