

Sustainability Update: Waste Audit Leads to Action

In March, Jesuit's Environmental Science classes conducted our annual waste audit. Students sampled garbage cans from around campus and sorted the contents. This year's trash audit focused particularly on waste from the cafeteria:

- Of the 66% garbage, almost 41% could have been prevented with the use of durable dishware in the cafeteria
- Over 5% of the garbage sampled was plastic utensils, straws, lids or cups.

Based on this information, Jesuit's Green Team chose the theme "*Plastic, Not So Fantastic*" for the theme of Green Week in April. During this week, the Green Team students challenged their classmates to bring reusable utensils, switch to reusable containers and skip chips and snacks packaged in individual wrappers.

As you head into summer, consider ways you and your family can reduce your plastic footprint at home as well. Perhaps you could do a family trash audit, or simply choose to swap out a disposable plastic item for something reusable such as a metal straws, bamboo utensils or silicone bags.

Don't forget – Jesuit offers even more recycling through programs like TerraCycle and Crayola Color Cycle. You can drop your recyclable items off throughout the summer in the collection bins located in the Knight Lobby or the Commons. [Click here for a full list of items you can recycle at JHS.](#)



Left: Senior Daphne Moore shows an uneaten sandwich in a plastic bag found in our trash audit. Right: Contact lens blister packs and markers are just two of the many items you can recycle at JHS.