

# No Single-Use Plastic

Effective Date: 15 August 2022

Amended:

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This policy is prepared to direct the Sunway University community in taking a unified and collective approach away from a culture of disposables and towards one of reusables, aiding in solid waste reduction.
- 1.2. This policy is focusing on single-use plastics used by food & beverage tenants, campus stores (bookshop, photoshop) and vending machines.
- 1.3. Sunway community refers to anyone present on campus (staff, students, tenants, visitors, vendors, etc.).
- 1.4. The effectiveness of this policy will require structured and coordinated efforts from all parties involved to identify and reduce single-use plastics and switch to reusable alternatives wherever possible.

## 2. Negative Impact of Single-Use Plastic

2.1 Single-use plastic is prohibited on campus as it has the following negative impacts on the environment and our well-being:

- Disposable plastic is not biodegradable. It is simply burned, and it contributes to
- greenhouse gas emissions.
- Microplastics, smaller plastic particles that result from single-use plastic breaking down,
- pollute water sources and expose humans to damaging health effects.
- The single-use plastic trade amplifies the exploitation of countries in the Global South while
- increasing global plastic waste.

## 3. Type of Single-Use Plastic

3.1. Single-use plastic refers to plastic items that are discarded after it is used once, also called disposable plastics and are commonly used in packaging.

3.2 Common examples of single-use plastic items include:

- Plastic straws
- Plastic cutlery (forks, spoons, etc.)
- Plastic shopping carrier bags
- Plastic and Styrofoam coffee cups, lids, and takeaway containers
- Plastic water bottles
- Plastic food preparation gloves

#### 4. Roadmap of Sunway Campus on No Single-Use Plastic Journey

Year implemented	Description	Remarks
2012	No Polystyrene & Plastic Bags	This is the initial effort where all food & beverage tenants stopped providing polystyrene for takeaway food.
2018	The Last Straw Campaign – No Plastic Bottles	Plastic bottles are not allowed to be sold by all food & beverage tenants & vending machines.  Staff & students are to bring their own reusable mugs and tumblers.  Water stations are made available across campus for all to refill water.
2019	The Last Straw Campaign – No Plastic Straws	Single-use plastic straws are no longer provided to all.  Instead, straws made of metal or bamboo are available for sale in campus souvenir stores
2022	No Plastic Food Containers / Cutleries Campaign	Follows our target to reduce and eliminate the use of plastic food containers, cutleries, etc., by the end of the year.  This campaign includes a <i>rentNreturn</i> Food Container project.

#### 5. Compliance from Sunway Community

##### 5.1 All Tenants

- The food & beverages tenants, campus retail stores and vending machines on the Sunway Campus shall, at all times, fully cooperate and participate in these sustainable initiatives.
- Tenants and vendors are not allowed to sell, provide or distribute single-use plastic products on campus, such as plastic-bottled mineral water and plastic straws.

##### 5.2 All Staff & Students

- All staff and students are responsible for complying with this Policy as it applies to their activities on campus, such as events, conferences, meetings, etc.

- Event organisers who conduct activities on campus are encouraged to use catering services with reusable food ware.
- Participants and guests who attend these events are encouraged to bring their own containers, tumblers, metal straws, etc.

### 5.3 Third-party Vendors

- Third-party vendors are the external parties that rent a space on the Sunway campus to sell and distribute food & beverages and other merchandise.
- These vendors are required to fulfil all the relevant criteria Sunway sets, which is not to sell, provide and/or distribute any products related to Single-Use Plastics on campus.

## 6. Good Sustainable Practices

### 6.1 Single-use plastics

- Plastics constitute a significant source of environmental degradation and long-term health issues. Hence, Sunway is committed to acting toward the reduction and elimination of single-use plastic, which is in line with the Campus' sustainability goals, but also in recognition of the devastating role single-use products play in the global environmental impact.

### 6.2 Reduce Single-use plastics

- In order to reduce single-use plastics, Sunway requires the compliance of the parties outlined above. It is the responsibility of all to eliminate the sale and free distribution of single-use plastic and/or disposable products and instead provide reusable alternatives. Hence inspiring demand for a more sustainable consumption pattern.