



SSIO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GUIDELINES FOR PLASTIC ALTERNATIVES

These guidelines should be adjusted to take account of local cultural, financial and technical differences

Identify current plastic use

- Plates, cups, bowls
- Cutlery
- Take away containers
- Bottled water
- Drink containers (cups, bottles)
- Straws
- Tea bags and tea packages
- Stirrers
- Plastic cling wrap
- Plastic wrapping around fruit, vegetables, nuts, napkins, paper towels, etc.
- Table cloths
- Grocery bags
- Plastic bags, sandwich bags
- Storage containers
- Name tag holders and pens
- Flowers and candles that are plastic wrapped
- Packaging of other items (including Styrofoam)

Identify which items to replace

1. **Identify which of the items from the first list can be replaced, consider the following:**
 - Avoid using all single-use plastic items.
 - Compostable or reusable items such as glass and metal.
 - Cloth alternatives.
 - Plastic recycling.
 - Use tap water or filtered water.
 - Purchase flowers and candles without plastic wrapping.
 - Collection for reusable items (e.g. name tag holders).
2. **Create clean facilities for reusable items:**
 - Transport and carefully store reusable items.
 - Use cardboard boxes.

Make the effort

- Implement Respect, Refuse, Reduce, Re-use, Recycle.
- Resolve to eliminate all single use plastic items.
- Share responsibility.
- Raise awareness and be an example.
- Source and purchase new items that contain no/less plastic or plastic packaging.
- Consider buying alternatives in bulk at regional level to provide to Sathya Sai Centres and Groups.
- Encourage people to bring their own items – such as a Green Kit with a plate, cutlery and cup.
- Clean up plastics from the areas you use.
- Purchase or make cloth bags.
- Recycle plastic items.
- Recycle all cans and bottles.
- Share your success.

**Refer to Protect the Planet –
Suggestions for Plastic Reduction at Centres**
<http://www.sathyasai.org/ya/serve-the-planet-2017>