

BYO Long Beach and their path to a more sustainable lifestyle

BYO Long Beach is a local zero-waste store and has become a cornerstone of the city's sustainability movement. The store provides package-free, refillable, and eco-friendly alternatives to everyday household and personal care products. As the demand for sustainable shopping grows, especially in greener cities, BYO Long Beach continues to expand its offerings and outreach efforts to educate the Long Beach community on waste reduction.

Founded by Melissa Daniels, BYO Long Beach was established with the mission of reducing single-use plastic waste. They did this by encouraging customers to bring their own containers for refills. The store carries a wide range of products, they offer everything from soaps and shampoos to reusable kitchen and cleaning supplies.

"I believe our goal is to make sustainable living more accessible," said a worker who preferred to stay anonymous. "We provide solutions that help people cut down on waste in ways that fit into their daily routines."

Unlike most traditional stores, BYO Long Beach operates on a refill-based system, where customers can purchase as much or as little as they need. These refill products are available by ounce. You can refill your own container, a new container, a free donated container, or a free paper bag. This not only helps reduce packaging waste but also minimizes product waste by allowing shoppers to buy the exact amount they need.

Not only does BYO Long Beach offer a way to be more sustainable, but the store also hosts educational workshops and collaborates with local environmental organizations. BYO Long Beach also partners with the Long Beach Environmental Alliance (LBEA) to support local sustainability initiatives, such as community cleanups and public awareness campaigns.

"My goal has always been to live my life in a more sustainable and accessible way," said Victoria Vidrio, a customer at BYO Long Beach. "I've attended a few workshops and now I believe that BYO Long Beach plays such a crucial role in reducing waste before it even reaches our beaches"

In addition to retail, the store offers workshops on sustainable living, including DIY household solutions and strategies for reducing plastic waste. These educational initiatives aim to help push residents to take small, but impactful steps toward a zero-waste lifestyle.

BYO Long Beach has also played an active role in advocating for policy changes and supporting local legislation that promotes more sustainable practices. The store has worked with city officials to push for plastic reduction ordinances and has encouraged not only the businesses around them but also the community to adopt refillable product systems.

“The impact of small businesses advocating for change is something we don't see,” said Valeria Garica. “Not only do they provide sustainable options that are good and useful for us but little do they know they can also influence the larger industry.”

Many customers at BYO Long Beach have expressed appreciation and love for the store's role in helping them make their way into a more sustainable lifestyle. Many were happy to speak on their own stories of how switching to refillable products has significantly reduced their household waste.

“Before shopping here, I didn't realize how much plastic I was using daily,” said longtime customer Marissa Tuner. “Now, I bring my mom who is a little older and we come with our little containers and it feels good knowing I'm doing my part in making a difference.”

If you would like to do your part in reducing waste, visit www.byolongbeach.com and take a look at their blog portion. They offer a list of sustainable businesses and initiatives, and they also offer a few articles on how to encourage a most sustainable lifestyle.