W.16 In the lunch/break room, we have replaced disposables with permanent ware (mugs, dishes, utensils, etc.) and use refillable or bulk containers for sugar, salt & pepper, ketchup, etc. to avoid individual condiment packets.

Intent

The average American office worker uses about 500 disposable cups every year. If you buy just one cup of coffee or tea in a disposable cup every day, you’ll create about 23 pounds of waste in one year. Using refillable and bulk containers reduces the waste associated with individual packets.

Point Value

3 points

Instructions

How to replace disposables with reusables:
1. Determine what your most common dishware and individual use items are.
2. Invest in reusable alternatives and refillable dispensers or bulk containers.
3. Place them in a convenient location and inform office members of this location. Remind office members not to collect disposables and individual condiment packets when they pick up food, but rather to use the reusables at the office.

Resources

Penn Purchasing Services:
http://www.upenn.edu/sustainability/purchasing.html
http://www.purchasing.upenn.edu/social/green-purchasing.php
http://www.purchasing.upenn.edu/