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## The Feasibility of Implementing Sustainable Practices in Mexican Independently-Owned Restaurants in Bloomington, IL

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Poster Presentation P11

**THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE  
PRACTICES IN MEXICAN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED  
RESTAURANTS IN BLOOMINGTON, IL**

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Businesses are seeing competitive and financial advantages when directing their attention towards environmental sustainability. The purpose of this study was to assess the benefits for restaurants to participate in environmentally friendly practices. This research also looked at independently-owned Mexican restaurants in Bloomington, IL to understand what they are doing towards implementing environmentally friendly practices or in what areas they could improve their practices to become a “green” restaurant. Interviews were conducted with three owners of independently-owned Mexican restaurants in the community. The purpose of the interviews was to inquire about the owners’ beliefs about sustainable business practices, and what they are currently doing to be environmentally friendly. A survey of restaurant customers at two of the three restaurants studied was used to assess whether patrons care about environmental sustainability within the restaurants, ascertain what practices patrons would like to see implemented, and identify the eco-conscious consumer. In the end, the owners were provided with several recommendations based on the interview and survey results.