



# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES



RESTAURANT TRAINING MANUAL

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# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES

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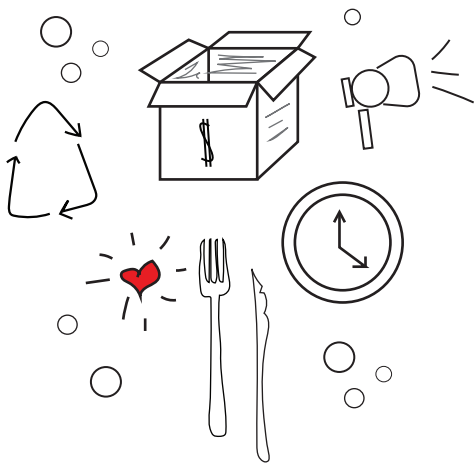
# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES



The City of Carlsbad is moving away from single-use & disposable products with high environmental impact, such as plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, plastic bags & styrofoam to-go containers to protect our environment and keep our beaches and oceans clean. The City is investing in this education and engagement program to provide restaurants with the resources and training they need to successfully reduce and eliminate these wasteful materials.

## BENEFITS TO RESTAURANTS FROM REDUCING PLASTIC DISPOSABLES

- Reduce packaging costs
- Enrich the dining experience
- Prevent unsightly litter near your business
- Lower waste collection costs
- Save staff time
- Get ahead of regulations
- Tap into the green market and foster customer loyalty
- Be a community role model



By working to reduce and eliminate these DISPOSABLE materials, you will be contributing to a reduction in litter and the protection of our environment on which our SHARED community depends – all while saving money and helping your business thrive.

While waste reduction and recycling can help reduce costs, a commitment to resource efficiency can take your economic benefits to the next level. Smart purchasing and effective use of supplies will go a long way in saving your restaurant money.

Consumers are becoming more and more aware of the environmental issues we face and are looking to businesses to help lead the solutions. The research continues to suggest that more consumers are looking to purchase from companies that share their values.

Environmentally friendly alternatives to plastic disposable products can enhance a restaurants' food and beverage presentation and the customers' dining experience.





# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES

## 6 THINGS YOU CAN REDUCE & ELIMINATE



PLASTIC STRAWS



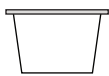
PLASTIC UTENSILS



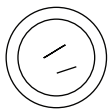
PLASTIC CUPS /  
STIRRERS



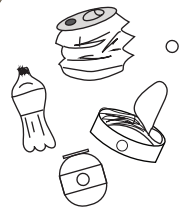
PLASTIC BAGS



STYROFOAM / PLASTIC  
CONTAINERS



ANY OTHER SINGLE-  
USE NON-COMPOSTABLE/  
NON-REUSABLE ITEMS



## THE PROBLEM...

More than 100 million pieces of plastic utensils are used and more than 500 million plastic straws are thrown away by Americans every day. Though they may be convenient, these materials can stay in our environment for up to 1,000 years and often time get littered and make their way to the ocean. The restaurant industry generates huge amounts of plastic waste that often end up in our rivers, coastlines, and oceans as marine debris.

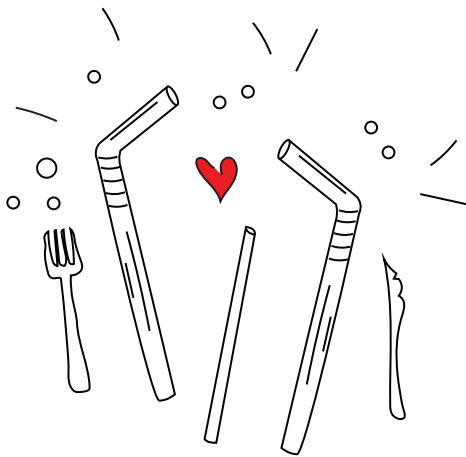
This is causing major environmental and human health concerns as plastic pieces degrade, get into the ocean ecosystem and end up in the seafood consumed by humans. There is now a floating patch of plastic pollution circulating the Pacific Ocean that is larger than the size of Texas!

**The good news is that together we can take steps to address this problem!** Beyond the environmental benefits we will realize from reducing plastic and single-use disposables, your restaurant will also benefit in other ways including reducing costs, engaging your employees and receiving positive recognition from the community!

\* <http://www.ecocycle.org/bestrawfree/faqs> \*



# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES



## OVERVIEW OF SOLUTIONS




Things don't always have to be done the way they've been done in the past. Take the time to look at and assess the way you buy your supplies and the products you buy.

Get your employees involved in the purchasing process move away from letting one person make all the purchasing decisions. It can be beneficial to get more ideas and thoughts on how to eliminate waste and operate more efficiently. This also brings more purpose to more employees and increases employee engagement.

Look for non-plastic alternatives, such as those made from paper, sugar cane or bamboo. To reduce the use of these non-plastic alternatives and to help you save money, provide straws, stirrers or cutlery only upon request by the customer.

## 4 STEPS

TO REDUCE YOUR IMPACTS LISTED IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE:

1.  **ELIMINATE**  
The best way to save money and protect the environment is no packaging at all.
2.  **REDUCE**  
Serve the item only when requested by the customer.
3.  **REUSE**  
Choose plant products over compostable plastic, as they decompose much better in compost and the environment.

4.  **REPLACE**  
Replace disposable items with glass, ceramic, stainless steel, wood or other reusable versions.

- o Look for Bagasse
  - Sugar cane fiber
  - Silver grass (Miscanthus)
  - Wood
  - Wheat Straw
  - Palm Leaf
  - Bamboo
  - Uncoated Paper
- o Avoid Products
  - Corn, Cassava, & other plant starches that are blended with plastic filler.
  - If plant products or composting are not available, choose materials that are recyclable in your area. Ask your recycling hauler which products they accept. Most recyclers cannot process plastic cutlery, straws, and stirrers due to their small size.





## BEST ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC

### REUSABLE STRAWS:

- Glass
- Stainless Steel
- Bamboo

### REUSABLE STIRRERS:

- Metal
- Glass

### REUSABLE CUTLERY:

- Metal
- Bamboo



## OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC

### SINGLE-USE STRAWS:

- Paper
- Grain
- Edible

### SINGLE-USE STIRRERS:

- Wood
- Bamboo

### SINGLE-USE CUTLERY:

- Wood
- Bamboo
- Edible





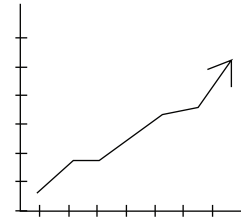
# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES

## GET STARTED ON YOUR STRATEGY

### STEP 1 TRACK CURRENT USE AND COSTS

Audit all of the single-use plastic materials that are being purchased and used in your restaurant. Include the amount of each item and the total cost, and begin tracking these items monthly in an excel spreadsheet. ReEarth can provide you with a spreadsheet template which you can use to begin tracking the amount of these products being used.

Understand the total amount of money being spent on each of these items per month and per year. If you reduced the use of these items, how much could you save?



Include monthly orders and costs for the following items:

- Plastic Wrap
- Plastic Utensils
- Plastic Straws
- Plastic To-Go Containers
- Plastic Storage Containers
- Coffee Cup Lids
- Drink Stirrers

### STEP 2 IDENTIFY ALTERNATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE

Look for alternative products and research costs for each of the items you'd like to replace (see reEarth's Alternative Product Guide).

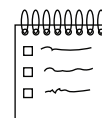
- Ask yourself if the item is necessary. Can you completely eliminate that product's use in your restaurant? How much money would this save you?
- Look for a replacement. Is there an alternative non-plastic product that could be used to replace it? How much would this cost? First look for reusable and then look for recyclable/biodegradable.
- Look to reduce product use. If you only gave out that product when a customer asked for it, could you drastically reduce the amount of those items used?



### STEP 3 ESTABLISH A PLAN

Create your plan for reducing and eliminating single-use plastic products in your restaurant. Develop a strategy that addresses the following:

- Which items will you be replacing with alternative products?
- Which items will you only be providing when requested by the customer?
- Which items will you be completely eliminating?





# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES

## GET STARTED ON YOUR STRATEGY

### STEP 4 COMMUNICATE

Communicate your plan to all employees and to your customers. Communicate to them why this is important to your business and why this is important for the community.

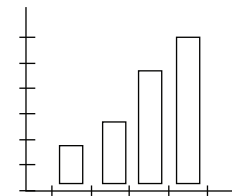
- Use the marketing materials from reEarth to post in your restaurant to remind employees of the initiative.
- Display an information card in your menus or on your tables explaining that your business is committed to working with the City of Carlsbad to reduce single-use, disposable plastics at your establishment.



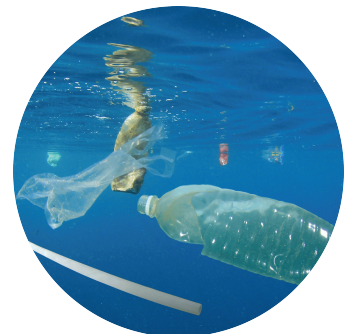
- When customers pay, ask them what they think about your new initiatives and record their feedback. You could ask them to fill out a short survey.
- Ask them to spread the word via social media, community groups, local media etc. to encourage others to join the movement. Have them include the hashtag #keepcarlsbadbeautiful

### STEP 5 TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

Continue to track the products that you are purchasing and their costs every month. Review this spreadsheet every month to understand the financial impacts of your plan.



- Review long-term vs short-term financial projections on a regular basis to evaluate the changes you've implemented.







# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES

## GET STARTED ON YOUR STRATEGY



### STEP 6 ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

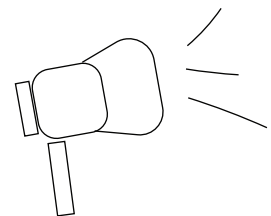
Conduct follow-up calls with reEarth Consulting to review the plan you have put in place and any cost savings the restaurant is realizing. reEarth will be providing ongoing support for your restaurant during the duration of the pilot program.



- Continue to ask for employee and customer feedback and implement requests and comments where possible.

### STEP 7 PROMOTE

Promote your success in the community. Promote your successful plastic reduction and elimination initiative via social media, through the City of Carlsbad communications and the Chamber of Commerce.



reEarth will also be developing case studies of successful restaurants and sharing those on social media and throughout their network.



# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES



## ADVICE & RECOMMENDATIONS TO HELP YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

- Instead of single-use condiment packages and bottles, use refillable condiment dispensers and refill them with condiments (ketchup, mustard, coffee creamer etc.) purchased in bulk.
- Styrofoam packaging takes up four times more space than paper packaging. This means less space available in storage and more space taken up in the dumpster (and more waste dispsfees). Switch to paper packaging where possible.
- If you must distribute condiments, cutlery, and accessories, keep them behind the counter and distribute them when requested by customers. Do not keep them out to be available via self-serve as this will lead to waste. Train your employees to give out a predetermined quantity when requested by guests.
- Use the appropriate packaging containers for the amount of food being served. Having small, medium and large sized packaging containers on hand will allow you to provide the appropriate size for the customer's order and reduce opportunities for using wasteful oversized packaging.
- Eliminate the use of plastic bags whenever possible. Only provide customers plastic bags for their to-go orders when they ask for them.
- Eliminate any unneeded packaging for eat-in food items.
- Replace disposable utensils with reusable alternatives for on-site dining. If you must offer disposable utensils, use unwrapped utensils instead of utensils wrapped in plastic.
- Serve reusable or paper straws upon request only. Reusable straws typically come with cleaning wands, which allows for easy cleaning.
- Use real plates, cutlery and glasses, and cloth napkins whenever possible.





# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES



## ADVICE & RECOMMENDATIONS TO HELP YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

- Ask customers if they need to-go utensils, straws or napkins instead of just including them with their order.
- Instead of plastic bags and styrofoam packaging use paper carryout bags and compostable paper take-out containers.
- Eliminate plastic disposable cups wherever possible and replace with paper cups (for to-go orders), glasses or other reusable options.
- Use reusable dining ware for all dine-in service and use disposables only for take-out orders.
- Encourage customers to bring their own reusable items by offering promotions or discounts. You can offer to fill any size container for a flat rate or offer a discount for bringing in their own personal containers for take-out.
- Discourage the use of any disposable plastic products by charging fees (\$0.05-\$0.25 per plastic item).
- Only offer compostable products if your business and the surrounding area collect compost and your compost facility accepts the products you choose.
- If you want to use compostable plastic, only use products that are certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI).
- Avoid common misconceptions: Beware of products labeled "biodegradable," "oxodegradable," "degradable," "decomposable," or make vague marketing claims that are not certified by a third party. They are NOT compostable. Even if a product is "bioplastic" (synthesized from natural materials like corn or sugarcane), that doesn't mean it's compostable. Before you buy, check BPI.





# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES

## ALTERNATIVE PRODUCT LIST

### STRAWS

Business Name	Website	Products	Material	Cost
Aardvark	<a href="http://www.aardvarkstraws.com">www.aardvarkstraws.com</a>	Straws	Paper	\$317-\$355 7,000 straws
Simply Straws	<a href="http://www.simplystraws.com">www.simplystraws.com</a>	Straws	Glass	\$8.00 /straw
Steely's Drinkware	<a href="http://www.steelysdrinkware.com">www.steelysdrinkware.com</a>	Straws	Stainless Steel	\$.55 - \$.76 /straw
Sorbos	<a href="http://www.wearesorbos.com">www.wearesorbos.com</a>	Straws	Edible & Biodegradable	Contact
Simply Straws	<a href="http://www.simplystraws.com">www.simplystraws.com</a>	Straws	Glass	\$8.00 /straw
Eco Pliant	<a href="http://www.eco-pliant.com">www.eco-pliant.com</a>	Straws	Paper	\$130 4,500/straws
Hay Straws	<a href="http://www.haystraws.com">www.haystraws.com</a>	Straws	Wheat	\$30 500 straws

### CUTLERY & STIRRERS

Business Name	Website	Products	Material	Cost
Natural Tableware	<a href="http://www.NaturalTableware.com">www.NaturalTableware.com</a>	Cutlery & Stirrers	Wood	\$13.50 100 utensils
Bambu	<a href="http://www.BambuHome.com">www.BambuHome.com</a>	Cutlery & Stirrers	Bamboo	\$72.00 250 utensils
Leafware	<a href="http://www.Leafware.com">www.Leafware.com</a>	Cutlery & Stirrers	Birch Wood	\$19.00 100 utensils
Biotrem	<a href="http://www.VerifoodUS.com">www.VerifoodUS.com</a>	Cutlery & Stirrers	Wheat Bran	Contact
Ecoware Inc.	<a href="http://www.ecowareproducts.com">www.ecowareproducts.com</a>	Cutlery	Wood	\$9.00/100 utensils \$40/1,000 utensils
Birchware	<a href="http://www.birchware.com">www.birchware.com</a>	Cutlery	Wood	\$.042-\$0.16 /utensil



# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES

## ALTERNATIVE PRODUCT LIST

### CONTAINERS

Business Name	Website	Products	Material	Cost
Biodegradeable Store	<a href="http://www.biodegradablestore.com">www.biodegradablestore.com</a>	Clamshell Containers	Wheat Straw	\$.22-\$.48 (6x6-9x9in.)
Biomass Packaging	<a href="https://www.therdstore.com">https://www.therdstore.com</a>	Clamshell Containers	Plant Fiber	Contact
Restaurant Depot	<a href="https://www.therdstore.com/sunset-to-go-kraft-containers-35-height-775-x-55-bottom-85-x-625-top-160-count">https://www.therdstore.com/sunset-to-go-kraft-containers-35-height-775-x-55-bottom-85-x-625-top-160-count</a>	Containers	Paper	\$.22 /container
Wasserstrom	<a href="https://www.wasserstrom.com/restaurant-supplies-equipment">https://www.wasserstrom.com/restaurant-supplies-equipment</a>	Containers	Paper	\$.19-\$.35 /container (20-96oz)
World Centric	<a href="http://www.worldcentric.org">www.worldcentric.org</a>	Containers	Plant Fiber	\$.25-\$.52 /container & lid (16-48oz)

### BOWLS & PLATES

Business Name	Website	Products	Material	Cost
Biodegradeable Store	<a href="http://www.biodegradablestore.com">www.biodegradablestore.com</a>	Bowls & Plates	Sugar Cane Fiber	\$.07-\$.28 /unit
Biomass Packaging	<a href="http://www.biodegradablestore.com">www.biodegradablestore.com</a>	Bowls & Plates	Leafware (leaves & water)	\$.52-\$.66 /unit
Webstraunt Store	<a href="http://www.webstaurantstore.com">www.webstaurantstore.com</a>	Bowls & Plates	Reusable Glass, Procelain, Stone, Wood and Melamine	\$1.80 & up /unit
World Centric	<a href="http://www.worldcentric.org">www.worldcentric.org</a>	Bowls & Plates	Plant Fiber	\$.04-\$.23 /unit (all sizes)
Eco-Gecko Products	<a href="http://www.eco-gecko.com">www.eco-gecko.com</a>	Bowls & Plates	Palm Leaves	\$.33-\$.67 /unit
Excellent Packaging and Supply	<a href="http://www.excellentpackaging.com">www.excellentpackaging.com</a>	Bowls & Plates	Wheat Straw	Contact



# SOLUTIONS FOR SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES

## ALTERNATIVE PRODUCT LIST

### CUPS AND LIDS

Business Name	Website	Products	Material	Cost
World Centric	<a href="http://www.worldcentric.org">www.worldcentric.org</a>	Cups & Lids	Paper	\$.05-\$.13/cup \$.07-\$.08/lid
Green Home	<a href="http://www.greenhome.com">www.greenhome.com</a>	Cups & Lids	Paper	\$.08-\$.13/cup \$.095/lid
Green Paper Products	<a href="http://www.greenpaperproducts.com">www.greenpaperproducts.com</a>	Cups & Lids	Paper	\$.07-\$.22/cup \$.09-\$.13/lid
Majestic Sales	<a href="http://www.majesticsales.net">www.majesticsales.net</a>	Cups & Lids	Paper	Contact
Prime Link Solutions	<a href="http://www.primelinksolution.com">www.primelinksolution.com</a>	Cups & Lids	Paper	Contact

### TRAYS

Business Name	Website	Products	Material	Cost
Be Green Packaging	<a href="http://www.begreenpackaging.com">www.begreenpackaging.com</a>	Trays	Plant Fiber	\$.18-\$.22 /unit
LetsGoGreen	<a href="http://www.biodegradablestore.com">www.biodegradablestore.com</a>	Trays	Sugar Cane Fiber	\$1.51-\$2.32 /unit
Southern Champion Tray	<a href="http://www.webstaurantstore.com">www.webstaurantstore.com</a>	Trays	Paper	Contact
World Centric	<a href="http://www.worldcentric.org">www.worldcentric.org</a>	Trays	Plant Fiber	\$.08-\$.33 /unit
Webstraunt Store	<a href="http://www.webstaurantstore.com">www.webstaurantstore.com</a>	Trays	Palm Leaf	\$.25-\$.56 /unit

### BAGS

Business Name	Website	Products	Material	Cost
Mr. Take Out Bags	<a href="http://www.mrtakeoutbags.com">www.mrtakeoutbags.com</a>	Bags	Paper	\$.20-\$.42 /unit
Novolex	<a href="http://www.novolex.com">www.novolex.com</a>	Bags	Paper	Contact
Wasserstrom	<a href="http://www.wasserstrom.com">www.wasserstrom.com</a>	Bags	Paper	\$.04-\$.43 /unit
Webstraunt Store	<a href="http://www.webstaurantstore.com">www.webstaurantstore.com</a>	Bags	Paper	\$.01 & up /unit (many sizes)