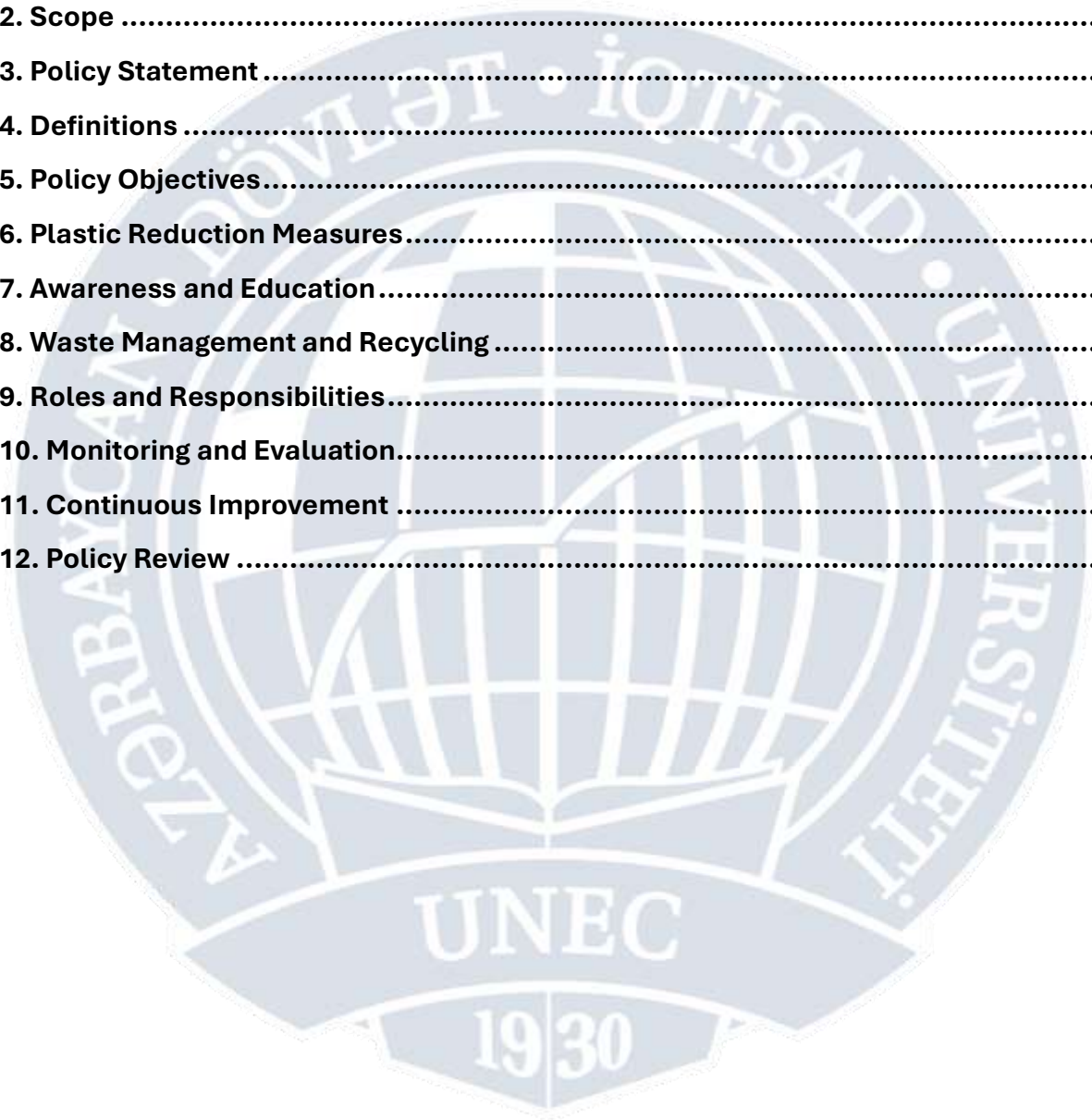


**AZERBAIJAN STATE
UNIVERSITY OF
ECONOMICS (UNEC)**
SINGLE-USE PLASTIC REDUCTION
POLICY

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC REDUCTION POLICY

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1. Purpose

Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC) recognizes the environmental impacts associated with the production, consumption, and disposal of single-use plastic products. As part of its commitment to sustainability, environmental responsibility, and resource efficiency, UNEC aims to reduce the use of disposable plastic materials across all university campuses and facilities.

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a framework for minimizing single-use plastic consumption, promoting reusable and environmentally friendly alternatives, reducing plastic waste generation, and supporting the University's sustainability objectives. Through the implementation of this Policy, UNEC seeks to contribute to environmental protection, resource conservation, and the achievement of national and international sustainability goals.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all UNEC campuses, academic and administrative buildings, libraries, cafeterias, conference facilities, student centers, event venues, and other university-managed spaces.

The Policy applies to:

- Students;
- Academic staff;
- Administrative personnel;
- Contractors and service providers;
- Vendors and suppliers operating on campus;
- Visitors participating in university activities and events.

3. Policy Statement

UNEC is committed to reducing its dependence on single-use plastic products and encouraging sustainable consumption practices throughout the university community.

The University shall progressively eliminate avoidable single-use plastic items where practical alternatives are available and economically feasible. UNEC shall promote

reusable, recyclable, biodegradable, and environmentally preferable products in campus operations, procurement activities, and university events.

This Policy supports UNEC's sustainability strategy, waste reduction objectives, and participation in international sustainability initiatives and rankings.

4. Definitions

4.1. Single-Use Plastic

Single-use plastic refers to plastic products designed to be used once before being discarded, including but not limited to:

- Plastic bottles;
- Plastic cups;
- Plastic straws;
- Plastic cutlery;
- Plastic plates;
- Plastic stirrers;
- Plastic bags;
- Plastic food containers;
- Plastic packaging materials.

4.2. Reusable Products

Products designed for multiple uses before disposal, including reusable bottles, cups, containers, bags, and food service items.

4.3. Sustainable Alternatives

Products made from recyclable, biodegradable, compostable, or other environmentally friendly materials that reduce environmental impacts compared to conventional plastics.

5. Policy Objectives

UNEC aims to:

- Reduce the consumption of single-use plastic products across all university operations;
- Encourage behavioral changes that support sustainable consumption;
- Increase the use of reusable alternatives;
- Reduce plastic waste generation and disposal;
- Promote environmental awareness among students and staff;
- Support circular economy principles;
- Improve the University's environmental performance indicators.

6. Plastic Reduction Measures

6.1. Drinking Water and Beverage Consumption

UNEC shall encourage the use of reusable water bottles and drinking containers.

Where feasible, water refill stations shall be installed and maintained to reduce reliance on disposable plastic bottles.

University departments are encouraged to provide drinking water through dispensers rather than distributing bottled water during meetings and events.

6.2. Campus Dining and Food Services

Campus cafeterias and food service providers shall be encouraged to reduce the use of disposable plastic items.

Where possible, vendors should transition to:

- Reusable cups and dishes;
- Paper-based alternatives;
- Compostable food containers;
- Biodegradable packaging materials.

6.3. University Events and Meetings

Organizers of university events, conferences, workshops, and meetings shall seek to minimize the use of single-use plastic materials.

Event planning should prioritize:

- Refillable water stations;
- Reusable serving equipment;
- Sustainable catering practices;
- Environmentally friendly promotional materials.

6.4. Procurement Practices

UNEC shall integrate sustainability considerations into procurement decisions.

When purchasing goods and services, preference should be given to suppliers offering:

- Reduced plastic packaging;
- Recyclable materials;
- Reusable products;
- Sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics.

7. Awareness and Education

UNEC shall conduct awareness campaigns, educational activities, and sustainability initiatives to encourage the university community to reduce plastic consumption.

Activities may include:

- Sustainability workshops;
- Awareness weeks and campaigns;
- Educational materials and signage;
- Student-led environmental initiatives;
- Social media outreach programs.

8. Waste Management and Recycling

The University shall support proper waste segregation and recycling practices.

Where feasible, recycling collection points shall be provided throughout campus facilities to facilitate the recovery and recycling of plastic materials.

UNEC shall encourage responsible disposal practices and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to improve recycling outcomes.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

9.1. Strategic Development and Sustainability Units

- Coordinate implementation of the Policy;
- Monitor progress and performance indicators;
- Support sustainability reporting and benchmarking activities.

9.2. Administrative Departments

- Integrate plastic reduction measures into daily operations;
- Support awareness initiatives;
- Encourage sustainable purchasing practices.

9.3. Procurement and Supply Units

- Consider environmental criteria during purchasing processes;
- Engage suppliers in sustainability efforts;
- Promote environmentally preferable products.

9.4. Students and Staff

- Reduce reliance on disposable plastic items;
- Utilize reusable alternatives whenever possible;
- Participate in sustainability initiatives and awareness activities.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

UNEC shall periodically assess the effectiveness of this Policy through:

- Monitoring plastic consumption trends;

- Evaluating waste reduction outcomes;
- Assessing participation in sustainability initiatives;
- Reviewing procurement practices;
- Identifying opportunities for further improvement.

Performance indicators may be incorporated into the University's sustainability reporting framework.

11. Continuous Improvement

UNEC is committed to continuously improving its environmental performance and reducing plastic-related impacts. The University shall review emerging technologies, best practices, and stakeholder feedback to strengthen plastic reduction efforts over time.

12. Policy Review

This Policy shall be reviewed at least once every three years or earlier if required due to changes in legislation, institutional priorities, or sustainability objectives.

