PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION POLICY

Reducing Plastic Waste on Campus

Approved: January 2021 | Reviewed: March 2023 | Last revised: January 2025 | Next full revision: January 2028

1. Purpose

Uzbekistan State World Languages University (UzSWLU) is committed to reducing plastic waste on its campuses in order to protect land, water and wildlife from plastic pollution. This policy sets out how the University reduces the use of single-use plastics, promotes reusable alternatives, collects plastic waste separately for recycling and raises awareness among students, staff, contractors and visitors.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all university campuses, buildings, student residences and other premises, to all university-organized events, and to all students, staff, contractors, suppliers and food-service operators working on university premises, whether operated directly by the University or under contract or lease.

3. Commitments

3.1 Phasing out single-use plastics

- Single-use plastic tableware and packaging, including cups, plates, cutlery, straws and carrier bags, are phased out at all catering outlets and replaced with reusable or biodegradable alternatives, in line with the UzSWLU Sustainable Food Policy.
- University-organized events do not use single-use plastic water bottles, cups or cutlery. Drinking water is served from dispensers or in reusable containers.
- Single-use plastic items are not purchased for university offices where a reusable or non-plastic alternative is available.

3.2 Promoting reusable alternatives

- The University provides free drinking water stations and filtered dispensers in teaching buildings, offices and student residences, so that students and staff can refill their own bottles.
- Students, staff and visitors are encouraged to bring their own bottles, cups, bags and food containers, and catering outlets accept customers' own containers.

3.3 Separate collection and recycling

- Bins for the separate collection of plastic waste are placed in teaching buildings, residences and outdoor areas.
- Collected plastic is handed over to licensed recycling organizations and is not sent to landfill where recycling is available.
- Plastic litter is removed from university grounds and green areas so that it does not enter soil, drains or the wider environment.

3.4 Procurement and contracts

- Purchasing decisions give priority to products without plastic packaging or with recyclable packaging, in line with the UzSWLU Sustainable Purchase and Procurement Policy.
- Every catering, supply or lease contract concluded or renewed after the adoption of this revision includes the obligations of Sections 3.1 and 3.3.

3.5 Awareness and education

- The University runs campaigns, seminars and student initiatives on the impact of plastic waste and on reducing, reusing and recycling plastics, including through its student eco clubs and the Department of Ecology and Green Resources.
- Information on plastic reduction is provided to new students and staff and displayed in catering areas.

4. Responsibilities

- Department of Administrative Affairs: holds overall responsibility for implementing this policy, organizes separate collection and recycling, installs and maintains drinking water points, and supervises catering operators and contractors.
- Procurement unit: applies the procurement and contract requirements of Section 3.4.
- Food-service operators and suppliers: comply with Sections 3.1 and 3.3 in their outlets and report on single-use plastic items in use.
- Deans, heads of departments and event organizers: ensure that events and offices follow this policy.
- Student organizations: lead awareness campaigns and volunteer cleanups.

5. Monitoring and reporting

The Department of Administrative Affairs reports progress against this policy annually, and the report is published on the University's website. The following indicators are tracked:

Area	Indicator	Frequency
Single-use plastics	Number of single-use plastic item types still in use at catering outlets and events	Annual
Drinking water	Number of drinking water stations and filtered dispensers on university premises	Annual
Collection and recycling	Plastic waste collected separately and handed over for recycling (kg)	Annual
Procurement	Share of new catering and supply contracts that include plastic reduction clauses	Annual
Awareness	Number of plastic reduction campaigns and participants	Annual

6. Review

This policy was first approved in January 2021 and reviewed in March 2023. It was revised in January 2025 to align it with the UzSWLU Sustainable Food Policy, to extend it to contracted catering operators and suppliers, to add commitments on drinking water points, separate collection and recycling, and to assign clear responsibilities. The policy is reviewed every year, and a full revision will be undertaken by January 2028.

7. Related policies

UzSWLU Sustainable Food Policy, Waste Management Policy, Sustainable Purchase and Procurement Policy and Environmental Sustainability Policy, available at uzswlu.uz/en/sdg-policies.