
**TEAM PLASTIC POLICY
IMPLEMENTATION 2022**

Assessment of Cost Implications and Student Reactions Towards Fiber-Based Disposable Utensils in UCLA Dining



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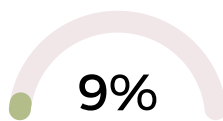
UCLA Single-Use Plastics Policy

Under the policy, by January 1, 2021, all foodservice locations are to comply with the policy and ensure they are using reusable or locally compostable foodservice accessory items.

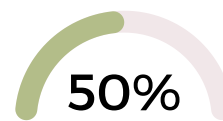
The **Single-Use Plastics Policy** webpage on UCLA Sustainability's website has helpful information and resources to facilitate compliance with the policy.



THE UTENSILS CURRENTLY USED AT UCLA DINING ARE MADE OF POLYLACTIC ACID (PLA), WHICH IS NO LONGER COMPOSTABLE BY ATHENS SERVICES, UCLA'S WASTE HAULER.



OF ALL PLASTIC
PRODUCED HAS
BEEN RECYCLED



OF ALL PLASTIC
WASTE IS SINGLE-
USE

Methods

OUR GOAL WAS TO COLLECT HONEST STUDENT FEEDBACK ABOUT THE FIBER-BASED UTENSILS THAT WE FOUND TO BE COMPLIANT WITH THE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC POLICY.

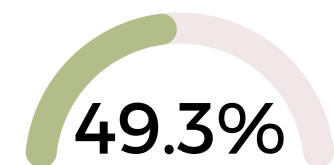


- 1 Obtained purchasing records and analyzed data to obtain cost per utensil
- 2 Distributed fiber-based utensils at Rendezvous
- 3 Asked participants to fill out a survey to offer their feedback on the utensils

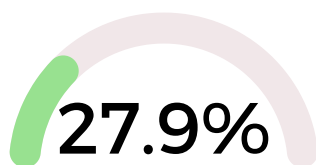
Results

WHAT WE FOUND

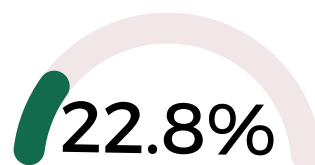
OUT OF 125 PARTICIPANTS,



SAID THEY PREFER
THE FIBER-BASED
UTENSILS

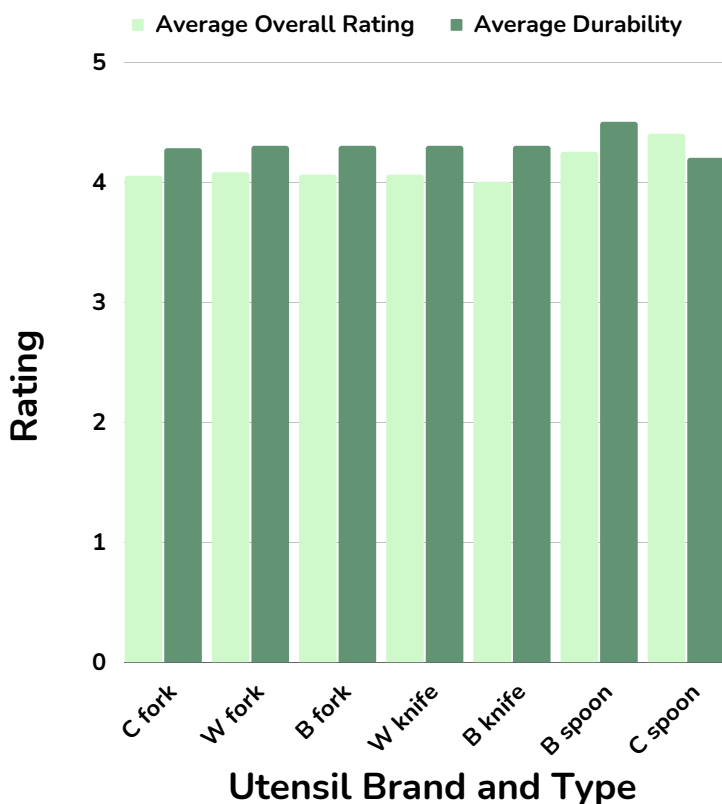


SAID THEY PREFER
PERSONAL REUSABLE
UTENSILS



SAID THEY PREFER
THE CURRENT PLA
UTENSILS

Average Overall Rating and Average Durability

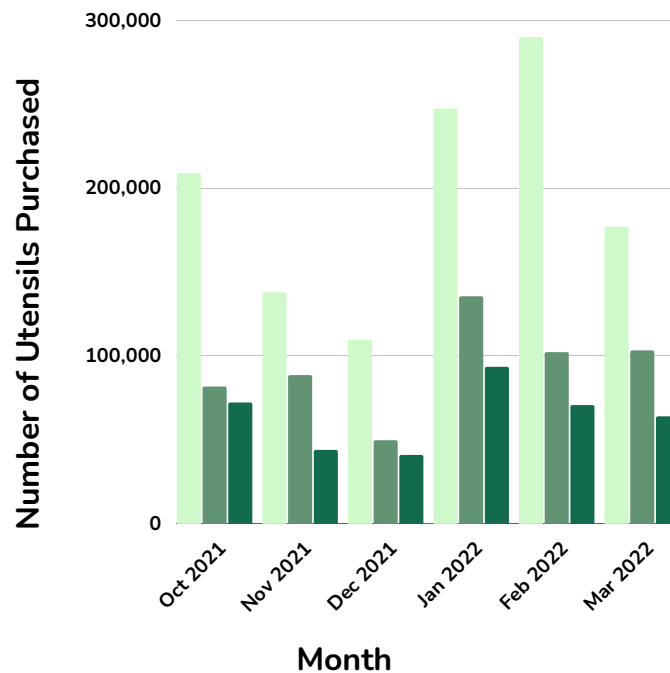


OUT OF A SCALE OF 1-5
WITH 5 BEING THE
BEST OVERALL OR
MOST DURABLE, ALL OF
OUR FIBER-BASED
SAMPLES GOT A
RATING OF 4 OR
HIGHER.

Results

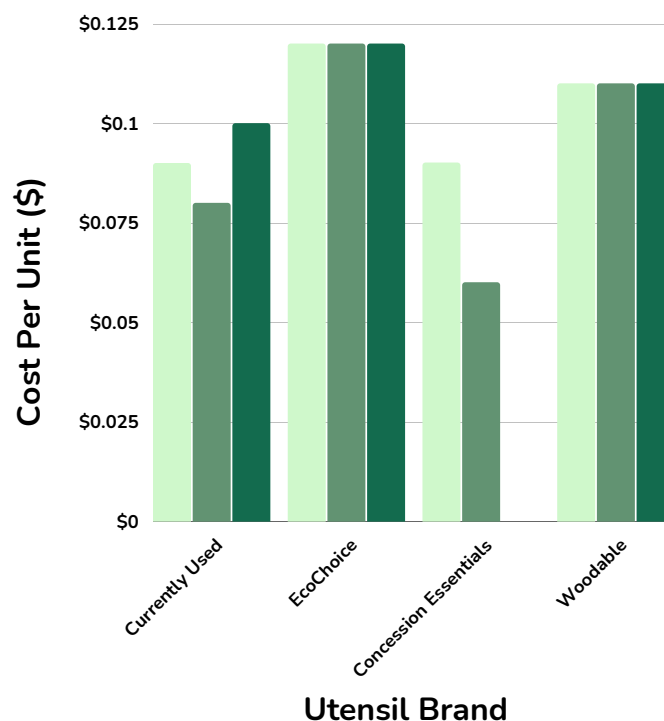


Total Monthly Utensils Purchased by Type



FORKS WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT UTENSIL AS THEY WERE BOUGHT IN THE HIGHEST QUANTITY.

Per Unit Utensil Prices By Brand



THE PER UNIT PRICES OF THE VARIOUS FIBER-BASED UTENSILS ARE COMPETITIVE WHEN COMPARED TO THE CURRENTLY USED PLA UTENSILS.

Recommendations

How can UCLA facilitate the transition to utensils that are compliant with the UCLA Single-Use Plastics Policy?

Based off our research and survey responses, we recommend UCLA Dining and Housing to...

- ✦ **Work with IFS to switch to purchasing fiber-based disposable utensils instead of PLA utensils**
- ✦ **Look into bulk discounts associated with each utensil option**
- ✦ **Investigate a reusable utensil program on the Hill**
- ✦ **Look into other alternative packaging materials for the Hill which comply with the UCLA Single-Use Plastics Policy**


We recommend this investigation to be conducted throughout the school year in order to stay up to date on the available options on the market.

Contact Us!

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