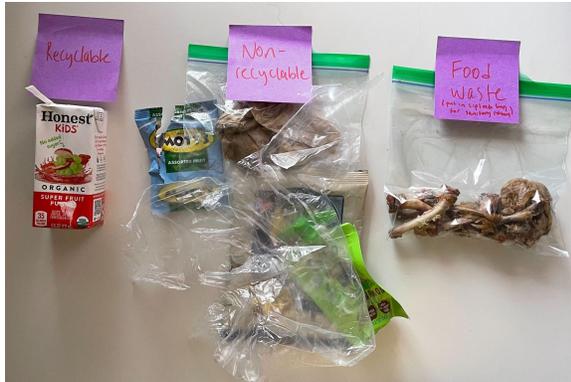


Team RAES  
Ananya23  
Edina High School



Caption: Know this trash/waste will add up, it's my job to prevent that from happening. That's why I am going to switch to reusable ziplock bags and start buying my snacks in bulk bags that I can put in reusable containers. What are you going to do?

List of waste I produced:

- Juice box
- Juicebox pack plastic
- Pirates Booty snack packaging
- fruit snack wrapper
- disposable ziplock bag that had my fruit from lunch
- Gogo squeeze pouch
- chicken wing bones (put in disposable ziplock bags for sanitary reasons)
- used napkins
- post-it notes used for picture (I folded them into origami foxes after)

Reflection:

For today, as I carried around all the things I would have normally thrown away. With the exception of an egg yolk and egg shells from my breakfast that I threw away because of the time zone difference (I didn't see the challenge until after I ate breakfast) I found that I produce a lot of waste related to food. The pieces of trash I collected were from my lunch, dinner, and snacks throughout the day. Everything that I have collected today is in some way related to food to me which is surprising in two ways. First, I was surprised that pretty much all the waste I produce is through food or something related to food. Second, it also surprised me that besides things related to foods, I do not throw away things not related to food on a daily basis. Although I try my best to reduce my

environmental footprint with food waste by using reusable containers, a reusable lunchbox, and a waterbottle, I have now realized that it is the bare minimum and I need to do more in order to further reduce the waste that I produce.

During the school day I did not have time to talk to classmates or friends about the challenge but I was able to share what I was doing with my parents. I think being able to show my parents how much food waste I produce alone on a daily basis showed my family that although we do use reusable containers, lunchboxes, and water bottles; there are still many more ways that we can improve our environmental footprint as a family. I also talked to my parents about buying reusable ziplock bags because plastic never really degrades. This also led me to give them an example of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch which they were surprised to hear about as well as see how much trash was floating in the ocean.

I think the main two reusable alternatives that I can swap with the waste I collected today are reusable ziplock bags and bulk bags of snacks. Reusable ziplock bags would be useful for reducing my waste because I would be able to reduce the amount of disposable ziploc bags that I throw away which is especially important because they are made out of plastic which does not break down very easily. For example, instead of using a disposable ziplock bag to pack fruit, like peach slices or apples, I could use a reusable one that I could wash out which would serve the same purpose without hurting the environment as much. Another swap that I would make is to buy some snacks, like chips or popcorn, in bulk bags that I can then put into a reusable container or reusable bag instead of having them already prepackaged. This swap would make it cheaper but also less wasteful because instead of having to throw away little pieces of trash that could add up, I would just have one big piece of trash to throw away.

Even though my family and I try our best to produce less waste and be more environmentally friendly, there are still always improvements that we can make. I think this challenge was very informative of the amount of waste that I produce on my own everyday, which adds up, and helps me think of more ways to be more sustainable and environmentally friendly in the future.

--Evelyn



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@turninggreenorg @5gyres @kleankanteen @plasticpollutes #pgc2022

3 seconds ago



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