



# Plastic Free Campus?

## Implementing an eco-friendly campus at Longwood University



Megan Curry, Jonah Hottinger, Aliyah Panizzi, & Natalie Wood  
Biology 488  
Longwood University

### Introduction

- Unfortunately, it has become the norm to use plastic, but with that comes a price: contribution to plastic waste and pollution.
- Roughly 4.4 pounds of trash is produced per person per day, estimating Longwood students produce 21,608 pounds of trash each day (Leahy, 2018).
- University of Virginia works with Black Bear composting to collect organic materials and other compostable items (UVA, 2020).



Biodegradable



Compostable



Recyclable

- Our idea is to replace the plastic cups given to freshman/transfer students with eco-friendly reusable bottles.
- This idea will cut costs on the need for single use plastic material as well as implement a conscious mind to the students and faculty at Longwood University.

### Timeline

Total time: 6 months to allow for all steps to be completed and to account for unexpected delays

SGA meeting and approval: 2-4 months

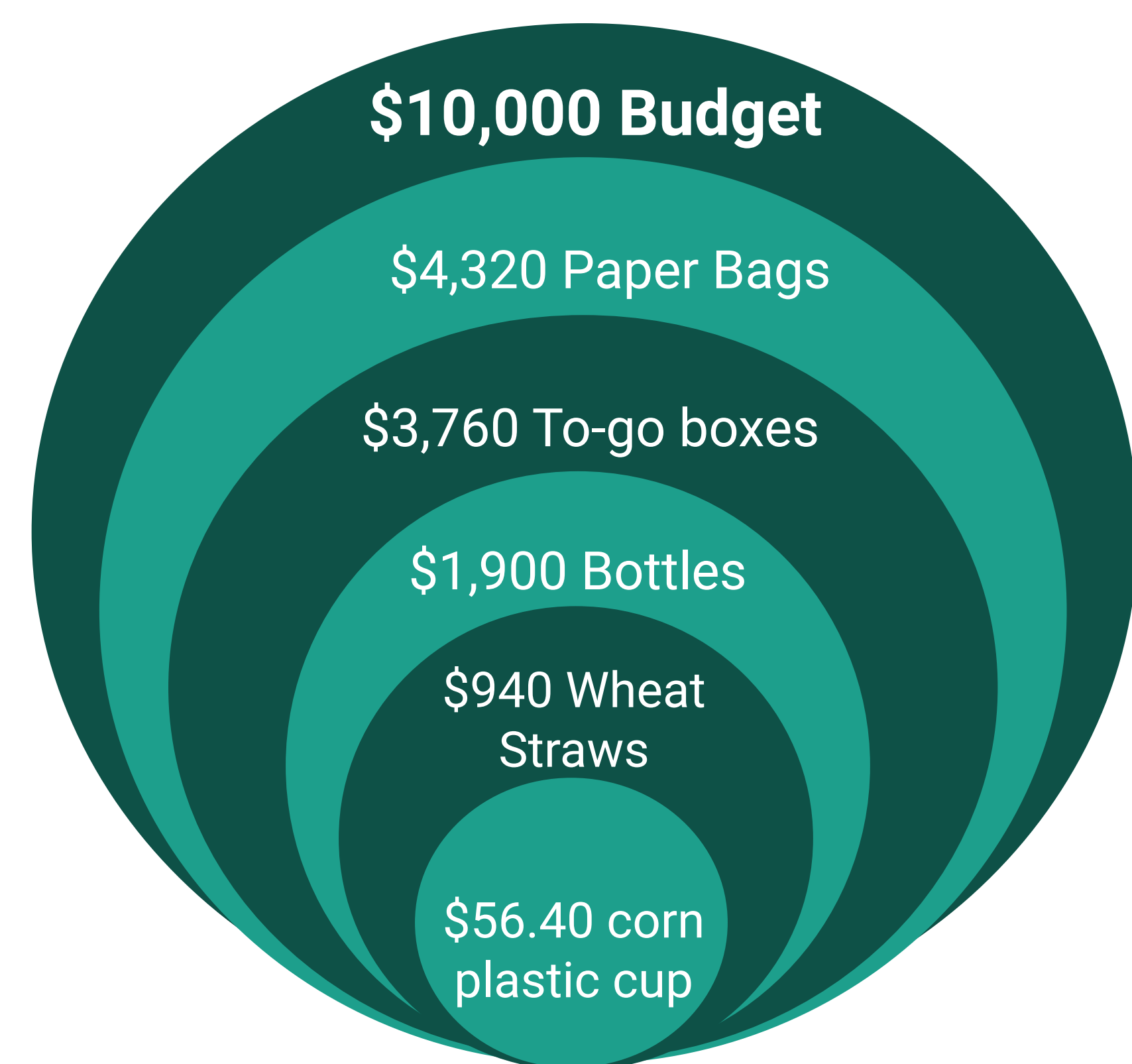
Ordering and delivery of plastic alternative products: 2 months

Dispersal of products to students and restaurants: 2 weeks

### Overall Aim

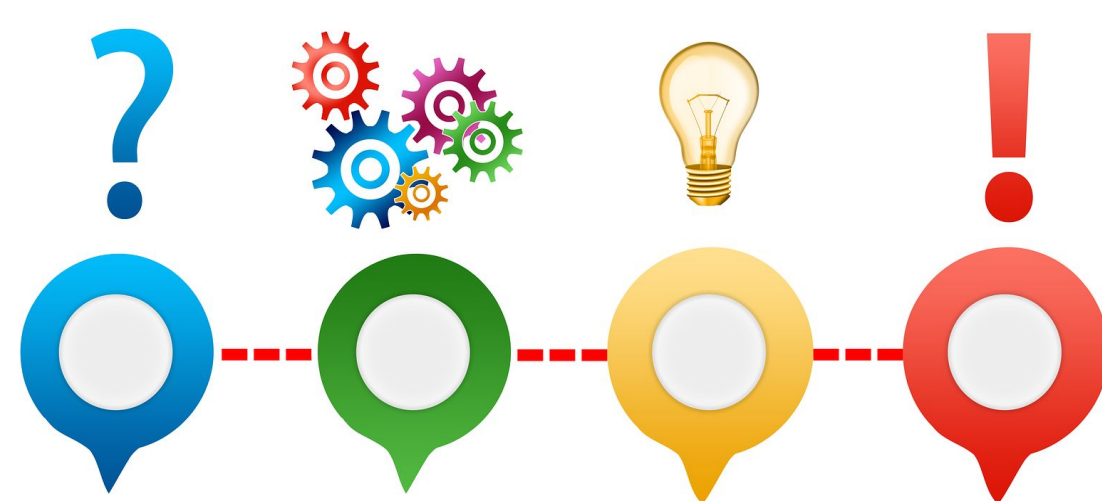
- We want to make Longwood University an environmentally safer campus by decreasing the amount of plastic waste it produces.
- Our plan is to replace new lancer day plastic cups with reusable bottles, offering a reward system after every 10 uses.
- We also plan to replace single use items such as plastic bags, cups, to go boxes, and straws with biodegradable material.

### Budget



### Assess the Issues

- **Problem 1: Students not using the bottles**
  - Hold seminars
  - Reevaluate incentive
  - Remind students of incentive and contributions
- **Problem 2: SGA questions how the project benefits Longwood**
  - Do further research
  - Draw positive attention to Longwood
  - Make Longwood more aesthetically pleasing
- **Problem 3: Budget could cost more**
  - Research companies
  - Meet with SGA
  - Fundraise for the project



### Conclusion

- There are many ways that Longwood can implement friendly ideas to reduce plastic waste.
- Here we have introduced some of the ways we believe will work for students and Longwood to become environmentally friendly.
- Our overall goal is to cut waste as well as instil conscious actions for both students and staff of Longwood University.

### Action Plan

- Replace the original plastic cups given out with reusable bottles
- Implement an incentive
- Every 10 uses = a free drink
- Monitor the students uses by giving out a punch card
- Implement that Longwood start using non-plastic utensils

### References

- Leahy., S. 2018. How People Make Only a Jar of Trash a Year. *National Geographics*.
- UVA. 2020. Composting. *UVA Sustainability*.  
<https://sustainability.virginia.edu/programs/composting>