

A large, black silhouette of a commercial airplane is positioned on the left side of the slide, angled upwards and to the right. The silhouette shows the wings, tail, and fuselage in detail.

# The Airline Waste Dilemma

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# Outline



Airline waste  
overview

TAF's initiative

Results

Reflection

Did you know?

1,4kg

Of waste is produced by each  
passenger, each flight

~2017: 5,7 million tonnes of waste  
produced by passengers alone, 2030  
predicted to double

~39 million flights in 2019 (4.5 billion  
passengers) vs 26 million in 2009

~Passenger waste disposal costs  
airlines \$700 million per year

~Climate change awareness is  
sensitising the public

Source: International  
Air Transport  
Association (IATA)



# Why so much waste?

~75% of waste « recyclable »

~Single-use plastic is the cheapest & lightest material for airlines

~Metal utensils banned by law, ceramic is too heavy

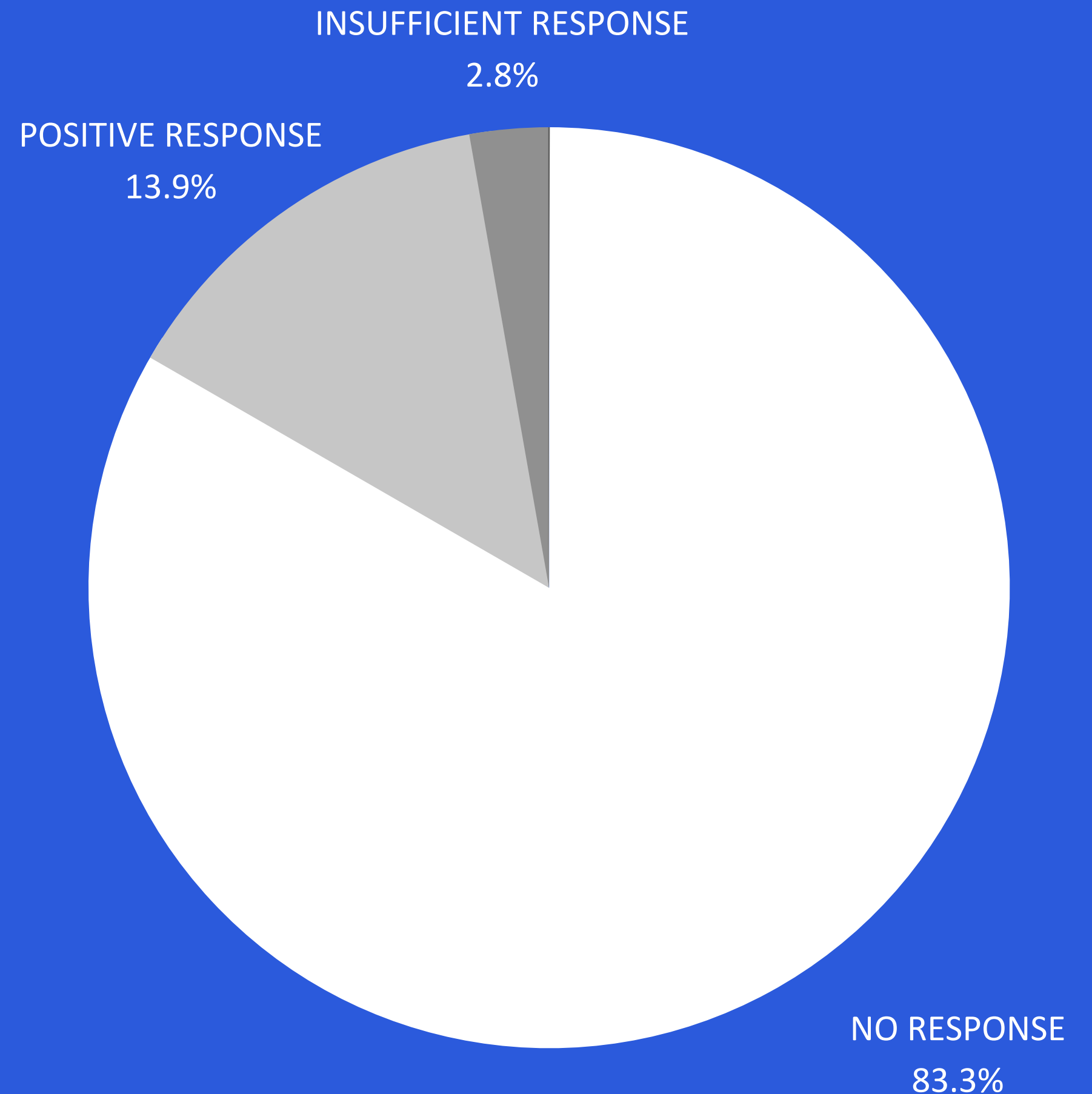
~Strict biowaste laws enforce all waste to be burned or landfilled





# TAF's Investigative Efforts

As a team we reached out to the companies and CEOs of 35 major airlines to ask what their positions and goals were in regard to passenger waste



# POSITIVE RESPONSES

## LUFTHANSA GROUP



Lufthansa Group  
Swiss  
Austrian Airways  
Eurowings  
Brussel Airlines

- ~"Flygreener" initiative educates cabin crew on ways to recycle; encourage passengers to reuse cups
- ~2020: plastic replaced by bamboo and PET alternative
- ~Cooperation with Swiss & Austrian to recycle plastic cups using rPET/ReOil

## EASYJET



- ~Replace plastic with wood/plant-based materials; straws discontinued
- ~Discount to passengers with personal cup

## SCANDINAVIAN



- ~Launch of new "cube" packaging to reduce plastic waste by 51 tonnes per year
- ~Pledge to 100% waste-free by 2030
- ~Wastes today largely at the will of national legislation regarding biowaste

## HEATHROW Airport

- ~Funding lobby efforts to EU governments to adopt recycling system to replace incineration/landfill requirements

# IAG: LIFE+ ZERO CABIN WASTE PROJECT



IAG  
British Airlines  
Iberia  
Vueling  
Air Lingus  
Level

~Iberia Airlines initiative to completely revolutionise airline waste management and IATA guidelines

~Goal: perfect a new recycling model for Iberia, so it can be adopted universally

## PLAN:

- Develop new menu that properly separates types of waste
- Training for cabin crew to properly separate
- Adapt catering company to new sustainable model
- Special transportation of waste to separation & recycling facilities
- Research for better ways to treat waste (like biogas technologies)

## BENEFITS:

- Improved waste management system
- 5% reduction in waste
- 4,500 tonnes of waste recycled annually
- Reduction of 4,340 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually (equivalent to 340 Madrid-Barcelona flights)

# Consumer Responsibility

The consumer has the power: petitioning to airlines is working

The individual can make efforts to reuse cups, bring their own, etc.

# Economic Dimension

Airlines can save money by reducing waste, but cheaper alternatives to single-use plastic need to be found

# Environmental Accountability

Airlines are realising that they can be greener both as a marketing technique and a growing will to protect Earth

# Political Factor

Biowaste disposal laws are outdated and need to be replaced with comprehensive recycling systems