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### **Story of Plastic Take Action Kit**

- Some incinerator companies claim their technologies produce 'zero waste', even though the incineration process generates large quantities of hazardous solid waste and toxic air pollutants.
- 48% of global carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced by 2030 through switching to a circular economy.

### **Greenpeace Toolkit**

- Globally only 9% of plastic gets recycled. This is because less than 50% of plastics used in households are put in recycling to begin with, and little of that is converted into packaging. The majority of "recycled" packaging is just downcycled into lower value or non recyclable products.
- More than 90% of plastic is made from fossil fuels. Greenhouse gas emissions are from plastics lifecycle and this threatens our goal of keeping the global temperature from rising 1.5 ° C. We also now know that by 2050, greenhouse gas emissions from plastic could make up around 12-13% of the entire carbon budget.

### **PostLanfill Action Network Toolkit**

- Any action plan will require a large amount of research and understanding of the community and its people to really be successful. IF we want to implement plans such as this, we need to know our stuff and be ready for pushback
- People resist change because the old way is more comfortable, easier to understand and they don't like people telling them what to do. If a simple and easy solution is presented to them while making them feel like better people, they are more pliant to changing their habits.

### **Zero Waste Home**

- Going zero waste as a person requires a lot of planning, foresight, and decision making. It really isn't something you can just do out of nowhere, you have to go into shopping knowing what you need, how much you need, where you can store it, and how you can deal with it.
- Every aspect of our lives can produce unnecessary waste in a certain way, but this also means that every aspect of our lives needs some kind of planning and fixing we can do to reduce our waste.

### **5 Gyres Trash Academy**

- Plastic was originally a life saver during the second world war, but post-war consumerism pushed it into the position it has today, of being an extreme pollution
- Plastic consumption and waste is really linked to our culture and how we as citizens view our waste, our practices and how we deal with saving, reusing, and reducing waste.

Three wasteful practices I have noticed in my school (pre covid) was the use of single use plastic containers for salads people bought during lunch, and would immediately throw away. A second practice that I have found in my home was how we dealt with food leftovers/waste. We use single use plastic sheets to preserve and microwave leftovers of food, and this basically creates tons of square feet of plastic waste in my home. A third issue I have noticed in my home was our dog food waste, because we purchase dog food in plastic containers. We go through dozens of them a month and there are many many plastic containers we have thrown away because they are simply not reusable.

My action plan to reduce the amount of plastic waste generated by my school is to get rid of the plastic containers we use for salads. I think we can completely replace this by just pouring the salad directly into the eating trays instead of having to use the plastic shells.

Steps needed to take this plan into action would be to perform an audit to see how much waste is really produced by these containers and how many people use them. I could even see if there is a consensus on how people feel about them already. Both students and staff. Then I would need to come together with my group to decide on the specifics of the action plan based on the support we already have. We would need to discuss with certain members of the districts decision making people including people in health and food regulation to see what we can and cannot do. After we discuss with some people we may have to present the project formally to district people to see if they approve or disapprove. We may have to start over and change details or things they don't like about the plan until it suits them. If they approve the plan then we can implement and see how the new idea would work and hopefully that would finally end the use of the plastic containers! We would need to involve the school staff who prepare and serve food, teachers and students, health and sanitation officials, and district employees who make large decisions. Barriers to this change are people who are stubborn and resistant to change in the first place, and we will need to be able to convince them somehow. Also health and food codes will have guidelines as to how we can go about this in a clean safe manner. Covid 19 may also cause changes, where we may not be able to serve food communally or if schools will even have lunch. We will simply have to play by the rules and come up with more creative solutions following the examples of other school districts and people. Patience will be needed for certain people and research will need to be done to ensure the plan fits all requirements. And if a situation is out of our control we will shift focus to a different avenue.

1. Research health codes to replace salad containers with metal serving trays
2. Take opinion polls and interviews with school students and staff
3. Draft a presentation to convince others to change the way lunch is, and get rid of teh containers
4. Present this to school staff, hear what they have to say and alter the proposal if necessary
5. Present this to district staff
6. Take notes from rejection or approval, and alter the proposal if need be
7. If approved, implement the plan and get rid of the containers

# **Plastic is Polluting the Earth**



**Reduce our Waste  
and Save the Planet**