

We did it before, so we can do it again.

Plastic pollutes the environment

- The plastic from our cafeteria is put into a trash can and then dumped.
- This creates toxic leachate that pollutes our environment.
- Otherwise, trash finds its way into bodies of water and finds its way to the ocean.
- Unfortunately, recycling plastic is not a solution.

The effects plastic has on your body

- Research shows that plastic is harming our bodies.
- Plastic contains more than 10,000 chemicals!
- When you eat food served in plastic, these chemicals cause severe effects on your body including: obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cell growth regulation cancers, neurodevelopment, cognitive learning, behavioral disorders, reproductive systems early puberty, infertility, and male birth defects.
- Humans eat about a credit card of microplastics a week or even more from our foods!

Reusables are much cheaper

Costs are estimates and may vary.

- The plastic in our cafeteria is way more expensive than reusable dishware.
- Single-use plastic is around **\$18,662.40 per year!** That is a steep price!
- Reusable utensils, plates, and bowls only cost **\$1,977.60**.
- Grants are available through Colorado Circular Communities to cover these one-time costs.
- The dishwasher costs **\$2,772.48 per year**. This is much less than the cost of single-use plastics.
- Hiring a dishwasher would provide someone with a job within our community.

18,662.40 > 2,772.48

Solutions

Replace single-use plastics with reusable kitchenware through local grants.

