



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND ECO-FRIENDLY NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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This study aimed to develop a Waste Management Program towards a sustainable and eco-friendly NWU. Specifically, it sought to determine the characteristic of waste generated by NWU, its existing waste disposal system being practiced at the different sources of waste, the waste facilities and their capacities found at the different sources of waste of NWU, and the problems encountered in the disposal of wastes as bases for designing a Solid Waste Management Program towards a sustainable and eco-friendly NWU.

The Research and Development (R & D) method was used in this study. It was used to describe the four phases of program development; namely, planning, development, validation, and dissemination and utilization of results. For the respondents of this study, the practices and problems relative to the issues and concerns of waste management included heads and representatives of offices, both academic and non-academic and the janitorial services. Representatives from the Supreme Student Council and college organizations were also taken as respondents. The study was conducted at the 9-hectare lot of Northwestern University campus located in two barangays, Nalbo and Bengcag.

The study revealed that the average waste material collected is 1, 083.50 kg: 75.05 % or approximately 909.1 kg of waste generated by NWU is biodegradable, 22.07% or 267.3 kg is recyclable, 2.62% or 31.7 kg is residual, and 0.27% or 3.3 kg is special waste.

Another finding is that the Waste Disposal Systems as provided for QSM - Environmental Policies on 6.4.3 Environmental Protection is not strictly implemented. As to the problems, data showed that poor cooperation of the academic community is a factor that contributes to the problem of disposal of wastes of NWU.

The following conclusions were derived from the findings of the study: the waste characteristics generated at NWU is biodegradable and recyclable, thus, the potential for development and/or enhancement of technology for the reduction of waste exists. Classrooms and offices are equipped with waste cans/garbage facilities/receptacles with varied capacities and types, however, there are only a few found on the grounds of the campus; the problems identified are on attitude of the members of the NWU community and the lack of policy on waste management; and the Solid Waste Management Program should start with a vision and the policies should be approved for its implementation.