



Announcement of Rajamangala University of Technology Phra Nakhon

Policy on the Minimisation of Disposable Items

1. Rationale

Building on the foundation of the "Policy on the Minimisation of Plastic Use" and in alignment with Rajamangala University of Technology Phra Nakhon's (RMUTP) core mission as a "Green University," this policy is established to address the broader challenge of the "single-use culture."

The University recognizes that all disposable items, regardless of material (plastic, paper, or biodegradable), consume energy and resources to produce and create waste that must be managed. To achieve true sustainability and move towards a Circular Economy, the University must prioritize "Reuse" as the most effective strategy, in line with the Waste Hierarchy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).

This policy, therefore, establishes the framework for minimizing the generation of all disposable waste on campus.

2. Policy Statement

Rajamangala University of Technology Phra Nakhon commits to being a "Reusable Campus." We will actively minimize the procurement, sale, and distribution of all single-use disposable items and will systematically establish "Reusable Systems" as the standard practice for all university operations, canteens, and events.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all university activities and to all members of the campus community, including personnel, students, faculties, administrators, researchers, vendors, canteen operators, event organizers, and contractors.

4. Targeted Disposable Items

This policy targets the minimisation of all items designed to be used once and discarded, including but not limited to:

- Plastic Items: All items listed in the "Policy on the Minimisation of Plastic Use" (bottles, bags, cutlery, straws, foam).
- Disposable Food Service Ware: Single-use paper cups, paper plates, wooden cutlery, and all forms of "take-away" packaging.
- Event & Meeting Materials: Disposable banners, single-use decorations, and individual condiment packets.
- Office Supplies: Minimising disposable items in favor of reusable or refillable options (e.g., refillable pens, rechargeable batteries).

5. Implementation and Practices

5.1 Prioritizing "Reuse" over "Disposable"

- The official university standard for all food and beverage consumption *on campus* shall be reusable tableware (e.g., ceramic plates, metal cutlery, washable cups).
- Disposable items are permissible *only* for legitimate take-away purposes, and biodegradable/compostable options are preferred *only* when reuse is not feasible.

5.2 "Bring Your Own" (BYO) Culture

- The University will aggressively promote and incentivize a "Bring Your Own" (BYO) culture.
- All canteens and cafes must offer a discount or incentive for customers who bring their own reusable cups, containers, and bags.

5.3 Sustainable Procurement (Ethical Sourcing)

- University procurement for all meetings, seminars, and events must prioritize reusable solutions.
 - Example: Instead of buying bottled water, departments *must* order water jugs and reusable glasses.
 - Example: Event catering contracts *must* specify the use of reusable crockery and cutlery.
- The purchase of disposable items listed in Article 4 for internal university functions is strongly discouraged and requires justification.

5.4 Vendor and Canteen Compliance

- All food vendors are required to provide a reusable "dine-in" option for all customers.
- Vendors are mandated to participate in the BYO discount incentive program.
- The University will explore and support the implementation of reusable "to-go" container deposit systems (e.g., "rent-a-cup" or "rent-a-box" programs).

5.5 Infrastructure Support

- The University will ensure the availability of supporting infrastructure, including:
 - Accessible drinking water refill stations (Water Refill Stations).
 - Convenient and sanitary dishwashing stations for students and staff to clean their personal reusables.

6. Enforcement

This announcement is effective immediately and supersedes any previous policies that conflict with the goal of minimizing disposable items. Compliance will be monitored by the University's Sustainability Office or environmental management office and will be a key performance indicator (KPI) in vendor contracts and in the University's Green University reports.

Announced on 24th October 2024