SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING

THE BEGINNING OF A LONG DISCUSSION

The Pros and Cons of Alternatives

Regional School District No. 18
November 2019

CURRENT PROGRAM

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Re-usable hard, plastic trays for daily service
- Polystyrene (not Styrofoam) Foam trays in emergencies
- Plastic utensils
- Paper Napkins
- Plastic straws are available upon request

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- Waxed paper "Boats" for entrees and side dishes
- Plastic utensils
- Paper Napkins
- Plastic straws are available upon request

Question — what happens to any item once it is discarded? Is it incinerated? Recycled? Composted? Buried in a landfill?

SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

Food and beverage packaging alternatives

- Polystyrene non foamed products
- Paper and molded fiber products
- Bio-based, compostable plastics
- Aluminum Products
- Glass
- Re-usable ceramic, glass and plastic items

There is no easy answer!

HOW TO ASSESS THE ALTERNATIVES?

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WE ARE TRYING TO SOLVE?

- Preference not to use any "Styrene" products?
- Overall Litter and marine debris?
- Increase recycling?
- Increase diversion?
- Protect public health?
- Reduce Environmental Impacts? Acidification, carcinogens, ecotoxicity, eutrophication, global warming, other pollutants, ozone depletion, respiratory effects, smog, fossil fuel depletion, Global Water Footprint or Reduce Carbon Footprint
- **Promote Green Design?** Waste prevention, material efficiency, avoid hazardous material, maximize energy efficiency, use renewable resources, design for recycle or to use local resources

QUICK ENVIRONMENTAL QUIZ

How many cups of water does it take to brew a single cup of coffee?

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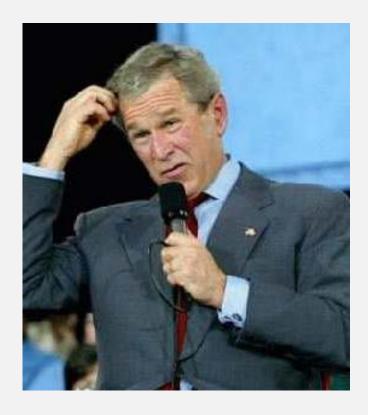
Answer: Over 240 cups of water

- From irrigation on the coffee plantation to processing the beans and then brewing your single cup of morning coffee
- Now consider the fertilizers and pesticides used...
- Now consider the type of cup you are using: paper, ceramic or foam?
- Now consider how far that coffee bean traveled using fossil fuels...
- Now consider the electricity used to roast the bean and then brew this single cup of coffee.

SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING DEFINITIONS

- Is beneficial, safe and healthy for individuals & communities throughout its life cycle;
- Meets market criteria for performance and cost;
- Is capable of being produced indefinitely by the planet;
- Is sourced, manufactured, transported and recycled using renewable energy;
- Maximizes the use of renewable or recycle source materials;
- Is manufactured using clean production technologies and best practices;
- Is made from material healthy in all probably end of life scenarios;
- Is physically designed to optimize materials and energy;
- Is effectively recovered and utilized in biological and/or industrial cradle to cradle cycles

ARE YOU CONFUSED?



Huh? Just tell me which package is better!

WE RECOMMEND A FOCUS GROUP

A focus group can review all categories of sustainable alternatives and develop the preferred program.