Waste Management
Montclair Restaurants

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Our Goal:

➢ Implement sustainable practices into restaurants in Montclair, NJ
  ○ Single-use plastic reduction and food composting

➢ Reduce the carbon footprint of businesses in the Montclair community

➢ Inform businesses and individuals of the significance of these eco-friendly initiatives

➢ Bring awareness to Java’s Compost by getting businesses in Montclair to consider using their pickup services to eliminate landfill waste

➢ Small business leaders set an example for the community surrounding them and have the ability to educate by action
How? - Disposable versus Sustainable

➢ Reduction of single-use items:
  ○ Replace disposable items with reusable items
  ○ “Return-your-container” program

➢ Food Composting -- Java’s Compost:
  ○ Strictly pre-consumer/post-consumer waste
  ○ Staff training
  ○ Ads on public bulletin board throughout Montclair
Benefits of composting food waste

➢ Environmental benefit
  ○ Composting lowers methane and other GHG emissions by properly letting food waste decompose

➢ Landfill waste reduction

➢ Putting items grown from the Earth back into the ground
  ○ Compost pile provides nutrient rich soil to be used in gardens to provide for healthy plants

➢ Money saver
  ○ Reduces cost of weekly trash pickups and soil purchases

➢ Sustainable progress
  ○ A positive forward step in the future of the business and toward future sustainable prospects
Why? Convince Business Owners to think environmentally friendly

➢ To set an example for the community
  ○ Small business leaders have the ability to educate by action

➢ Positive influence
  ○ Patrons who might not be aware of sustainable initiatives then become aware of what is being implemented in their own neighborhood

➢ Education
  ○ Beneficial for families who can use positive changes to influence the lives of the children for their futures

➢ Positive reflection on local businesses
  ○ From community leaders, future patrons, schools, etc.
Challenges faced during COVID-19 era

➢ Lack of face-to-face interaction
  ○ Because of social distancing and quarantine causing business to close it halted progress

➢ Sanitation
  ○ New methods of bringing back reusable containers for takeout may be viewed with higher concern due to pandemic

➢ Increase of single-use disposables
  ○ Higher rates of disposables in the landfill/littered (example: high amount of PPE seen disposed of in public places)

➢ Pandemic is a pressing concern
  ○ Communities must keep themselves safe first and foremost
Future recommendations

➢ Persistence
  ○ Check-ins with restaurants to make sure they’re following through with their sustainable methods

➢ Encourage restaurants to commit to recyclable plastics
  ○ Typically plastics #1, #2, and #5

➢ Not all business will be willing to change their methods
  ○ What works best for their business

➢ Small progress is still progress!
Conclusions and final thoughts

➢ With businesses being closed, there is a chance for businesses to reopen to the public in a more sustainable light
➢ The younger generation is moving toward environmentally friendly methods of shopping, eating, and living as a whole so it would be beneficial for businesses to make these changes
➢ We believe that post-pandemic, the world will continue to care about sustainability initiatives and be able to take part in community efforts
➢ The environmentally friendly efforts Montclair has already made put the community in a good place to continue them post-pandemic
Acknowledgements

➢ Dr. Amy Tuininga, Athena Sarafides, and the staff of PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies
➢ Gray Russell, Montclair Sustainability Officer
➢ Michelle Bradley of Java’s Compost
➢ Maura Toomey of Clean Water Action & Clean Water Fund