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The California State University system has implemented a policy that aims to eliminate single-use plastics including straws, bags, polystyrene food packaging, and water bottles on **all 23** campuses **by 2023**. [Read the Policy](#)

This document is intended to help our community and partners comply with the policy and adopt alternatives to single-use plastics.

Item (NOT Allowed)	Best Alternative(s) (Preferred)		Alternative (Acceptable)	Additional Guidance	
<p>The items in this column are specifically prohibited under the CSU Single-Use Plastics Policy.</p>	<p>These columns list the <i>most preferred</i> alternatives in each category (in order of preference from left to right).</p> <p>Overall, reusable items are always preferred.</p>		<p>These columns list <i>acceptable</i> disposable alternatives (in order of preference from left to right) to be used in instances when reusable options are not available or practical.</p> <p>In general, look for recyclable metal, or unlined, unbleached, 100% fiber-based products.</p>	<p>Be wary of disposable bio-plastic products labeled with claims such as “Bio-degradable,” “Made with plants,” “Plant-based,” or “compostable.”</p> <p>Infrastructure and facilities for composting these products are rare so these items usually end up in the landfill where they do not readily bio-degrade.</p>	
 <p>(Plastic Water Bottle)</p>	 <p>(Reusable Bottle + Refill stations)</p>	 <p>(Water Dispenser + Reusable bottles and/or reusable cups)</p>	 <p>(Water in aluminum bottle)</p>	 <p>(Water Dispenser + paper cups)</p>	<p>When hosting a catered event, request that the caterer provide a water dispenser and reusable or paper cups. If you host frequent events, consider investing in a dispenser and cups for your department or student club.</p> <p>If you want to purchase bottled water, please reach out to the contacts below:</p>

 <p>(Plastic Straw)</p>	<p>No Straw*</p>	 <p>(Reusable Straw)</p>	 <p>(Paper Straw)</p>	 <p>(PLA-Free Plant-Based Straw)</p>	<p>*Per the policy, California Assembly Bill 1884, and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), straws are to be made available upon request only.</p> <p>When it comes to disposable options, paper is most preferred. Plant-based alternatives such as wheat or PLA-free sugar cane straws are acceptable.</p>
 <p>(Polystyrene food packaging)</p>	 <p>(Reusable dishes/containers)</p>	 <p>(Paper cups, plates, food containers)</p>	<p>Styrofoam is a brand name that is the most commonly used term for polystyrene. This material is rarely recyclable since most recycling facilities do not accept it.</p> <p>California Senate Bill 1338 prohibits entities operating on state property from dispensing prepared food using a type of food service packaging that is not reusable, recyclable, or compostable.</p>		
 <p>(Plastic Bag)</p>	<p>No Bag</p>	 <p>(Reusable Canvas Bag)</p>	 <p>(Paper bag made from 50% or more recycled content)</p>		

Item (Discouraged)	Best Alternative(s) (Preferred)		Alternative (Acceptable)	Additional Guidance
<p>The items in the column are strongly discouraged in the policy under the broader umbrella of all single-use plastics.</p>	<p>These columns list the most preferred alternatives in each category (in order of preference from left to right).</p> <p>Overall, reusable items are always preferred.</p>		<p>These columns list acceptable disposable alternatives (in order of preference from left to right) to be used in instances when reusable options are not available or practical.</p> <p>In general, look for recyclable metal, or unlined, unbleached, 100% fiber-based products.</p>	<p>Be wary of disposable bio-plastic products labeled with claims such as “Bio-degradable,” “Made with plants,” “Plant-based,” or “compostable.”</p> <p>Infrastructure and facilities for composting these products are rare so these items usually end up in the landfill where they do not readily bio-degrade.</p>
 <p>(Plastic Utensils)</p>	<p>No Utensils</p>	 <p>(Reusable Utensils)</p>	 <p>(Compostable Wooden Utensils)</p>	<p>Plastic utensils and other types of small plastics are not readily recyclable because they are too small for the equipment at recycle facilities to effectively sort.</p> <p>If you are hosting an event with food, consider serving finger foods that do not require utensils.</p>
 <p>(Plastic cups)</p>	 <p>(Reusable glass/mug)</p>		 <p>(Paper)</p>	<p>Reusable cups are the best alternative but if you do not have a place to wash them after use and need a disposable option, choose unlined, unbleached, 100% fiber-based products.</p>



(Drink Lids)

No Lid



(Cardboard/Paper Lids)



(Condiment Cup)



(Reusable Ramekin)



(Paper Condiment Cup)