



# Pushing for Circular Economy: Some University Initiatives

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FILE PHOTO | ECOWASTE COALITION

NEWS

## MICROPLASTICS FOUND IN PH WATERS, HIGHEST DENSITY IN TAÑON STRAIT

A new study confirmed the presence of microplastics in 10 study areas nationwide, with the highest density found in the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape in Cebu. Other study include Manila Bay, Subic Bay, Lamon Bay, Boracay Island, Taklong Island National Marine Reserve, Davao Gulf, Butuan Bay, Iligan Bay, and the special area, Apo Reef Natural Park.



   EWCoalition  [ecowastecoalition.blogspot.com](http://ecowastecoalition.blogspot.com)





## Linear Economy



## Circular Economy



*How then can a university play a role in stimulating the academic community to move from the linear economy model to the perspective of a circular economy?*

# SUPPORT SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY'S ZERO WASTE INITIATIVE



Use reusable or biodegradable containers. Do not bring in single-use plastic bags or Styrofoam.



Do not bring in plastic straws, cups and cutlery; balloons; or tarpaulin posters/streamers.



Do not litter. Segregate your recyclable, biodegradable and residual wastes in the right bins.



Be an advocate of Zero Waste: learn more, get involved.

## Tips on how to #GoZeroWithSillimanU

Based on the Silliman University Environmental Principles, Policies and Guidelines 2018



## BRING YOUR OWN REUSABLES.

Bring reusable or biodegradable bags, reusable straws, reusable drinking bottles, and reusable or biodegradable containers when purchasing products, food items, and drinks.

1. Zero Plastics on Campus
2. Labels, posters and information campaigns – everyone will know how to segregate recyclables, biodegradable, and residual waste.
3. Biodegradables will be collected frequently and returned to nature via composting, vermi-composting and biodigestion; the rich compost and vermicast will be used to enrich our soils and some could go to the farmers.
4. Reducing our residual waste (that will go to the dumpsite) down to 10% of our total waste.
5. Adopted by the SU Board of Trustees on November 17, 2018, we implement our University Environmental Principles, Policies and Guidelines.
6. We adopt purchasing policies that reduce waste and plastics.
7. We ban sachets and plastic containers inside campus.
8. All student activity permit includes Zero Waste plan and commitment.
9. The Silliman Cafeteria has gotten rid of plastics, plastic straws, and uses compostable wrappings.
10. Trash bins are color coded.
11. Students are bringing their own reusable bags and drinking containers.





# SINGLE-USE PLASTICS are PROHIBITED

in campus premises, as stated  
in the Silliman University  
Environmental Policies.

## SINGLE-USE PLASTICS ARE PROHIBITED

Do not bring in single-use, non-recyclable or non-biodegradable materials in campus premises, as stated in the Silliman University Environmental Policies.

Examples of prohibited items:



Single-use plastic cups, straws & stirrers



Single-use plastic cutlery



Sachets and plastic wrappers\*



Tarpaulins and balloons



Single-use plastic bottles



Single-use plastic bags



Styrofoam containers

*\*except on rare occasions where they are proven essential for food safety*

## SU CAFETERIA GOES PLASTIC-FREE



BECAUSE PLASTIC IS  
NOT FREE.

### Tips on how to #GoZeroWithSillimanU

Based on the Silliman University Environmental Principles, Policies and Guidelines 2018



## PRACTICE PROPER WASTE SEGREGATION.

Practice CLAYGO (Clean As You Go); don't litter. Dispose trash properly by knowing what colored bin it should go in: Recyclable (Blue); Biodegradable (Green); and Residual (Black).



In support of the University's ZERO WASTE initiative, the SU Cafeteria will no longer provide plastic bags for take-out food purchases beginning **APRIL 15, 2019**.

Please **bring your own food container/s** that the food assistant will fill with your orders.



**Customers who do not bring their own food container will be provided with one and charged accordingly.**

For questions, email or call the SU Cafeteria/Food Services office at (035)4226002 loc 295 or [foodservices@su.edu.ph](mailto:foodservices@su.edu.ph).





*\*Signing of memorandum of agreement with Green Core on October 13, 2023.*

*SU-EDC Binhi Arboretum inauguration and unveiling of marker on September 4, 2024.*



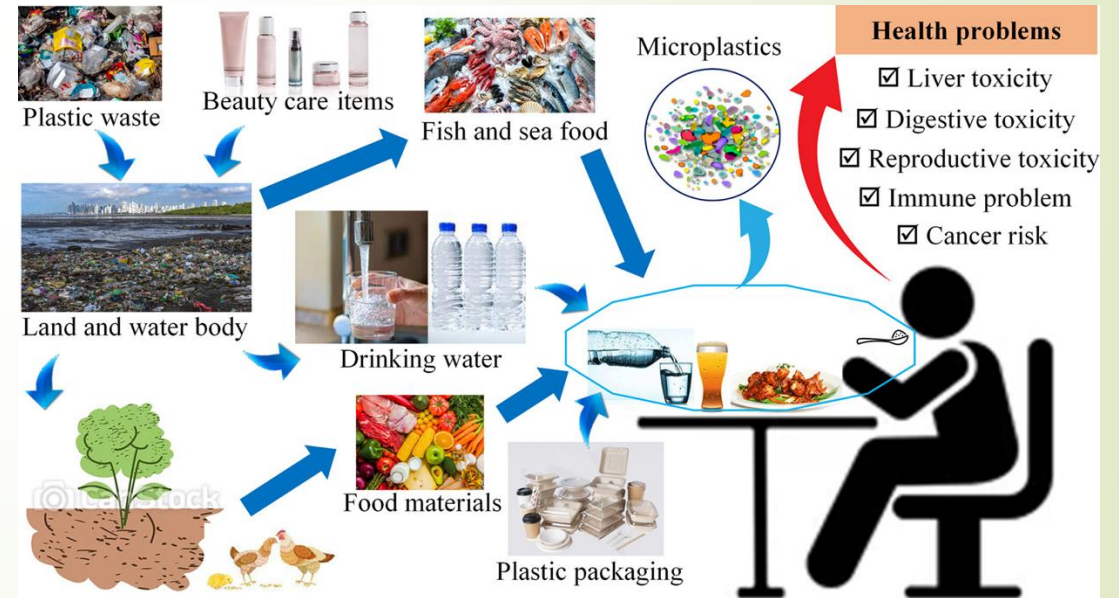






# Sustainability and Linear vs Circular Economy

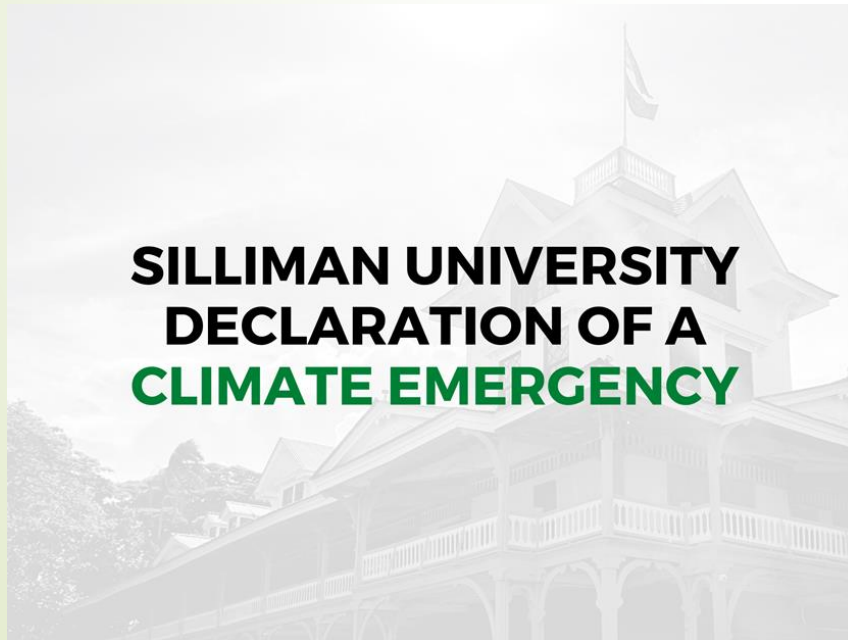
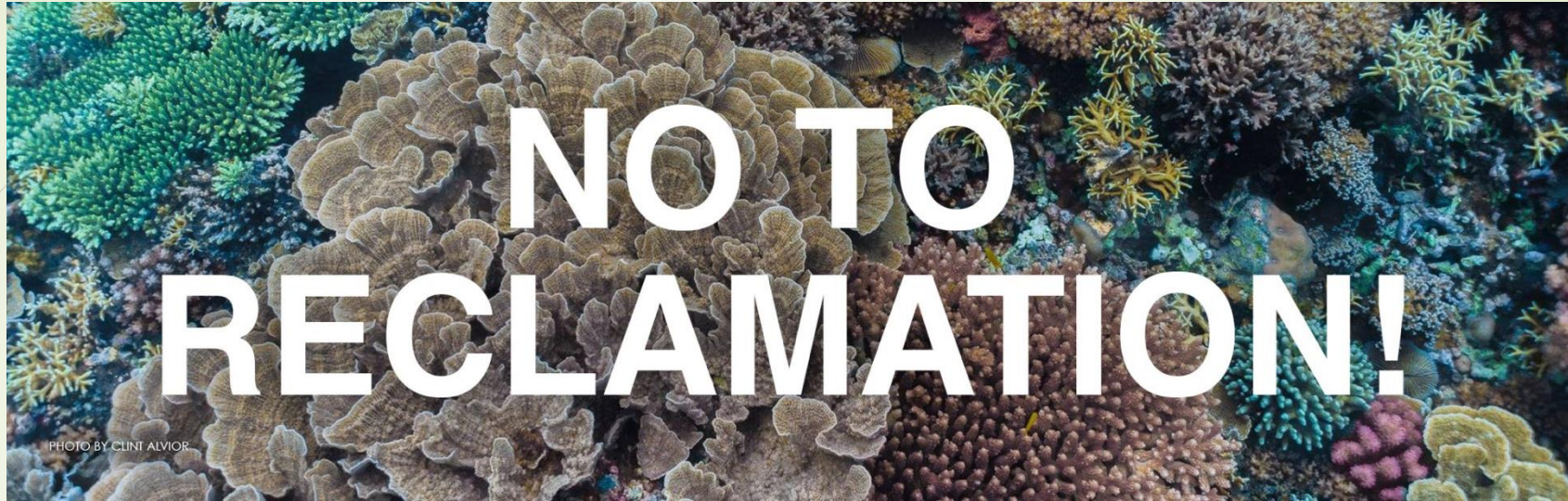
- ▶ APEC 2021 Circular Economy Agenda - This policy brief considers the transformation to a circular economy as a response to the growing waste crisis. It discusses the waste problem in APEC and presents the benefits of circular practices in ensuring almost zero waste generation. Policies to enable the smooth adoption of circular economy principles are discussed, and APEC's role in the area is highlighted.



Source: <https://apec.org/publications/2020/01/circular-economy---dont-let-waste-go-to-waste>  
<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2023/08/06/2286595/philippines-produces-61000-million-metric-tons-waste-daily>  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969722069340>



# Circular Economy and SU Environmental Initiatives





## Challenges

- Cultural Shift
- Systemic Change
- Policy and Regulation

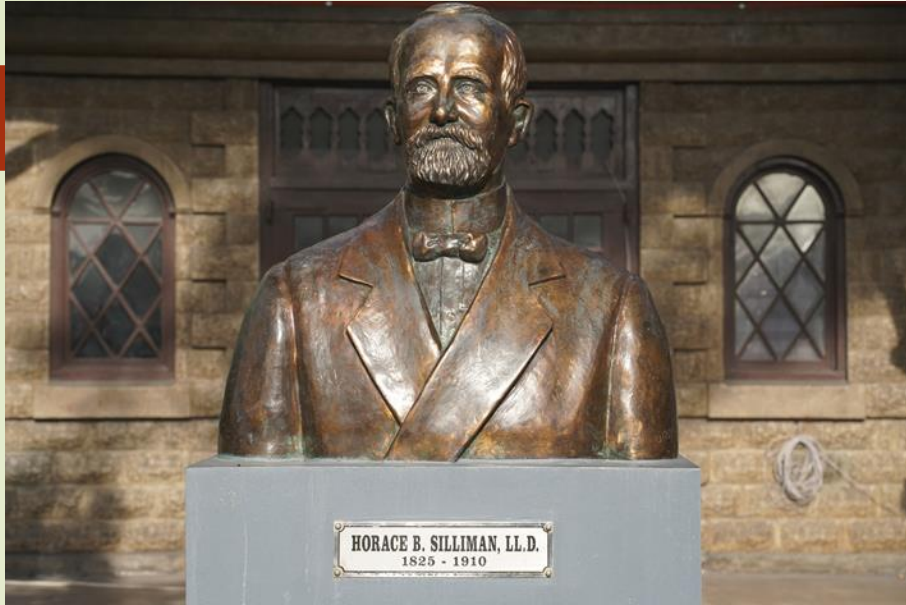
## Call to Action

- Collaboration Across Sectors
- Policy Advocacy
- Individual Responsibility

### A Final Note:

- The transition to a circular economy is not just a necessity for sustainability but an opportunity for innovation, economic resilience, and a healthier planet.
- By embracing circularity, we can create a future that thrives within the planet's ecological limits.





## VISION

A Christian institution leading in total human development for the well-being of society and environment.

## MISSION

- Infuse into the academic learning of our stakeholders core values anchored on the gospel of Jesus Christ towards developing individuals of faith, character, and competence.
- Instill in all members of the University community social consciousness, care for the environment, and a deep sense of justice for societal well-being.
- Cultivate resilient and globally competitive academic community competent in knowledge production and innovation, positively contributing to sustainable development.



Thank you!

