

## **POLICY ON PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION**

### **Rationale**

The University of Mindanao is committed to promoting environmental sustainability and reducing the impact of plastic waste on the campus and community. This policy aims to minimize the use of plastic bottled water and other single-use plastics in alignment with the Republic of the Philippines' laws and regulations on environmental protection. This policy outlines guidelines for reducing single-use plastics, encouraging recycling, and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility among the students, faculty, and staff. In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 12 and SDG 14, the policy seeks to promote sustainable practices within the campus.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and University of Mindanao visitors who generate waste.

### **Guiding Principles**

1. **Promotion of Reusable Alternatives.** The university encourages the utilization of reusable water bottles for all new students, faculty, and staff and reiterate this during their respective orientations. Similarly, canteen concessionaires must give small discounts if employees and students bring their food containers.
2. **Education and Awareness.** The university shall conduct regular campaigns to educate the campus community about the environmental impact of plastic waste. Workshops and seminars on sustainable practices will be organized. Further, peer education program will be launched, training student volunteers to conduct workshops and campaigns on reducing plastic waste. These volunteers will serve as sustainability ambassadors, promoting eco-friendly practices among their peers.
3. **Waste Management and Recycling.** The university enhances its waste segregation and recycling programs through continuing review and evaluation of implementation practices. Periodic check is done to ensure that designated recycling bins for plastics, paper, and other recyclables are strategically placed around the campus (OPM 26.06 sec. 5.6). Moreover, Materials Recovery Facility shall be maintained on the campus where the collected recyclables can be stored until a contracted local recycling can collect them (see OPM 26.06 sec.6).

### **Compliance**

Compliance with this policy is mandatory. Non-adherence may result to issuance of corrective action as per university regulations with reference to OPMs 6.26 and 26.06.

### **Implementation and Review**

The oversight and implementation of this Policy is the responsibility of the Pollution Control Office (PCO) and Environment Management Committee (EMC) under the University of Mindanao Environmental, Security, Safety and Health - Gender and Development, and Drug-Free Workplace (UMESSH-GD) Council. Regular audits will be conducted to assess compliance and effectiveness. Feedback mechanisms are established to gather input and insights from the campus community and relevant stakeholders to improve existing practices. The policy will be reviewed regularly or as deemed necessary to ensure that the policy remains relevant and up-to-date. The review shall be spearheaded by the Quality Management Office following OPM 32.01 in coordination with the PCO and EMC. Any changes or revision will be formally communicated to concerned and interested parties and shall effect as soon as approved.

Signed:

**(Sgd) GUILLERMO P. TORRES, JR.**  
University President

#### **Reference**

OPM 26.06 - Waste Management and Segregation; Effective February 28, 2025; Rev. 2  
OPM 6.26 - Disposal of Hazardous Waste; Effective February 10, 2016; Rev. 0