Since implementing ReThink Disposable’s recommendations, Clarita’s reduced their use of targeted disposable foodware items by an average of 97%. They are preventing the use of 269,970 disposable items and 920 pounds of waste annually, while earning an ongoing net cost savings of $1,713 each year from the avoided disposable foodware purchases.

Before ReThink Disposable technical assistance, Clarita’s Filipino Cuisine was using all single-use disposable foodware. $309 was invested in purchasing the reusable foodware to make the following changes: Paper three-compartment plates were replaced with a reusable divided plate. Disposable plastic cutlery was replaced with stainless steel utensils for dine-in customers. Disposable beverage cups were replaced with 12 oz reusable plastic water tumblers, but the restaurant staff were unable to sustain washing them. In addition, the restaurant was given a Platescrape, a water conservation tool that eliminates the need to pre-wash.

A common concern business operators have when making the switch to reusable foodware is loss of product. To help address this issue, Clarita’s Filipino Cuisine enhanced the garbage collection system by changing to a cart system with bus tubs to collect dirty dishes. Signage was deployed to remind guests not to throw away the reusable dishware, therefore further decreasing annual costs. The manager was skeptical at first, but once the PlateScrape was provided which demonstrated how easy the changes were to implement, the staff were seeing the benefits of financial savings, and customer appreciation and waste reduction first-hand.

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**Packaging Practices prior to ReThink Disposable:**
- 3-compartment paper plates
- Single-use plastic utensils
- Single-use plastic cups

**Recommendations Implemented:**
- Reusable 3-compartment plates
- Stainless steel forks, knives, and spoons
- Reusable cup
- Platescrape (a water and time saving tool that is utilized in lieu of a pre-rinse spray valve)

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### BUSINESS PROFILE

**Name:**
Clarita’s Filipino Cuisine

**Location:**
Sunnyvale, CA

**On-site dining:**
50 seats

**Take-out:**
Yes, 50% to-go

**Warewashing:**
3-compartment sink

**Employees:**
3

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disposable Plates and Utensils Before Changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reusable Plates and Silverware After Changes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disposable Product Replaced or Minimized</th>
<th>Recommendation Implemented</th>
<th>Percent Disposable Reduction</th>
<th>Annual Quantity of Single-Use Items Prevented</th>
<th>Payback Period (months)</th>
<th>Annual NET Cost Savings After Payback Period ($)</th>
<th>Annual Waste Reduction (lbs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plastic fork</td>
<td>Replace disposable forks with metal forks</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>18,250</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>$315</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic knife</td>
<td>Replace disposable knives with metal knives</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>18,250</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>$177</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic spoon</td>
<td>Replace disposable spoons with metal spoon</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>9,125</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>$162</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-compartment paper plate</td>
<td>Replace disposable plate with reusable divided plate</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>9,733</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>$1,059</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>AVERAGE % Reduction of targeted foodware:</strong> 97%</td>
<td><strong>TOTAL # Reduced:</strong> 269,970 pieces</td>
<td><strong>AVERAGE Payback Period:</strong> 2 months</td>
<td><strong>TOTAL Net Savings:</strong> $1,713</td>
<td><strong>TOTAL Waste Reduction:</strong> 920 lbs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### THE BOTTOM LINE
- $1,713 in total annual net cost savings
- 269,970 disposable items reduced per year
- 920 pounds of annual waste reduction

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*ReThink Disposable is a program of Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund conducted in partnership with 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](http://www.rethinkdisposable.org).

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