

ABSTRACT

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Title: BEING ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS BY REDUCING THE USE OF DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS AS A SOUND FINANCIAL DECISION

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Year: 2018

Land, air, and water pollution issues that have been drastically increasing over the past half of a century. Much of this pollution is related to the production, utilization, and disposal of single-use products. American consumers often purchase disposable items despite their environmental impacts because of the convenience that they offer. Reusable products typically have a higher price tag and require slightly more effort to reuse, but their increased use could have a significant impact on decreasing the number of disposable items that are produced and thrown away each year.

This study analyzes the costs of ten common disposable items and their reusable counterparts in order to discover if the environmentally friendly items that are initially more expensive are cheaper for a consumer over the course of one year of use. In this study, six of the ten reusable items that were tested had savings of more than 50% when compared to their disposable counterparts and the difference between the total costs of disposable and reusable items resulted in a savings of \$1,646.60 or 90.60%.