

CASE STUDY:

Interfaith Neighbors

Six Senior Centers



BUSINESS PROFILE

Name:
Interfaith Neighbors Senior Center Program

Location:
Monmouth County, New Jersey

On-site dining: 100%

Take-out: 0%

Warewashing: 3-sink system at each center



Founded in 1988, Interfaith Neighbors in Monmouth County, New Jersey has been securing life's critical necessities for the most vulnerable while improving the quality of life for individuals, families, and their communities. Interfaith Neighbors provides multiple services, including daily dine-in meals through their six senior nutrition programs. Prior to working with ReThink Disposable, the organization had been serving clients on exclusively single-use disposable foodware. They also had been providing fruit cocktail in disposable individual portion cups. They were spending thousands of dollars each month, ordering these items that eventually went into the waste stream. As a result of working with ReThink Disposable, Interfaith Neighbors is now serving their clients with more dignity, as they provide a hot meal at all six Senior Centers on reusable foodware. They have eliminated the distribution of plastic single-use disposable fruit cups and individually wrapped desserts. Currently, they provide clients with fresh fruit. This is a healthier alternative for both the client and environment. Through their partnership with ReThink Disposable, Interfaith Neighbors is saving valuable funds that can be used to better serve their clients.

Changes to serviceware for less waste and more savings:

Single-use polypropylene #5 4-ounce plastic fruit cup and foil lid	→	Fresh fruit
Poly-coated paper soup bowl	→	Corelle glass bowl
Bagasse 9-inch plate	→	Corelle glass plate
Bagasse 6-inch plate	→	Corelle glass plate
10-ounce double poly-coated paper cup	→	Glass mug and reusable polypropylene cup
Single-use polypropylene #5 plastic cutlery	→	Stainless steel cutlery

BEFORE and AFTER:
Interfaith Neighbors eliminated 100% of their single-use disposable foodware.



THE BOTTOM LINE

- \$37,113 total annual net cost savings with an initial investment of \$2,910 on new wares
- 326,000 disposable items reduced per year
- 5,155 pounds of annual waste reduction

RESULTS

RESULTS		PACKAGING IMPACTS			COST SAVINGS
Disposable Product Replaced or Minimized	Recommendation Implemented	Percent Disposable Reduction	Annual Quantity of Disposable Product Reduced	Annual Waste Reduction (lbs.)	Annual NET* Cost Savings After Payback Period (\$)
Polypropylene #5 fruit cup	Replace with fresh fruit	100%	32,600	330	\$23,500
Coated aluminum sealed lid	Eliminated	100%	32,600	200	NA
Poly-coated paper soup bowl	Replace with glass bowl	100%	32,600	720	\$4,700
Bagasse 6-inch plate	Replace with glass plate	100%	32,600	525	\$1,110
Bagasse 9-inch plate	Replace with glass plate	100%	32,600	1,250	\$4,600
10-ounce double poly-coated hot cup	Replace with glass mug	100%	32,600	1,100	\$1,100
Polypropylene #5 plastic spoon	Replace with reusable stainless steel spoon	100%	32,600	236	\$326
Polypropylene #5 plastic fork	Replace with reusable stainless steel fork	100%	32,600	184	\$877
Polypropylene #5 plastic knife	Replace with reusable stainless steel knife	100%	32,600	210	\$900
Cutlery plastic wrapper	Eliminated	100%	32,600	100	NA
*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.		TOTALS:	326,000 pieces	4,955 lbs.	\$37,113

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



Tel. (415) 369-9160
 ReThinkDisposable@cleanwater.org
www.rethinkdisposable.org

