

CASE STUDY: Yonkers Cafe



BUSINESS PROFILE

Name:

Yonkers Cafe

Location:

San Francisco, CA

Average Daily

Transactions: 200

Take-out: 80%



Located in the City of San Francisco's Sunset District, half a mile from Ocean Beach, Yonkers Cafe is a neighborhood cafe that offers wine, pour over coffee, and sandwiches. After accepting fiscal and technical assistance from SF Environment, Yonkers Cafe replaced disposable foodware that was used for dine-in with reusable foodware. By switching to reusables, Yonkers Cafe cut their purchase of disposable cups by half, which eliminates the use of 78,214 disposable cups each year and saves the Cafe more than \$6,000 annually.

Changes to serveware for less waste and more savings:

Paper and plastic cups for cold and hot beverages	→ Ceramic mugs with saucers and glasses
Hot and cold cup lids	→ Eliminated for dine-in
Take-out containers and disposable plates for dine-in	→ Ceramic plates and bowls
Plastic utensils	→ Stainless steel utensils

BEFORE and AFTER: Yonkers Cafe switched to reusable foodware.



THE BOTTOM LINE

- \$12,441 in total annual net cost savings
- \$273 initial investment in reusable foodware
- 178,329 disposable items reduced per year
- 3,231 pounds of annual waste reduction (roughly the weight of a Tesla Model 3)

RESULTS

RESULTS		PACKAGING IMPACTS			COST IMPACTS	
Disposable Product Replaced or Minimized	Recommendation Implemented	Percent Disposable Reduction (%)	Annual Quantity of Disposable Product Reduced	Annual Waste Reduction (lbs.)	Payback Period (months)	Annual NET* Cost Savings After Payback Period (\$)
12 oz paper hot cup	Ceramic mug with saucers	77	39,976	730	0.4	\$2,998
16 oz paper hot cup		77	39,976	971	0.3	\$3,398
16 oz plastic cold cup		77	39,976	1,047	0.0	\$3,030
4 oz paper espresso cup		53	13,905	139	0.9	\$1,112
Hot cup sip lid	Eliminated for dine-in	53	16,686	162	0.0	\$723
Cold cup lid		53	13,905	72	0.0	\$478
Dome lid		53	13,905	110	0.0	\$702
		TOTALS:	178,329 pieces	3,231 lbs.	1 week (average)	\$12,441

*Net Cost Savings considers upfront and ongoing costs tied to the purchase and care of reusable items, capital improvements needed to carry out ReThink Disposable's recommendations, and discontinued disposable foodware purchases.

This case study was made possible through a partnership with the San Francisco Environment Department and their outreach team.

ReThink Disposable is a program of Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund conducted in partnership with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies. Generous support is provided by a changing list of public and private funders. To learn more about the program, its partners, and funders, visit: www.rethinkdisposable.org.



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