

Yejun Yoon

1) What percentage of your log was plastics vs other materials (such as paper, metal, textile, compost, etc)?

Surprisingly, Most of my products were plastic. Most of them were plastic containers rather than any other plastic products like wrappers or plastic bags.

2) How many items of waste did you produce?

I focused on the number of plastic containers because I was quite shocked at how many containers I have been throwing away when I was ordering food from delivery app on my phone. So far I have — 7 big plastic containers with 5 medium sized to go containers with two small ones. They are all washed and ready to be used again.

3) Did you notice any changes in your activity over the week?

From couple of weeks, because of the virus and lots of store closing down, I was unable to cook from home. So I ordered a lot from restaurants and normally I do not do that when I am home. I realized that my act in such a small amount of time can produce so many waste materials that are just easily thrown away.

4) Do you think the amount of waste you recorded this past week was similar or different than a month ago, before COVID-19— in what ways and why?

Very very different from a month ago, I normally cook from home or go outside to a restaurant to dine but now that I order food through delivery app, I was surprised at how many to go bags were used to carry such small amount of food. Also I have been receiving masks and products from USA and Korea, the packaging were a little excessive. There was one big cardboard box, inside it was plastic wrappers and plastic air cushion to protect the products inside... I had a hard time cleaning and recycling all the waste products.

Yejun Yoon

5) Do you know of better waste management/recycling programs in locations other than NYC/America? If you are no longer in NYC, what are the different realities of waste recycling and sorting in your current location?

Yes, I have lived in Switzerland and in my town, there was a day you can recycle plastic bottles and when you go there it is like a vending machine. You put plastic bottle in and the machine gives you money for exchange. So, many people got involved and I remember as a child, I was happy helping out recycling than now.

Do you know of any inspiring cultural practices related to creating less waste?

One inspiring cultural practice I found was when I was in Jeju which is an island in Korea, I saw how people were recycling products by law because Jeju is a very eco friendly island. The island was known for its nature such as orange farms, green tea farms so everyone was involved in keeping the island clean.

5) Any broader observations or thoughts about your experience of the Precious Plastics module?

I want to collect all the plastic containers and reuse it because it is not only eco friendly but I think the to go containers are better than other store bought containers. And I will reduce ordering food from restaurants and start cooking at home hopefully!