

Guidelines for “The Plastic Crisis” Presentation:

Elevator Speech:

The Ocean Conservancy lists plastic utensils as being one of the most deadly items to sea turtles, birds, and mammals. They also take centuries to break down. A more sustainable and eco-friendly way to dine is to boycott all single use plastic utensils and to carry your own reusable utensils.

Full guideline of the poster:

Cutlery-A History

- Cutlery was originally made of wood or stone
- Stainless steel made an appearance in the early 1900s
- Plastic had worked its way into the mix by World War II

“Throw-Away Culture”

- Plastic utensils were first considered reusable
- The post-war economy boom caused the development of a “throw-away culture”
- The combination of culture and convenience then led large companies to single-use plastic utensil options as well
 - Today, Sodexo alone buys 44 million disposable utensils PER MONTH

The Cost of Convenience

Reference the photos

Photo 1: beach polluted by single use plastics

Photo 2: sea turtle with a plastic fork in his nostril

Photo 3: pic of plastic fork after it was removed

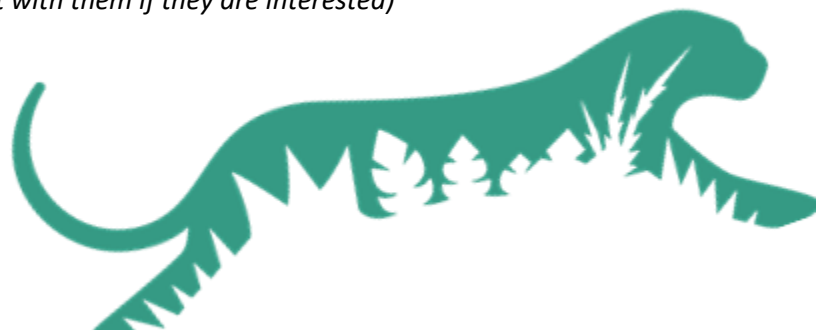
- Like many plastic items, utensils tend to end up in the environment
- Utensils can take centuries to break down naturally
- The Ocean Conservancy lists plastic utensils as being one of the most deadly items to sea turtles, birds, and mammals

Photo 4: top 10 most common plastic items found on beaches (utensils are on this list)

How can you help?

1. Carry reusable utensils
2. If you are using disposable utensils, make sure they are biodegradable
3. Choose to eat at establishments that do not use plastic utensils
4. Take time to consider what products actually are single use and which ones can be used more than once

Photo 5: Tips for living with less plastic (go through it with them if they are interested)



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How Can You Help?

1. Carry reusable utensils.
2. If you are using disposable utensils, makes sure they are biodegradable or compostable.
3. Choose to eat at establishments that do not use plastic utensils.
4. Take time to consider what products actually are single use and which ones can be used more than once.

