

**UC BERKELEY - Zero Waste Target**

*Carol T. Christ*

**Endorsement by Chancellor Carol Christ:**

**Effective Date:** (Chancellor Christ's endorsement): *MARCH 12, 2020*

**Recommended Target by Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability:** March 10, 2020

**Responsible Executive:** Vice Chancellor, Administration

**Responsible Offices:** Office of Cal Zero Waste and Office of Sustainability

**UC Berkeley Zero Waste Target**

Eliminate all non-essential single-use plastic for which there is a viable product alternative by end of calendar year 2030.

**Scope of Target**

This phase-out and eventual ban is campus-wide and includes purchases by campus and purchases by third-party vendors, contractors, sponsors, and partners intended for sale or distribution on or behalf of the UC Berkeley campus, including in-kind donations and give-aways.

**Statement of Purpose of Target**

UC Berkeley recognizes the severe environmental, public health, and environmental justice impact that single-use plastic products have globally and is committed to be a leader in their reduction and elimination. Through use of already available viable alternatives and finding solutions and better future options, it is possible to eliminate non-essential use of plastics on the UC Berkeley campus by 2030. This target goes beyond previously existing plastic reduction targets focused on foodware and plastic bags, and addresses the spectrum of products and packaging used in campus academics, research, administration, and events.

## **Definitions**

**Non-essential plastic product** is defined as a product or item of packaging that has a reusable or non-petroleum based plastic alternative solution available in the market or in design, excluding products that cannot be reduced because of accessibility, safety, sanitation, decontamination/sterilization, health codes, or other major concerns.

**Alternatives to non-essential plastic products** are defined as and include, but are not limited, to reusables, paper, aluminum, glass, steel, and third-party BPI certified compostable products.

**Single-use product** is defined as a product or item of packaging that is conventionally disposed of after a single use and is not sufficiently durable, washable, and intended for multiple refills of the original product allowing for multiple uses.

**Compostable plastic** is defined as something with third-party certification such as BPI certified, and is accepted by the campus waste hauler and the campus hauler's compost facility.

**Single-use plastic product categories** are defined as those used in office supplies, food service, retail, labs, facilities, promotional items/giveaways/swag, universal waste, e-waste and packaging.

## **Provisions and Responsibilities**

- The laboratory research environment, in particular, includes a high proportion of single-use plastics for which alternatives do not currently exist. New solutions will require special attention to ensure safety, hygiene and sanitation.
- Impacts of alternatives to single-use plastics will be evaluated in order to ensure that the replacement of non-essential single-use plastics is a net-positive for the environment.
- Exemptions from this target include compostable plastic, though it is highly encouraged that reduction and reuse is prioritized, and products that cannot be reduced because of accessibility, safety, sanitation, decontamination/sterilization, health codes, or other major concerns.
- Upon adoption, the target will be included in the Campus Sustainability Plan (update 2020) and as an amendment to the Campus Zero Waste Plan.

- By December 2020, establish a single-use plastic working group of Campus Zero Waste Working Group that includes broad stakeholder representation to provide on-going implementation strategy guidance, evaluation of this target and development of the required UC waste management plan updates.
- In 2023, this target will be reevaluated through the required UC waste management plan update and by the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability and UC Berkeley Zero Waste Working Group. This includes, but is not limited to, reevaluating the definitions, interim targets for product categories, specific strategies for addressing product categories such as labs, rigid compostable plastic reduction, use of recyclable plastics with markets (such as #1 and #2) as interim solutions on the path to 2030, environmental justice considerations, and exploring and innovating on research and demonstration projects for reducing essential single-use plastic and reusable plastic.
- Review of this target will be included in the annual environmental reporting done by Cal Zero Waste and the Office of Sustainability and provided to the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability.

### **Key Stakeholders**

CALPIRG Students, Supply Chain Management, Cal Zero Waste, Office of Sustainability, Zero Waste Coalition, Cal Dining, Office of Vice Chancellor for Research, ASUC, Athletics, Campus Green Labs Steering Group, Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability, Zero Waste Working Group

