

Dear Westfield Businesses,

Thank you for being such a big part of our wonderful downtown. Having so many fantastic eating establishments makes Westfield a place to go for so many people who work and live in the surrounding areas.

Did you know that the vast majority of people who order “to go” eat their meals at home or in an office? And that, when asked, a large number of those people report not using the single use plastic utensils that they are given when they purchase takeout? In fact, they report not wanting the items.

Giving customers unneeded single use items not only wastes resources, but it costs restaurants. While it may only be a few cents per order, that adds up quickly, especially in a business with tight margins.

Westfield’s Green Team is working with the town to explore whether we want to introduce a town-wide “Skip the Stuff” campaign. “Skip The Stuff” is a policy otherwise known as “accessories upon request” which reduces waste by ensuring that restaurant takeout orders do not automatically include single-use accessories such as plastic utensils, straws, condiments, and napkins. Under a “Skip the Stuff” policy, these items are included only upon request (a.k.a “opt-in”) by the customer. New York City recently enacted legislation to “Skip the Stuff” as have Cranford and Maplewood. Delivery services such as Uber Eats and Grubhub have also adapted their platforms.

We’d value your time to complete the attached brief google form about your current practices. Before we launch a community education campaign, it would help us to first understand the business practices of our local restaurants.

Thank you in advance for your time and insights.

Westfield’s Green Team