

# **Waste Management**

## **Montclair Restaurants**

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Danielle Del Pesce and Jadelle Nunez

# 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