



Introducing Sustainable Products into ORW's Commissary

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INTRODUCTION

We partnered with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) to introduce sustainable products into the commissary at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW). ORW currently produces the largest quantity of waste out of all ODRC facilities. Our goal is to provide feasible recommendations on how to reduce the waste from the commissary while prioritizing safety, wellness, and affordability. We identified recyclable, compostable, reusable, and healthier options as key categories for improvement.

METHODS

- Visit ORW site and discuss suitable product replacements with Green Team Leaders
- Conduct survey of ORW occupants
- Analyze waste data



Photos from Commissary Visit at ORW

QUOTES

This list includes impactful quotes from in-person interviews with **incarcerated women**, feedback gathered from the survey, and discussions with **ODRC staff**.

"We eat from a gas station."

"I would love to see FRESH produce."

"The population is aging, but not going anywhere soon. We need more products for aging eyes, incontinence, etc."

"Shelf-life dictates what we can eat"

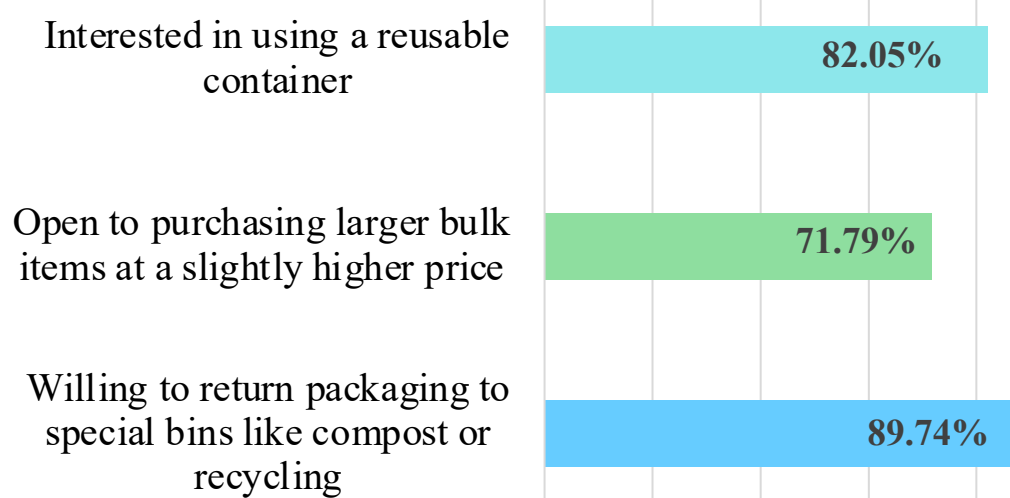
"We hope to help them develop habits to take home, like taking probiotics regularly"

SURVEY RESULTS

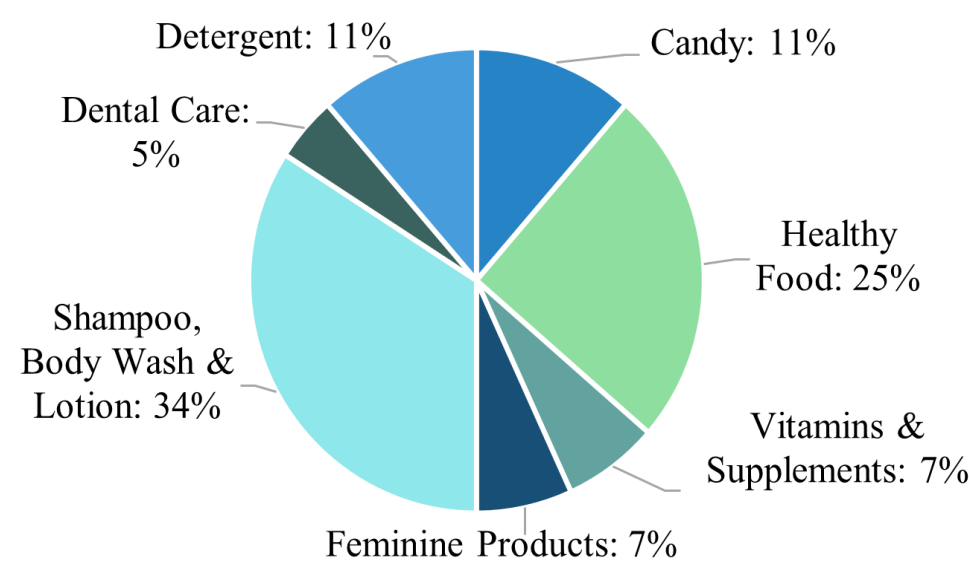
Surveys were collected from 39 incarcerated individuals at ORW. The survey asked about product selection, new product recommendations, and attitudes about potential changes within the commissary.

Participants were asked to rank their opinion of commissary on a 1-10 scale (10 = very satisfied). The average score was 4.7. Additionally, the average amount spent per visit is \$92.35, with two opportunities to shop per month.

Interest in Bulk, Reusable or Alternative Waste Disposal Methods



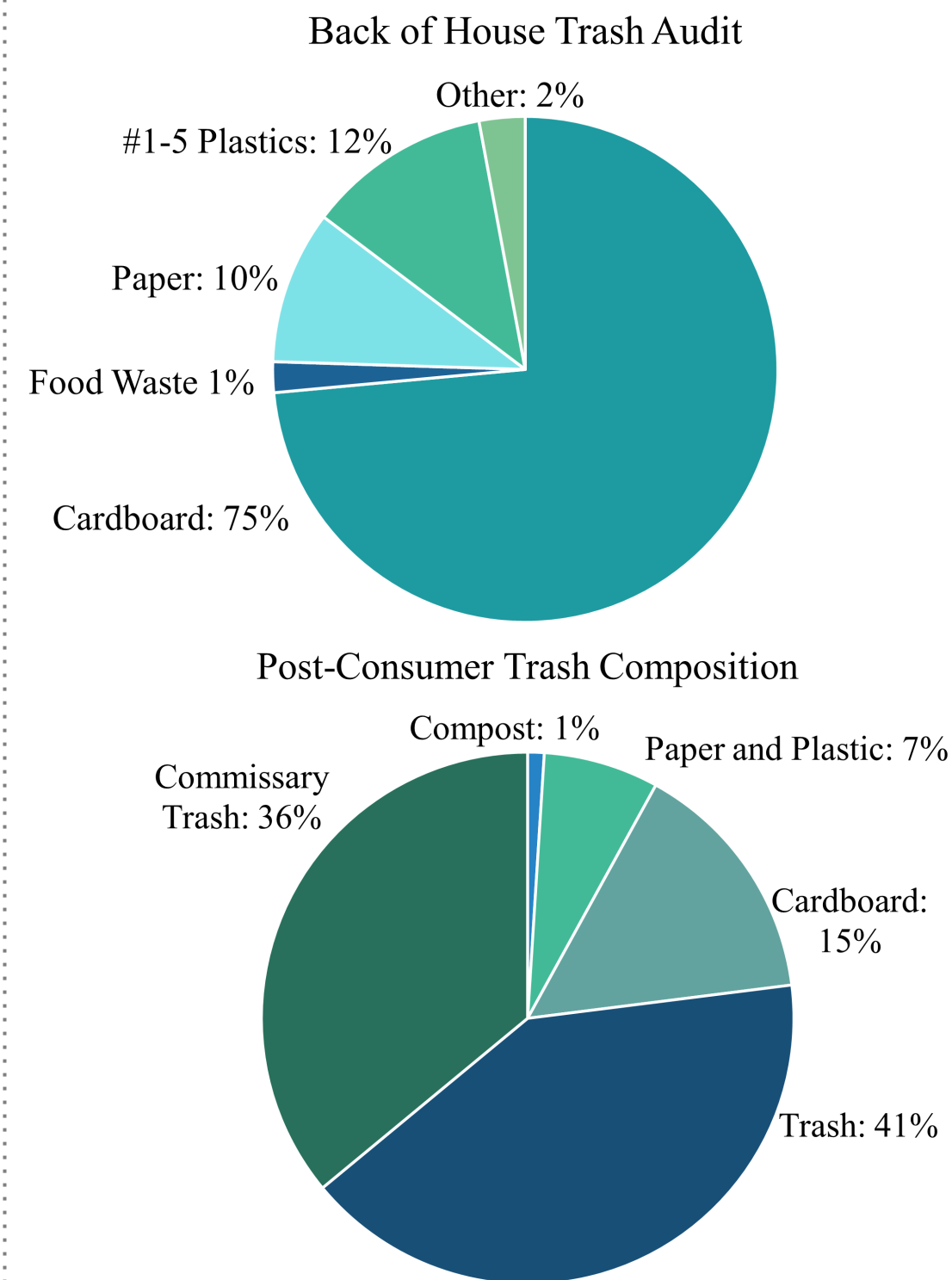
New Product Suggestions



Many women are interested in healthier options, including whole-grain bagels and pasta, rice cakes, fresh vegetables, canned greens, and apple sauce as well as prenatal vitamins and nutritional dietary supplements. There is also a large demand for a more diverse personal hygiene product selection. We used this feedback in addition to ODRC's waste concerns to inform the types of products we recommend.

WASTE AUDIT

An analysis of the items (by volume percent) in the trash bin behind commissary (top graph) and a dorm hall trash bin (bottom graph) shows that most items thrown away can be diverted from the waste stream, most notably cardboard and paper. The high volume of improper sorting indicates that there is a need for better signage and education on waste disposal.



VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Sun & Swell	Food
Kroger	Food
Zero Waste Store	Assorted
Preserve	Assorted

PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Shower Essentials**
 - Shampoo, conditioner, and body bars ♻️
 - Preserve razor ♻️
- Dental Care**
 - Bamboo toothbrushes ♻️ 🌿
 - Toothpaste tabs ♻️ 🌿
- Feminine Products**
 - Seventh generation pads & tampons ♻️ 🌿
 - August pads & tampons ♻️ 🌿
- Food and Supplies**
 - Bamboo Cutlery 🌿
 - Sun & Swell nuts, dried fruit & granola 🌿 🌿
 - Simple Truth Foods 🌿 🌿
- Vitamins**
 - Multivitamins ♻️ 🌿
 - Pre/Probiotics ♻️ 🌿
 - Prenatal & pre/post-menopausal ♻️ 🌿

♻️ Recyclable 🌿 Compostable T Terracycle 🌿 Health



CONCLUSION

The recommended products support ODRC's environmental goals while also increasing the well-being of the incarcerated population. The next step is to increase the accessibility of composting at ORW by working on logistics, signage, and education. Our hope is that after the pilot at ORW, more sustainable options will be adopted by other facilities across the state.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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