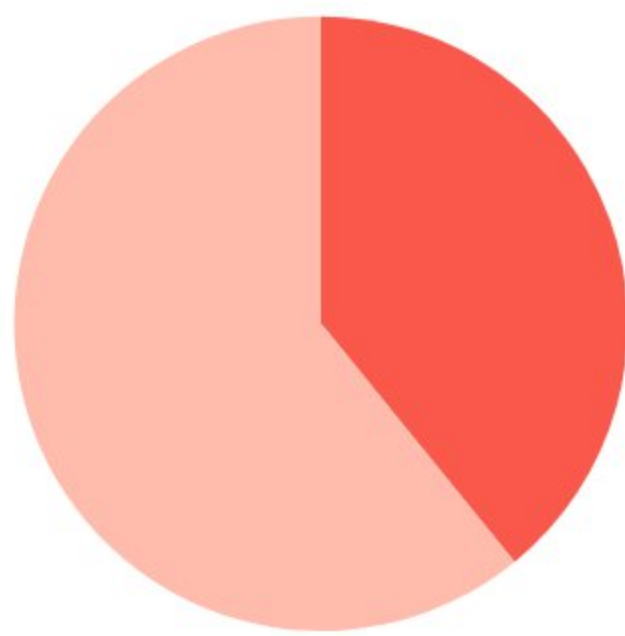


2019 Virginia iGEM Styrofoam Business Survey

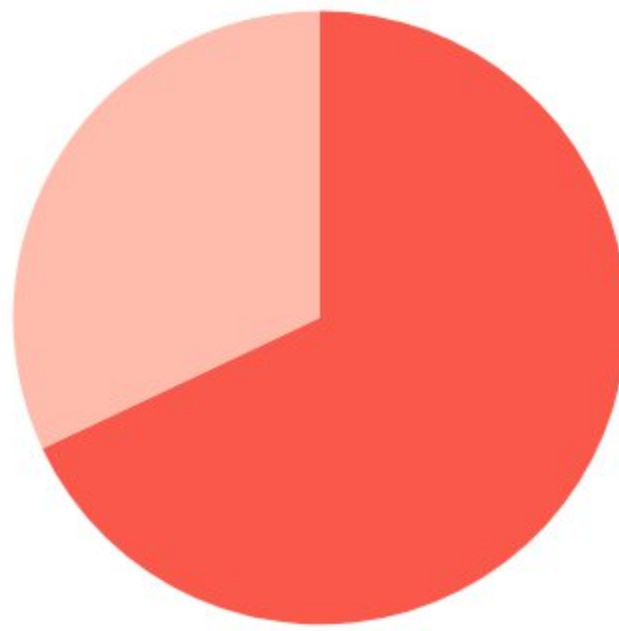
One of the biggest arguments against polystyrene food service containers bans is the idea that they will hurt small businesses since they do not have the capacity to absorb the higher prices of polystyrene alternatives. The Virginia iGEM human practices team reached out to local small businesses to see if this was true. We asked 25 businesses about their opinion based on a simple random sample from a local restaurant phone book. Here are the results:

Does your business currently use polystyrene?



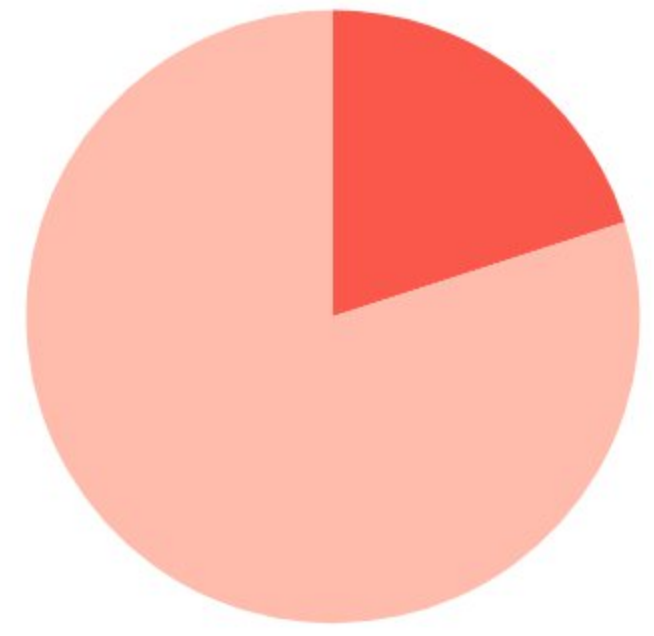
■ Yes (39.13%) ■ No (60.87%)

Did your business switch away from polystyrene?



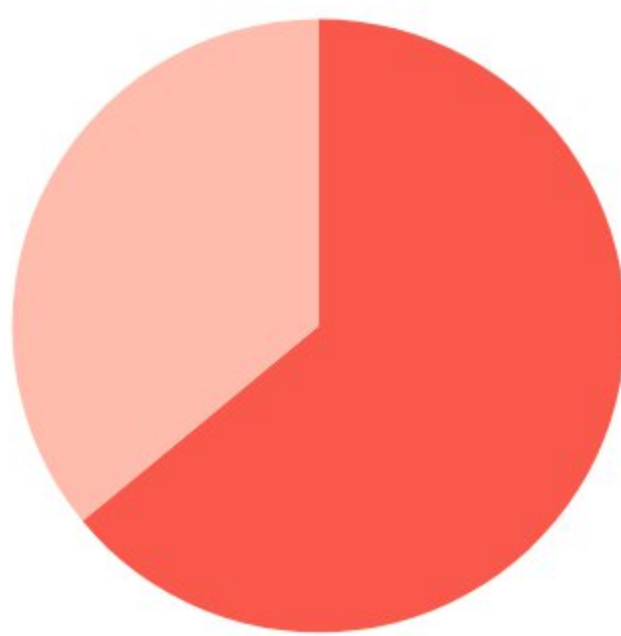
■ Yes (68%) ■ No (32%)

Would a polystyrene ban hurt your business?



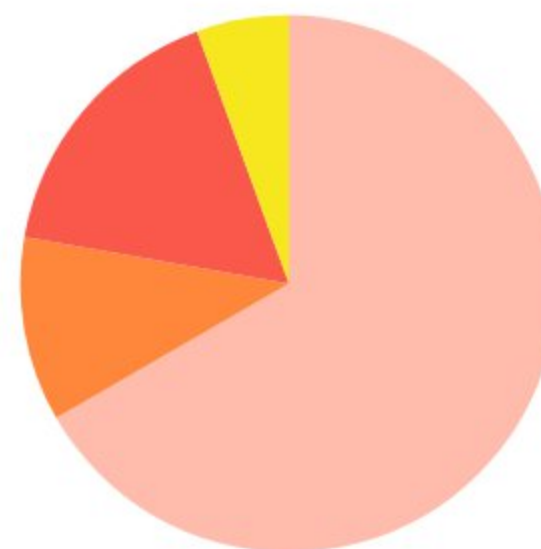
■ Yes (20%) ■ No (80%)

Does your business use biodegradable packaging?



■ Yes (64%) ■ No (36%)

What biodegradable packaging does your business use?



■ Paper (66.67%) ■ Compostable plastic (16.67%) ■ Cardboard (11.11%) ■ Glass (5.56%)

From our survey, we concluded that a ban on polystyrene food service containers will not harm the long-term success of most businesses. In fact, many businesses support moving towards environmentally-friendly materials.

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