Packaging Practices prior to Rethink Disposable:
- All food and beverages were served on disposable food service ware
- Customers were given disposable utensils and napkins for to-go orders without being asked first
- Customers were always given a lid and straw for drinks
- Disposable tasting spoons were used for samples

Jena, the co-owner of Sacred Wheel, had switched to compostable disposable packaging, because she thought this was the best thing to do for the environment. However, she found out that the compostable plastics Sacred Wheel was using to serve food and beverages couldn’t be composted in Oakland and were instead being sent to the landfill. Jena reconsidered and realized that real dishes were the best option for Sacred Wheel.

Recommendations Implemented:
- Replaced disposable tasting spoons, cups, bowls, cutlery and condiment cups with reusable dishware for on-site dining
- Offered napkins in a self-serve dispenser
- Made straws available upon request only
- Ask before giving customers disposable items like utensils and napkins for to-go orders

Jena and her staff implemented all of the ReThink Disposable recommendations with great success! Working together, the Sacred Wheel team was able to split up the dish washing responsibilities without adding any extra staff time. This kept costs low and allowed Sacred Wheel to recover the full savings from reduced disposable purchases. In addition to these savings, Sacred Wheel was able to reduce waste hauling costs.

Jena Davidson, Co-owner: “By switching from expensive recyclable and compostable packaging to real dishes, I was able to save money and do the best thing for the environment. And right away customers started commenting on how happy they are with the changes!”
### Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Products Replaced or Minimized</th>
<th>% Disposable Reduction</th>
<th>Payback Period</th>
<th>Annual Savings (after payback period)</th>
<th>Annual Waste Reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offer napkins in a self-serve dispenser</td>
<td>Paper napkin</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>2.6 months</td>
<td>$17</td>
<td>21 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offer straws upon request only</td>
<td>Compostable plastic straw</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0 days</td>
<td>$132</td>
<td>15 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace disposable tasting spoons with reusable spoons</td>
<td>Plastic spoon</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>9 days</td>
<td>$73</td>
<td>12 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace disposable cups with reusable cups</td>
<td>Compostable plastic and paper cups</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>27 days</td>
<td>$644</td>
<td>186 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace disposable bowls with reusable bowls</td>
<td>Compostable bowls</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>3.2 months</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>211 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace disposable cutlery with reusable cutlery</td>
<td>Compostable plastic cutlery</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>6 days</td>
<td>$676</td>
<td>100 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace disposable condiment cups with reusable condiment cups</td>
<td>Compostable and plastic condiment cups</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>27 days</td>
<td>$266</td>
<td>57 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask before giving out disposable items</td>
<td>Utensils, napkins and lids</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0 days</td>
<td>$714</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**                                           |                                         |                         |                | **$2,652**                             | **602 lbs.**            |

### THE BOTTOM LINE

- $3,768 total annual savings
- 602 pounds of annual waste reduction
- No additional labor required
- Improved presentation
- Satisfied customers
- Won an award!

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ReThink Disposable is a Clean Water Fund program conducted in partnership with local businesses and government agencies. Generous support for the program 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](http://www.rethinkdisposable.org).