TRASH SHOULDN'T SPLASH

OVERVIEW OF RESTAURANT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Introduction

*Trash Shouldn't Splas*h is a local collaboration between *Sea Education Association* and *Falmouth Water Stewards-Skip the Straw*, working to reduce single-use plastics in our community. Single-use items (plastics, in particular) frequently become litter on beaches and in waterways. The fewer single-use items we use as a community, the less chance they have of becoming ocean pollution. We work with interested local food service businesses to develop individual, business-friendly strategies to reduce the amount of single-use (i.e., "disposable") items. We also work to inform consumers about ocean pollution and to encourage them to consider alternatives to single-use plastics.

Restaurant Partnership

As a *Trash Shouldn't Splash* Restaurant Partner, you commit to working with us to reduce the number of single-use items used in your restaurant through a dialogue to determine what would work best for your business and your customers. We offer this program at no cost, and we will provide display materials free of charge. Your commitment is the time it takes to discuss your needs and any obstacles to reducing plastic waste. Sharing information about the type and amount of single-use items you currently purchase would also be very helpful.

Here are some initial ideas to reduce single-use plastic items, which can be customized based on your current practices and needs:

- Offer single-use items only when requested by the customer. For example:
  - Provide straws only upon request by the customer (for dine-in & takeout customers).
  - Put a sticker on straw dispensers or a sign on countertops with "Skip the Straw" or "Choose to be straw free" (for takeout customers).
  - Provide a bag for take-out <u>only</u> after asking a customer, "Would you like a bag?", or upon request.
  - Provide single-use utensils for take-out <u>only</u> after asking a customer, "Will you be eating at home, or do you need utensils?", or upon request.

- Switch to washable, reusable items, if possible.
- Switch to non-plastic single-use items, where appropriate, such as paper-based takeout containers, or bamboo straws or stirrers. Use compostable plastic only if your food waste is directed to an industrial composting facility. *Trash Shouldn't Splash* can calculate potential cost savings of switching from single-use plastic items to alternative products.
- Avoid polystyrene foam. This type of plastic cannot be easily recycled, but can be easily carried by the wind due to its light weight.
- Display printed materials to educate customers about ocean plastic pollution and the *Trash Shouldn't Splash* program.
- Wear *Trash Shouldn't Splash* buttons to highlight participation in the Restaurant Partnership Program. *Trash Shouldn't Splash* can provide a 5-10 minute staff training to prepare servers to answer questions customers may have about the program.

This list is just a place to start. The *Trash Shouldn't Splash* team welcomes your suggestions and further discussion for other ways to reduce waste. We will promote your participation in the program, as desired, in communication materials, including media articles and interviews.

Metrics of Success

We hope to work with our restaurant partners to collect data to track the effectiveness of any practices you choose to implement. This could include:

- Follow-up visits to monitor progress in reducing customer use of single-use plastic items.
- Collecting quantitative data about single-use item purchases. For example, we could analyze invoice data about straw purchases before and after implementing straw-upon-request-only practices.

How Can Your Business Benefit?

Through public surveying and local engagement, *Trash Shouldn't Splash* will inform you of customers' attitudes and concerns about single-use items. For example:

- Of more than 50 people surveyed at the Woods Hole Science Stroll in August 2017, 96% agreed that restaurants should only offer straws upon request, and 96% agreed restaurants should use fewer single-use plastics. We are conducting more surveys in town and will share the results with you.
- In summer 2017, *Skip the Straw*, one of the founding partners of *Trash Shouldn't Splash*, obtained unanimous Falmouth Conservation Commission and Falmouth Board of Selectmen support for its goal of working with residents, restaurants and schools to minimize use of single-use plastics in order to reduce ocean pollution.

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Trash Shouldn't Splash could potentially result in long-term cost savings from purchasing fewer single-use items. We can utilize a cost calculator to research potential cost savings before any new products are purchased.

Reducing marine debris will allow Woods Hole to continue attracting tourists and maintain local quality of life by keeping Falmouth beaches and waters clean and healthy.

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions, and hope to welcome you as a ***Trash Shouldn't Splash*** **Restaurant Partner**.

Contact us at trashshouldntsplash@gmail.com

Visit www.trashshouldntsplash.org