

ReThink Disposable, a program of Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund, aims to stop trash before it starts.

Food Packaging Litter and our Oceans



- The packaging industry is the largest and growing consumer of synthetic plastics derived from fossil fuels.
- Food packaging accounts for 50% of the plastics derived from fossil fuels
- Single-use bags, plastic bottles, food containers and food wrappers are the four most widespread items polluting the seas, making up almost half of the human-made waste

Recyclable and Compostable Materials



9%

Only 8.7% of all plastic that's ever been produced has been recycled



1%

BioCycle found that only 49 out of 4,700 composters nationwide accepted compostable plastic products.

- Many recycled items become contaminated in a single-stream system and do not end up being recycled
- Because U.S. recycling was dependent on China for so many years, we never developed the correct infrastructure
- Compostable materials can also contain toxic PFAS "forever" chemicals
- Compostable still reinforces the single-use disposable mindset

Why Reusables



1. Litter Reduction

Fast food and take-away packaging accounts for up to 88% of the world's coastline litter

Every minute of every day, the equivalent of one truckload of plastic enters our waterways

Why Reusables



2. People and Planet forward

85% more climate friendly than single-use disposables, less toxic additives, LCA (life cycle assessment) uses less resources including water, reduced burden on fence-line communities

Fenceline communities lose 10-20 years of life on average from air and water quality issues due to oil and plastic production

Why Reusables





Before



3. Cost Savings

Businesses save between \$3,000-\$22,000 and reduce 110,000 pieces of disposable items weighing 1,300 lbs, every year

ReThink Disposable STOP WASTE BEFORE IT STARTS Www.rethinkdisposable.org

Overview

Free and collaborative technical assistance removes barriers to change

We handle product research, procurement, delivery, set-up, and storytelling

ReThink Disposable provides funding to allow businesses and institutions to purchase reusable supplies; this funding is doubled for women, BIPOC, & LGBTQ+ business owners.

567 businesses signed up

40 institutions signed up

28 million single-use disposable items eliminated each year



1. In-person outreach to restaurants

| TEM CODE | MFG CODE | ORDERED | SHIPPED | SELL PRICE | ITEM TOTA |
|----------|---------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|------------|-----------|
| | 9509111 / LGC12 -Slot Lis 1000/case Fits | | 1.0 CS | 97.37/08 | 97.37 |
| | PSSON ortion Container PS 2500 | | 2.0 CS | 74.28/CS | 148.56 |
| | PLAN ortion Container Lid PET | | 2.0 CS | 33.69/05 / | 67.38 |
| | PL2N/PL200N ortion Container Lid PET | | 1.0 C5 | 25.63/05 | 25.63 |
| | 8703 od Tray Red Plaid 2/250/ | | 2.0 CS | 35.28/CS | 70.56 |
| | 8702 od Tray Red Plaid 4/250/ | 2.0 CS case | 2.0 CS | 46.94/CS | 93, 88 |
| | SSK21P tock Medium Weight PP Kr | | | | 50.30 |
| | SSF21P tock Medium Weight PP Fo | | | 31.92/05 8 | 63.84 |
| | SSS21P tock Medium Weight PP Te | | | | 100.60 |
| | GVP9-L-1 owder Free Glove Large 1 | | | 21,98/05 | 21,98 |
| | 30550000/142 PVC Film R011 | 1.0 RL | 1.0 RL | 23.64/RL | 23.64 |
| | 241 Standard Foil Roll | 1.0 RL | 1.0 RL | 135.62/RL | 135.62 |

2. Conduct single-use disposable audit

Reusable Foodware

Shop for examples of earth-friendly and money-saving reusable foodware here. Studies have shown that replacing disposable with reusable foodware can dramatically reduce your opertional cost.

The County of San Mateo's Foodware Aware Team offers **free technical assistance** to help you make the switch and **financial assistance** to offset the cost of purchasing reusables or infrastructure (i.e., shelves). So if you're interested in switching to reusables, like the ones listed below, please contact us! **Email**: foodware@smcgov.org / **Hotline**: 888-442-2666

The information provided in this Purchasing Guide is meant to serve as a resource to help food facilities explore options to comply with/go beyond the County's Foodware Ordinance.

| Size | Material | Photo | Available Colors | Estimated Price |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------------------|-----------------|
| | Plates | | | |
| 10.5" Round Note: 2 case minimum purchase | Porcelain | | White | \$4.25 ea |

- 3. Research and find reusable replacements (conduct testing if purchasing stainless-steel items for schools)
- 4. Purchase reusables using subsidies from our NOAA grant and partnership with Plastic Free Restaurants

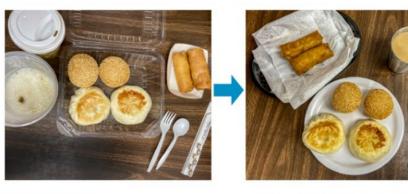


- 5. Deliver to the location
- 6. Educate staff on ReThink Disposable practices to be implemented



House of Dim Sum





Fliminated **7 tons** of take-out wares.

That's the weight of a San Francisco cable car.

THE BOTTOM LINE

- \$429 upfront investment in reusable foodware
- \$33,561 in total annual net cost savings
- 2.2 million disposable items reduced per year
- 7.2 tons of annual waste reduction (equivalent to the weight of a San Francisco cable car)











7. Follow-up after a few weeks

The Results

Restaurants find that reusables...

- Save \$3,000-\$22,000 in annual net cost savings
- Eliminate 110,000 disposable packaging items
- Prevent 1,300 pounds of waste
- See an overall 60% reduction of targeted packaging items
- Average 4-month payback period



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