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From Alan Gilbert Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration

Dear Campus Community:

Brooklyn College is marking international Campus Sustainability month by announcing our SUPER (Single-Use Plastics Elimination and Reduction) plan.

Our planet is choking on plastic. Each year, 400 million metric tons of plastic waste is generated, with less than 10% recycled. Most end up in landfills or incinerated. And more than 10 million tons a year ends up in the ocean (**UNEP 2021**). Single Use Plastics or SUPs are a primary culprit because they are designed to be used just once and then thrown away. These plastics devastate beaches and marine life, leach toxins into our soil, water and food, and end up as microplastics in the body. Plastic also impacts our climate whether due to fossil fuel use for virgin plastic production or through CO2 emissions from incineration.

Brooklyn College is committed to working towards eliminating the use of SUPs on campus where possible by engaging stakeholders to identify alternatives and raising awareness of impacts to our environment. Our plan aligns with CUNY's Board of Trustees Resolution and the 2021 New York State Bill and initially focuses on reducing single-use plastic waste from water bottles, receptacle liner bags, and single-use-plastic items in food service.

Everyone on campus is expected to contribute in the fight to ditch plastic. Our dining services have stepped up by switching to compostable or biodegradable containers. Facilities is also leading the way, having installed 17 refilling stations with additional installations scheduled. You can do your part by choosing a reusable water bottle and by filling up at one of these stations. You can also help by refraining from taking a plastic bag, straw or cutlery when getting take-out from off campus. Every fork counts.

You can read Brooklyn College's **Single-Use Plastic Elimination and Reduction (SUPER) Plan** or get involved in the efforts by contacting Campus Sustainability at sustainability@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Sincerely,

Alan Gilbert

Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration