



**Environmental Management Policy # 150.405**

<b>INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>  November 2006	<b>LAST REVISION DATE:</b>  March 22, 2021	<b>RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT</b>  Division of Operations & Safety   Department of Environmental Health & Safety
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**POLICY STATEMENT**

The EH&S Department at Florida International University will work to ensure that activities conducted at FIU are in compliance with regulations, statutes, guidance, and Best Management Practices applicable to the area of environmental protection. Florida International University is committed to finding innovative ways to better protect people and the planet and improving FIU’s environmental performance.

**SCOPE**

Florida International University is a complex organization, consisting of schools with academic and research missions, other affiliated centers and units, and the extensive support functions necessary for the operation of the institution. The following responsibilities and principles have been established to guide to the FIU community in their activities that can potentially impact the environment at FIU:

- Minimize hazards to students, faculty, staff, and visitors and our environment;
- Comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations, wherever we are operating;
- Maintain personal accountability for responsible environmental behavior within the University community;
- Be engaged, report, and question hazardous conditions or potential violations of environmental obligations;
- Recommend improvements to support environmental activities and participate in these efforts; and
- Assure that those who do business with Florida International University perform their work in a manner that protects the University from environmental risks.

**REASON FOR POLICY**

The reason of the Environmental Policy at FIU is to provide guidance and awareness to the FIU community and visitors regarding regulatory environmental compliance. To proactively

reduce and eliminate potential impacts to our environment and establish roles and responsibilities regarding compliance with local, state and federal regulations.

DEFINITIONS	
TERM	DEFINITIONS
<b>Environment</b>	As used in this policy, describes soil, air and water likely to be affected by activities in which the University engages. Such effects may be immediate or long term.
<b>Effluent</b>	Waste material (such as smoke, liquid refuse, or sewage) discharged into the environment especially when serving as a pollutant.
<b>Illicit Discharge</b>	As used in this policy refers to any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water except discharges pursuant to a NPDES permit (other than the NPDES permit for discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer) and discharges resulting from fire-fighting activities.
<b>Regulations</b>	Regulations establish the details of a law, (i.e., criteria for issuing permits and licenses); how and when to test for harmful substances, and how the government will conduct itself in an enforcement action.
<b>Permits</b>	Permits typically control activities related operation of facilities that generate pollutants. Permit requirements are often based on specific criteria established in laws or regulations.
<b>Guidance &amp; Policies</b>	Guidance & policies are tools used by Florida International University which interpret regulatory requirements and/or provide a formal statement regarding a particular issue or problem.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
<p>Environmental Health and Safety shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish accountability and communication structures to implement and track environmental requirements and related risks. Ensure compliance with all applicable local, state and federal regulatory requirements. Follow escalation procedures as necessary and as described below</li> <li>• Notify management of any unresolved compliance issues involving environmental hazards, exposures, spills, releases or other regulatory or environmental issues;</li> <li>• Provide guidance in implementing corrective actions as needed; facilitate and promote the exchange of information within FIU in the interest of collaborative problem solving and program improvement; and</li> </ul>



- Take appropriate action to halt any conditions that may result in imminent hazards to persons, property or the environment.

Florida International University community shall:

- Comply with this policy and all applicable environmental requirements from local, state and federal regulatory agencies.
- Seek and follow guidance and recommendations from the Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) department.
- Integrate environmental precautions, processes and/or procedures that minimize environmental impacts and prevent pollution from activities and operations in alignment with local state and federal regulations.
- Report any activities in violation of this policy and regulatory requirements to EH&S.

#### RELATED RESOURCES

FIU Hazardous Waste Management Plan

Security in Laboratories with Special Hazards Policy #125.405:

<https://policies.fiu.edu/policy/546>

FIU Chemical Hygiene Plan: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/safety-programs/chemical/chemical-hygiene-plan/index.html>

FIU Stormwater Management Plan

Related resources listed above can be found under the EH&S Environmental Compliance

Webpage: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/safety-programs/environmental-compliance/index.html>

#### CONTACTS

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#### HISTORY

**Initial Effective Date:** November 2006

**Review Dates** (*review performed, no updates*): January 9, 2024

**Revision Dates** (*updates made to document*): October 8, 2018; March 22, 2021.



**Environmental Management Procedures # 150.405a**

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
November 2006	June 24, 2020	Division of Operations & Safety   Department of Environmental Health & Safety

**PROCEDURE STATEMENT**

The safety of our community and the protection of our environment are of primary importance to Florida International University. FIU recognizes that environmental protection is the responsibility of us all; therefore, in the conduct of its operations, the University shall seek to adhere to practices that minimize negative impacts on the environment and contribute to the restoration, reuse and recycling of resources. To this end, the University advocates that each member of the FIU community is responsible to develop and implement operational procedures that align with the following objectives:

1. Minimize energy and water use through efficient management and practices;
2. Minimize generation and disposal of solid and hazardous waste by recycling and reusing resources;
3. Minimize polluting noises, odors, wastewater (effluents) and emissions to air, soil and water;
4. Be familiar with FIU policies and procedures to minimize and prevent storm water pollution;
5. Minimize or eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals and toxic cleaning and maintenance products if appropriate substitutes are available;
6. Ensure that all waste generated are disposed of in accordance with regulatory and university requirements. No hazardous waste shall be disposed of via the sanitary sewer or stormwater outfalls;
7. Meet all applicable environmental standards and regulations with a view toward continual improvement;
8. Encourage suppliers and contractors to adopt environmental standards;
9. Within available resources, initiate and maintain environmental awareness programs;
10. Promote the efficient use of energy in an economical and environmentally sound manner by energy conservation measures and where economically viable, investing in energy saving technology in both existing and new buildings and equipment;
11. Encourage representation on local environmental planning workgroups and local networks of environmental protection and conservation initiatives; and



12. The university prohibits any discharges to storm drains not comprised entirely of stormwater, and requires the implementation of Erosion, Sedimentation and Waste Control Best Management Practices on construction sites within the boundaries of the university. The university has the authority to issue stop work orders in the event of a violation. Failure to address the violation could result in regulatory fines and additional sanctions as deemed by the university.

For more information regarding environmental compliance visit our website at <https://ehs.fiu.edu> under Environmental Compliance or contact EH&S (348-2621 or [ehs@fiu.edu](mailto:ehs@fiu.edu)).