

POLICY ON AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Rationale

The University of Mindanao recognizes clean air as a fundamental component of environmental sustainability, public health, and campus wellness. Air pollution contributes to respiratory illness, reduces academic productivity, and degrades ecological quality. This policy on Air Quality Management reinforces the university's commitment to maintaining safe, breathable air within and around campus premises, in line with Republic Act 8749 (Philippine Clean Air Act), local air quality standards, and Sustainable Development Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Scope

This policy applies to all university campuses, facilities, construction sites, laboratories, motorpools, and operations that may affect indoor and outdoor air quality. It includes emissions from vehicles, generators, laboratories, canteens, incineration, construction, equipment use, and general measures for maintaining healthy indoor air.

Guiding Principles

- 1. Emission Source Identification and Control.** The university shall identify all significant sources of air emission, including diesel generators, vehicle fleets, laboratory fume hoods, and kitchen exhausts, and ensure appropriate control measures are in place. It includes using low-emission equipment, regular vehicle maintenance, and emission-compliant fuel sources. All combustion sources must comply with allowable emission limits under RA 8749 and DENR Administrative Orders.
- 2. Indoor Air Quality Monitoring.** Indoor air in classrooms, libraries, offices, and laboratories shall be monitored periodically for temperature, humidity, CO₂ levels, and ventilation adequacy. Air-conditioning units must be regularly cleaned and maintained to prevent mold and particulate build-up. Laboratories must ensure proper fume hoods and extraction systems operation to minimize occupational exposure to airborne chemicals.
- 3. Dust and Particulate Management.** Construction, repair, and maintenance activities must include dust suppression measures such as wet sweeping, tarpaulin covers, and sediment control systems. Open burning of leaves or waste is strictly prohibited under the Clean Air Act. Soil-stabilizing materials or vegetation shall be used in exposed earth areas to prevent dust generation.
- 4. Green Zones and Carbon Sinks.** The university shall expand and maintain green buffer zones, trees, and mini-forests on all campuses to act as natural air filters and carbon sinks. Landscaping plans should prioritize native tree species and pollution-tolerant plants to enhance air purification and reduce ambient heat.
- 5. Ventilation and Building Design.** New buildings and renovations must incorporate natural ventilation strategies and airflow design. The university shall follow green building

standards that promote passive cooling, cross-ventilation, and reduced indoor pollutant accumulation.

- 6. Education and Awareness.** Air quality management shall be integrated into environmental education campaigns and orientation programs. Students and staff shall be educated about the effects of air pollution, anti-idling practices, and the benefits of clean commuting (e.g., cycling, walking, carpooling).
- 7. Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance.** The Pollution Control Officer (PCO) shall conduct regular inspections and maintain air quality logs. Emissions from generators and vehicles must be tested annually through accredited facilities. Reports shall be submitted to the DENR-EMB and used to inform improvements to air quality practices. Non-compliance with emission standards shall result in administrative sanctions or operational suspensions.

Compliance

All members of the university community are required to comply with this policy. Unauthorized burning, tampering with emission control devices, and failure to maintain air-emitting equipment are grounds for disciplinary action. Campus units must coordinate with the PCO to ensure all activities meet air quality regulations.

Implementation and Review

This policy shall be implemented by the PCO in coordination with the Physical Plant Maintenance and General Services (PPMGS), the Laboratory Management Office, and the Infrastructure and Planning Office. Annual internal audits and campus air quality assessments will guide the continuous improvement of this policy. Updates shall be reviewed every two years or as required by changes in national air quality regulations.

Signed:

(Sgd) GUILLERMO P. TORRES, JR.
University President

Reference

Republic Act 8749 – Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999
DENR Administrative Orders on Emission and Ambient Air Quality Standards
DOLE Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHS)
Green Building Code of the Philippines