



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Environmental Committee

FROM: Diane Borske, Manager of Support Services
Mario Plata, Dining Services Manager

DATE: 3/27/2023

RE: Dining Services – Cafeteria Packaging Study

The three cafeterias on the DuPage County campus have historically used foam, single use food containers and cups to serve our customers. Foam containers and cups are readily available from our vendors and have been the most cost-effective product. The foam products hold food temperatures well; however, they are not friendly to our environment.

The current trend toward sustainability and guidance from our DuPage County Board members have prompted the Dining Services team to review more sustainable options. Supply chain issues and very high costs were significant issues in prior reviews. Over the past 6 months the supply chain has shown improvement and sustainable product costs have gone down. At the same time, the cost of foam containers and cups have gone up more than twofold since the start of the pandemic. Last week the Illinois House passed legislation that would phase out foam products for retail establishments. If passed by the Senate and signed by the Governor, this ban will take effect on January 1, 2024.

The Dining Services Department has been trialing an alternative recyclable clear plastic (#5) container. The proposed containers maintain temperatures well, allow for better food presentation and improve efficiency during the checkout process. Styrofoam cups will be changed to paper hot and cold cups.

The following charts compare the cost of the foam products that have been used versus the proposed sustainable alternatives. The alternative recyclable products will increase the Department's costs by 35%.

Current Supplies	Price/Case	Price/Each
Container, 9x9" foam, 150 ct.	\$27.22	\$0.18
Container, 6x6" foam, 2/75 ct.	\$61.54	\$0.12
Bowl, 10 oz. foam, 20/50 ct.	\$64.24	\$0.06
Lid for foam bowl, 10/100 ct.	\$38.41	\$0.04
Cup, 20 oz. foam, 20/25 ct.	\$40.30	\$0.08
Lid for foam cup, 12/85 ct.	\$115.14	\$0.11

Proposed Supplies	Price/Case	Price/Each
Container, 8x8" clear plastic, 2/75 ct.	\$40.04	\$0.27
Container, 6x6" clear plastic, 4/75 ct.	\$50.97	\$0.17
Bowl, 8 oz paper w/ plastic lid, 10/25 ct.	\$62.73	\$0.25
Cup, 20 oz paper hot, 15/40 ct.	\$81.95	\$0.14
Cup, 20 oz paper cold poly-coated, 24/50 ct.	\$128.84	\$0.11
Lid for hot cup, 12/85 ct.	\$43.40	\$0.04
Lid for cold cup, 12/100 ct.	\$67.98	\$0.06
Sleeve for hot cup, 1300 ct.	\$58.01	\$0.04

The FY2023 budget for Dining Services Operating Supplies is \$117,503. Based on the current prices, a 35% increase for more sustainable supplies would require an additional \$41,126 annually.

The Dining Services team is looking for guidance from the County Board on the proposed products and the correlating increase in cost.

It is the goal of the DuPage Care Center to provide the highest quality of services to our customers, while being good stewards to our environment.

Thank you for your consideration and guidance.