

# B.R.2019.01

CHOOSE TO REUSE INITIATIVE

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## STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

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CO-SPONSORED BY: THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD AND THE SOOS (STUDENT  
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY)

2 APRIL 2019

INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION; WHICH WAS READ FOR THE FIRST TIME.

9 APRIL 2019

READ THE SECOND TIME AND VOTED ON.

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## A RESOLUTION

TO REDUCE DISPOSABLE CONTAINER CONSUMPTION ON PITT'S CAMPUS

- 1 WHEREAS, over 235,000 single-use disposable containers are used  
2 at the University of Pittsburgh every month, none of  
3 which are recyclable because of food contamination;
- 4 WHEREAS, the Pitt Sustainability Plan has set a goal to serve 50%  
5 of all to-go meals in reusable containers by 2025;
- 6 WHEREAS, decreasing disposable container usage by 50% would  
7 reduce the university's landfill waste by 7 tons/month  
8 and carbon dioxide emissions by 25 metric tons/month;
- 9 WHEREAS, Pitt's BYO[Bag] program serves as a model for  
10 reducing packaging waste, proven effective through a  
11 single-use disposable bag fee of \$0.25 which has led to  
12 a 98% reduction in single-use bag consumption on  
13 campus, preventing 1.4 million bags from being used,

14 and generating \$8,294.50 for the Pitt Green Fund  
15 since 2014;

16 WHEREAS, research in the field of behavioral economics shows  
17 that people are more sensitive to potential losses than  
18 potential gains, and thus putting a fee on an undesired  
19 behavior tends to be more effective than incentivizing  
20 the desired behavior;

21 WHEREAS, research in the field of behavioral economics shows  
22 that opt-out programs are more likely to be successful  
23 than opt-in programs and that, because people are  
24 loss-averse, placing a fee on an undesired behavior is  
25 the most effective way to encourage change;

26 WHEREAS, case studies of universities that have implemented a  
27 disposable container fee combined with free and  
28 automatic entry into a reusable container program  
29 show dramatic decreases in disposable container use  
30 and little to no negative student feedback; *now,*  
31 *therefore, be it*

32 RESOLVED, on this 2nd day of April in the year 2019, the  
33 University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board  
34 supports the expansion of the campus reusable  
35 container program and supports, in the locations  
36 served by C2R, a new container pricing system  
37 wherein:

- 38 • Food is served in the C2R containers by default,  
39 with disposable containers available by  
40 customer request
- 41 • A fee is charged per disposable container used
- 42 • All students, staff, and faculty have free access  
43 to use the C2R program
- 44 • In the event that a customer fails to return their  
45 C2R container or bring their token the next time  
46 they eat at a C2R location, they will be able to  
47 re-enter the program at a cost lower than that of  
48 the disposable container fee; *and be it further;*

49 RESOLVED, the Student Government Board supports the  
50 implementation of this pricing model at the beginning

51 of fall semester 2019 in all dining locations where the  
52 C2R program is active at that point, and its immediate  
53 implementation in every location to which C2R  
54 expands going forward, such that it becomes the  
55 standard for reusable takeout containers on campus;  
56 *and be it finally;*

57 RESOLVED, this resolution shall be effective immediately upon  
58 adoption and shall reflect the official position of the  
59 University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board.

60 ADOPTED: this X day of April 2019 by a vote of [#] for, [#] against,  
61 and [#] abstentions.

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Maggie Kennedy, President  
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board