

Reuse Business Profile Summary: Fast-Casual Restaurants



Upstream analyzed twenty fast-casual style restaurants that reduced single-use products, where waste and cost impacts were tracked and calculated by ReThink Disposable. “Fast-casual” is defined as an intermediate concept between fast food and casual dining and has a higher dine-in ratio than fast food (e.g. pizza, burger, and sandwich shops). These restaurants on average invested \$398 as a one-time set up cost to purchase reusables. The most common items reduced (quantity and pounds) leading to the greatest cost savings were red plastic baskets and liners, and wooden stir sticks.

		Average	Highest	Lowest
Waste Reduction	Quantity	64%	100%	19%
			red plastic baskets & liners, wooden stir sticks	paper plates
Waste Reduction	Pounds	65%	100%	20%
			red plastic baskets & liners, wooden stir sticks	condiment cups
Cost Impacts	Cost Reduction	56%	100%	33%
			red plastic baskets & liners, wooden stir sticks	paper hot cup lids
	Payback Period months	2.4	0.1	8.1
			napkins, paper plates, con- diment cup lids, paper hot cup lids & sleeves	straws
Cost Impacts	Set-up Costs	\$398	\$938	\$0
			plastic cold cups	assorted utensils & accessories, paper hot cup lids & sleeves, paper plates
Cost Impacts	ROI	397	5011	.31
			paper plates	red plastic baskets



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