



Say **No To**
Single Use
Plastic



TSUULL Policy 218: Single Use Plastics

Issuing Department: Head of Youth Affairs and Spirituality and Education
Dean of Academic Department

Responsible Office: Sustainability Practices Office

Effective Date: September 23, 2022

Last Revised: April, 2023

I. PURPOSE & SUBJECT MATTER

This Policy, in accordance with the TSUULL Policy on Sustainable Practices, is intended to lessen TSUULL's overall impact by reducing the quantity of plastics that are bought, sold, and distributed on TSUULL owned and leased property (hereinafter referred to as "TSUULL Property"). This is done in recognition of the harmful effects that single-use plastics have on ecosystems and communities, the fact that plastic never degrades, and the fact that only a small percentage of plastic is successfully recycled.

This Policy is relevant to:

vending machines, retail stores, and foodservice establishments on university property;
selling and/or distributing food and/or beverages on TSUULL property, including during gatherings and events, by TSUULL and non-affiliated people and organizations;
the distribution and/or sale of food and/or drinks by outside vendors on university property.

II. DEFINITIONS

In accordance with this Policy:

Dine-in Facilities are any foodservice establishments with onsite dining options, including establishments inside food courts and establishments with nearby indoor and/or outdoor seats.

Events include celebrations, dances, lectures, forums, performances, rallies, social gatherings, concerts, speaker presentations, conferences, and other initiatives sponsored by university units as part of carrying out their mission as an institution.

Restaurants, cafes, and other establishments of a similar nature where food or drink is made, packed, served, or sold for consumption on the premises or elsewhere are considered foodservice facilities; individual apartment kitchens are not included in this definition.

All objects that are typically served with food in cups and containers are referred to as "food ware accessory items," including but not limited to chopsticks, napkins, cup lids, cup sleeves, food or beverage trays, condiment containers and saucers, straws, stirrers, and toothpicks.

Food ware items include items like cups, bowls, plates, and hinged containers that are used to serve or convey beverages or food that is ready to eat. This excludes meals that have already been prepared and packaged, as well as food that has been mass-produced off the premises for selling on university property (such as prefabricated sandwiches sold in campus stores).

In Sections 2 and 3 of the TSUULL Healthy Vending Policy Nutrition Standards, the term "Healthy Alternative" is defined in terms of the components and nutritional content of foods and beverages.

Products that can be composted in the neighborhood facilities that supply services to the college are referred to as locally compostable. Products composed of plastic, paper, wood, and bamboo are among those that may be accepted, though this will depend on the local composting facility. The standards listed in the UC Sustainable Procurement Guidelines must be met by compostable products.

Products are considered locally recyclable if they may be recycled at the campus's neighborhood facilities. By facility, different products will be acceptable.

Marine Degradable refers to items built of materials that can totally biodegrade within 120 days in marine environments, including aerobic marine waters or anaerobic marine sediments, with no harmful waste or byproducts. Whether made of petroleum or biological materials, plastic goods are not regarded as marine degradable.

Plastic Bags refers to a single-use carryout bag made of plastic that is given to a customer by a foodservice facility or retail store, regardless of the thickness of the plastic material. Bags that can be composted locally are not included.

A retail store is a structure or a booth where goods are sold or given away.

Reusables are items that are used to serve or convey prepared food or drinks, such as cups, bowls, plates, and hinged containers that are tough and designed to be reused.

To-go Facilities are any foodservice establishments, including retail establishments, that sell food intended primarily for takeout and consumption elsewhere.

III Policy Statement

The following requirements must be followed by TSUULL in order to decrease the use of single-use plastics.

Send requests for hardship exceptions to the Zero Waste Taskforce via the Office which handles Sustainability, which will either grant the requests or collaborate with the requesters to find alternatives. The Task Force will communicate such exemptions to the public at least once a year via the sustainability website.

When selling or distributing food and/or beverages on TSUULL property, foodservice facilities, retail stores, outside suppliers, TSUULL and non-affiliated people and organizations are expected to:

A. By the start of 2024

Stop using plastic bags.

For all foodservice facilities, meetings, and events, substitute reusable or locally compostable items for disposable single-use plastic food ware accessories.

For to-go facilities, use reusable or locally compostable food ware items for single-use plastic ones.

Provide reusable alternatives during all indoor events with fewer than 100 people instead of selling or giving away single-use plastic water and beverage bottles and non-recyclable water containers. Internal and external catering and distribution for meetings, events, or other for-profit or nonprofit activities are included here, but they are not the only ones.

B. Prior to October 1, 2025

Remove from foodservice facilities, all indoor and outdoor gatherings, and events with more than 100 attendees the sale and free distribution of single-use plastic water and beverage bottles and non-recyclable water containers in favor of reusable alternatives. Internal and external catering and distribution for meetings, events, or other for-profit or nonprofit activities are included here, but they are not the only ones.

For all Dine-in and To-Go Facilities with accompanying indoor and/or outdoor seating, replace single-use plastic food ware items with reusable or locally compostable alternatives.

C. By the start of 2026

Reusable alternatives should be made available at retail stores, all vending machines on university property, and free distribution of single-use plastic water and beverage bottles and non-recyclable water containers are prohibited. To encourage this transition and prevent a shift to less nutritious alternatives, TSUULL will give priority to the installation of hydration stations.

D. Food that is prepackaged and sealed

Vendors will be required to use locally compostable or locally recyclable packaging options when choosing foods that are prepared and packaged by a third-party vendor off premises for resale on TSUULL Property and constitute a full or nearly full meal (such as packaged sandwiches or salads sold in campus stores, individually packaged pastries, etc.). Frozen dinners and packed snacks are excluded from this.

E. Bioplastics

When appropriate marine degradable substitutes are available, switch from bioplastics to marine-degradable materials for those items.

F. Availability

Providers of food and beverages, concessions, and events must offer suitable substitutes for single-use plastic items. A small supply of single-use plastics, such as plastic-type straws, should be kept on hand and made easily accessible for people who require them at the point of service/cashier or upon request at dine-in establishments if these alternatives do not meet their needs.

G. TSUULL Divisions and Units

Unspecified single-use plastics, such as poly-bagged goods, plastic films and wraps, and plastic packaging, will be identified by TSUULL departments and units and used less frequently.

H. Adherent Regulations

The relevant laws and regulations relating to this Policy must be complied with by TSUULL departments/units and linked people and groups.

IV Responsibilities

Each member of the TSUULL community is accountable for being aware of this Policy and making every effort to find and remove unnecessary plastics from University Property because single-use plastic is a problem that affects the entire university.

The responsibility for carrying out this Policy fall specifically on the shoulders of the following university departments and organizations.

A. Departments that Run Catering and Foodservice Facilities

It will be the responsibility of the departments that run the catering and foodservice facilities, such as Housing & Hospitality, and TSUULL Health, to put the relevant regulations as described in this Policy into practice. This entails finding substitutes for single-use plastics and using such substitutes in regular operations.

B. Divisions/Units

The compliance with this Policy as it relates to their activities and operations is the responsibility of the departments/units.

C. People and Organizations with TSUULL Connection

Individuals and organizations affiliated with TSUULL are in charge of adhering to this Policy as it relates to their activities on TSUULL Property, such as planning Events.

D. Independent contractors and unaffiliated people and organizations

It is the responsibility of third-party suppliers and unaffiliated people and organizations to adhere to this Policy as it relates to their activity on TSUULL Property. The implementation of this policy will take place when starting new leases or contracts or renewing existing leases or contracts, unless such renewal is made possible by a third-party vendor exercising a renewal option, or if a third-party vendor's current lease or contract does not permit TSUULL to require the vendor to comply with the Policy.

E. TSUULL Health

For all items not utilized directly in patient treatment, with the exception of prescription Oral Nutritional Supplements and Enteral Nutrition Products, TSUULL Health is responsible for adhering to this Policy.

F. Task Force on Zero Waste

The Sustainability Committee's Zero Waste Task Force will be in charge of formulating procedures and implementation instructions for this Policy, as well as taking into account potential revisions to the Policy in the future

Issuing Officer

/s/ *Jameel Siddin*

Head of Sustainability Practices Office