



CORDILLERA CAREER DEVELOPMENT COLLEGE (CCDC)

Buyagan, Poblacion, La Trinidad, Benguet
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COLLEGE MEMORANDUM

No. 4 s. August 7, 2023

To: CCDC Employees, Students, Parents, Lessors and Stakeholders
From: Office of the President
Subject: **Reiteration of CM 7, s. 2019:**
Policy and Guidelines Promoting Eco-friendly Practices and Prohibiting Single-Use Plastic s & Styrofoam Containers & Utensils towards a Plastic-Free & Styro-Free Campus

Plastic waste has emerged as one of the biggest environmental concerns adversely impacting the soil, water, health and well-being of the people at large. In 2015, worldwide plastic production has reached 322 million tons – corresponding to the weight of 5.4 million adults combined – and projected to doubly increase every year as world's population increases. Only 9% of the plastics produced are recycled, while the remaining 91% end up as non-biodegradable trash in the landfills, shorelines, shallow seabed, ocean surface, and ocean bottom. While the plastic trash found in the landfills take up to 100 to 1000 years to fragment into microplastics, the plastic waste improperly disposed end up in the ocean poses risks to marine life (*i.e. entanglement, indigestion and decrease in coral cover*). The increasing plastic pollution impacts a global crisis as it poses hazard to human health and marine life (Narancic and O'Connor, 2017).

Various efforts and actions have been made to respond to this global crisis. In the Philippines, RA 9003 or *Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000* mandates the implementation of an ecological solid waste management program and creation of the necessary institutional mechanisms and incentives, with the goal of minimizing waste through maximum use, reuse, recycling and composting of solid wastes. With this, the Municipality of La Trinidad, Benguet implemented Municipal Ordinance 11-2015 on May 1, 2018, regulates the use of plastic bag, polystyrene/Styrofoam and other synthetic packaging materials in the municipality and providing penalty for violators.

However, even with all these efforts, there is still a need to strengthen principles and actions to prevent waste generation. Pope Francis, in his second encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, points out that *"the earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. These problems are closely linked to a throwaway culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish"*. He emphasized that *"A serious consideration of this issue would be one way of counteracting the throwaway culture which affects the entire planet, but it must be said that only limited progress has been made in this regard"*.

In response, Cordillera Career Development College fulfills its mission to "deliver quality education through holistic, accessible, and inclusive learning experiences sustaining culturally sensitive and responsible global citizens and leaders". Specifically, it strengthens its actions on waste reduction and management in alignment with the indigenous knowledge and practices for sustainable management. As an educational institution, we have the unique spread and influence to educate our students and households to promote eco-friendly practices and the need to avoid the use of single-use plastics and styrofoam containers in favor of exploring and using green alternatives.

Single-use plastic are disposable plastics, designed to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These include water and colored drink plastic bottles for various drink brands like C2, Gatorade, Mogu-Mogu which



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are usually composed of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PETE or PET).

Timeline:

1. **The Quality Assurance Office, Planning Office, Student Services Office, NSTP and Program Coordinators and Deans and Faculty shall spearhead the information, education and communication (IEC) campaign to the CCDC community starting August 8, 2023.** The campaign shall include activities to educate the community on the hazards posed by plastic pollution, microplastics and the dangers of re-using plastics designed for single use, encourage commitments to care for the environment, promote green alternatives and zero waste practices.

The NSTP, SSC, and other student leaders shall help in the info-drive by posting signboards and signage in their own departments and classrooms.

A special Ad Hoc committee is hereby formed to coordinate the IEC campaign, monitor and ensure the enforcement of the policy, comprised of the following:

Chairpersons: Quality Assurance;

Abigail Bersamin, Corazon Ocden

Vice Chair: Student Services Head, Jaylo Lacaden

Members: NSTP coordinator, Program Coordinators, Deans

2. Effective September 20, 2023, CCDC strictly prohibits the **use, sale, and entry of single-use plastic water bottles, cups, spoons, fork, bags, sando bags, stirrer, straw and single-use styro plates, cups, food packs in all activities in all premises of CCDC and its auxiliary units and school-sanctioned activities outside of the school premises.** This covers curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities done inside the campus like acquaintance and Christmas parties, thesis defense, intramural games.

Canteen concessionaires are given until September 19, 2023 to dispose their available in single-use plastic bottles and should not make any further purchase immediately after the release of this memo. **Water will still be sold at the canteen provided students and employees bring their own water tumblers. Otherwise, concessionaires should provide washable drinking glasses.**

Guidelines:

1. In line with CCDC's commitment to sustainable practices and in order to reduce wastes generated by the use of non-biodegradable and unrecyclable materials, CCDC administration promotes eco-friendly practices specifically the **preferential use of reusable water/drink and food containers and preferential use of ecobags over plastic bags at all times.**

For instance, for take-out food and drinks bought at the canteen, students, employees and CCDC stakeholders are to bring their own food containers and utensils to avoid using single-use plastic containers and utensils and place them in reusable eco-bags rather than using plastic bags or "sando bags".

Every member of the CCDC Community is encouraged to bring his/her own reusable tumbler or water containers. A water refilling station (Admiral's Water) is provided within the campus for free water tumbler refill. However, refill of water gallons for water dispensers in classrooms, offices and for canteen shall be charged a minimum amount



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of P20 per gallon. Please be guided by the schedule posted at the Admirals Water Refilling Station.

3. CCDC also advocates and strongly encourage its employees, students, parents, concessionaires and stakeholders to seriously explore and embrace their own personal green alternative practices to counter the current throwaway culture and promote sustainable lifestyle. Sharing of eco-friendly practices both at home and in school is an effective mechanism to educate the community on alternative and eco-friendly practices.
4. This policy also applies to school activities conducted outside its campus to include, but not limited to games, camps, team building and field trips.
5. **The CCDC community, students, faculty and staff, including canteen concessionaires, service agencies and external parties, including facility lessee, including the CCDC Birthing Clinic and Community Legal Aid Center** shall abide by the prohibitions, stated in the guidelines. School guests are also enjoined to abide by this policy upon entrance to the school premises and participation in any school activities.
6. In the case of the Admirals Farm Park and CCDC Entrepreneurship Center, sale of drinks using single-use plastic is allowed but regulated. Rare exceptions may be allowed on a case-to-case basis subject to the approval of CCDC Administration. School projects, Admirals Farm Park and CCDC Entrepreneurship Center, are to promote recycling of single-use plastic bottles, cups and the like.
7. Security Officers shall make sure that entry of single-use plastic water bottles, styrofoams. Disciplinary sanctions may be imposed to those found violating the above policy:

Pupils and Students

First Offense:	Verbal Warning
Second Offense:	Written Reprimand
Third Offense:	Community Work
Fourth Offense:	Considered a major offense and may merit suspension or Exclusion

Administrators, Coordinators, Faculty, Staff, Coaches & Project employees

First Offense:	Verbal Warning & will dispose of their own garbage
Second Offense:	Written Reprimand & Community Work - Balili River Clean-up
Third Offense:	Considered a serious offense and may merit suspension

Concessionaires, Service Agencies, Facility Lessee, Parents/Guardians/Guests

First Offense:	Verbal warning& will dispose of their own garbage
Second Offense:	Written Reprimand
Third Offense:	Termination of contract and denial of entry inside the school campus

8. Policy updating will be done from time to time to widen the scope and coverage of the CCDC Eco-friendly practices.

For information and cooperation of everybody for a cleaner, greener and a more sustainable community.


Sherry Junette M. Tagle
President