

Good morning,

My name is Mike Harrington and I am the Assistant Director of the Tishman Environment and Design Center here at The New School. It's my pleasure to welcome you all to our campus.

The New School's mission is to prepare students to understand, contribute to, and succeed in a rapidly changing society, thus making the world a better and more just place. As a university where design and social research drive approaches to studying issues of our time, we seek to provide students with the tools needed to grapple with complex problems facing society and to pursue more fluid and flexible career pathways.

The Tishman Environment & Design Center is a university-wide center with more than 69 affiliated faculty from every school at The New School. We are dedicated to research and practice that fosters design, policy, and social justice approaches to environmental issues in order to advance just and sustainable outcomes in collaboration communities.

We are glad to again welcome members of the Plastic Free Waters partnership to our campus. We have enjoyed a fruitful relationship with your group and we appreciate the work you are doing around decreasing the amount of plastic waste in our world. This is a very important task that the people in this group have taken and we appreciate it even more since many of you here are volunteering to tackle one of the most pressing pollution issues of our time. We appreciate you choosing to hold your meeting at our campus and we hope you find the facilities to your liking. We thank you for including us in this discussion and will be happy to continue working with you to reduce plastic waste in our valuable waterways.

Thank you again and we hope you have a great meeting.