



**POLICY AND GUIDELINES ON  
SUSTAINABLE GREEN PRACTICES AND  
PROHIBITION OF SINGLE USE OF  
PLASTIC-BASED CONTAINERS AND  
BOTTLES IN CAMPUSES AND ACTIVITIES  
OF UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA  
TERENGGANU**

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## **A. Background**

According to Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation chief executive officer, Malaysia disposes of more than 30,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) daily, with 1.17 kg of waste per capita, as compared with the daily average of 17,000 tonnes of MSW handled by local governments and waste management concessionaires in the early 2000s. Food waste contributed the largest composition of MSW, followed by plastic, paper, mixed organic, wood and others. At the same time, The Solid Waste Corporation (SWCorp) reported that Malaysia's recycling rate in 2020 was at 30.67 per cent, lower than other Asian countries such as Singapore at 59 per cent, South Korea at 49 per cent and Taiwan at 60 per cent. Concurrently, zero single-use plastic campaign by MESTECC calls for active participation from all stakeholders including universities to reduce the waste in the country.

Aligned with the Government policy on zero-single use of plastics, a special task force called Jawatan Kuasa Citra dan Kelestarian Kampus (JCKK) under Pro Naib Chancellor (Strategic and Performance) was assigned to facilitate and propose any sustainable practices that may can improve IU Green Metric. Currently, UMT is ranked 12 out of 42 among the education providers that took part in IU Green Metric 2023. UMT community, staff representatives and student groups have been actively participating in plastic clean-up program in open area (Beach clean-up, Gang Plastic Ijo, Green Rangers, etc) and recycling program (Green Living UMT, Trash-to-Cash, Ocean Hope, etc) with the ultimate goal to reduce plastic waste problem that have been plaguing the nearby area in our community. Hence, this policy paper provides a guidelines for the implementation of sustainable green practices and banning of single-se plastic containers and bottles in campuses and activities of UMT.

## **B. Scope**

Sustainable green practices apply to any activities that will reduce the accumulation of waste generated from offices, laboratories and hostels during procurement of items or disposal of used items such as papers, cardboards, plastics wrappings, etc which are recyclables and can be properly recycled by third party appointed by the University on a fixed schedule basis. This practice shall also apply to proper disposal of food waste from cafeteria and food waste producing activities into designated composting facility. The prohibition applies to the use and entry of single-use plastic water bottles in all activities

conducted in all campuses of the University. The UMT community, including students, faculty, staffs, service agencies and external parties shall abide by the prohibitions stated in the guidelines. The public and university guests are also enjoined to abide by this policy upon entering the university premises and participating in any University activities. Exceptions due to research activities, special events, etc may be granted on case-to-case basis subject to approval of university management council.

### **C. Terminology**

Sustainable green practices	Alternative practices that will minimize the impact to the environment and burden to the landfills
Plastic	Synthetic polymers of high and low molecular weight existing in various forms and materials
Single-use plastic	Disposable plastic, intended for single use before disposal or recycled
Composting	A process in which a mixture of decomposing materials typically food and garden waste incubated for a certain period to generate nutrient-rich material for plant nutrition

### **D. Preparations, implementation, enforcement and alternatives**

#### **I. Preparation: Dissemination of info/ Education**

PPL and other agencies in UMT shall initiate the information, education and communication to UMT community. The campaign shall include the activities to educate the community to care for the environment, to promote zero-waste practices and to explain the potential hazards of plastic pollution.

#### **II. Implementation**

Special Task Force committee or sustainability related working committee shall be formed to coordinate the overall campaign, monitor and ensure enforcement of the policy. The policy cover administrators, faculty, non-academic staffs, service

providers, members of the public, athlete's and other university guests. The campaign materials shall include signage, infographics and social media outlets approved by the University.

### **III. Enforcement**

Written warnings and written explanation are required for first-time offense and further punishment that are deemed suitable by the University administrators for repeated offenders.

### **IV. Alternatives**

1. Scheduled collection for recyclables
2. Use of reusable containers/bags
3. Water dispensers and vending machines
4. Paper-based containers for sales of food, drinks on campus

### **E. Relevant committee and their responsibilities**

- I. **Special Task Force** shall coordinate the campaign, monitor the implementation and ensure the enforcement of the policy.
- II. **Pusat Pembanguna Harta (PPH)** shall ensure the facility needed to support the sustainable green practices and water dispenser are available. PPH shall ensure the maintenance of such facility by employing contractors, etc.
- III. **Pusat Komunikasi Korporat (PKK)** shall be responsible for dissemination of information, education and communication campaign with rationale of sustainable green practices and prohibition of single-use plastics
- IV. **UMT staffs** are required to cooperate and help educate and promote sustainable green practices and zero waste principles to students and fellow colleagues.
- V. **Students, Alumni, Guests, Cafeteria owners** shall abide by the guidelines.
- VI. **Bahagian Keselamatan** shall enforce the policy in campuses and give out warnings/penalty for any reported misconduct.

### **F. Recommendations**

The committee recommends the following:

- I. Ban of single-use plastics during meetings and activities and which includes the following plastics:
  1. Plastic bottles
  2. Plastic bags
- II. The University to increase water dispensers in every building.
- III. UMT community to fully utilize the recycling opportunities provided on campus. The facility (recycling centre, recycling points) and the frequency of collection times shall be added to support the demand from UMT community from time-to-time.
- IV. UMT bookstores, student centre or student union to sell UMT merchandise including tumblers to support the prohibition of single-use plastics.
- V. The establishment of designated facility to cater all sustainable green practices and programs.

#### **G. Policy Enforcement**

This policy is effective from March 30, 2024.