














CSU Single-Use Plastic Policy Alternatives Matrix









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 CSU campuses by 2023**. Read the Policy [here](#).

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

Item (Prohibited/Discouraged)	Best Alternative(s) (Preferred)	Alternative (Acceptable)	Additional Guidance	
<p>The items in this column with a red asterisk are specifically prohibited under the CSU Single-Use Plastics Policy. The other items are strongly discouraged.</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>	
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(*Plastic Water Bottle)</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(Reusable Bottle + Refill stations)</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(Water Dispenser + Reusable bottles and/or reusable cups)</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(Water in aluminum bottle)</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>(Water Dispenser + paper cups)</p> </div>	<p>There are over 180 filtered water hydration stations across CSULB’s campus.</p> <p>When hosting a catered event, request that the caterer provide a water dispenser and reusable or paper cups, (1)(2). If you host events frequently, consider investing in a dispenser and cups for your department or student club.</p> <p>If you’re interested in buying bottled water, contact the following individuals to order Aquafina or Beach branded water in aluminum bottles.</p> <p>Contact: Kristin Bonetati Kristin.Bonetati@csulb.edu</p>

Item (Prohibited/Discouraged)	Best Alternative(s) (Preferred)		Alternative (Acceptable)		Additional Guidance
 <p>(*Plastic Straw)</p>	<p>No Straw¹</p>	 <p>(Reusable Straw)</p>	 <p>(PLA-Free Plant-Based Straw)</p>	 <p>(Paper Straw)</p>	<p>¹Per 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 that is a commonly used term for polystyrene. This material is rarely recyclable since most recycling facilities do not accept it.</p> <p>California Senate Bill 1335 prohibits entities operating on state property from dispensing prepared food using a type of food service packaging that is not reusable, recyclable², or compostable.</p> <p>²Plastic cups are recyclable if they are #1, 2 or 5.</p> <p>When using compostable materials be sure that they are made from fiber-based materials (such as paper, bamboo, bagasse, wood, or sugar cane), are free of PLA, and free of plastic and bioplastic materials and linings. For a list of approved compostable food service items, click here.</p>

Item (Prohibited/Discouraged)	Best Alternative(s) (Preferred)		Alternative (Acceptable)	Additional Guidance
 <p data-bbox="263 597 424 630">(*Plastic Bag)</p>	<p data-bbox="693 604 784 636">No Bag</p>	 <p data-bbox="962 613 1241 646">(Reusable Canvas Bag)</p>	 <p data-bbox="1311 613 1967 646">(Paper bag made from 50% or more recycled content)</p>	<p data-bbox="1994 370 2521 435">Starting January 2023, the CSU banned the use of single-use plastics.</p> <p data-bbox="1994 483 2532 581">Plastic straws, single-use carry out bags, and single-use polystyrene (STYROFOAM™) are prohibited.</p>
 <p data-bbox="247 1286 451 1318">(Plastic Utensils)</p>	<p data-bbox="666 1269 811 1302">No Utensils</p>	 <p data-bbox="989 1344 1214 1377">(Reusable Utensils)</p>	 <p data-bbox="1446 1269 1833 1302">(Compostable Wooden Utensils)</p>	<p data-bbox="1994 961 2505 1101">Plastic utensils and other types of small plastics are not readily recyclable because they are too small for the equipment at recycling facilities to effectively sort.</p> <p data-bbox="1994 1140 2521 1286">If you are hosting an event with food, consider using reusable or compostable utensils or serving finger foods that do not require utensils.</p>

Item (Prohibited/Discouraged)	Best Alternative(s) (Preferred)	Alternative (Acceptable)	Additional Guidance
 <p>(Plastic cups)</p>	 <p>(Reusable glass/mug)</p>	 <p>(Paper)</p>	<p>If you don't have the ability to wash reusable cups after use, opt for compostable cups that do not have a plastic lining and are free of PLA. To view approved compostable food service items, click here.</p>
 <p>(Drink Lids)</p>	<p>No Lid</p>	 <p>(Cardboard/Paper Lids)</p>	<p>Small plastics are not readily recyclable because they are too small for the equipment at recycling facilities to effectively sort.</p> <p>If you will be serving hot liquids, consider purchasing lids made of compostable material or avoid them all together.</p>
 <p>(Condiment Cup)</p>	 <p>(Reusable Ramekin)</p>	 <p>(Paper Condiment Cup)</p>	<p>If you don't have the ability to wash reusable condiment cups after use, opt for compostable cups with no plastic lining and are free of PLA. To view approved compostable food service items, click here.</p>

