

SP and Ashdown Go Green!

Sustainable Eating Habits Proposal

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Outline

- Introduction to Houses
- Motivation and Initiative goals
- Sustainability Proposal
- Assessment methods, metrics of success

Sidney Pacific and Ashdown House

Graduate residences

- 550, 650 residents
- Designated officers for events and initiatives
- Specific sustainability officers

Strong track record

- Run 100's of events per year
- Impact students across campus
- History of environmental initiatives

Motivation: End disposables waste, influence habits

- World generates ~400 million tons of plastic/year
- 79% ends up in landfills
- Plates/utensils major source
- ***We contribute to this!***
- Lack of clear system → maximum waste + contaminated compost



See: <https://www.kqed.org/lowdown/29456/how-plastics-took-over-the-world-and-created-an-environmental-mess-a-brief-disposable-history>
<https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/7/e1700782>

Initiative Goals

- 1) No disposables starting *this semester*
- 2) Serve non-residents without:
 - a) Generating excess waste
 - b) Decreasing attendance
- 3) Help residents acquire sustainable habits in every-day life



Pilot project

Initiative:

Distribute tupperware + cutlery set

Motivation:

- Ashdown and SidPac events have campuswide reach
- SidPac plate gift in past → decline in disposables usage



Project details

Coordinated effort between SidPac and Ashdown



Estimated cost: \$5,758.50

Breakdown: **\$3.49/unit** x **1650** units

Distribution:

- 500-650 to SP residents
- 400-550 to Ashdown residents
- Rest for other event attendees (non-residents)

Timeline of Initiative

October 2019:

- Take baseline data
- Spread sustainability messaging
- Order compostables

November 2019:

- Vote
- Order plate/cutlery sets
- SP Hall Counselors and Ashdown Floor Officers distribute to residents

November-December 2019

New rule at events:

- SP and Ashdown **residents must bring own plate/utensils**
- Outside residents can collect set *only* with promise to use 10x
- Compostable plates for everyone else

Spring 2020

- Continue to evaluate use, impact

June 2020

- Final online survey
- Assess long-term habit changes
- Report final results to GSC

Program Assessment

Central hypothesis: This program will **decrease plastic/disposable eatware waste** at MIT.

Reusables will get **non-SP/Ashdown residents bringing their own plates/utensils.**

- Fraction of non-SP/Ashdown students who bring their own plates/utensils to events
- Take attendance, show participation doesn't suffer

Decreased disposable waste at events.

- Assess waste after events:
- How much plastic trash?
 - Is compost contaminated?

SP and Ashdown residents **learn about sustainability.**

- Student survey:
- Understand importance of reusables?
 - In the habit of using them?
 - Ideas for improvements?

Summary

Goal: push forward culture of sustainability on campus

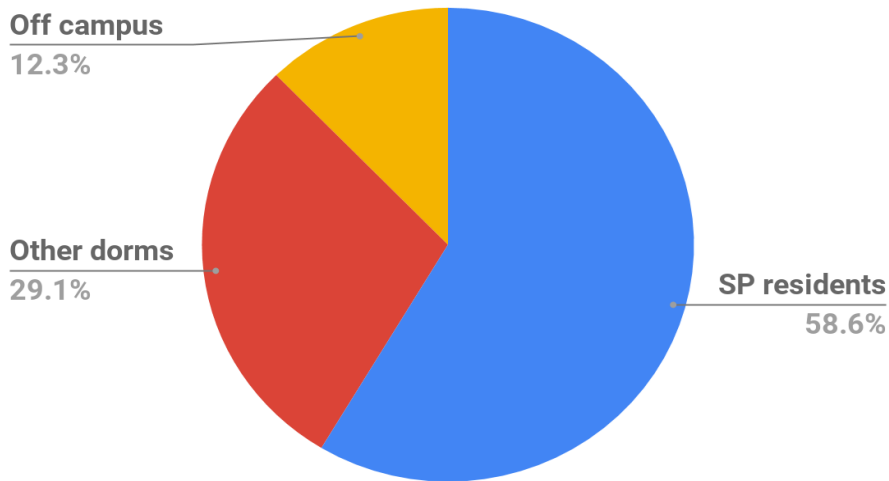
- Important moment in campus sustainability
- Graduate students can and should take a leadership role
- Two houses that make up 15% of grad students have joined forces to make MIT more sustainable
- Pilot project: tupperware/cutlery sets in SidPac and Ashdown

Thank you!

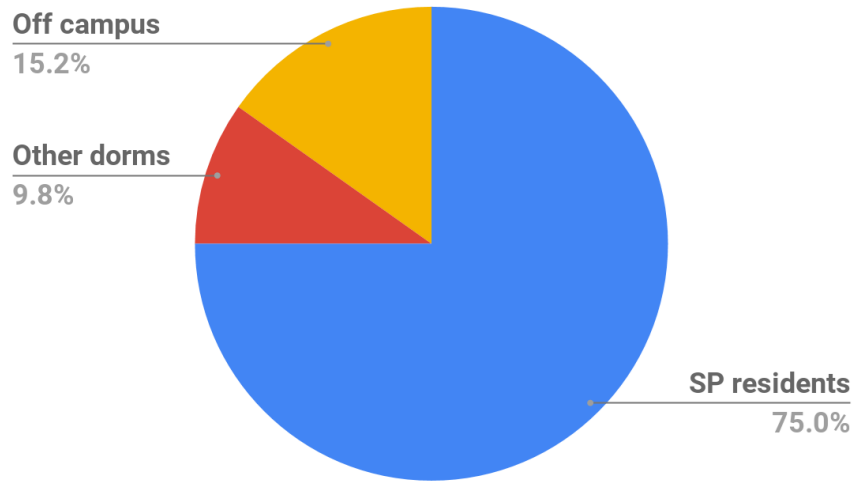
Questions

Sidney Pacific Graduate Residence (SidPac/SP)

Recent Brunch (162 attendees surveyed)

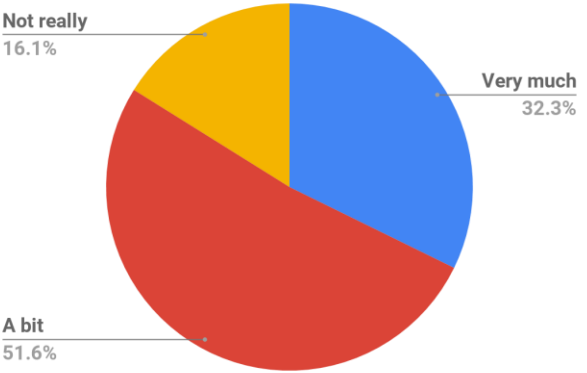


Recent Coffee Hour (72 attendees surveyed)

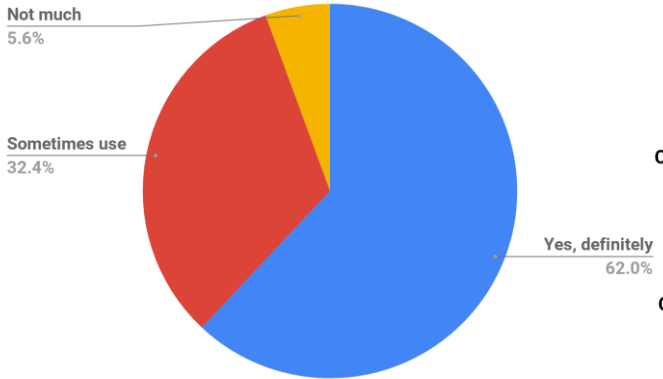


SP Resident Survey

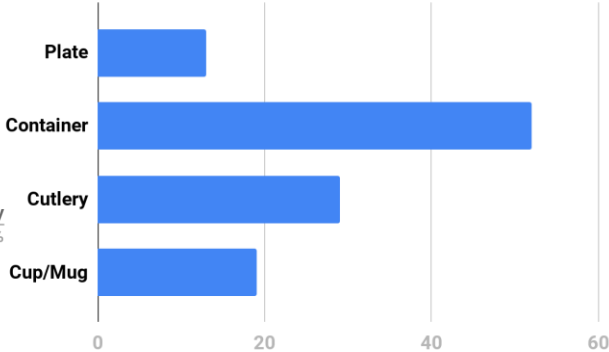
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>IMPLEMENTATION</u>	
Did the 2018 resident gift of SPlates make you more aware of sustainable habits?	How would you feel about a gift of reusable plate/container/cutlery/mug? This would be something portable, which you could carry with you.	Please select the reusable and portable item(s) which would most encourage you to adopt more sustainable habits and practices in your daily activities.



62 respondents



71 respondents



71 respondents

SidPac Environment Office 2019-2020

Goals

- Educate residents
- Encourage sustainable habits
- Build environmentally active and engaged community
- Serve as a testbed for dorm- and campus-wide initiatives

Specific waste disposal initiatives

EDUCATION

- New informative posters around dorm
- Talk at orientation floor meetings

IMPLEMENTATION

- SP GREEN
- Reusables at coffee hours, other events

COLLABORATION

- Coordinate with other SidPac officers
- GSC Sustainability, MIT Recycling