

ADB CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM

# Building a Plastic-Free Quezon City

## Through Legislation and Beyond



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MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER CITY COUNCILOR, DISTRICT 1 QUEZON CITY







# Quezon City

**Most populous city** in the  
Philippines.

A **dynamic economic, political,  
and social hub** located in the  
National Capital Region.

**Land Area:**161.12 sq km

**Population:**3.2 million

**GDP:**Php405k per  
capita (2023)



# Typhoon Ketsana/Ondoy (2009)

revealed the **overwhelming presence of plastic waste** across Metro Manila—clogging drainage systems and scattered across communities after floodwaters receded.



In 2012, the City's **Waste Analysis and Characterization Study (WACS)** found that **plastic waste comprised 13%** of Quezon City's total waste composition.

TYPE	PERCENTAGE	TONS/DAY
Film / Plastic labo	4.99%	179.13
Laminates	2.51%	90.10
Sando Bags	1.58%	56.72
HDPE - Sibak	1.23%	44.15
Film Plastic Scraps	1.09%	39.13
PS - Cup/Spoon/Fork	0.81%	29.08
PP - Other Plastics	0.71%	25.49
PET	0.18%	6.46
PVC	0.14%	5.03
TOTAL	13.24%	475.29



**Microplastics** are now found in our food, water, air, and even inside our bodies—a **pervasive threat** to our health, environment, and climate.

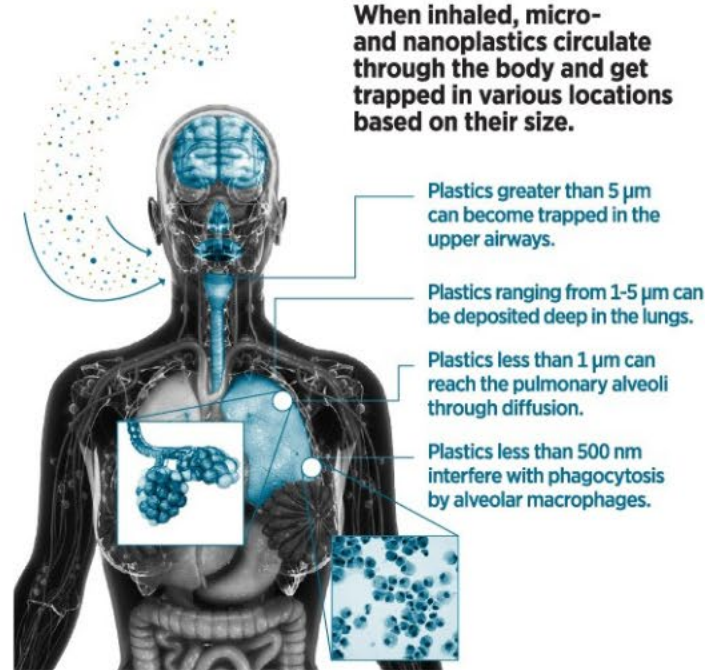
SCITECH

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## Microplastics found in fish from Mindanao, DENR asks companies to address issue

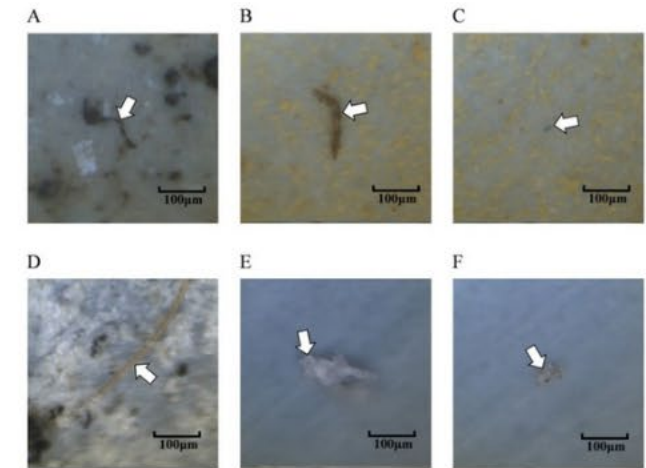
By GMA Integrated News

Published February 1, 2024 10:22pm





Source: Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)

Fig. 1. Polymer types (A) and shapes (B) of the MPs identified within lung tissue samples.



## Detection of microplastics in human lung tissue using $\mu\text{FTIR}$ spectroscopy

Lauren C. Jenner <sup>a</sup>, Jeanette M. Rotshell <sup>b</sup>, Robert T. Bennett <sup>c</sup>, Michael Cowen <sup>c</sup>,  
Vasileios Tentzeris <sup>c</sup>, Laura R. Sadofsky <sup>a</sup>  

The plastic crisis is a present-day reality,  
Quezon City is not exempt.

**How is Quezon City responding?**

# The road to a plastic-free Quezon City

Charting the path to the plastic policies that guide Quezon City today

## SP-2103, S-2011

An Ordinance Mandating Business Establishments using Plastic Bags to Display the Notice "Save the Environment, Bring your own Recyclable/Reusable Bags."

## SP-2127, S-2012

Plastic and Styrofoam Ban in QC Hall & several City-owned facilities

## SP-2140, S-2012

Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance

## SP-2202, S-2013

Prohibiting the use of plastic advertisement and propaganda materials

## SP-2350, S-2014

QC Environment Code

## SP-2868, S-2019

Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance

## SP-2876, S-2019

Single-Use Plastics/Disposable Materials Ban Ordinance

## SP-3107, S-2021

Green Public Procurement Ordinance

## Executive Order No. 3, S-2025

Guidelines in Reducing Plastic Waste in Quezon City Government Departments and Offices



## Ordinance SP-2103, S-2011

All business establishments using plastic bags in their business transactions should display in their stores, specifically in their transaction counter, the notice **“Save the Environment, bring your own recyclable/reusable bags.”**



# Ordinance SP-2140, S-2012

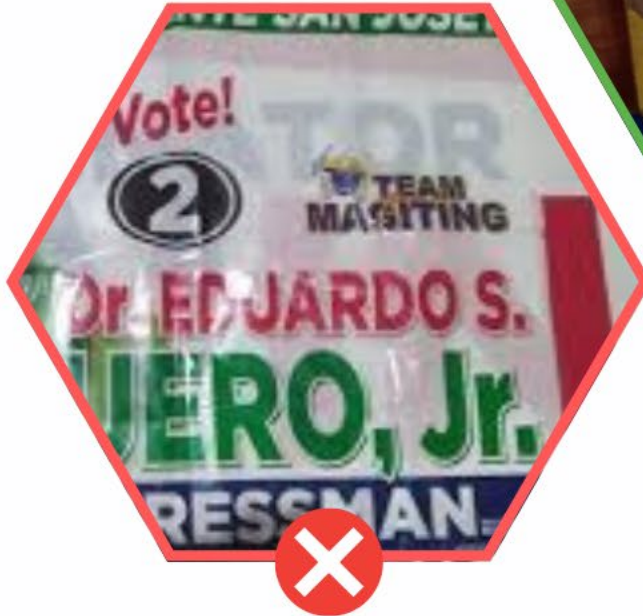
## Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance

**Type 1 retailers** (e.g. shopping malls and groceries) must charge **₱2 for every plastic bag** having a thickness not lower than 15 microns.

This Plastic Recovery System Fee must be earmarked for a **green fund** maintained by Type 1 retailers, which they should use for environmental initiatives.



PVC Tarpaulin



## Ordinance SP-2202, S-2013

### Prohibiting the use of plastic advertisement and propaganda materials

Prohibits individuals, firms, and corporations from installing advertisement or propaganda materials made of **polyethylene (plastic)** within Quezon City.



Drawing from the observations on the ground, feedback from stakeholders, and mounting evidence on the impacts of plastic pollution, **the City enacted stronger ordinances to step up the fight against the plastic crisis.**

## Ordinance SP-2868, S-2019

### Plastic Bag Ban

Prohibits the **use, sale, and distribution of plastic** as carry-out bags for Type 1&2 retailers.



## Ordinance SP-2876, S-2019

### Single-Use Plastics/ Disposable Materials Ban

Prohibits the **use, sale, and distribution of single-use plastics** and **disposable materials** for dine-in transactions at food establishments and hotels.







Republic of the Philippines  
**QUEZON CITY COUNCIL**  
Quezon City  
21<sup>st</sup> City Council

PO21CC-446

83<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP-3107, S-2021

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA IN THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS, SERVICES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN QUEZON CITY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE QUEZON CITY GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ORDINANCE OF 2021.

Introduced by Councilors DIORELLA MARIA G. SOTTO-ANTONIO, EDEN DELILAH "Candy" A. MEDINA and DOROTHY A. DELARMENTE, M.D.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Bernard R. Herrera, Lena Marie P. Juico, Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Nicole Ella V. Crisologo, Victor V. Ferrer, Jr., Winston "Winnie" T. Castelo, Atty. Bong Liban, Ramon P. Medalla, Mikey F. Belmonte, Estrella C. Valmocina, Franz S. Pumaren, Kate Galang-Coseteng, Matias John T. Defensor, Wenceron Benedict C. Lagumbay, Jorge L. Banal, Sr., Peachy V. De Leon, Imee A. Rillo, Marra C. Suntay, Irene R. Belmonte, Resty B. Malañgen, Hero M. Bautista, Patrick Michael Vargas, Ram V. Medalla, Marivic Co. Pilar, Melencio "Bobby" T. Castelo, Jr., Rogelio "Roger" P. Juan, Donato "Donny" C. Matias, Eric Z. Medina, Freddy S. Roxas and Noe Dela Fuente.

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares it a policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, in 2015, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution 70/1 entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", whereby among the global sustainable goals for 2030 is to ensure sustainable consumption and production of patterns. To this end, governments are encouraged to promote public procurement policies that encourage development and diffusion of environmentally sound goods and services;

# Ordinance SP-3107, S-2021

## Green Public Procurement

Mandates the **inclusion of at least one (1) environmental criteria in the procurement** of all goods, services, and infrastructure.

These include, but are not limited to the use of reusable dishware and the provision of a post-event recovery and recycling mechanism.

# Executive Order No. 3, S-2025

## Guidelines in Reducing Plastic Waste in Quezon City Government Departments and Offices

- **Plastic bags, PET bottles, and plastic delivery packaging** are not allowed inside City-owned facilities and activities. Employees are encouraged to **bring**
- **sustainable alternatives**, such as eco bags, reusable food and beverage containers, and cutlery. Offices should set up their own **waste segregation system**, and trade at the **Trash to Cashback** booth or partner junkshop.







**Enforcement  
Team from  
CCESD**

**Coordination  
with relevant  
City offices**  
Such as GSD, OCA,  
and HRMD

**A comprehensive,  
whole-of-government  
approach to plastic reduction**

**Coordination  
with lead  
departments  
organizing  
events**

**Reminders to  
bring  
sustainable  
alternatives to  
City activities**





# Intensive education, awareness raising, and advocacy efforts







**Inclusive  
Climate Action  
and Just  
Transition** in the  
plastic sector



**Public  
consultations** in  
crafting policy



**Quezon City  
People's  
Council**

**Multi-sectoral  
partnerships**

**Genuine stakeholder  
engagement and  
community participation**





# Beyond legislation

These are Quezon City's initiatives that promote a **circular economy**

Bayong Distribution



Trash to Cashback



Tarpaulin Upcycling



Refilling Initiative



Textile Recovery Initiatives





# UNEP Champion of the Earth

## Policy Leadership



# We've come a long way, but challenges remain...

- **Shifting behavior** from plastic dependence to more sustainable practices  
Navigating the **vast size and scale** of Quezon City
- **Maximizing impact amid limitations in manpower** (i.e. few deputized enforcers)
- The **lack of national legislation** targeted toward plastic reduction.
- 







## What's next?

- **Refine existing policies** by learning from implementation gaps, enforcement experiences, and growing evidence
- **Opportunities for local legislation:**
  - Ban on plastic bottles
  - Textile waste

**Policy is power – but it only works  
when matched with commitment,  
collaboration, and collective  
action.**

**Let's connect!**

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