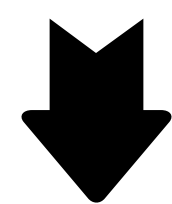


Reducing Plastic at the Artisan Farmers' Markets



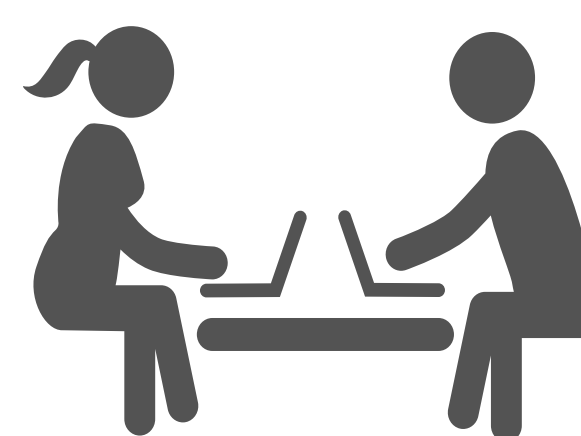
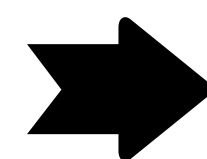
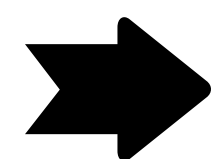
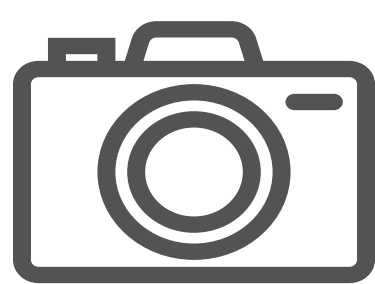
The Issue

Vendors choose plastic packaging for its convenience, food safety, and low cost.¹



Resulting waste contributes to the 330 million metric tons of plastic produced globally each year.²

Our Approach



Exploratory visit to meet vendors & examine current packaging materials

Visit & survey vendors in person from all market locations

Analyze the data & generate visual results

Why It Matters

Single-use waste releases physical and chemical contaminants into the environment and the global food system, contributing to food insecurity.⁴

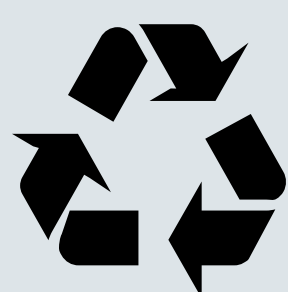
Our Task

Identify the barriers preventing vendors from using sustainable packaging instead of single-use.

The Artisan Farmers' Markets

A non-profit society supporting local farmers & artisans by providing business locations (Burnaby, Lonsdale, and Ambleside) with the goal of localizing the food system and promoting environmental sustainability.³

What We Found



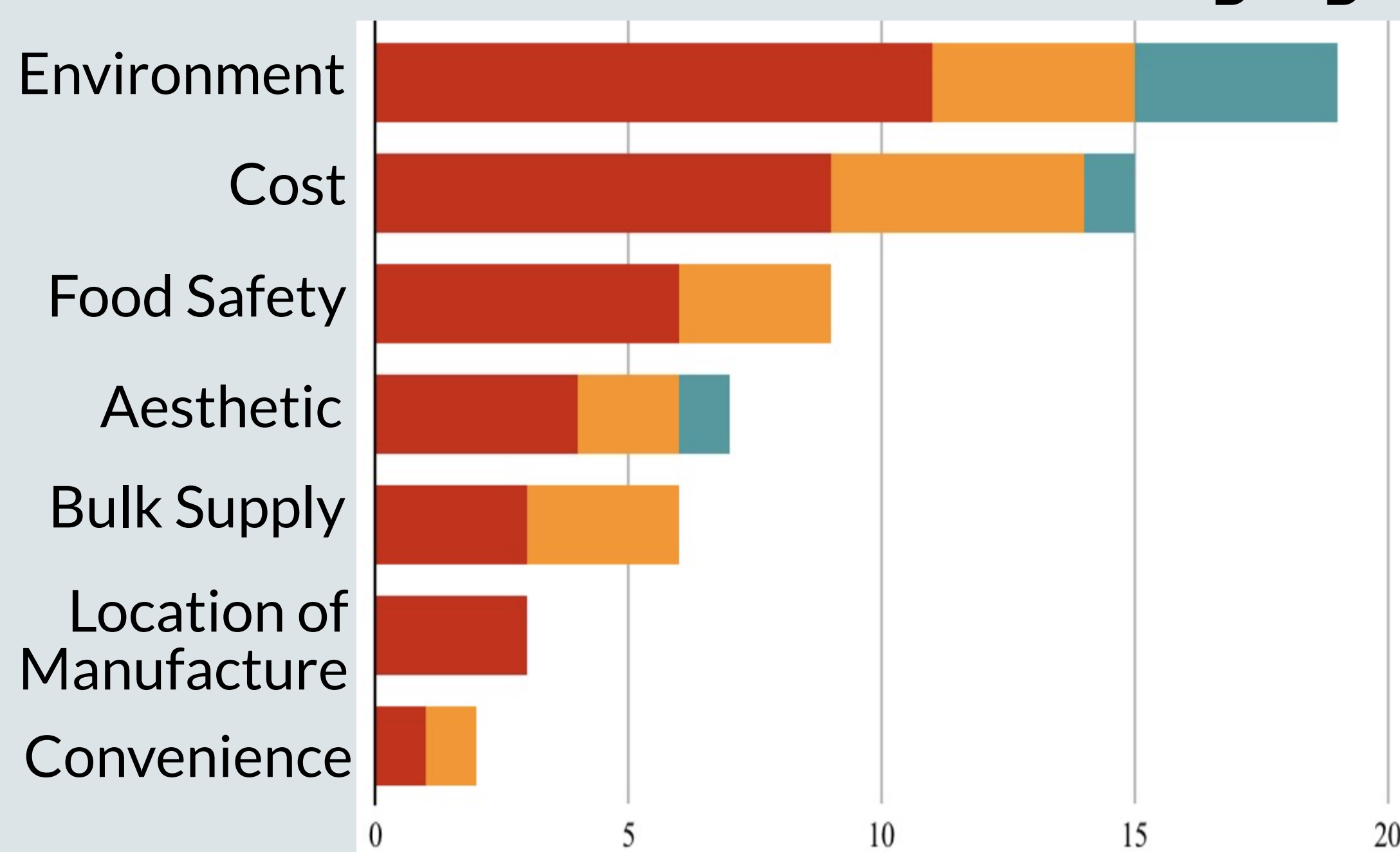
Packaging used by vendors: wooden sampling sticks & toothpicks, napkins, paper souffle cups & cupcake liners, paper/plastic bags, plastic containers, recycled pulp containers, glass containers

■ = Burnaby Vendors

■ = Lonsdale Vendors

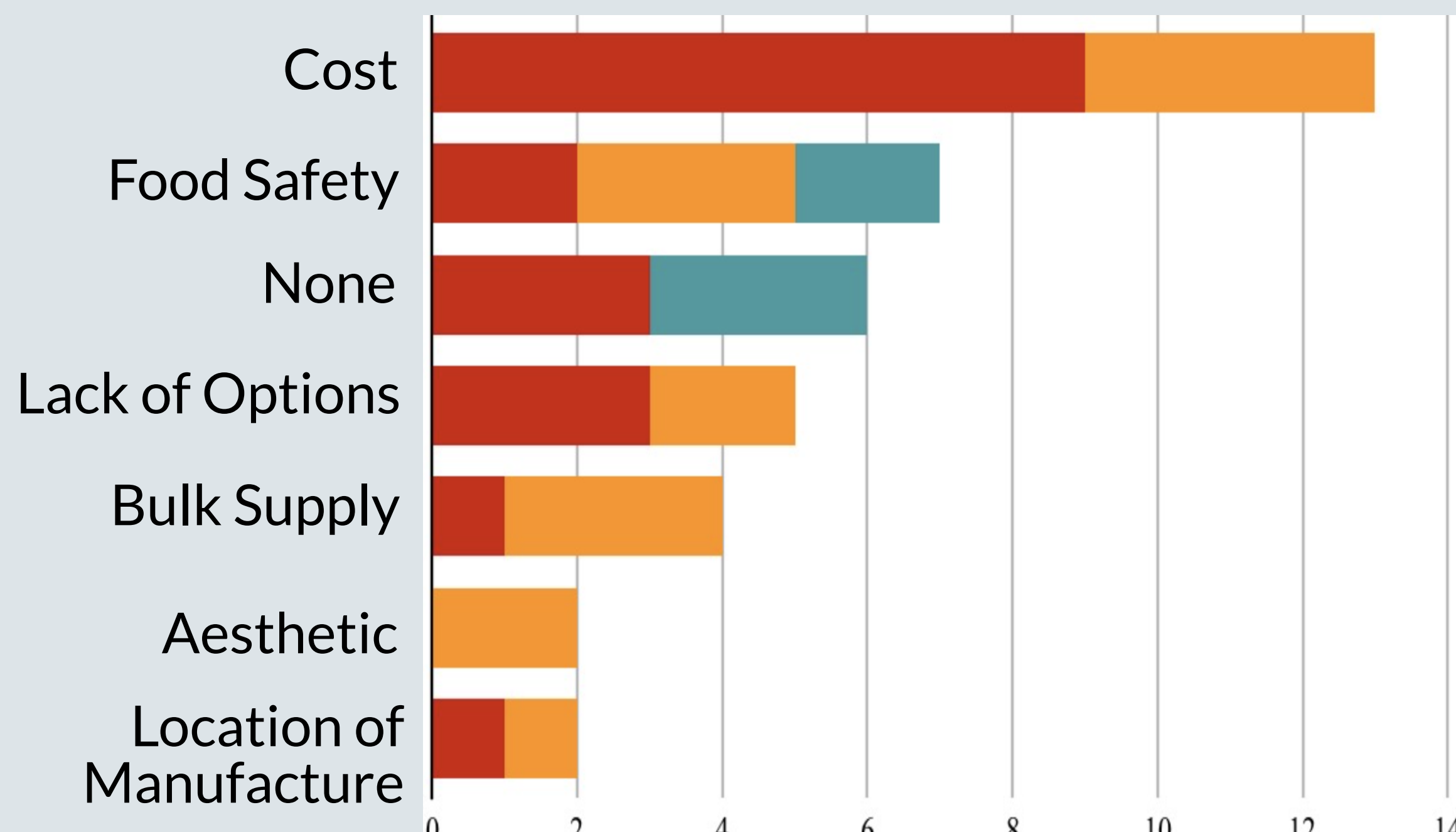
■ = Ambleside Vendors

Reasons for Current Packaging



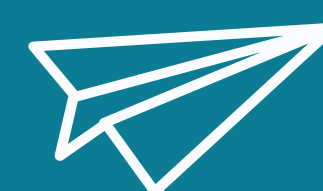
number of responses (n = 29)

Barriers



number of responses (n = 29)

Take Home Messages



Cost of materials is the most common barrier preventing vendors from switching to compostable and recyclable packaging alternatives.

Apply for funding initiatives that support environmentally sustainable community projects (Vancity enviroFund).



References

- 1 Sharma, A., & Nautiyal, H. (2016). Environmental Impacts of Packaging Materials. In *Environmental Footprints of Packaging* (115- 137). Springer, Singapore.
- 2 Lebreton, L., & Andrady, A. (2019). Future scenarios of global plastic waste generation and disposal. *Palgrave Communications*, 5(1), 111. doi:10.1057/s41599-018-0212-7
- 3 Artisan Farmers' Markets Society. (n.d.). About Us - Ambleside, Lonsdale and Burnaby. Retrieved from <https://www.artisanmarkets.ca/>.
- 4 Quathamer, N. (2019, February). Plastic, Plastic Everywhere: Microplastics in the Food System. *Food Tank*. Retrieved from <https://foodtank.com/news/2019/02/plastic-plastic-everywhere-microplastics-in-the-food-system/>