

UCLA Single-Use Plastics Policy

UCLA Sustainability



<https://www.sustain.ucla.edu/single-use-plastic-policy/>

The Truth About Plastic

- Single-use plastics are a global problem that cause environmental degradation and damaging health effects to humans.
- Single-use plastics do not degrade for hundreds of years, yet they are used only once and thrown away.
- Less than 10% of plastics are actually recycled, most end up in the oceans or being burned in landfills.
- The only real solution is elimination of plastic production and consumption altogether.
- <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/key-facts-about-plastic-pollution/>

UCLA is Leading the Movement

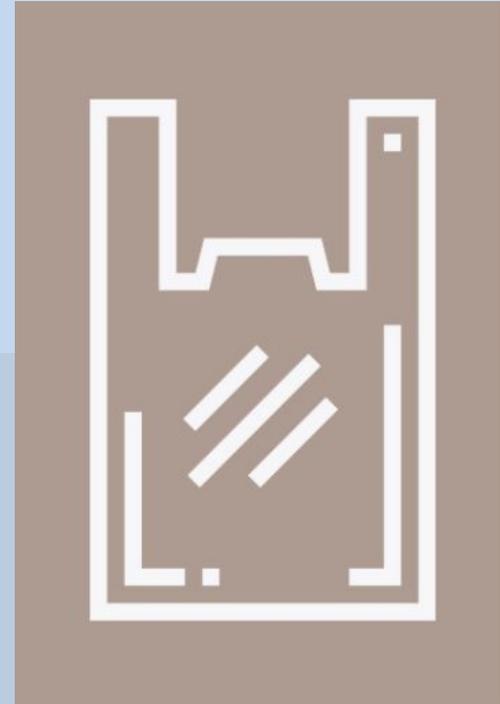
- UCLA was the first UC to begin drafting a single-use plastics ban which is now a published UCLA policy (Policy 809).
- The others UCs quickly followed and UCLA helped contribute to the revision of the UC Policy on Sustainable Practices that now includes a ban on single-use plastics.
- The UCLA Single-Use Plastics Policy begins on January 1, 2021 and the full guidelines are set to be achieved by the end of 2023.
- Policy guidelines mostly pertain to foodservice facilities, retail spaces, and vending machines.

Plastic Bags

Defined as single-use carry-out bag, regardless of the thickness of the plastic material, made of plastic that is provided by a foodservice facility or retail store to a customer. This does not include bags that are locally compostable.

By January 1, 2021

- Eliminate plastic bags.



Bags

Preferred

- No bags
- Bring your own

Disposables

- Paper



Foodware Items

Defined as products that are used to serve or transport ready-to-consume food or beverages, including but not limited to cups, bowls, plates, and hinged containers.

This does not include prepackaged, sealed food that is mass produced by a third party vendor off the premises for resale on University Property.

By January 1, 2021

- Replace disposable single-use plastic foodware items with reusable or locally compostable alternatives for to-go facilities.

By October 1, 2021

- Replace disposable single-use plastic foodware items with reusable or locally compostable alternatives for all dine-in and to-go facilities with indoor and/or outdoor associated seating.



Containers, Plates, Bowls

Preferred

- Reusables



Disposables

- Paper
- Pulp
- Paperboard
- Wheatstraw
- Bagasse (sugar cane fiber)



Food Trays

Preferred

- Reusables



Disposables

- Pulp
- Paperboard
- Molded Fiber
- Cardboard
- Bagasse (sugar cane fiber)



Cups/Drink Containers

Preferred

- Reusables
- Bring your own

Disposables

- Paper

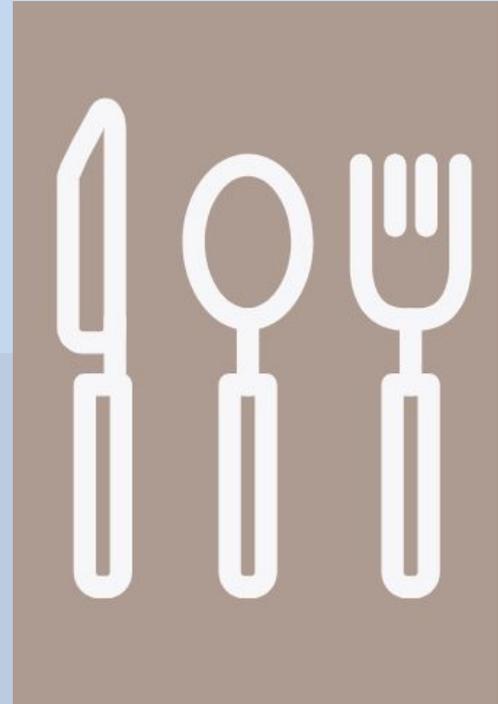


Foodware Accessory Items

Defined as all types of items usually provided alongside food in containers and cups, including but not limited to utensils, chopsticks, napkins, cup lids, cup sleeves, food or beverage trays, condiment containers and saucers, straws, stirrers, and toothpicks.

By January 1, 2021

- Replace disposable single-use plastic foodware accessory items with reusables or locally compostable alternatives for all foodservice facilities, meetings, and events.



Utensils

Preferred

- No utensils
- Reusables
- Bring your own



Disposables

- Wood
- Bamboo
- Edible



Straws

Preferred

- No straws
- Reusables
- Bring your own



Disposables

- Paper
- Pasta
- Hay
- Food



Stirrers

Preferred

- Shake, not stir
- Reusables
- Bring your own



Disposables

- Wood
- Bamboo
- Sugar Cane
- Edible



Condiment Containers

Preferred

- Reusables

Disposables

- Paper



Cup Lids

Preferred

- Reusables
- Bring your own

Disposables

- Bioplastic lids (only available upon request)



Plastic Beverage Bottles

Defined as single-use water and beverage bottles, regardless of thickness of plastic material, made of plastic that is provided by a foodservice facility or retail store to a customer. This does not include bottles that are locally compostable

By January 1, 2021

- Eliminate the sale and free distribution of single-use plastic water and beverage bottles and non-recyclable water containers and provide reusable alternatives during all indoor events with fewer than 100 attendees.
- This includes, but is not limited to, internal and external catering and distribution related to meetings, events, or other commercial or non-commercial activities.



Plastic Beverage Bottles

By October 1, 2021

- Eliminate the sale and free distribution of single-use plastic water and beverage bottles and non-recyclable water containers and provide reusable alternatives at foodservice facilities and all indoor and outdoor meetings and events including large events with greater than 100 attendees.

By September 1, 2023

- Eliminate the sale and free distribution of single-use plastic water and beverage bottles and non-recyclable water containers and provide reusable alternatives at retail stores, and all vending machines on University property.
- UCLA will prioritize the installation of hydration stations to support this transition and avoid a shift to less healthy alternatives.
- This deadline is subject to change because it is dependent on our beverage contract with Coca-Cola.



Bottles/Cans/ Drink Boxes

Preferred

- Reusables and tap water

Disposables

- Glass
- Aluminum
- Paper-based



Compliance

- Reusables vs. Disposables
- Locally Compostable
- Bioplastics and Biodegradable
- Water Filling Stations
- Accessibility
- Exemptions
- Reporting



Reusable vs. Disposable



Why we encourage reusables?

- Reduce waste that goes to disposal facilities
- Reduces pollution of environment
- Reduces consumption of our natural resources

How to promote reusables?

- Create discounts or incentives for bringing your own reusables
- Sell reusable products and offer discount programs
- Rewards program
- Charge for using disposables

Locally Compostable



- Locally compostable means only products that are composted by our local waste hauler, Athens Services.
- Athens defines compostables as unbleached 100% plant-fiber based products with no plastic, wax, or bioplastic coating/liner.
- Products may say that they are 100% compostable, certified compostable, or biodegradable but this does not mean that they do not contain plastics or that they will break down quickly enough to be composted in the Athens facility.
- For more info see the letter from [Athens Services](#).

Bioplastic vs Biodegradable



- Bioplastics mean plastic materials produced from renewable biomass sources, rather than from petroleum.
 - Includes polylactic acid (PLA) plastics
 - NOT considered locally compostable
- Marine degradable means products made with materials that completely biodegrade under marine environmental conditions within 120 days, leaving no toxic substance or residue.
- UCLA aims to transition away from bioplastics to marine degradable products wherever alternatives exist.
- The term “biodegradable” does not signify a sustainable product because it is not mandated by any official authority.

Water Filling Stations



- Tap water is a safe and cost-effective alternative to plastic water bottles. Encourage guests, staff, and students to bring reusable water bottles whenever possible.
- Map of [water filling stations](#) on campus
- Resources for switching to sustainable water dispensing
 - [Tap Water FAQs](#)
 - [Water Conversion Flow Chart](#)
 - [Water Conversion Comparison Chart](#)

Accessibility



- A small stock of single-use plastics (including, but not limited to, plastic-type straws) should be maintained and made readily available as an accommodation to people with disabilities who request them to enjoy equal access to food and beverage services.

Exemptions

- Due to the lack of plastic-free alternatives, the following products are exempt from the policy until January 1, 2022.
- Paper Cups
 - Paper cups with thin PLA plastic lining are acceptable and can be composted.
- Cup Lids
 - Bioplastic cup lids can be made available only upon request.
 - These lids must be thrown in the trash and cannot be composted with the paper cups.

Exemption Form

- When reasonable alternatives do not exist, you may submit a request for exemption through the Campus Exemption Form
- To apply for exemption you will need to provide:
 - Name, brand, and link to specific product
 - What the product will be used for
 - What alternatives exist and why you cannot purchase them
 - What steps will be taken to ensure proper recycling
 - What steps will be taken to ensure future compliance
- Exemption forms will be reviewed by UCLA Sustainability

Compliance Forms

- If prohibited single-use plastic items are seen on campus, please submit anonymous tips with the [Single-Use Plastics Anonymous Reporting Form](#).
- Reported forms will be reviewed by UCLA Sustainability and the respective parties will be contacted and provided guidance for policy compliance.
- Compost bins can be found throughout campus. If additional compost and/or recycling receptacles are required for an event, submit a [Facilities Service Request \(FSR\)](#). The Facilities [Pricing List](#) for bins can be found under “Event Trash Boxes & Set Up”.

Questions?

For a more comprehensive guidance, please review the Single-Use Plastics Policy Implementation Guide

For questions on whether a non-plastic product is compliant, please email sustainability@ha.ucla.edu

For all other questions, please email sustainability@ucla.edu

