

Plastic Free Lunch Day

How we did it and next steps



and



O.F.N.S.
Office of Food & Nutrition Services



“If we can do it, you can do it!”

4th grade advocates
PS 188 The Island School, NYC

*Working creatively with youth
to achieve:*

- equitable zero waste
- climate-smart school communities
- a plastic free biosphere



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Partnership as a roadmap for positive change

1. **Background story** - CafeteriaCulture.org and students partner with school food service: NYC Department of Education Office of Food and Nutrition Services (OFNS) and Office of Sustainability.
2. **Plastic Free Lunch Day** - responding to student suggestions; implementation, testing, and data collection with students and the Office of Sustainability.
3. **What's next?**
4. **Cafeteria Culture Resources**

Youth Leading the Change for a Plastic-Free Future



PS 188 The Island School - Cafeteria Rangers
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CafCu Media



@cafeteriacu



@CafCu



CafeteriaCulture

850,000 TRAYS

NYC Public Schools
discard **850,000**
styrofoam lunch trays
EVERY DAY.

at 80 trays/foot,
the daily stack is
2 MILES HIGH

8.5 times
the height of the
**Empire State
Building**

The old days



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GOVERNMENT SAYS 2 MATERIALS POSE A RISK OF CANCER

USED DAILY BY MILLIONS

Formaldehyde, Styrene
and 6 Others Named,
Despite Lobbying

By GARDINER HARRIS

WASHINGTON — The government issued warnings on Friday about two materials used daily by millions of Americans, saying that one causes cancer and the other might.

**Mount Sinai School of Medicine
COMMUNITY & PREVENTIVE MEDICINE**

"As Environmental Pediatricians at Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center, we support the SOS campaign to reduce use of styrofoam trays."

- Perry Elizabeth Sheffield, MD



founded as STYROFOAM OUT OF SCHOOLS in 2009

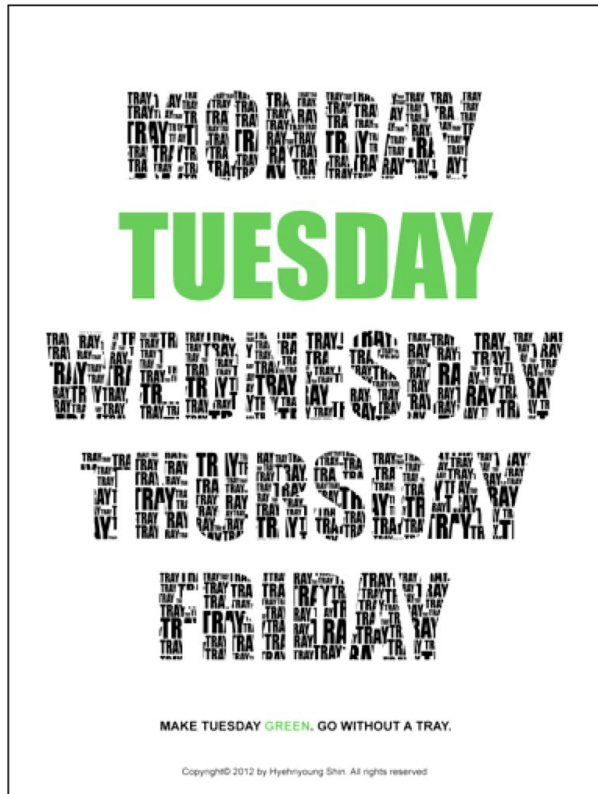


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TrayLess Tuesdays, a cost-neutral solution

Benefits of small-scale piloting



Cost Neutral Solution

© Cafeteria Culture 2012



2:15 pm 50° F

ALL BOROUGHES MANHATTAN BRONX BROOKLYN QUEENS STATEN ISLAND ny1.com

TOP STORIES Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Updated 03/18/2010 06:31 PM

Trayless Tuesdays Program Kicks Off in City Schools

By: NY1 News

NY 1

A new Department of Education pilot program aimed at making school lunches more environmentally-friendly debuted today.

Every Tuesday, students in all city schools will take part in Trayless Tuesdays, where they will be served lunch in biodegradable paper containers known as "boats," instead of on Styrofoam trays. The

Be H...
Become
NYC ch...

Positive
press for all!





PS 20 Manhattan



PS 221 Brooklyn

THE DOMINO EFFECT



NYC,
2015

@ PS34 M

Student Data Collection in the community

Jamaica Bay, North Channel, Queens, NY



PS15 Patrick F Daly students and
© CafeteriaCulture.org 2018

street + beach litter surveys



Students collect
local street &
beach litter data,
lead creative
outreach
campaigns, and
inform policy

We Are Citizen Scientists!

Watch our videos on YouTube:



Exercising Democracy

5th graders testify at New York City Hall on wastewater and plastic pollution



Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

THE COUNCIL



Committee on Environmental Protection

12/13/2017

CafeteriaCulture.org



Cafeteria WASTE AUDITS

Students counted all the plastic items.



Single-use plastics are used during lunch.

Plastic Free Lunch Day

GOAL

To reduce as much **single-use plastic packaging** as possible in their school cafeteria in a single day by offering a **lunch menu with a minimal amount of plastic packaging** in partnership with NYC DOE's Office of Food and Nutrition Services



The Results from the First Plastic Free Lunch Day at PS 15

The students compared before and after data

REGULAR DAY



PLASTIC-FREE LUNCH DAY



There were 558 fewer items on Plastic Free Lunch Day

Plastic Free Lunch Day - GET READY! video



“



Even though there's a lot of plastic from home lunch, we can reduce it faster from school lunch because we have access to the people who make decisions for school lunch!

– Kayden, 4th grade, PS 188 The Island School, NYC

Plastic Free Lunch Day

GET READY! video



in partnership with New York City Department of Education



www.plasticfreelunch.org

Plastic Free Lunch Day MENU PREPARATION



Plastic Free Lunch Day - Menu Preparation & Tips for Kitchen Staff

Cafeteria Culture

Plastic Free Lunch Day MENU

Pizza

Peanut Butter & Jelly
Sandwiches

Cheese
Sandwiches

Broccoli Florets
with dipping sauce

Fresh fruit
(Oranges or Bananas)

Salad Bar



14:32

vimeo



<https://vimeo.com/695554079>

The Results: Plastic Free Lunch Day, May 16, 2022



NO plastic from school lunch
at PS/MS 188 The Island School (except milk cartons)

What's next?

Plastic Free Lunch Day USA! - Nov 2022

If every US school reduces just
2 pieces of plastic per lunch,
we can eliminate
10 BILLION pieces of plastic
per year in the US!
It's possible!

Let's DO THIS!!!



www.plasticfreelunch.org



Streaming for FREE - July 1-4



[bit.ly/MicroplasticMovie](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0jIH1fUqZU)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0jIH1fUqZU>

microplastic madness

Host a
screening
for your team,
schools, and
your entire
school district!



<http://www.cafeteriaculture.org/host-a-screening.html>

microplasticmadness.org

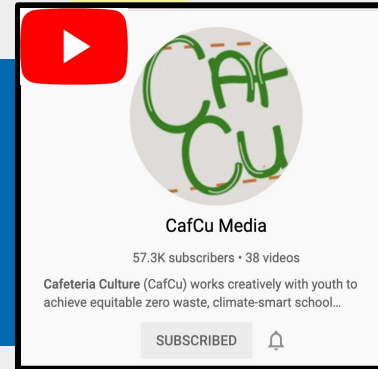




Resources

- ★ YouTube Channel CafCu Media
"Edu-taining" videos
- ★ Cafeteria Rangers Program
- ★ Microplastic Madness Toolkit
- lessons that align with the movie
- ★ Plastic-Free Lunch Day

34 million views
70 thousand subscribers
38 videos



**Student
leadership for
cafeteria sorting**

**Student leadership to reduce single-use
plastic in school meals!**



CONTACT US!

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