

URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY

POLICY ON PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION

Policy Code: UCU-ENV-2024-03
Effective Date: January 2024
Approved by: Office of the Acting University President

I. RATIONALE

In pursuit of Urdaneta City University’s commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection, this policy seeks to reduce plastic waste generation within the campus. In alignment with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** Particularly **SDG 15: Life on Land** and **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production** - UCU recognizes its responsibility to promote eco-friendly practices and minimize the ecological footprint of its operations.

Plastic waste, especially single-use plastics, poses a serious threat to ecosystems, soil, and biodiversity. This policy reinforces UCU’s environmental stewardship and strengthens its ongoing initiatives for a cleaner and greener campus.

II. OBJECTIVES

- 1.To minimize plastic waste production and encourage sustainable alternatives within UCU.
- 2.To promote environmental awareness and responsible consumption among students, faculty, and staff.
- 3.To strengthen UCU’s contribution to environmental conservation and the achievement of the SDGs.

III. SCOPE

This policy applies to all university stakeholders, including students, faculty members, non-teaching personnel, campus concessionaires, and visitors within all university facilities and premises.

IV. POLICY GUIDELINES

- 1. **Reduction of Single-Use Plastics**
 - The use, sale, or distribution of **single-use plastic materials** (e.g., plastic straws, cups, utensils, bags, and bottles) is **prohibited** within the university.
 - All university events and activities must utilize **biodegradable or reusable materials**.
- 2. **Promotion of Sustainable Alternatives**
 - Students and staff are encouraged to bring and use **reusable containers, utensils, and water bottles**.
 - Refilling stations shall be made available across the campus to support reusable practices.
- 3. **Campus Concessionaire Compliance**
 - All food stalls and vendors operating within the university are required to **avoid plastic packaging** and use **eco-friendly alternatives**.
 - Non-compliance may lead to **warnings, penalties, or non-renewal of contracts**.
- 4. **Waste Management and Segregation**
 - Proper waste segregation bins shall be placed in all buildings to separate biodegradable, recyclable, and residual waste.
 - The **Environmental Management Unit (EMU)** shall regularly collect, monitor, and report plastic waste reduction data.
- 5. **Education and Advocacy**
 - The **Center for Community Development and Extension Services (CCDES)**, in collaboration with the EMU, shall conduct regular **awareness drives, seminars, and clean-up activities** to promote sustainability and plastic waste reduction.

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V. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Office of the Acting University President:** Policy oversight and implementation approval.
- **Chief Operating Officer and Vice Presidents:** Ensure enforcement within offices and colleges.
- **Environmental Management Unit (EMU):** Lead monitoring, data reporting, and evaluation.
- **CCDES:** Coordinate advocacy and training programs.
- **College Deans and Student Organizations:** Encourage compliance and lead student-based environmental projects.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Environmental Management Unit shall conduct **quarterly inspections** and submit reports on the university's progress in reducing plastic waste. Annual evaluations will be made to measure effectiveness and suggest improvements.

VII. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

- **First Offense:** Written warning and environmental orientation.
- **Second Offense:** Community service under campus sustainability projects.
- **Third Offense:** Administrative sanction or vendor contract termination (for concessionaires).

VIII. EFFECTIVITY

This policy shall take effect immediately upon approval and dissemination to all Urdaneta City University stakeholders.

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