

Vendor Guide to Single Use Plastic Ban at AUS

In its ongoing journey in sustainability, AUS is taking clear measures to join the global fight against plastic pollution and has decided to ban single-use plastic and Styrofoam products from all vending points on campus by the beginning of the next term in January 2020. This decision underlines AUS' commitment to reducing its ecological footprint and guiding its students, faculty and staff in leading a more sustainable lifestyle.

Goal 1: Eliminate waste whenever possible

Goal 2: Substitute conventional plastic with plant-based, biodegradable alternatives

1. **Plastic bottles:**

As of January 2020, vending points at AUS will no longer be allowed to sell drinking water containers made of plastic which contain less than 500 ml. In addition, juice and soda drinks should be provided in aluminum cans where possible.

2. **Plastic bags:**

As of January 2020, vending points at AUS will no longer be allowed to provide plastic shopping bags for purchases made on campus. Instead vendors should sell re-usable, long-life shopping bags (made of canvas, polyester or other material) at their check out points. Alternatively, vendors can provide paper bags made of recycled paper against a charge.

3. **Eating and drinking utensils:**

As of January 2020, vending points at AUS will no longer be allowed to provide eating/drinking utensils such as plates, cups, take-away containers, cutlery, straws, stirrers, stoppers, lids made of conventional plastic or Styrofoam. Instead, vendors should follow these principles

- **Dine-In Customers:** provide long-life eating/drinking utensils made of ceramic, melamine, stainless steel or glass that can be washed and re-used in the respective dining outlet. Vendors are allowed to charge a deposit for long-life eating/drinking utensils where necessary.
- **Take-away Customers:** provide disposable eating/drinking utensils made of plant-based and biodegradable material, such as paper, corn starch, bamboo or other plant-based, biodegradable plastics as needed. As these products may only be sourced at a higher price points vendors are allowed to charge customers for these utensils.
- Vendors should train their team to **remind customers to opt for dine-in instead of take away.** Incentive schemes to encourage such behavior are highly encouraged (e.g. offering drinks at a discounted price when opting for re-usable cup or mug, either provided by the outlet or brought by the customer)

Quick guide for choosing alternative eating utensils

1, Paper and cardboard - paper and cardboard is reusable, recyclable and biodegradable. Choose an environmentally friendly option which has been created using a high proportion of recycled paper. Good for: food containers, hot/cold beverage cups, straws, plates, food bags, shopping bags



2, Corn starch - items made from corn starch are biodegradable and are ideal for items which have a limited use, such as takeaway food. Corn starch packaging biodegrades and has a limited negative impact on the environment. Good for: take-away containers, plates



3, Bamboo grows incredibly quickly and can be harvested without deforestation, as the plant does not die after harvesting. When thrown away, bamboo utensils will degrade naturally, transforming into the nutrient-rich soil. Good for: cutlery, stirrers



4, Bioplastics have the same properties as conventional plastics and offer additional advantages, such as a reduced carbon footprint or additional waste management options such as composting. **We recommend the use of plastics that are both biobased and biodegradable, such as PLA and PHA or PBS.** Good for: straws, cold drinking cups.

