

BY AALOK BHATT

My name is Aalok Bhatt and I am a sophomore in Millburn High School, New Jersey, and an Eco Ambassador for the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at Earth Institute, Columbia University and SDSN program.

Miss. Priya Patel of the Millburn Green Team, asked me and another student to create a survey in order to get more information about the plastic consumption habits of students in our school.

The survey got a good response as 1082 students participated in it, which is over $\frac{2}{3}$ of the student body. To get such a high number of respondents, I had to put in a lot of effort to get the word out.

The first thing I did was to speak to all the class presidents to send out the survey. Unfortunately, I did not get enough responses so I decided to speak to the principal of MHS, Dr Miron, requesting him to send out the survey in a school wide email. He did so and even reminded students to fill out the survey on the loudspeaker 2 times!

While analyzing the results of the survey, I saw that 57.9% of respondents never bring reusable cutlery to school. I was shocked when I saw this statistic and realised that a lot of work needs to be done in terms of convincing students to bring their own cutlery, and persuade the school to provide less or no plastic cutlery.

In order to achieve this, I, along with members of the High School Environmental team, plan to speak to Dr Burton (the superintendent of Millburn Public Schools), and Mrs Schnider (who handles the school's finances) to lobby for reduced disposable cutlery in our school.

On a positive note, most of the results leaned to the environmentally friendly side, which gives me hope that we will be able to combat this problem in an expeditious manner.

Survey Results:

9:44



Done

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Plastic Use At Millburn High School

Questions Responses **1,071**

1,071 responses



Accepting responses

Summary

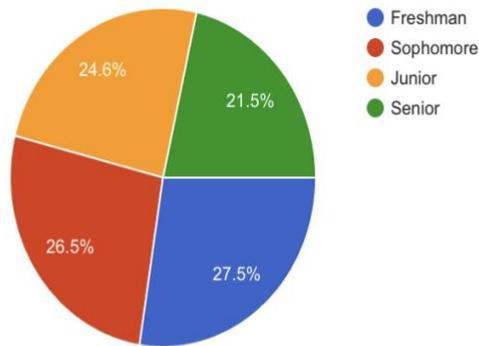
Question

Individual

What grade are you in?



1,071 responses



How often do you buy lunch at the school cafeteria?



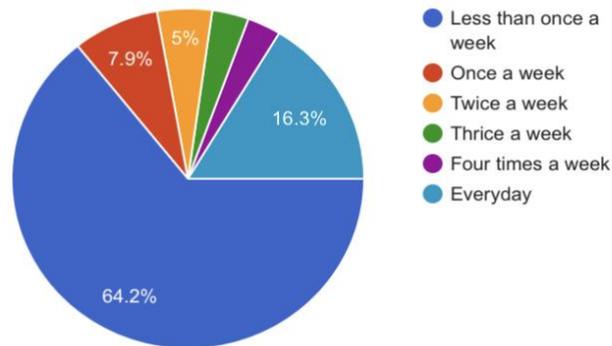


Plastic Use At Millburn High School

Questions Responses **1,071**

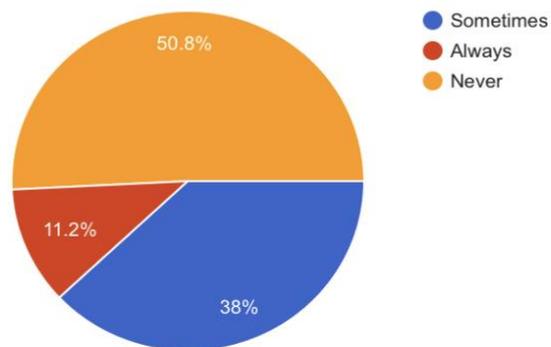
How often do you buy lunch at the school cafeteria?

1,071 responses



Do you use the plastic cutlery (spoons, forks, etc.) that is provided?

1,071 responses



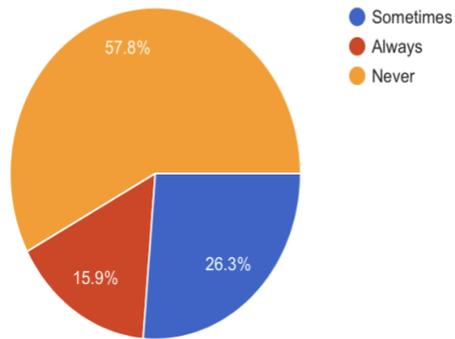


Plastic Use At Millburn High School

Questions Responses **1,071**

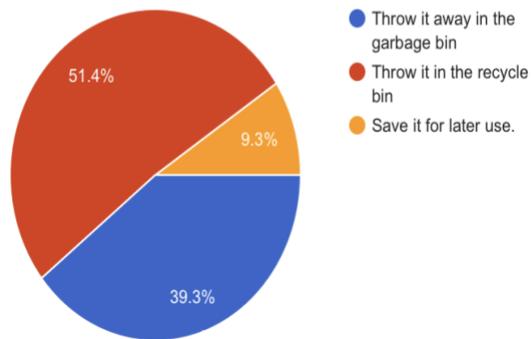
Do you bring reusable cutlery to school? 

1,071 responses



After you have finished using plastic items, what do you do with it?

1,071 responses





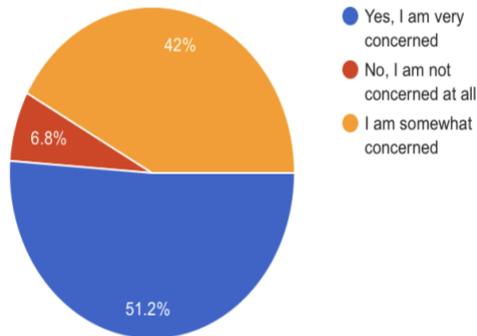
Plastic Use At Millburn High School

Questions **Responses** 1,071

Are you concerned about the impact that plastic has on our environment?

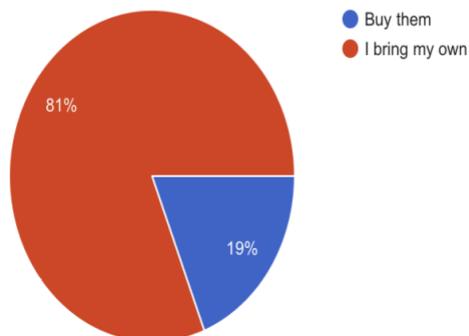


1,071 responses



Do you bring reusable water bottles to school or do you buy them in the school cafeteria?

1,051 responses



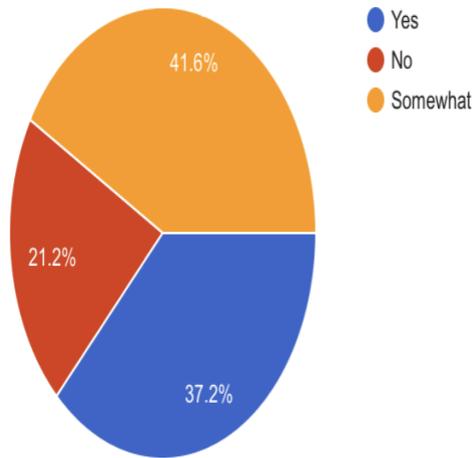


Plastic Use At Millburn High School

Questions Responses **1,071**

Do you think our school has a plastic problem?

1,071 responses



Do you think the school is responsible to solve this problem or the students?

1,067 responses





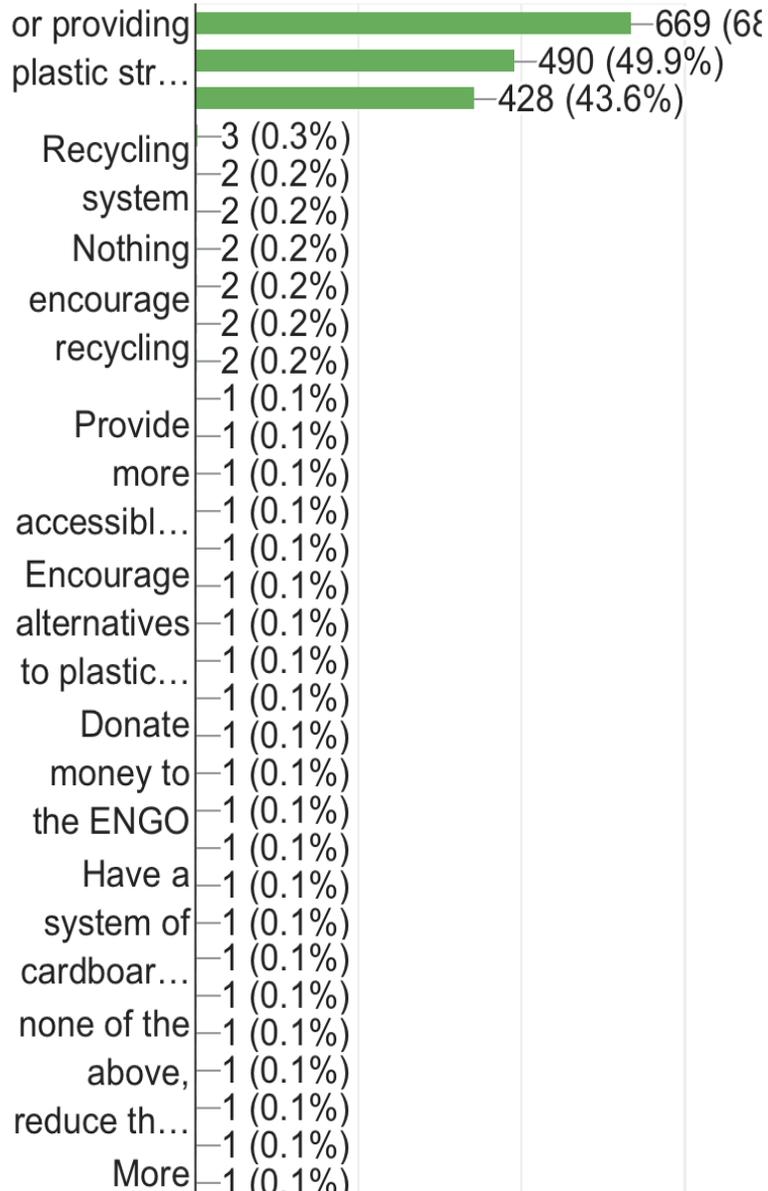
Plastic Use At Millburn High School

Questions Responses **1,071**

What do you think our school can do to tackle this problem?



982 responses





Plastic Use At Millburn High School

Questions Responses 1,071

Encourage	1 (0.1%)			
alternatives	1 (0.1%)			
to plastic...	1 (0.1%)			
Donate	1 (0.1%)			
money to	1 (0.1%)			
the ENGO	1 (0.1%)			
Have a	1 (0.1%)			
system of	1 (0.1%)			
cardboar...	1 (0.1%)			
none of the	1 (0.1%)			
above,	1 (0.1%)			
reduce th...	1 (0.1%)			
More	1 (0.1%)			
recycling	1 (0.1%)			
bins in th...	1 (0.1%)			
Start selling	1 (0.1%)			
metal	1 (0.1%)			
cutlery a...	1 (0.1%)			
Ill eat all	1 (0.1%)			
the plastic	1 (0.1%)			
straws	1 (0.1%)			
signs to	1 (0.1%)			
promote	1 (0.1%)			
this	1 (0.1%)			
enforce	1 (0.1%)			
recycling of	1 (0.1%)			
clean m...	1 (0.1%)			
Provide	1 (0.1%)			
awareness	1 (0.1%)			
and infor...	1 (0.1%)			



Plastic Use At Millburn High School

Questions Responses **1,071**

These wont	-1 (0.1%)		
help	-1 (0.1%)		
	-1 (0.1%)		
Everything	-1 (0.1%)		
Resuable	-1 (0.1%)		
none	-1 (0.1%)		
provide	-1 (0.1%)		
less plastic	-1 (0.1%)		
materials...	-1 (0.1%)		
get paper	-1 (0.1%)		
untensils	-1 (0.1%)		
and stra...	-1 (0.1%)		
genuinely	-1 (0.1%)		
create a	-1 (0.1%)		
recyclin...	-1 (0.1%)		
Maybe give	-1 (0.1%)		
out	-1 (0.1%)		
reusable...	-1 (0.1%)		
stop using	-1 (0.1%)		
so much	-1 (0.1%)		
paper	-1 (0.1%)		
N/A	-1 (0.1%)		
sell drinks	-1 (0.1%)		
like they do	-1 (0.1%)		
in McDon...	-1 (0.1%)		
sell them	-1 (0.1%)		
so that ppl	-1 (0.1%)		
bring thei...	-1 (0.1%)		
I thing	-1 (0.1%)		
these	-1 (0.1%)		

9:45



Done

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AA



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Questions Responses **1,071**

