

# Implementation of No Plastic Policy in Batangas City

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**Abstract** – Numerous localities worldwide have initiated policies to mitigate the impact of plastic waste, one of which is the "No Plastic" policy implemented in Batangas City, Philippines. This study aims to evaluate the efficacy of the "No Plastic" policy in engendering behavioral changes among the community of Batangas City, a notable industrial and port city in the CALABARZON area. Through a comprehensive assessment, this research scrutinizes the extent of policy implementation, compliance rates, factors contributing to non-compliance, and the correlation between policy implementation and compliance. Furthermore, it elucidates the consequential behavioral shifts among the populace in relation to plastic usage. The researcher used a quantitative-correlational research design, wherein a survey was conducted to 977 individuals in the CALABARZON Area using purposive sampling. The majority of Batangas residents have adapted to the policy, demonstrating increased discipline in their plastic consumption habits. This shift, although challenging initially, has been facilitated by ongoing efforts to educate and encourage environmentally responsible behaviors among the community, highlighting the critical role of collective action in achieving sustainable environmental outcomes.

**Keywords** – policy, implementation, no-plastic

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## INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, the truth is that we can't imagine our lives without technology. It influences us in everything we do. The comfort, ease, and benefits that we experience are so overwhelming that we could think that they also cause bad things. The disasters caused by users' behavior all the way through technology are hurting our planet. The weakening of our natural resources, global warming, cyclic uncertainties, and health hazards are some of the effects that the planet cannot utter but wholeheartedly feels.

The technology we adore that gave us the chance to use plastics is one of the causes of our planet's

heartache. One trillion of plastic bags are the number of its production yearly and it takes 1,000 years for one piece of plastic bag to fully degrade. Unfortunately, the net weight of plastic bags discarded in a year is 3.5m tons. In this regard, plastic bag is a major problem worldwide. Some still use it due to uncomplicated availability, little storage space, weight handiness, and cost-effectiveness.

Banning of plastics is one of the Philippines' most popular and commonly practiced ecological measures to help save the earth and Batangas City is one of the places in this country that lives out with it since 2011 when the ordinance was passed by Environmental and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) [1]. Plastics take a long time to degrade, contributing to different kinds of pollution in the air, soil, and water. Seeger [2], mentioned that "If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted, then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production."

Batangas City is known as an "Industrial Port City of CALABARZON Area" and one of the most competitive cities in the country today, the home of approximately 324,116 inhabitants. It is politically subdivided into 105 barangays which is situated 108.00 kilometers south of Manila.

Many cities are trying to discourage plastics and demonstrate the communities' cooperation, collaboration, and support to avoid the harm it causes and its unintended consequences. Batangas City started including this in the Environmental Code of Solid Waste Management in 2011, but on January 1, 2015, the full implementation of the plastics banning got on track.

Since most of us used plastic bags as carrier bags before, this study determined the impact of the policy in the behavioral changes of the people in the community of Batangas City. We all know that it's been comparatively easy to put in the picture that the implementation of the ban was going well, but we must also know the real collision of those significant results that grounds us. The actions of individuals have foremost ecological consequences cumulatively. Thus, there can be major environmental outcomes from the adjustments in the behavior of each personage and households.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study determined the impact of the "No Plastic" policy in the behavioral changes of the community. Specifically, it identified the extent of implementation on "No Plastic" policy, determined the compliance to "No Plastic" policy, identified factors for non-compliance to the policy, determined the relationship between the extent of implementation and compliance of "No Plastic" Policy; and finally, identified the impact of the policy in terms of the behavior of the people towards the plastic usage.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Research Design

The researcher used quantitative-correlational research design for this study. The method used involves observing and describing the behavior of the respondents and recording them appropriately that can be measured and generalized. This study utilized many aspects of social science to obtain general view of the subject.

#### Respondents of the Study

The researcher used a quantitative-correlational research design, wherein a survey was conducted on 977 individuals in the CALABARZON Area using purposive sampling. The places included home residences, business establishments like public markets, bakery, sari-sari stores, eatery and even the side-walk vendors. Survey was done through a face-to-face interview as well as by distributing questionnaires to the selected respondents.

#### Data Collection

Data was gathered through a survey and interviews with an actual ocular observation of the surroundings.

#### Data Gathering Procedure

The research carried out a pilot testing from twenty participants before distributing the self-made questionnaire. The questionnaires were distributed in the entire month of August 2016 after the approval of each barangay captain for the permission to distribute the questionnaires. There were some participants who rejected the researcher to answer the questionnaire but the respect for their free will was adhered. Retrieval of questionnaires was done right after the respondents answered them. Privacy, confidentiality, and well-being of the respondents were managed.

### Data Analysis

In analyzing and interpreting the data gathered, descriptive statistics such as frequency count, weighted mean and Pearson-Product Moment correlation were used. These statistical tools were based on the objectives of the study. In addition, all data were treated using a statistical software PASN version 18 to further analyze the result of the study.

### Ethical Considerations

Collected data were treated as confidential and used only for the purpose of the research.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the extent of implementation of the respondents' on "No Plastic" policy. The composite mean of 3.38 indicates that the respondents could implement the policy. All business establishments like supermarkets, sari-sari stores etc. pack products in eco-friendly materials such as carton boxes and paper bags got the highest weighted mean score of 3.85 and rated fully implemented. This was the most observed practice they followed and implemented completely. It just shows that business owners are aware with the consequences that may happen for disobedience.

**Table 1**  
**Extent of Implementation of "No Plastic" Policy**

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. Our city prohibits plastic bags usage.	3.72	Fully Implemented	3
2. Reusable/eco bags are required to use in shopping and buying.	3.70	Fully Implemented	4
3. Payment of 1500 pesos and imprisonment are the punishments in violating the No Plastic Policy.	3.42	Implemented	7
4. The use of plastic bags as packaging materials for dry products is illegal.	3.33	Implemented	8
5. Plastic bags to be used as packaging material on dry goods are not offered or sold by any business enterprise.	2.85	Implemented	9.5
6. Plastic bags on wet goods (like fresh fish, meat products) can be used.	2.56	Implemented	11
7. The use of Styrofoam as packaging materials or as containers for food, fruits and vegetables containers is also prohibited.	2.85	Implemented	9.5
8. All market and local private or public institutions within the city are included in the implementation of No Plastic Policy.	3.72	Fully Implemented	2
9. The use of Styrofoam and non-environmentally plastic materials are banned.	3.56	Fully Implemented	6
10. All business establishments like supermarkets, sari-sari stores etc. pack products in eco-friendly materials such as carton boxes and paper bags.	3.85	Fully Implemented	1
11. People in our barangay are required to comply in the No Plastic Policy.	3.61	Fully Implemented	5
<b>Composite Mean</b>	<b>3.38</b>	<b>Implemented</b>	

Legend: 3.50 – 4.00 = Fully Implemented; 2.50 – 3.49 = Implemented; 1.50 – 2.49 = Partially Implemented; 1.00 – 1.49 = Not Implemented

Secondly, all market and local private or public institutions within the city are included in implementing No Plastic Policy (3.72). This is also caused by the forces that are shown in the policy from the local government itself.

The city disallows plastic bags usage and reusable/eco bags will be used in shopping and buying (3.72). The weighted mean of 3.61 was got by the item that the people in the barangay are all committed in following the policy. There's also full implementation (3.56) in the Styrofoam banning. It means that the real key to be triumphant to put a plastic bag ban into motion starts with the individual himself. The level and coverage will only multiply if each one of the team of people will agree and cooperate to make it official. Each establishment has its full implementation because they know that their businesses will be at stake if they will not follow. Sharing information is an important tool that includes the plan on how that plastics will be ban and how they can outgrow from little steps that they will take, how can the whole community benefit from it and how the ban can be a continuous reality.

However, other items were rated implemented only like the payment of 1500 pesos and imprisonment are the punishments in violating the No Plastic Policy (3.42). The fine accentuated in the ordinance may be lower than expected from the policy.

The use of plastic bags as packaging materials for dry products is illegal (3.33). With the same weighted mean of 2.85 are the items referring that plastic bags to be used as packaging material on dry goods are not offered or sold by any business enterprise and the use of Styrofoam as packaging materials or as containers for food, fruits and vegetables containers is also prohibited. These items are interpreted as "implemented" only since there are still many violators and they do have their own policies when it comes to dry products.

The plastic bags on wet goods (like fresh fish, meat products) can be used (2.56), ranked the least implemented since most of the people know the hassle it causes when we use paper on wet goods. People's perception of plastic's durability is still relentless.

Plastics come in different types, sizes, and colors. It can be said that in the country, there is a plastic-type for every buyer's preference or need. There are plastics that are so huge, they can be used as garbage bag, while some are so minuscule that people can put small amounts of condiments like oil or cigarettes (a concept called *tingi*) in it for selling. Indeed, the culture of massive consumption and packaging convenience in the country

is so pervasive that the usage of plastic became a necessity rather than an option [3].

From the ordinance, itself, it was emphasized there that the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) shall monitor the effective full implementation of the banning of plastic after three years of massive information campaign and coordination with affected business establishments.

The implementation hasn't been easy for the whole city that's why they decided the gradual implementation of the banning of use of plastic materials observation based from the Environmental Code of Batangas City, Ordinance No. 16, Series of 2010 on following stages: Stage 1 (6 months from approval of this E-code): Implementation shall cover Market 1, 2, 3 and all local government institution and all enterprises within its premises. Stage 2 (8 months from approval of this E-code) stated that implementation shall cover all educational institutions. Stage 3 (2 years from approval of this E-code) emphasized that the implementation shall cover all business enterprises within Urban Areas of the City. Stage 4 (3 years from approval of this E-code) is the full implementation of the banning of use of Styrofoam and non-environmentally accepted and thin plastic materials.

The world's strictest anti-plastic bag execution approach may be in Rwanda. Since an outlaw went into effect in 2008, airline passengers arriving from outside the country have recounted being forced to give up plastic bags on arrival while they're still at the airport. It is unclear, however, how successful the ban is at reducing overall bag use, particularly in less urban areas, why an active black market for plastic bags. In South Africa, where plastic bags caught in bushes and trees had become so common that they were called the national flower, a ban on the very thin non-biodegradable bags that tear readily and easily blow away went into effect in 2003. Thicker bags are taxed. Botswana's plastic bag fee, which began in 2007, is credited with cutting bag use in half at major retailers. Everything told, at least 16 African countries have announced bans on certain types of plastic bags, to varying levels of effectiveness [4].

In China, where plastic bag pollution was extensive, a few cities and provinces tried to introduce policies to limit bag use in the 1990s, but poor enforcement led to limited triumph. Before Beijing hosted the 2008 Olympic Games, a national law banned extra thin bags and required stores to charge a fee for thicker bags. The Chinese government reported that bag use has dropped by more than two thirds, although compliance appears to be spotty. Several cities in Southeast Asia, the source of

many of the world's plastic bag exports, have come up with legislation to reduce bag use. In the United States, 133 cities- or county-wide anti-plastic bag regulations have been passed. Bag bans cover one of every three Californians and virtually all Hawaiians. Chicago's city council voted for a bag ban in April 2014. Dallas and Washington, D.C., are among the handful of jurisdictions that charge 5–10¢ for each plastic or paper bag; in both cities, charges were instituted to reduce the number of bags in local rivers. In Canada, much of the anti-bag action is voluntary, with several retailers participating. The provinces of Ontario and Quebec have each halved their plastic bag use through a variety of measures, including store incentives for using reusable bags and retailer-imposed fees. Liquor stores in Manitoba, Quebec, and Nova Scotia have tossed out the plastic bag for good [4].

Thus, the "No Plastic" policy needs to be strictly implemented, and the local official and the council must work together to achieve a total plastic bag ban. Every first step is hard since not everyone approved the policy, and there are deeds that other individuals are doing that show a bit of failure for its 100% complete implementation.

**Table 2**  
**Compliance to "No Plastic" Policy**

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. The barangay officials are doing their full responsibilities regarding proper wastes disposal based on No Plastic Policy.	3.25	Complied	6
2. The use of plastic bags as packaging materials for dry goods is prohibited.	3.18	Complied	8
3. No business establishment shall offer or sell plastic bags to be used as secondary packaging material or as primary packaging on dry goods.	3.00	Complied	9
4. Utilizing plastic bags only on wet goods (e.g. fresh fish, meat products) is regulated.	2.80	Complied	11
5. Styrofoam as packaging materials or as containers for food, fruits and vegetables containers are not being used anymore.	2.97	Complied	10
6. Small businesses like bakery and sari sari store are not using plastic bags in selling goods.	3.23	Complied	7
7. "No Plastic" Policy is strictly followed by old and new market and all local government institution within its premises.	3.52	Highly Complied	3
8. Observance of the No Plastic Policy covers all educational institutions.	3.61	Highly Complied	2
9. Compliance by all business enterprises within Urban Areas of the City is also scrutinized.	3.51	Highly Complied	4
10. Full obedience of the residents can be observed in the banning usage of Styrofoam and non-environmentally accepted and thin plastic materials.	3.47	Complied	5
11. Violators will be punished with fine or detention for disobedience of No Plastic Policy.	3.62	Highly Complied	1
<b>Composite Mean</b>	<b>3.28</b>	<b>Complied</b>	

Legend: 3.50 – 4.00 = Highly Complied; 2.50 – 3.49 Complied; 1.50 – 2.49 = Partially Complied; 1.00 – 1.49 = Do Not Complied

Table 2 presents the respondents' compliance on "No Plastic" policy. The composite mean of 3.28 means that

the respondents could comply on the policy. Violators will be punished with fine or detention for disobedience of "No Plastic" Policy, which got the highest weighted mean score of 3.62 and rated highly complied. This was the major observed conformity they complied into. Like the extent of the policy, the respect on the local government is always there that's why they highly complied with it.

It was followed by the observance of the "No Plastic" Policy covering private and public schools (3.61). This is almost the same as it is strictly followed by old and new markets and all local government institutions within the city's premises (3.52). Compliance by all business enterprises within urban areas of the City is also scrutinized (3.51). Regulated (2.80) was categorized the least.

The people in the community are very careful with the policy because they are mindful of money as punishment. The 1500 peso fine is a big amount that makes a big keystone on the high compliance to the policy. Shopkeepers and every business establishment provide cloth bags on demand.

Plastic bags are a grave predicament around the earth for destroying our environment. It generates waste problems, harms the atmosphere, and causes well-being hazards if misused. On the other hand, people are still using it due to a trouble-free accessibility, little storage place, load handiness and cheap price value. As city being swarmed with plastic bag which causes flood, environmental and even health hazards, actions are being taken to minimize the usage of plastic bag [5].

On the other hand, other items were interpreted as "complied" like the full obedience of the residents in the prohibition of Styrofoam and non-environmentally accepted and thin plastic materials (3.47). The weighted mean of 3.25 also showed that the barangay officials are doing their full responsibilities regarding proper wastes disposal based on No Plastic Policy. small businesses like the bakeries and sari stores are not using plastic bags in selling goods (3.23), and utilizing plastic bags only on wet goods (e.g., fresh fish, and meat products) is regulated.

In the recent Waste Analysis and Characterization Study/Survey done in Batangas City from January to June 2016, plastics as a type of waste were already categorized as "Residuals" with a total percentage composition of only 2.02% out of a subtotal percentage waste type of residuals of 40.04%. The ENRO committee proudly presented this data.

The Philippines trade and industry capital banned disposable plastic shopping bags and Styrofoam food

container, as part of rising hard work across the nation’s capital to restrain rubbish that worsens deadly flooding. After a prevalent promotion campaign leading up to the ban, Makati city environment defense officers commenced handing out fines or levy of 5,000 pesos (\$115) to the shops and markets caught dispensing the items.

While Makati, one of seventeen cities or districts that make up Metro Manila, still allows food to be wrapped in plastic, it has banned the bags that shops and restaurants traditionally issue for free. Makati became the ninth out of the 17 areas to issue the plastics ban, meaning 6.7 million of Metro Manila’s population of 13 million people are covered by the restrictions [6].

The combined move toward the duty and a constraint on plastic bag use applied in the policy is a shot to instruct the public and boost their consciousness on the ecological risks of using plastic bags. Exercising the policies such as the prerequisite for retailers to restrict the use of plastic bags for only those customers who are willing to pay a fine is a method implemented to put off the use of plastic bags. They described regulations as important in suggesting the moral pledge for manufacturers [7]. This ethical commitment can also be applied to pro-environmental behavior of the public. Uncomplicated steps, little way of life adjustments and solid actions multiplied all the way through the people and a nation can have a big collision to such policy [8].

In a short interview with Mrs. A, a business owner for four years in a certain stall in the old market of Batangas City, "Sa aking karanasan ay talagang napakahirap lalo na sa aking business bilang magtitinda. Nung una ay labag talaga sa loob ko ang sumunod pero habang natagal eh napagtanto kong kelangan naman talagang iwasan na nga ang plastic at sayang rin ang multa." After asking about her observations on her customers and other buyers in the market, she added "Pansin ko naman ngaun na ang karamihan ay nasunod naman nga sa patakaran pero may kaunti pa ring mga pasaway. Sa palagay ko'y nasa tao naman nga yun kung sila'y susunod o hindi."

Random consumer, Mr. T assumed that "Ay sigurado namang sa una lamang yan. Malay ga natin sa susunod na mga taon ay baka pakalat-kalat na ulit dito ang plastic. Pero sa ngaun eh di ito, eco-bag muna at ito ang pwede dine sa Batangas."

As I see it, those that the highly complied items are those that covered by the business and establishments. The study showed "complied" and not fully complied because other folks find it hard to be submissive in the policy always. Other individual’s way

of thinking is uncontrollable by the authority and that results in not complying entirely by the city.

**Table 3**  
**Factors for Non-Compliance to the Policy**

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. Lack of discipline to comply with the "No Plastic" policy.	2.89	Agree	4
2. The law being not strictly executed in the community.	2.49	Disagree	10
3. Unavailability of Material Recover Facility (MRF) in the community.	2.54	Agree	9
4. Plastics being more convenient to use.	2.93	Agree	3
5. Plastics being less expensive than other alternatives.	3.05	Agree	2
6. Paper bags being not able to contain heavy and wet goods.	3.31	Agree	1
7. Unavailability of plastic bags and Styrofoam dumping site in the communities.	2.65	Agree	7
8. Capability of paying the fine of ONE THOUSAND PESOS and above if not complying with the policy.	2.64	Agree	8
9. More trees consumed in the use of paper.	2.74	Agree	5
10. Difficulty segregating biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes.	2.67	Agree	6
11. The delay in the collection of garbage.	2.43	Disagree	11
<b>Composite Mean</b>	<b>2.76</b>	<b>Agree</b>	

Legend: 3.50 – 4.00 = Strongly Agree; 2.50 – 3.49; Agree; 1.50 – 2.49 = Disagree; 1.00 – 1.49 = Strongly Disagree

Table 3 itemizes the factors for non-compliance by the respondents on “No Plastic” policy. The composite mean of 2.76 indicates that the respondents have the same opinion and agreed on the factors on why the others don’t comply in the policy. The most common factor for noncompliance was paper bags, which cannot contain heavy and wet goods with the weighted mean score of 3.31. It was followed by plastics, being less expensive than other alternatives (3.05) and plastics being more convenient to use (2.54). Lack of discipline to comply with the “No Plastic” policy ranked fourth with the weighted mean of 2.89, followed by use of papers, which consume more trees (2.74), having difficult time of segregating biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes (2.67), unavailability of plastic bags and Styrofoam dumping site in the communities (2.65), Capability of paying the fine of ONE THOUSAND PESOS and above if unable to comply the policy (2.64)

and unavailability of Material Recover Facility (MRF) in the community (2.54).

However, two items were disagreed upon as factors for the respondents' non-compliance: not approving that the law is not strictly executed in the community (2.49) and frequently delayed garbage collection (2.43).

The compliance in the "No Plastic" Policy became higher as the years passed by although there are factors that made other people weaken the rule that they were aware of. Although they agreed on these factors, that doesn't mean they don't abide by the law daily. Although some of Batangueño's compliance may be lacking, the rationale of obedience make most of them realize the benefits of it. That's why people who follow are more than the number of people who considered those factors for non-compliance.

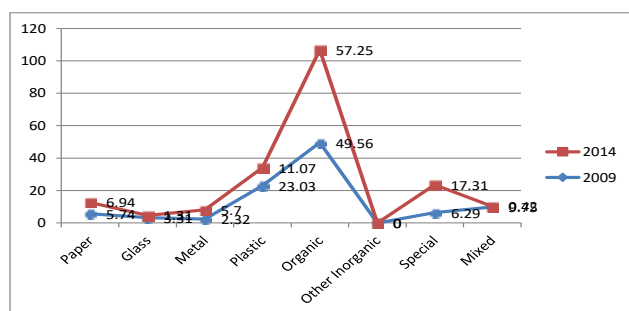


Figure 2 Comparison of Batangas City's WACS 2009 and 2014

In the plastic banning data gathered from Batangas City Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO), the Waste Analysis Characterization Study showed the big difference of plastic's waste composition of the residential, during the study last 2009 and the study done years after the implementation of No Plastic Policy started. The table last 2009 illustrated the 23.03%, plastic composition on the total amount of waste while on 2014, the table confirms the huge decrease of plastic waste with 11.07%.

Velasquez [9], cited that the engineering assistant of Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO), "2011 pa naipasa ang E-code at nakalagay nga dun ang hindi paggamit ng plastic. Pero 2015 talaga nagsimula ang full implementation. Dati kasi plastic bag lang talaga. Ngayon as in lahat na, plastic bag, plastic labo, mga styrofoam... Marami talagang violators dati. Hinuhuli sila ng Defense Security City (DSC) at may mga task force pa kami."

She's trying to say on the interview that the plastic bag banning ordinance has been reportedly successful. "Usually naman hind na plastics ang nagiging dahilan ng minsang pagbaha dito kundi yung mismong kanal na. Ang mga residuals na lang na nakikita ay yung mga gaya ng balat ng chichirya. Ganun.", Ms. Velasquez also added.

In my short meeting with her last September 22, 2016, she emphasized the reduction of floods during typhoons and rainy season and no observance of blockage in sewerage and drainage system in the areas, therefore, decreasing the rate of diseases that floods can cause. The established success of the ordinance has also demonstrated declining quantities of the plastic in the waste stream and can be verified in the Waste Characterization Study done by ENRO.

In shopping malls with every boutique there, they follow the strict rule of not issuing any plastic bag and the brown paper bags are the ones available. The eco bag that they are selling for about 20-50 pesos depending on the size are frequently availed by the consumers especially when they carry heavy items. However, the others used to carry their own reusable bags to save money.

"Napakalaki ng diprensya nung marami pang plastic dito sa atin. Problema namin yun dati ng mga naglilinis dito dahil pag nililipad ng hangin ay kahirap walisin, hinahabol pa ang mga basura. Ngayon ay sa totoo lamang ay mga 10-20% na lamang na plastic ang aming nawawalis. Bilang na bilang na." this statement was uttered by Mr. Gilbert Niverca Jr., one of the Batangas City street sweepers for more than two years now. In other words, he means that it was an immense dissimilarity when the ordinance was fully implemented because plastic bags are one of the waste products that make their job harder before. During the interview, he proudly and happily said that they are sweeping only 10-20% amount of plastic now compared before.

"Dahil ako nama'y matagal na dito at tubong Batangas naman talaga ako eh masasabi kong mas napakalinis ngayon dine sa atin kaysa dati. Pag nabagyo eh wala na akong nababalitaang bumaha dahil lamang sa basura", he added.

Based from the result, the computed r-value indicates a moderate positive correlation and the resulted p-value of 0.000 is less than 0.01 alpha level, thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that the compliance to the policy is affected by the respondents' extent of implementation. In addition, the more that they execute the policy, the more that they complied with it.

**Table 4**  
**Relationship Between the Extent of Implementation of "No Plastic" Policy and Compliance to "No Plastic" Policy**

	r-value	p-value	Interpretation
Extent of Implementation of "No Plastic" Policy vs. Compliance to "No Plastic" Policy	0.612	0.000	Highly Significant

Legend: Significant at p-value < 0.01

From a study about Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, the primary generation of execution analysts discovered the problem of policy implementation—the doubtful connection among policies and implemented programs—and sketched its broad limitations. The second generation started to unload implementation processes and to zero in on relations between policy and practice. Jointly, these examinations generate several significant lessons for strategy, practice, and examination; for example: policy cannot always mandate what matters to outcomes at the local level; a personage incentives and beliefs are vital to local responses; successful implementation requires a tactical equilibrium of force plus support; policy-directed modify ultimately is a problem of the smallest unit.

On the other hand, in my interview with Ms. Glenda Garcia, the Senior Environmental Specialist of ENRO Batangas City last January 19, 2017, "Honestly speaking ay hindi pa talaga natin masasabing zero-plastic na dito sa atin. Marami pa ring ibang mga pasaway at hindi sumusunod. Maybe dahil kaya naman nga nilang bayaran na lamang ang multa kahit hinuhuli sila. Parang simula last year ay naging matigas na ang ulo ng iba, lalo na yung mga taong dayo at galing sa ibang lugar. Yung mga nagdadala dito ng plastic lalo na kapag fiesta o may okasyon na hindi namin kontrolado ay hinuhuli pa rin kaso nga minsan nakapagbenta na sila. Yung mga flea market kasi ay open to everyone kaya marami ring dumadayo from outside Batangas City."

But then, she said that though the "No Plastic Policy's" result is not yet fully complied by the people, they are doing their best to intensify the policy so they are currently coordinating with the Mother Earth Foundation, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that aims and works toward a zero waste Philippines.

"Critics have been arguing that plastic is not the only cause of flooding. Just because plastic floats on the surface doesn't mean it is the only problem we have. Items with higher densities sink and clog the drains directly. What we need is waste reduction. To reduce flooding, we need to change our mentality from just

throwing things away to learning how to reuse our things" [10].

Moreover, Engr. Pamela Joyce Nuqui of JG Summit Petrolchemicals Group, posited that the real issue is not about the use and the production of plastics but it is about the proper waste management. So, the antiparticipation is there, that we can minimize plastics, however for those residuals, we should be acquainted with how to behave like we know how we should correctly dispose it.

Even though the utilization of plastic cannot be completely eradicated, the main target as of now is to trim down and diminish the amount of plastic garbage produced in the city. And fortunately, with Waste Characterization done by the city government biannually, we are already getting there.

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The extent of implementation of the "No Plastic" policy is implemented in the city of Batangas including the rural and urban areas. Not everyone in the community of Batangas are complying in the No Plastic Policy. There are still violators who don't take the ordinance seriously. Likewise, the real issue is not about the use and the production of plastics but about the proper waste disposal and management. The price, durability, availability and its light-weightness are the factors why the others are still using the plastic bags and violating the ordinance. There is a significant relationship between the implementation and compliance of the "No Plastic" Policy. The implementation regime is the key to impose the policy on the people's compliance. Most of the people in the city became more disciplined and made the necessary adjustments to comply in the policy when it comes to their shopping and everyday consumption of plastic bags. It may have seemed difficult on the first year when it was fully implemented but gradually, with the data gathered and shown, consumers' obedience can help form that environmentally feasible conduct.

The officials and other authorities should strictly monitor the implementation of the policy. The local government may add the amount of charging fee if anybody will not use a recyclable bag. The cotton bag can have a gigantic statement letters like WPD, an acronym for "Walang Plastic Dine." As an individual, start the message in the social media posting a selfie that can show the support by using the hashtag "Ban The Bag" with the caption that will make them realize the possible causes on why we should say "No" to plastics.

The Environment & Natural Resources Office (ENRO) should persist patrolling for the whole city and its people keep on complying to the "No Plastic Policy".

<sup>[10]</sup> Soapboxie, 2016 Plastic Ban in the Philippines: Prohibitions & Clarifications Retrieved from [goo.gl/nRbzuj](http://goo.gl/nRbzuj)

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