

CASE STUDY:

Franciscan Charities of Newark



BUSINESS PROFILE

Name:

Franciscan Charities of Newark

Location:

Newark, NJ

On-site dining: 100%

Take-out: 0

Warewashing:

Commercial dishwasher



Franciscan Charities, located in Newark, New Jersey serves hot lunches five days a week to the most vulnerable. The organization's founding is based on the belief that each person should have a warm, welcoming place to find nourishment and to be treated with dignity and kindness. Before partnering with Clean Water Fund's ReThink Disposable campaign, Franciscan Charities used all disposable single-use foodware, spending thousands of dollars every month. The garbage generated from the single-use disposables was costly, from excess garbage bags to the expense of hauling away the refuse. After working with the ReThink Disposable team, Franciscan Charities switched to providing meals on exclusively reusable foodware, honoring their community with more dignity. These operational changes resulted in the elimination of 10,750 pounds of trash from the local landfill and incinerator, every year. Ultimately, reusables have helped break the cycle of poverty by redirecting critical funds needed to support client care.

Changes to serviceware for less waste and more savings:

Polystyrene #6 clamshell (two sizes)	→	Reusable Corelle glass dishes
Poly-coated paper soup cup and lid	→	Reusable Corelle glass bowl, eliminated lid
Poly-coated paper hot cup, polystyrene #6 plastic hot cup lid	→	Reusable glass mug, eliminated lid
Polypropylene (#5) plastic fork, spoon, knife	→	Reusable stainless steel utensils
LDPE #4 plastic wrap (around cutlery)	→	eliminated
PET #1 plastic water bottle	→	Reusable polypropylene #5 plastic cup



BEFORE and AFTER: Franciscan Charities of Newark switched 100% of their disposable foodware to reusable for their dine-in guests.



“We are appreciative that we won’t only save up to \$50,000 every year but we are also moving toward being better stewards of our environment.”

— Melissa Hillier, Director of Franciscan Charities of Newark

THE BOTTOM LINE

- \$47,973 total annual net cost savings
- 936,000 disposable items reduced per year
- 10,750 pounds of annual waste reduction

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 (\$)
Polystyrene #6 8" clamshell	Replace with reusable Corelle glass dishes	100%	78,000	2,357	NA	\$11,673
Polystyrene #6 5" clamshell		100%	156,000	1,824	NA	\$9,247
Poly-coated paper soup cup	Replace with Corelle glass bowl	100%	39,000	890	NA	\$5,948
Poly-coated paper soup cup lid	Eliminate	100%	39,000	151	NA	\$0
10 oz hot cup	Replace with glass mug	100%	78,000	891	NA	\$5,106
10 oz cup lid	Eliminate	100%	78,000	320	NA	\$0
Polypropylene (#5) plastic fork	Replace with reusable stainless steel fork	100%	78,000	557	NA	\$6,222
Polypropylene (#5) plastic spoon	Replace with reusable stainless steel spoon	100%	78,000	557	NA	\$0
Polypropylene (#5) plastic knife	Replace with reusable stainless steel knife	100%	78,000	581	NA	\$0
Plastic film cutlery packaging	Eliminate	100%	78,000	202	NA	\$0
Water bottle	Replace with reusable cup	100%	78,000	1,548	NA	\$9,777
Water bottle cap	Eliminate	100%	78,000	491	NA	\$0
Water bottle label	Eliminate	100%	78,000	381	NA	\$0
		TOTALS:	936,000 pieces	10,750 lbs.	NA	\$47,973

*Net Cost Impact considers any upfront and ongoing costs associated with the purchase and care of reusable items and capital improvements needed to carry out ReThink Disposable's recommendations. Net cost savings are based on avoided disposable foodware purchases.

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.

plastic free
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