
Policy on Minimisation of Disposable Items

Policy Objective

O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) is dedicated to reducing the consumption and use of disposable items across its campus. This policy mandates all departments, staff, students, and entities to minimise the use of single-use plastics, disposable utensils, paper cups, and similar materials. The university aims to mitigate environmental impact by promoting reusable alternatives and sustainable practices.

Scope

This policy applies to all university spaces, academic, residential, dining, administrative, recreational, and event venues, and governs procurement, use, and disposal of single-use plastics, paper disposables, and other non-essential, non-reusable items. It covers students, faculty, staff, contractors, vendors, and guests.

Policy Commitments and Actions

I. Ban on Single-Use Plastics

- a) Complete prohibition on sale and distribution of single-use plastic bottles, cups, straws, cutlery, and bags in all university-controlled spaces.
- b) Water refilling stations installed campus-wide to promote reusable bottle usage.
- c) Dining services and events required to use washable/reusable crockery and cutlery; compostable alternatives allowed only where reusables are not feasible.

II. Reduction of All Disposable Items

- a) Gradual phase-out of disposable paper cups, plates, and packaging in dining, catering, and university events.
- b) All university events, conferences, and meetings are to prioritize “zero disposable” protocols, encouraging participants to bring or use reusables.

III. Sustainable Procurement

- a) Procurement policy to prioritize suppliers who minimize disposable and non-biodegradable packaging, and actively support circular economy practices.

- b) Staff and students encouraged to request goods and supplies in bulk or reusable packaging.

IV. Awareness & Education

- a) Sustainability education campaigns run by the Office of Sustainability to inform and empower the campus community about the environmental impact of disposables and benefits of reusables.
- b) Student and staff induction programs incorporate policy awareness and everyday sustainable habits.

V. Monitoring and Reporting

- a) Routine inspections and waste audits by the Facilities and Sustainability teams to ensure compliance.
- b) Regular reporting of disposable reduction progress and associated environmental benefits in JGU's annual sustainability report.

VI. Support for Innovation

- a) Endorsement of student-led projects and research into alternatives for single-use items and new models for circular economy on campus.
- b) Participation in external campaigns and partnerships aligned with a plastic-free and low-waste campus.

Roles and Responsibilities

- I. ***Office of Sustainability:*** Lead policy coordination, monitoring, education, and reporting.
- II. ***Facilities Management:*** Ensure alternative infrastructure (e.g., refill stations, dishwashing) and enforce policy compliance in campus operations.
- III. ***Dining & Catering Services:*** Transition to reusable service ware and compostable alternatives, where necessary.
- IV. ***All Campus Community Members:*** Use, promote, and advocate for reusable items in all university activities and spaces.
- V. ***Procurement Department:*** Embed responsible criteria in all tenders and supplier agreements.

Review and Continuous Improvement

- I. The policy will be reviewed annually to incorporate advances in materials, university feedback, regulatory updates, and opportunities for greater impact.
- II. Suggestions from students, staff, and vendors for further reducing disposable use are actively encouraged and will inform policy revisions.