CHUKWUEMEKA ODUMEGWU OJUKWU UNIVERSITY

University Policy on Reduction of Plastic Waste on Campus

1. Policy Title

Policy on the Reduction and Sustainable Management of Plastic Waste

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2. Policy Statement

The University is committed to environmental sustainability, responsible resource utilization, and the promotion of eco-friendly practices within its academic, administrative, and social environments. This policy establishes guidelines and strategies aimed at reducing plastic waste generation, encouraging reuse and recycling, and promoting sustainable alternatives across campus operations.

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3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Reduce the generation and accumulation of plastic waste on campus.
- Promote sustainable consumption and waste management practices.
- Support national and global environmental sustainability goals.
- Encourage behavioral change among staff, students, vendors, and visitors.
- Strengthen research, innovation, and education related to plastic waste reduction.

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4. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All staff, students, contractors, vendors, and visitors.
- All university campuses, facilities, hostels, offices, and event venues.
- All procurement, catering, research, and operational activities.

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5. Definitions

- **Single-use plastics:** Plastic products intended for one-time use before disposal, including plastic bags, straws, cutlery, cups, and packaging materials.
- **Plastic waste:** Discarded plastic materials resulting from consumption or operational activities.
- **Sustainable alternatives:** Materials that are biodegradable, compostable, reusable, or recyclable with minimal environmental impact.

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6. Policy Objectives

The University shall:

1. Reduce single-use plastic consumption by at least 50% within five years.
2. Promote recycling and circular economy initiatives.
3. Encourage sustainable procurement and supply chain practices.
4. Foster environmental awareness through education and community engagement.
5. Support research and innovation in sustainable materials and waste management technologies.

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7. Policy Guidelines

7.1 Reduction of Single-Use Plastics

The University shall:

- Prohibit or gradually phase out single-use plastic bags, straws, disposable cutlery, and polystyrene food containers.
- Encourage the use of reusable bottles, food containers, and shopping bags.
- Introduce refill stations for drinking water across campus.
- Promote digital documentation to reduce plastic packaging associated with printed materials.

7.2 Sustainable Procurement

The Procurement Unit shall:

- Prioritize procurement of environmentally friendly and recyclable products.
- Include sustainability requirements in vendor contracts.
- Encourage suppliers to minimize plastic packaging.
- Promote the use of biodegradable or reusable packaging materials.

7.3 Waste Segregation and Recycling

The University shall:

- Provide clearly labeled waste segregation bins across campus.
- Establish partnerships with licensed recycling organizations.
- Develop collection points for plastic waste recycling.
- Support student-led recycling initiatives and sustainability clubs.

7.4 Campus Events and Catering

Event organizers and food vendors shall:

- Use reusable or biodegradable food packaging materials.
- Avoid the distribution of single-use plastic souvenirs and packaging.
- Provide waste sorting facilities during events.

7.5 Research, Innovation, and Academic Integration

The University shall:

- Encourage research on alternative materials, recycling technologies, and sustainable waste management.
- Integrate sustainability and environmental management into teaching and training programs.
- Promote interdisciplinary projects involving students and faculty.

7.6 Awareness and Capacity Building

The University shall:

- Organize environmental awareness campaigns and training programs.
- Provide sustainability orientation for new students and staff.
- Encourage student participation in environmental conservation programs.

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8. Roles and Responsibilities

8.1 University Management

- Provide strategic direction and funding support.
- Ensure policy enforcement and monitoring.

8.2 Sustainability/Environmental Committee

- Coordinate policy implementation.
- Monitor compliance and progress.
- Recommend improvements and updates.

8.3 Procurement Unit

- Enforce sustainable purchasing standards.

8.4 Facilities Management Unit

- Provide waste segregation infrastructure.
- Coordinate waste collection and recycling activities.

8.5 Staff and Students

- Comply with policy provisions.
- Participate in sustainability initiatives.

8.6 Vendors and Contractors

- Adhere to plastic reduction requirements stated in contractual agreements.

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9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The University shall:

- Conduct annual plastic waste audits.
- Track reduction targets and recycling rates.
- Publish sustainability performance reports.
- Review and update this policy every three years.

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10. Enforcement and Compliance

Non-compliance with this policy may result in:

- Withdrawal of vendor contracts.
- Disciplinary actions in accordance with University regulations.
- Suspension of event approvals where sustainability requirements are not met.

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11. Implementation Strategy

Implementation shall involve:

- Phased elimination of single-use plastics.
- Infrastructure development for recycling.
- Training and awareness programs.
- Collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, and private recycling firms.

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12. Review

This policy shall be reviewed every three years or as necessary to incorporate emerging sustainability practices.

Signature:  Date: 24/10/2026

Prof. Kate Azuka Omenugha, Fnipr

Vice Chancellor