

	<p>POLICY ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC REDUCTION</p>	Date Created: January 15, 2025
		Page: 1 of 7

I. PURPOSE

Reducing single-use plastics (SUPs) is the University's approach in creating a plastic-free environment, thus gradually eradicating the use of plastic packaging completely and plastic wastes generation. This policy is to rationalize Mapúa University's commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Mapúa University stakeholders.

III. DEFINITIONS

Plastic

Plastic material is derived from fossil fuels such as crude oil and natural gas from which the main plastic material – polymeric resin is made up of that often is mixed with other substances called additives to create a plastic product. It has high molecular weight organic polymers composed of various elements such as carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, and chlorine. It can also be produced from silicon atoms (a.k.a. silicone) along with carbon.

Synthetic plastics are durable, strong, lightweight, water and corrosion resistant, and relatively easy and inexpensive to manufacture, usually as packaging products.

Plastic Wastes

Also called “plastic pollution” is the accumulation of plastic objects (e.g. plastic bottles, plastic containers) in the Earth's environment that adversely affects wildlife and their habitat, flora & fauna, and humankind.

These are discarded used heaps of plastics that can remain in our environment for centuries. Degraded polymers in bottles and microplastics endanger land and marine ecosystems, thus also affecting the species, other land and aquatic organisms, and their habitats.

Single-Use Plastics

UNCONTROLLED

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Signature over Printed Name/Date

These are packaging products that are used for storing individual purchases, made as food utilities, and an ingredient to another single supplied by-product such as:

- cutlery (plastic spoon, forks, and knives);
- bags (sando bags and plastic “labo”);



POLICY ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC REDUCTION

Date Created: January 15, 2025

Page: 2 of 7

- Styrofoam or polystyrene food plates, containers, and coffee cups;
- Cling wraps;
- Clear resealable sandwich bags;
- Straws and stirrers;
- Food containers with plastic film coating; and
- Bottles classified under:
 - Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) or water bottles
 - High-density Polyethylene (HDPE) or bottled chemicals for cleaning
 - Low-density Polyethylene (LDPE) or personal care products
 - Polypropylene (PP) or plastic tumblers

Plastic Prevention or Avoidance the act of preventing or avoiding plastics through responsible purchase and usage.

Plastic Reduction is an aspect of responsible consumption and manufacturing that replaces plastic materials with eco-friendly materials while buyers patronize products contained within.

Stakeholders are the people legitimately engaged in the University's activities, projects, plans, and programs such as students, faculty and non-faculty staff, and canteen concessionaires.

External service providers such as restaurant caterers and visitors also play a supplemental role in reducing plastic waste.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

Housekeeping Supervisor responsible for monitoring the strict implementation of single-use plastics.

Janitors shall collect the plastic waste in different waste bins and segregate before disposal.

Pollution Control Officer (PCO) ensures the compliance of MU of the requirements indicated in the policies of the RA 9003 (and its Implementing Rules and Regulations) and other pertinent rules and regulations of the University on waste management.

Sustainability Office/IGS shall ensure that policies, programs, and processes on SUPs are carried out sustainably and in harmony with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.



POLICY ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC REDUCTION

Date Created: January 15, 2025


Page: 3 of 7

Campus Development and
Maintenance Office (CDMO)

receives and assesses single-use plastic waste generation and management monitoring from the PCO and Housekeeping Supervisor. Plans and activities borne from assessments are also being made by CDMO.

Office of Planning and Quality
Management (OPQM)

shall conduct the waste management audit.

	<p>POLICY ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC REDUCTION</p>	<p>Date Created: January 15, 2025</p>
		<p>Page: 4 of 7</p>

V. PROCEDURE

1. *Policy Declaration*

Of the overall solid wastes collected at Mapúa University, the majority generated are paper discards made up of food containers, storage bags, and drinking cups. However, water, juice, iced coffee, and soft drink plastic bottles are some of the wastes that are still in the campus waste bins. There are also plastic laminated food containers like finger food plates, plastic straws and stirrers, and plastic cutlery given by canteen concessionaires to each buyer. The same plastic wastes are observed to be generated by catering service providers of the University in meetings and campus events.

Students and staff who bring in plastic packed food, drinks, and other products add more to the University's plight on plastic waste generation. Plastic waste is also found in basketball courts, student events, and classroom activities. Hence, the Policy for Single-Use Plastics came into effect.

- a) The use of single-use plastic materials shall be discouraged by the University Administration.
- b) Alternative packaged goods shall replace retail selling of products in plastic packaging.
- c) Application of responsible and sustainable consumption shall be made aware of and put into practice by MU stakeholders.
- d) Create and implement ordinances that will reduce the sale of plastic-packaged goods.

2. *Procedures and Best Practices*


- a) Prevention and Reduction of Single-Use Plastics on Campus

To prevent these from generating more plastic waste, the Single-use Plastic Reduction Policy is created as a way of gradually minimizing until finally eradicating plastic use through the following University practices:

- Canteen concessionaires are not permitted to use plastic plates, plastic utensils, plastic bags, Styrofoam and other plastic materials for their food preparation and packaging.
- Canteen concessionaires are required to give a small discount if employees and students bring their own food container.
- Canteen concessionaires and the University's Purchasing Department are required to buy raw materials in bulk amounts.
- Buyers are encouraged to bring their own washable food containers, drinking jugs/mugs/cups, and metallic cutlery.

- b) Monitoring and Management of Single-Use Plastics Generation in the Campus

- Create a Single-use Plastic (SUP) Reduction "Task Force" from the departments of the Housekeeping, PCO, CDMO, and IGS to monitor and record plastic waste generation, periodically discuss issues on violations and other root causes of waste increase and provide solutions for waste mitigation.

	POLICY ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC REDUCTION	Date Created: January 15, 2025
		Page: 5 of 7

- The SUP Reduction Task Force (RTF) will monitor the consumption patterns and waste volume within campus canteens or transport of goods in plastic packages from outside the campus premises. And provide an over-all waste status reports, assessments, and propose an annual mitigation program and/or plan to ensure that single-use plastic generation is receding.
- SUPRTF will annually conduct plastic waste generation survey monitoring using Google forms per student, staff, and canteen concessionaire.

c) Inclusion of Solid Waste Management subject in the Sustainability courses of the Academe

- The Sustainability Course which will soon be open as an elective will Solid Waste Management awareness and waste management programs.

Notes:

- Create a solid waste management plan for 10 years, which shall include plastic waste generation.
- The SUPRTF shall create awareness programs in the form of information graphics via posters, television, social media, and email blasts.

VI. REPORTORIAL REQUIREMENTS

Report Title	Frequency of Update	Responsible Personnel
Monitor and record consumption, carrying or utilization of goods in plastic packages	Monthly	Single-Use Plastic Reduction Task Force
Plastic waste status report	Per Term	Housekeeping Supervisor
Plastic waste generation assessment report	Per Term	Pollution Control Officer
Plastic waste generation resolutions and methodologies	Annually or if necessary	CDMO and IGS Office

VII. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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2. The Alliance (2021). *Plastic is a life-changing resource, but the same qualities that make it useful – alongside poor waste management – have created a global waste challenge. Here’s what you need to know*. Retrieved from Alliance to end Plastic Waste website: <https://www.endplasticwaste.org/insights/story/the-plastic-waste-problem-explained>
3. SDG Summit (2023). *Plastic Pollution*. Retrieved from United Nations Sustainability Development Goals website: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2023/08/explainer-what-is-plastic-pollution/>



POLICY ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC REDUCTION

Date Created: January 15, 2025

Page: 6 of 7

4. GAIA (2020). *Regulating Single-use Plastics in the Philippines: Opportunities to Move Forward*. Philippine Policy Briefs on SUPs Ban. Retrieved from Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives Philippines website: <https://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Philippine-Policy-Brief-on-SUPs-Ban-1.pdf>
5. Republic Act 9003: The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000



REVISION HISTORY

Date Created: January 15, 2025

Page: 7 of 7

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