Ditching Dining Disposables
You may already have everything you need to get started

Did you know? Each year, 32 million tons of plastic enter the environment with 8 million tons escaping into the world's oceans. The vast majority of plastic in the environment is from single-use disposable plastic products, mostly to-go food and beverage packaging -- in fact, **nearly half the plastic waste in the ocean is from single use items**.

In addition to this this direct environmental concern to ecosystems, oil and natural gas (which are non-renewable resources) are the major raw materials extracted for use in manufacturing plastic. There is also an environmental cost when transporting all that plastic.

Much of this has been part of the national conversation lately, especially straws. People 'in the know' ditch the disposables when they 'eat on the go'.

Here are some ideas to consider… no fancy equipment or expensive purchases required!

Let's All Suck a Bit Less
Ditching Straws

Straws are among the top 10 items found in beach clean ups. Americans alone discard more than 500 million *every day*! Tips:
- When ordering beverages say, "No straw please."
- Support businesses that do not offer plastic straws other than when requested for accommodating a disability.

Let's Talk Liquid Assets
Ditching Drinkware

- Opt to dine in at establishments that offer reusable drinkware.
- Keep and carry reusable containers.
- Find reusable jars, bottles, and mugs at local thrift stores.

Let's Cut to the Chase
Ditching Cutlery

- Opt to dine in at restaurants that use washable utensils.
- Refuse utensils when ordering take-out.
- Create your own travel utensil kit using metal utensils banded together with a cloth napkin. Find these materials at home or at your local thrift store.

What is one thing you will commit to changing today?
What is one alternative you are willing to change to today?
Join the movement to ditch disposables!