

# Mountain Province State University

## Policy on the Minimization of Disposable Items

### I. Rationale

Mountain Province State University (MPSU) aims to be a campus that cares for people and the environment. Every day, the University generates a considerable amount of waste—about **30 to 35 kilograms**, based on reports from the General Services Office (GSO). A large portion of this comes from disposable, single-use items such as plastic cups, food containers, utensils, and sachet packaging.

These materials often end up as **residual waste**, which is the type of waste collected weekly by the **LGU of Bontoc** and brought to the municipal sanitary landfill. To support the LGU's environmental programs and reduce the strain on the landfill, MPSU commits to decreasing its dependence on disposable items.

This policy is being established to guide the University in shifting toward more sustainable habits, making responsible choices, and encouraging every member of the MPSU community to be part of the solution.

### II. Policy Statement

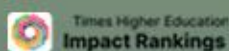
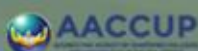
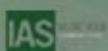
MPSU shall minimize the use of disposable items across all campuses and shall promote **reusable, refillable, and environmentally friendly alternatives** in all academic, administrative, and student-related activities.

The University will integrate this commitment into its daily operations, purchasing decisions, campus events, food services, and waste-reduction programs.

### III. Coverage

This policy applies to:

- University offices
- Colleges and academic units
- Campus laboratories and clinical areas
- Student organizations
- Campus-based food services and vendors
- Procurement and supply units
- All faculty, staff, and students





#### IV. Guiding Principles

1. **Reduce first.** The best waste is the waste that was never created.
2. **Choose reusable whenever possible.** Reusable items are preferred over disposable ones.
3. **Support sustainability.** All decisions should reflect the University’s commitment to environmental responsibility.
4. **Promote shared responsibility.** Everyone—students, employees, and visitors—contributes to making the campus greener.

#### V. Policies on Reducing Disposable Items

##### A. Purchasing and Supplies

- Offices must choose reusable items (mugs, plates, refillable dispensers, eco-bags, etc.) instead of single-use materials.
- When purchasing disposable items cannot be avoided, units must provide a written explanation.
- The Procurement Office must prioritize suppliers that offer sustainable, non-disposable options.

##### B. Campus Practices

- Disposable food packaging such as Styrofoam, plastic cups, and single-use utensils should not be used during meetings, conferences, or university events.
- Faculty and staff are encouraged to bring their own tumblers, food containers, and utensils.
- Water dispensers or pitchers with glasses must replace bottled water during office activities.

##### C. Cafeterias and Concessionaires

- Vendors inside MPSU must reduce the use of disposable packaging and favor reusable containers.
- Eco-friendly packaging is encouraged when disposables cannot be avoided.
- Vendors should support waste reduction by discouraging single-use items and offering refills when possible.

##### D. Students and Organizations

- Student groups must follow the “low-waste event” guidelines when planning programs or activities.
- Student-led events should avoid giving out single-use items unless absolutely necessary.





## E. Laboratories and Clinical Settings

Some disposable items (e.g., gloves, syringes, pipette tips) are needed for safety and hygiene.

- These must be used responsibly and only when required.
- Alternatives that can be safely reused should be considered when appropriate.
- All disposable laboratory and clinical wastes must follow existing hazardous waste and clinical burial procedures.

## VI. Waste Reduction Strategies

To support this policy, MPSU shall implement the following initiatives:

1. **Encourage “Bring Your Own” (BYO) culture**
  - Tumblers, utensils, food containers, eco-bags
2. **Install water refilling stations**
  - To reduce bottled water consumption
3. **Promote compostable and eco-friendly packaging**
  - Especially during university events
4. **Provide visible reminders and signages**
  - In cafeterias, hallways, and common spaces
5. **Conduct regular awareness drives**
  - To educate new students, staff, and faculty

## VII. Integration with LGU Bontoc’s Waste System

MPSU acknowledges the LGU of Bontoc’s role in collecting and managing the University’s **residual waste** for disposal at the municipal sanitary landfill. To support the LGU:

- MPSU shall reduce disposable items to lessen the volume sent to the landfill.
- The University shall ensure proper segregation so that residual waste collected by the LGU is kept at a minimum.
- MPSU’s waste reduction performance will be used to improve coordination with the LGU in local environmental efforts.

This partnership helps protect the environment and prolong the lifespan of the municipal landfill.

## VIII. Monitoring and Evaluation

### A. Tracking

The GSO shall include disposable waste in the University's daily waste measurement system. This means:

- Tracking the amount of disposable waste generated
- Monitoring improvements over time
- Identifying areas where waste can be further reduced

### B. Targets

MPSU aims to achieve:

- **10% reduction in disposable waste in the first year**
- **25% reduction in the second year**
- **50% or greater reduction within three years**

Targets may be updated based on the University's performance and capacity.

### C. Reporting

GSO shall submit quarterly and annual reports to the Administration and the Board of Regents.

## IX. Roles and Responsibilities

### General Services Office (GSO)

- Leads implementation of the policy
- Conducts monitoring and awareness activities
- Ensures proper waste segregation and disposal

### Procurement Office

- Enforces sustainable purchasing requirements
- Prevents unnecessary acquisition of disposable items

### Canteens and Concessionaires

- Reduce disposable food packaging
- Follow campus sustainability guidelines

### Faculty, Staff, and Students

- Practice responsible consumption
- Support reusable and eco-conscious habits

