

## Team Green Gang (Aurora Yuan and Alice Feng)

Username: aurorayuan8

Email address: [aurorayuan8@gmail.com](mailto:aurorayuan8@gmail.com)

School: Princeton High School

### Wasteful practices at Princeton High School + solutions:

1. Not enough recycling/not recycling correctly
  - a. Solution: having seminars/talks/lessons educating students, faculty, staff how to recycle properly and what guidelines to follow
  - b. Solution: Labels on all the recycling bins
  - c. Solution: Have a trained team at the school (“Recyclers”) who inform students and other members of the school how to recycle properly
  - d. Solution: In general, more sustainability lessons/activities that are regularly placed into the school year
2. Plastic water bottles
  - a. Solution: Encourage the use of the fountrais and refill water bottle stations at our school → really highlight them. Not much more we can do because our school is already pretty advanced in terms of having refill stations, etc.
3. **Use of plastic utensils**
  - a. Solution: Completely banning the use of plastic utensils and asking students to bring their own
  - b. Solution: Start a brand-new program at the school that has funding specifically for getting reusable utensils for students who need them
4. Enormous amounts of food waste
  - a. Solution: Educating people about the dangers of food waste and why it is so important to NOT waste
  - b. Solution: Cooking less food in general
  - c. Solution: Changing the menu so that students can use an app to determine what they want to eat (by selecting and voting every day)

## **Green Gang's Action Plan:**

**Our Proposal:** A complete ban of plastic utensils provided in the school district. Allow students to bring in their own utensil OR for those who do not want to or it is not an option for them, have a program called the "Sustainability Trust Fund" at the school that funds buying reusable utensils from great sustainable companies like To-Go Ware, which makes bamboo utensils that would be great for students!

What steps would you need to take to implement this project?

1. Find out how many plastic utensils the school purchase per year and their cost
2. Contacting different companies and seeing if they would be willing to work with us and maybe sponsor this program of giving free reusable utensils to students at PHS
3. Write up a formal proposal with all the details outlined accordingly, making sure to leave nothing out (this would include research and probably the bulk of the work)
4. With the proposal in hand, asking representatives from various groups to give feedback on the idea and make reasonable changes accordingly
5. Writing up a petition and solicit signatures from students and teachers (In a school of approx. 1200 people, our goal would be around 500 signatures)
6. Emailing administration to set up a meeting
7. Bringing the petition to the administration and schedule meetings with decision makers of the school and/or district of Princeton
8. While they are deciding, garnering more and more support for the proposal by talking to students in the school, emailing parents
9. Alice and I would hold a talk about the proposal at the Princeton Public Library to inform more people about it, hopefully gain more support
10. Wait for the vote and process. If it passes, awesome! We did it and made a huge difference in our own community. If not, we will not give up. We will make changes according to the objections or think about other ways to reduce plastic waste (reusable utensils, paper utensils, etc.)
  - a. If it does not pass, a plan would be to hold another meeting/debate at the library to see what the opposing side thinks and their reasoning, and go from there to try and make the proposal better
  - b. Then bring it up to administration again when it is much more likely to pass
11. Keep repeating this process until this proposal is passed at our school (legislative work is hard and grueling and repetitive, even at the school level, but this is important and we need to get it done!)

12. If it is successful, expand this “Sustainability Trust Fund” to other reusable items often found at schools as well, like plastic water bottles or snack bags. This could change the whole system!

- Who would you need to involve in the process?
  - Teachers & Administration of the school district, Principals, every student who'd like to have a voice in this, as well as parents
  - Companies that we want to collaborate with for the program (Ex: Williams Sonoma, To-Go Ware, etc.)
- What logistical details would you need to figure out?
  - How are we going to locate, pack up, and safely dispose of all the plastic utensils currently not being used?
  - Ways to allow every individual to have a voice in this process
  - Ways to inform students about the benefits of *bringing your own utensils*
  - How we are going to efficiently convince and get individuals to sign the petition
  - How is the administration going to pay for these funds? Can the company give us a discount? Do we need to do fundraising?
  - How do people sign up to get the reusable utensils from the program? How many can they receive if they lose 1, or 2?
- What are some potential barriers you might face?
  - Opposition from parents and teachers
  - Opposition from students who are seeking convenience
  - Reluctance from companies to help (hopefully not)
  - Administration saying that they cannot pay for this, budget too full
  - Not having an organized system to run the program
  - Not being able to locate and get rid of all the plastic utensils
- Is this project something you would consider implementing on campus?
  - Yes, it is something that we have actually been thinking about trying to petition for and implement at PHS.