



## Single-Use Plastic Lunch Survey

### Three Objectives

1. To count and record single-use plastics from school lunch at campaign launch (the baseline)
2. To count and record single-use plastics from lunch on one day during the Day of Action
3. To compare the baseline survey with the Day of Action data

### Time

4-8 hours for planning, preparation and activity

### Supplies

- **CARDBOARD BOXES** to collect and sort single-use plastic items
- Reusable **GLOVES** for participants
- **TONGS** to handle items (optional)
- **TARP** or dark coloured sheet to protect the floor and take photos
- **MARKER & PAPER** to make **SIGNS** for cardboard boxes
- **SURVEY DATA SHEET**
- **CLIPBOARDS PENS** or **PENCILS** to **RECORD DATA**
- **CAMERA** or **PHONE** to **RECORD DATA** and take **PHOTOS** or a **VIDEO**

### Survey Steps

1. **COLLECT** single-use plastics before disposal
2. **SORT** during or after **COLLECTION**
3. **COUNT** total items & items in each category
4. **COLLECTION DATA**
  - a. **TALLY AMOUNTS** on your **DATA SHEET**
  - b. Take **PHOTOS**
5. **TAKE ACTION** by writing to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and your Member of Parliament about banning single-use plastics
6. **SHARE** your **DATA** and **PHOTOS**

## Preparation

1. **START** with a walk about the class or lunch room(s) before the survey day to **OBSERVE** and think about any **PREPARATION NEEDED**
2. **MEET** with teacher, principal, or custodians to **GET APPROVAL** for the project and **SET A DATE**
3. Plan a **SORTING STATION** to collect **SINGLE-USE PLASTICS** (ask students to deposit only single-use plastics in COLLECTION box)
4. **MONITOR STUDENT(S)** can help students decide what goes in the COLLECTION box

## Survey Day

Before Lunch	During Lunch	After Lunch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set up SORTING STATION with labelled boxes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor students can guide students to the sorting station before they leave the room</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lay out the tarp on the floor and re-sort items into categories and subcategories</li><li>• Record counts on the Data Sheet</li></ul>

## Take Photos! 📷

- **GROUP** the items by category
- **PHOTOGRAPH** categories first (e.g. straws, milk cartons, yogurt cups, etc.), then photograph the entire **COLLECTION**
  - Note the **PHOTO ANGLE** (shoot photo from above)
- Turn products to show **BRAND LOGOS**



## Clean Up

- **PICK UP** all items and put them in the appropriate waste, recycling or compost bins
- **REMOVE** the tarp and clean the floor
- Check with the **CUSTODIANS** to ensure **CLEAN UP** is finished
- **THANK** your custodians



## Repeat Survey during the Day of Action Against Single-use Plastics

- **REPEAT** the **SURVEY** steps
- **COMPARE** with baseline **DATA** from first survey
- **SUBMIT** your data via [our online form](#)
- Use your **PHOTOS** and **DATA** to prepare a report for students, teachers and the local **PRESS MEDIA**



## Take Action with your School Community

- Discuss how to permanently eliminate these single-use plastic items
- Conduct 1) a **Baseline Survey** and 2) a **Day of Action survey** to compare the number of single-use plastics items from each survey.
- Share **before** and **after** numbers with your school community to inspire school-wide change
- Make a poster with drawings, photos, and compelling data
- Make a short video
- Present data and outcomes in morning announcements or school assembly
- Prepare a letter to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and your Member of Parliament, including photos from Survey Action and your poster
  - Ask other students to sign the letter too
- **Share** a copy of your letter, poster and video with **Friends of the Earth Canada** ([foe@foecanada.org](mailto:foe@foecanada.org))

## Terminology

- ★ **Single-use plastic:** a plastic item or packaging that is used once and then thrown away
- ★ **Survey:** a collection of facts
- ★ **Baseline data:** data or a count that is collected before the Day of Action in order to consider the change in behaviour during Day of Action
- ★ **Data sheet:** paper or electronic form to gather your counts and descriptions



This survey has been adapted from Cafeteria Culture, with thanks!



Friends of the Earth  
Les Ami(e)s de la Terre



## Single-Use Plastic Lunch Survey Data Sheet

<b>School:</b>		<b>Teacher/Grade:</b>	
<b>Lunch Period(s):</b>		<b>Number of Students:</b>	
<b>Date of Baseline Survey:</b>		<b>Date of Day of Action Survey:</b>	
What single-use plastics are in your lunch?		Baseline Survey	Day of Action Survey
1. # of plastic bags (baggies, ziplocks, store bags, other)			
2. # of plastic packets (soy, mayo, ketchup, jam, honey)			
3. # of plastic drinking cups			
4. # of plastic utensils (spoon, fork, spork, knife) <i>*count wrappers separately</i>			
5. # of plastic straws <i>*count wrappers separately</i>			
6. # of plastic wrappers (utensils, straw, other wrapper)			
7. # of plastic milk cartons (single serve)			
8. # of plastic juice boxes or pouches <i>*count straws and wrappers separately</i>			
9. # of plastic drink bottles (water, soda, sport drink, other)			
10. # of plastic lids and caps			
11. # of plastic prefilled food cups (pudding, applesauce, fruit, yogurt, jello, other)			
12. # of plastic squeeze pouches			
13. # of chips, snack bags, candy wrappers			
14. # of plastic snack packs (cheese sticks, cheese or crackers, other)			
15. #			
16. #			
17. #			
<b>TOTAL # of SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ITEMS</b>			