

Policy Created on 11/09/2023

# Cyprus International University

## Disposables Policy

### Purpose

This policy outlines Cyprus International University's (CIU) commitment to minimizing the use of disposable (single-use) items on campus. It aims to reduce waste, promote sustainable practices, and encourage a culture of responsibility among students, faculty, and staff.

### Scope

This policy applies to all departments, students, faculty, staff, and visitors of Cyprus International University.

### Policy Statement

Cyprus International University is dedicated to reducing the environmental impact associated with disposable items. We recognize the need to shift towards more sustainable practices by minimizing the use of single-use products and encouraging the adoption of reusable alternatives.

### Objectives

1. **Reduce Single-Use Item Consumption:** Significantly decrease the use of disposable items on campus.
2. **Promote Reusable Alternatives:** Encourage reusable products such as containers, utensils, and bags.
3. **Increase Awareness and Education:** Raise awareness about the environmental impact of disposable items and promote sustainable practices within the university community.
4. **Engage Stakeholders:** Involve students, faculty, staff, and suppliers to minimize single-use item consumption.

# Strategies for Implementation

## 1. Assessment of Single-Use Item Use

- Conduct an inventory of current disposable items used across campus to identify critical areas for reduction and target specific items.

## 2. Elimination of Single-Use Items

- **Beverage Containers:** Phase out the sale and distribution of single-use plastic bottles on campus. Promote refillable water stations and provide incentives for using reusable water bottles.
- **Dining Services:** Encourage dining services to eliminate single-use cutlery, plates, and cups in favor of reusable options. Where necessary, explore compostable or biodegradable materials as alternatives.
- **Events and Activities:** Implement guidelines for all campus events prohibiting single-use items and encouraging reusable or compostable alternatives.

## 3. Promotion of Reusable Alternatives

- **Reusables Program:** Establish a program that provides students and staff with reusable bags, containers, and utensils and offers options for purchasing or borrowing items.
- **Campus Retailers:** Work with campus retailers to offer discounts for students and staff who bring their reusable containers or bags.

## 4. Education and Awareness Campaigns

- **Workshops and Seminars:** Organize educational events that inform the university community about the environmental impacts of disposable items and the benefits of using reusables.
- **Marketing Materials:** Develop and distribute materials (posters, flyers, digital content) promoting the importance of minimizing disposable items and showcasing alternative practices.

## 5. Collaboration with Stakeholders

- **Supplier Engagement:** Collaborate with suppliers to reduce packaging waste and identify sustainable product alternatives.
- **Student Involvement:** Encourage student organizations to participate in initiatives to reduce the consumption of disposable items, fostering a sense of ownership within the community.

## 6. Monitoring and Reporting

- **Track Progress:** Regularly assess the effectiveness of efforts to minimize disposable items using surveys and feedback from the campus community.
- **Annual Review:** Conduct an annual review of this policy to evaluate its impact and identify areas for improvement.

## Responsibilities

- **Sustainability Committee:** This committee will oversee the implementation of this policy, monitor progress, and coordinate education and awareness initiatives.
- **All Employees and Students:** Expected to actively participate in minimizing disposable item use and promoting sustainable practices on campus.
- **University Management:** Provide support and resources for implementing this policy and promote a culture of sustainability.

By adopting this Policy on Disposable Items, Cyprus International University aims to foster a sustainable campus environment and contribute to the global effort to reduce waste and protect the planet.