As a result of implementing ReThink Disposable’s recommendations, Palette Food and Juice reduced their use of targeted disposable foodware items by an average 35% and is preventing the use of 23,376 disposable items and 291 pounds of waste from annually entering the waste stream. Palette also earns an ongoing annual net cost savings of $668.12 from the avoided disposable foodware purchases.

In order to implement the recommendations for program certification, reusable foodware purchases amounted to $1,322.50.

To address the most significant operational change — reducing the use of bioplastic cold cups and lids — required one large upfront purchase of a “Crathco” refrigerated beverage dispenser ($1,244.80). This appliance is required to support Palette’s switch to reusable cups for cold beverages since their fresh agua frescas and iced matcha have naturally occurring sedimentation and in their prior operation, the bioplastic cups and lids were used to shake up cold beverage when ordered. Due to space limitations in their refrigerator, the Crathco appliance helped overcome the barrier to utilizing reusable cups and eliminates the need for lids on-site because it continually stirs the beverages to prevent sedimentation. The high up-front cost of the Crathco made the payback period for each beverage-related item longer, yet there are still cost-savings after the payback period was met to cover and exceed the set-up and ongoing costs in the future.

Straw use was reduced by 75%. Prior to ReThink Disposable, straws were situated next to the cash register where customers would grab them. By implementing a straw upon request only policy, the straws are out of sight for both customers and staff with ReThink Disposable signage emphasizing, “Do you really need a straw?”

In addition to reusable cold cups and straws upon request, reusable condiment cups for side sauces and the napkin dispenser source reduction recommendations were implemented smoothly. The owner reported no issues with dishwashing capacity to keep up with the new reusable items and no increase in water usage. The owner was enthusiastic and receptive to the mission to reduce single-use disposable foodware in the business’s operations and this excitement was also observed among Palette’s employees who championed the day-to-day behavior and operational changes.
### Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disposable Product Replaced or Minimized</th>
<th>ReThink Disposable Recommendation Implemented</th>
<th>% Disposable Reduction</th>
<th>Payback Period (months)</th>
<th>Annual Quantity of Disposable Product Reduced (# of pieces)</th>
<th>Annual Net Cost Savings* (after payback period)</th>
<th>Annual Waste Reduction (lbs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greenstripe 16-oz Cold Cups</td>
<td>Implement reusable glassware</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>4,867</td>
<td>$304.75</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenstripe 16-oz Cold Cup Lids</td>
<td>Eliminate disposable lids used for on-site dining</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>4,867</td>
<td>$143.13</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumbo Wrapped ‘Eco’ Straws</td>
<td>Implement straws upon request policy</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>6,111</td>
<td>$106.94</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Ply Kraft Napkins</td>
<td>Implement napkin dispenser</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>6,083</td>
<td>$101.96</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-oz Solo Condiment Cups</td>
<td>Implement reusable stainless steel condiment cups</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>$3.58</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-oz Solo Condiment Lids</td>
<td>Eliminate disposable condiment lids used on-site</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>$7.76</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** 23,376 $668.12 291 lbs.

*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.

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### THE BOTTOM LINE

- $668 in annual net cost savings
- 23,376 disposable items reduced per year
- 291 pounds of annual waste reduction
- No impact to labor costs
- Positive feedback from café staff and patrons

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Molly Keith and Melissa Nester, co-founders: “ReThink Disposable has helped our culture here at Palette immensely! Our employees, our regulars and our owners are super excited about the changes we have made! Cutting down on disposable waste and resources has become a wonderful part of Palette’s mission and business model. Thank you ReThink Disposable!”

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ReThink Disposable is a program of Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund conducted in partnership with The Bay Foundation, local 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.