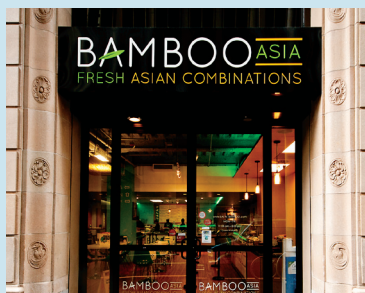


CASE STUDY: FAST CASUAL RESTAURANT



BUSINESS PROFILE

Name:	Bamboo Asia
Business type:	Fast casual restaurant
Location:	San Francisco, CA
On-site dining:	48 seats
Take Out:	Yes
Ware washing:	Done by staff
Employees:	18

Bamboo Asia is a fast casual Asian restaurant in the Financial District of San Francisco. They serve Asian-fusion specialties from India, Vietnam and Japan to about 400 customers per day.

Packaging Practices prior to ReThink Disposable:

➔ All food and beverages were served on disposable food service ware. Sebastiaan, the manager of Bamboo Asia, was using expensive plastic bowls and trays and wanted to explore cheaper and more environmentally-friendly options. Since many customers dine on-site, there was significant potential to reduce costs and waste. Sebastiaan also wanted to enhance the café's bamboo theme.



Recommendations implemented:

➔ Offer reusable bowls and trays for customers dining on-site

Sebastiaan wanted to pilot test the **ReThink Disposable** recommendations by investing in a small number of bowls and trays to start. Even with this small pilot test the financial savings and waste reduction at Bamboo

Asia were huge! Customers love the look of the new bamboo bowls and trays. The staff is able to wash these dishes with the back-of-the-house dishware and did not need to increase staff time. Bamboo Asia's transition to reusable bowls and trays for some on-site dining is a great example of how even a small change can result in big impacts!



Sebastiaan Van De Rijt, Manager:

“Customers really like the new bowls and trays, and I've been able to cut back on disposable purchases. We're transitioning to a higher-end experience and the bamboo bowls have helped achieve that goal.”

Results:

Recommendation	Products Replaced or Minimized	% Disposable Reduction	Payback Period	Annual Savings (after payback period)	Annual Waste Reduction
Replace disposable bowl with reusable bowl for on-site dining	Plastic bowl	16%	1.2 months	\$3,444	764 lbs.
	Plastic lid	5%		\$1,557	431 lbs.
Replace disposable trays with reusable trays for on-site dining	Plastic tray	4%	3.6 months	\$174	39 lbs.
TOTAL				\$5,175	1,234 lbs.



The Bottom Line:

- \$5,175 total annual savings
- 1,234 pounds of waste reduced annually
- No additional labor required
- Improved presentation
- Satisfied customers

ReThink Disposable is a project of Clean Water Fund in coordination with City of Cupertino Department of Public Works, City of Oakland Department of Public Works, City of Sunnyvale Environmental Services Department, County of San Mateo Department of Public Works, San Francisco Department of the Environment, San Jose Department of Environmental Services, South San Francisco Department of Public Works, and StopWaste (Alameda County).

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