



Bahona College

Single Use Plastic Ban Policy

[Roadmap: 2021 to 2026]

(Adopted on 24th September, 2021)

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Introduction:

The 20th century has witnessed so many innovations, of which plastic was one of them. The wide applicability of plastics during its inception was appreciated worldwide. Soon our society adopted the use of plastics in almost every possible arena, mostly because of the cheap price associated with it. The plastic items could offer the same necessity at a much cheaper cost. Like many other inventions, the potential impacts of plastics on the environment were overlooked at that time, and currently, we are living in a time where plastics are one of the major threats to the environment. We are now in a place where all other alternative materials (of which earlier our items were built) seem to have gone off the market. Among all the plastic items, single-use plastics (SUP) are the major contributors of waste. The problems imposed by such plastic wastes have come to such an extent that there are no alternatives left but to reduce or possibly ban the use of plastics in our life. As an educational institution, it comes to our utmost priority that we should harbor environmentally friendly practices as much as possible to set an example before the community and spread awareness about the same too comes under our responsibility so that our students, community members develop the ethics of environmental consciousness. To realize this dream, the institution needs to have a strong and broad strategy. This document is the policy adopted by the institution to sensitize about the impacts of plastic wastes on the environment, and gradually reduce the use of SUPs in a phased manner towards achieving a state of a complete ban on the use of SUPs in the institution.

Importance of Ban on Plastic

The 21st Century has experienced large-scale use of plastics. Some of these plastics are used repeatedly and some of these are used once. Plastic chairs, plastic containers, plastic dustbins, pens, etc. are repeatedly used plastics. On the other hand, disposable water bottles, disposable plastic glass, disposable plastic bags, etc. are single used plastics (SUP). Single-use plastics have become a threat to the life of animals living on earth as well as in water. Chemicals released by single-use waste plastic enter the soil and make it infertile. Plastics are having a negative impact on human health. It also causes drainage problems. Therefore, responsible people and institutions should take steps for minimizing the use of plastics. Therefore, Bahona College, being committed to the protection of the environment, decided to strategically ban use of plastics in the college campus.

Challenges before complete ban on SUP:

It is feasible but first and foremost it requires alternatives in place. The major challenges to completely ban the use of SUPs in context to our institution are –

1. There is a large number of SUPs in circulation. Better recycling policies would be needed because resources are poor and there needs to be a much broader strategy.
2. The COVID pandemic has inevitably imposed as well as increased use SUPs like gloves, face shields, crockery, etc.

National Policies and Guidelines:

The Central Pollution Control Board has already identified 12 SUP items to be banned in a phased manner. These items include thin carry bags, non-woven carry bags, small wrapping, straws, plastic cups, bowls and plates, plastic sticks for ear buds.

The MHRD has also issued guidelines to all the higher educational institutions citing –

1. All institutions to carry out awareness drives and sensitizing workshops on the harmful impacts of single use plastics.
2. Ensure plastic-free campuses in the institutions. Students and faculty must work towards this in mission mode. Usage of plastics should be stopped in canteens, shopping complexes in the institution's premises and hostels, etc. Students may not be permitted to bring non-bio-degradable plastic items to the institution
3. Every student will strive to make his/her household plastic free.
4. Students to be incentivized to carry out similar campaigns at community level
5. Installation of necessary alternative facilities like water units to avoid the purchase and use of plastic water bottles.
6. Ensure presence of alternative solutions like cloth bags etc., to plastic bottles, covers and other goods on campuses.
7. Conducting events and poster competitions etc. on designing ecological and
8. Environment friendly goods to minimize the use of single use plastic.

UGC too released notice stating guidelines to all HEIs for ban of plastic use in HEIs as part of the "Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign". The guidelines read as follows -

1. All the HEIs in the Country shall strive to make their campuses 'plastic-free' by systematically banning use of plastics and replacing the same with suitable environmentally friendly substitutes.
2. Every HEI shall:
 - a) Ban use of single-use plastics in canteens, shopping complexes in the institution's premises and hostels, etc.
 - b) Carry out awareness drives and sensitization workshops on the harmful impacts of single use plastics.
 - c) Mandate all students to avoid bringing non-bio-degradable plastic items to the institution.
 - d) Encourage their students to sensitize their respective households about harmful effects of plastics and make their households 'plastic free'
 - e) Install necessary alternative facilities like water units to avoid the use of plastic water bottles, and encourage use of alternative solutions like cloth bags, paper bags etc., instead of plastic bottles, bags, covers and other goods on campuses.

College Single Use Plastic Ban Policy:

Bahona College, in its IQAC Meeting, dated 24th September, 2021 adopted a Single Use Plastic Ban Policy. College, realizing the importance of ban on Single Use Plastic, decided to ban Single Use Plastic at its college campus and also decided to motivate neighborhood to minimize the use of plastic. However, plastic use has become a common culture and it is difficult to completely ban plastics suddenly. Therefore, IQAC Bahona College decided to adopt a Five Years Roadmap to ban Single Use Plastic in the college campus.

Five Years Roadmap:

Realizing the impacts on the environment, and honoring the mandate of the umbrella organizations, the institute takes pledge to harbor sustainable practices to gradually reduce and finally achieve the complete ban on the use of SUPs in a phased manner. The five-year roadmap for the same has been set up as mentioned in the table below.

Year	Agenda	Actions to be taken up
1st Year: 2021-22	Initiation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To organize programmes for making students and staff aware of SUPs and its impact on the environment.▪ To organize programmes for promoting reuse of plastics such as preparation of decorative items.▪ To list out the SUPs in circulation and encourage the students and teachers to come up with alternatives or ideas to minimize the use of plastic.▪ To sign MoU with parties working on plastic alternatives.▪ To train students, self-help groups of adopted villages to prepare paper bags and cloth bags to at least meet the requirements in the institution.▪ To encourage adopted village dwellers, and nearby commercial shops to minimize the use of plastic.▪ Announcing annual awards to adopted villages which generate lesser number of SUPs.
2nd Year: 2022-23	Sensitization, Training and Partial Ban Phase-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To organize programmes for making students and staff aware of SUPs and its impact on the environment.▪ To organize programmes for promoting reuse of plastics such as preparation of decorative

		<p>items.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To train students, self-help groups of adopted villages to prepare paper bags and cloth bags to at least meet the requirements in the institution. ▪ To encourage adopted village dwellers, and nearby commercial establishments to minimize the use of plastic. ▪ Ban on 25% of the SUPs used in college canteen, administrative office, departments, library, and hostels. ▪ Implementing the use of selected alternatives/ideas, and items prepared by students, and self-help groups to substitute the banned SUPs. ▪ Awarding the adopted village with the least amount of SUP waste generated for the assessment year 2021-22.
3rd Year: 2023-24	Sensitization, Training and Partial Ban Phase-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To organize programmes for making students and staff aware of SUPs and its impact on the environment. ▪ To organize programmes for promoting reuse of plastics such as preparation of decorative items. ▪ To train students, self-help groups of adopted villages to prepare paper bags and cloth bags to at least meet the requirements in the institution. ▪ To encourage adopted village dwellers, and nearby commercial establishments to minimize the use of plastic. ▪ Ban on 50 % of the SUPs used in college canteen, administrative office, departments, library, and hostels. ▪ Implementing the use of selected alternatives/ideas, and items prepared by students, and self-help groups to substitute the banned SUPs. ▪ Awarding the adopted village with the least amount of SUP waste generated for the assessment year 2022-23.
4th Year: 2024-25	Sensitization, Training and Partial Ban Phase-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To organize programmes for making students and staff aware of SUPs and its impact on the environment.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To organize programmes for promoting reuse of plastics such as preparation of decorative items. ▪ To train students, self-help groups of adopted villages to prepare paper bags and cloth bags to at least meet the requirements in the institution. ▪ To encourage adopted village dwellers, and nearby commercial establishments to minimize the use of plastic. ▪ Ban on 75% of the SUPs used in college canteen, administrative office, departments, library, and hostels. ▪ Implementing the use of selected alternatives/ideas, and items prepared by students, and self-help groups to substitute the banned SUPs. ▪ Awarding the adopted village with the least amount of SUP waste generated for the assessment year 2023-24.
5th Year 2025-26	Complete ban on SUPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To organize programmes for making students and staff aware of SUPs and its impact on the environment. ▪ To organize programmes for promoting reuse of plastics such as preparation of decorative items. ▪ To train students, self-help groups of adopted villages to prepare paper bags and cloth bags to at least meet the requirements in the institution. ▪ To encourage adopted village dwellers, and nearby commercial establishments to minimize the use of plastic. ▪ Ban on 100 % of the SUPs used in college canteen, administrative office, departments, library, and hostels. ▪ Implementing the use of selected alternatives/ideas, and items prepared by students, and self-help groups to substitute the banned SUPs. ▪ Awarding the adopted village with the least amount of SUP waste generated for the assessment year 2024-25.

P.S. The activities listed in this 5-year roadmap are subject to amendment keeping intact the common goal of achieving the SUP free campus by 2026.

Execution:

To realize the dream of SUP free campus, the NSS unit, NCC unit, Eco Club, Community Extension Cell, Climate Cell, Assam Science Society (Bahona Branch), and other cells/units/bodies functioning in the institute is to add the activities listed in this policy to their annual action plans and work accordingly. These cells/units/bodies working in consonance will prepare “Annual Achievement Report” for all the five years at the end of each academic year.

A “Single Use Plastic Ban Policy” implementation and review committee has to be set comprising the following personalities.

Position	Personnel(s)
Chairperson	Principal
Coordinator	NSS Programme Officer
Member	Any two teachers and College Student Union General Secretary
Advisors	IQAC Coordinator Students Union chief advisor

Principal of College will appoint this committee for a period of 5 years.

Conclusion:

Bahona College since its inception has been offering services to the students and the community with the goal of developing skilled human resources bestowed with ethics. Being placed in a much greener, pollution-free environment, the institute always tries to uphold its environmental consciousness and responsibility. The institute has been working on various environmental issues prevailing in the locality for a very long time. This document is one step further in this context. The institute takes a pledge to develop the campus as a single-use plastic free one by the year 2026 to stand as an example to the larger section of society.

Plastic Ban Policy Adopted.

[Signature]
24.09.2021

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