ULUSLARARASI KIBRIS ÜNİVERSİTESİ
CYPRUS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

THE IMPACT RANKINGS

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION / IMPACT RANKINGS EVIDENCE FACT FILE

SDG 12 / INDICATOR 12.2.5
Policies on Minimising Plastic Use

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SDG 12	12.2.5	4
Responsible Consumption and Production	Policies on minimising plastic use	Objectives of CIU's Plastic Reduction Policy

Purpose of this evidence file

This fact file documents Cyprus International University's (CIU) policies on minimising the use of plastic, supporting THE Impact Rankings SDG 12 measure 12.2.5. CIU, as a body, has a written Plastic Reduction Policy (Version 1 created 2 April 2020, Version 2 of 21 July 2023; Annex 4, Decision 2020–05/4 of the Sustainability Policy) that commits the university to become a single-use plastic-free campus, with rules already in force for water, bags, straws, cutlery, bottled drinks and stationery. The source document is reproduced in Appendix 1.

INDICATOR 12.2.5

Plastic minimisation policy at a glance

A written policy with a single-use plastic-free goal, rules already in force, reusable alternatives and annual reporting.

V2	6	2 years
Current version, 21 July 2023, from Version 1 of 2 April 2020	Rules in force from the Sustainability Policy: water, bags, straws, bottles, stationery, cutlery	Review cycle set by the policy

Headline result

A stated goal. CIU is committed to becoming a single-use plastic-free campus by eliminating the procurement, sale and distribution of targeted single-use plastics, investing in reusable infrastructure, promoting behavioural change and holding the community and partners accountable. It applies to all academic and administrative units, staff, students, contractors, vendors, licensees and visitors, and to events.

Rules already in force. Free drinking water on campus; a charge on plastic bags; no plastic straws in cafeterias; no plastic-bottled water or drinks sold in barista offices; no plastic in university-produced stationery; and metal cutlery for all food except takeaway.

Mechanisms. A plastic inventory, plastic criteria in purchasing, a clause binding all new and renewed supplier contracts, a reusables programme, discounts for reusable containers, event guidelines, refill stations and an annual Plastic Reduction Report.

Evidence scope

No.	Evidence item	Value / note
1	Written Plastic Reduction Policy with version history	Version 2, 21 Jul 2023
2	Goal: single-use plastic-free campus; scope covers contractors, vendors, licensees, visitors and events	University-wide
3	Four objectives: reduce single-use plastics, promote reusables, raise awareness, engage stakeholders	4 objectives
4	Binding rules in the Sustainability Policy, Annex 4 (Decision 2020–05/4)	6 rules
5	Procurement: plastic criteria in purchasing and a clause in every new and renewed supplier contract	Control
6	Reusables programme, refill stations and discounts for reusable containers	Alternatives
7	Monitoring: indicators, annual Plastic Reduction Report, review every two years	Governance
8	Campus practice: Plastic Free Zone café, bottle recycling, awareness events	On campus

PLASTIC REDUCTION REGISTER

What the policy requires

Each measure, what it commits CIU to, and where the evidence is. Items marked rule are binding in the Sustainability Policy; others are policy commitments.

Ref.	Measure	What is required	Type	Evidence
P1	**Drinking water and bottles** Free water; barista offices	The university provides free water to students, staff and visitors. In office spaces with barista service, buying or selling water or drinks in plastic bottles is prohibited. The policy also phases out single-use plastic beverage containers at facilities and events and provides refill stations.	**Rule**	Appendix 1 Sustainability Policy
P2	**Straws and cutlery** Dining services	Plastic straws are not available in student or staff cafeterias, where alternatives must be offered. Except for takeaway meals, food on campus is served with metal cutlery.	**Rule**	Appendix 1 Sustainability Policy
P3	**Bags and stationery** Charge and ban	Extra charges apply to plastic bags at the point of purchase, and stationery produced by the university must not contain plastic.	**Rule**	Sustainability Policy
P4	**Events** Campus events	Guidelines for campus events prohibit single-use plastics and promote real dishware or compostable options.	**Commitment**	Appendix 1
P5	**Procurement and suppliers** Contract clause	The Procurement Office integrates plastic reduction criteria into purchasing decisions and vendor agreements; every new and renewed supplier or contractor contract must include a clause requiring adherence to the policy.	**Commitment**	Appendix 1
P6	**Reusables and incentives** Reusables programme	Reusable kits (bottles, bags, containers) are to be accessible and affordable, with options to buy or borrow, and campus retailers are to offer discounts for those who bring their own.	**Commitment**	Appendix 1
P7	**Assessment and monitoring** Inventory and indicators	An inventory of plastic use identifies where to reduce. The Sustainability Committee tracks the volume of prohibited items bought, refill station use and reusable programme participation, and publishes an annual Plastic Reduction Report.	**Governance**	Appendix 1
P8	**Awareness and engagement** Education campaigns	Workshops, seminars, posters and digital content on plastic pollution, and engagement of student organisations and suppliers.	**Commitment**	Appendix 1 Plastic pollution event

RESPONSIBILITIES AND CAMPUS PRACTICE

Who is responsible, and what happens on campus

Roles named in the policy, and plastic-related practice reported on the CIU website.

Responsible body	Role under the policy
Sustainability Committee	Overall authority for implementation, monitoring, enforcement and annual reporting; creates a binding timeline for full implementation of the prohibitions.
University Management	Allocates resources and champions the policy at senior leadership level.
Procurement and Contracts Office	Enforces compliance through supply chain and vendor management.
Facilities and Operations	Maintains and expands infrastructure such as hydration stations and dishwashing.
All students, faculty and staff	Comply with and promote the policy.

Campus practice (CIU website)	Detail
Plastic Free Zone	The We Are Nature Cafe on campus is a designated Plastic Free Zone and aims to eliminate single-use, non-renewable waste. A CIU news report of 19 September 2022 also mentions the zone.
Collection and reuse	Plastic bottles are collected and reused where possible, for example to make furniture and other products, through the recycling programme started by Students for a Sustainable Campus.
Awareness	On 13 January 2022 the CIU Environmental Research Center hosted an online event on plastic pollution and plastic collection and recycling, moderated by its director, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ime Akanyeti.

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APPENDIX 1 • SOURCE DOCUMENT

Plastic Reduction Policy: evidence document

Source document • 3 pages • sheet 1 of 3

Version 1 Created on 02/04/2020
Updated to Version 2 on 21/07/2023

Cyprus International University
Plastic Reduction Policy

Purpose

This plastic Reduction Policy outlines Cyprus International University's (CIU) commitment to minimizing and eliminating plastic pollution campus. The goal is to transition from a linear "take-make-dispose" model to a circular economy, prioritizing source reduction and sustainable alternatives. This policy mandates a university-wide reduction in the consumption and disposal of plastics, with a primary focus on eliminating unnecessary and single-use plastics (SUPs). It aims to mitigate the environmental impact of plastic waste, conserve natural resources, and embed the principles of responsible consumption and production into all campus operations and culture.

Scope

This policy applies to all university activities, including academic and administrative departments, faculty, staff, students, contractors, vendors, licensees, and visitors across all CIU campuses and events.

Policy Statement

CIU is committed to becoming a single-use plastic-free campus. We will achieve this by eliminating the procurement, sale, and distribution of targeted SUPs, investing in reusable infrastructure, promoting behavioral change, and holding our community and partners accountable to these standards.

Objectives

1. **Reduce Single-Use Plastics**: To achieve a measurable, year-on-year reduction in overall plastic waste generated by the university.
2. **Promote Reusable Alternatives**: Encourage reusable products and materials, such as water bottles, bags, and containers.
3. **Increase Awareness and Education**: Raise awareness about the impact of plastic pollution and promote sustainable practices among the university community. To foster a culture of sustainability by educating the community and promoting innovative solutions for reducing plastic reliance.

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Evidence note

Copy of the CIU evidence document for measure 12.2.5, page 1 of 3.

APPENDIX 1 • SOURCE DOCUMENT • CONTINUED

Plastic Reduction Policy: evidence document

Source document • 3 pages • sheet 2 of 3

4. **Engage Stakeholders**: Involve students, faculty, staff, and suppliers in efforts to reduce plastic use and promote sustainability, to ensure all university operations and partnerships adhere to the mandates of this policy.

Strategies for Implementation

1. Assessment of Plastic Use

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

2. Phased Implementation: The Sustainability Committee will create a binding timeline for the full implementation of all prohibitions, allowing for transition periods where necessary.

- Sustainable Procurement: The Procurement Office will integrate plastic reduction criteria into all purchasing decisions and vendor agreements.
- Reusables Program: The university will establish programs to make reusable kits (bottles, bags, containers) accessible and affordable for the entire community.
- Supplier & Contractor Engagement: All new and renewed contracts with suppliers and contractors must include a clause requiring adherence to this policy.

2. Elimination of Single-Use Plastics

- **Beverage Containers**: Phase out single-use plastic beverage containers in campus facilities and events. Promote the use of refillable water stations and provide incentives for using reusable bottles.
- **Dining Services**: Encourage dining services to replace plastic straws, cutlery, and containers with sustainable alternatives, such as compostable or biodegradable materials.
- **Events and Activities**: Implement guidelines for campus events that prohibit single-use plastics and promote sustainable practices, such as using real dishware or compostable options.

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.Roles and Responsibilities

- **Sustainability Committee:** Has the overall authority for implementation, monitoring, enforcement, and annual reporting on the policy's progress.

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Evidence note

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APPENDIX 1 • SOURCE DOCUMENT • CONTINUED

Plastic Reduction Policy: evidence document

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- **University Management:** Responsible for allocating necessary resources and championing the policy at a senior leadership level.
- **Procurement & Contracts Office:** Responsible for enforcing policy compliance through supply chain and vendor management.
- **Facilities & Operations:** Responsible for maintaining and expanding the infrastructure that enables plastic reduction (e.g., hydration stations, dishwashing).
- **All Students, Faculty, and Staff:** Are expected to actively comply with and promote this policy, embracing a personal responsibility to reduce plastic consumption.

4. Education and Awareness Campaigns

- **Workshops and Seminars**: Organize educational events to inform the university community about the environmental impacts of plastic pollution and the benefits of reducing plastic use.
- **Marketing Materials**: Develop and distribute materials (posters, flyers, digital content) that promote the importance of plastic reduction and showcase alternative practices.

5. Collaboration with Stakeholders

- **Supplier Engagement**: Work with suppliers to identify and implement sustainable packaging solutions and reduce plastic use in the supply chain.
- **Student Involvement**: Encourage student organizations to participate in plastic reduction initiatives, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility within the community.

5. Monitoring, Reporting and Review

- **Monitoring**: The Sustainability Committee will track key performance indicators, including the volume of prohibited items procured, usage of refill stations, and participation in reusable programs.
- **Reporting**: An annual Plastic Reduction Report will be published, detailing progress, challenges, and future targets, ensuring full transparency.
- **Review**: This policy will be formally reviewed every two years to assess its effectiveness and to set more ambitious future targets in line with SDG 12.

By adopting this Plastic Reduction Policy, CIU reaffirms its role as a leader in sustainability, taking concrete action to protect our environment and educate our community on the critical importance of responsible consumption.

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Evidence note

Copy of the CIU evidence document for measure 12.2.5, page 3 of 3.