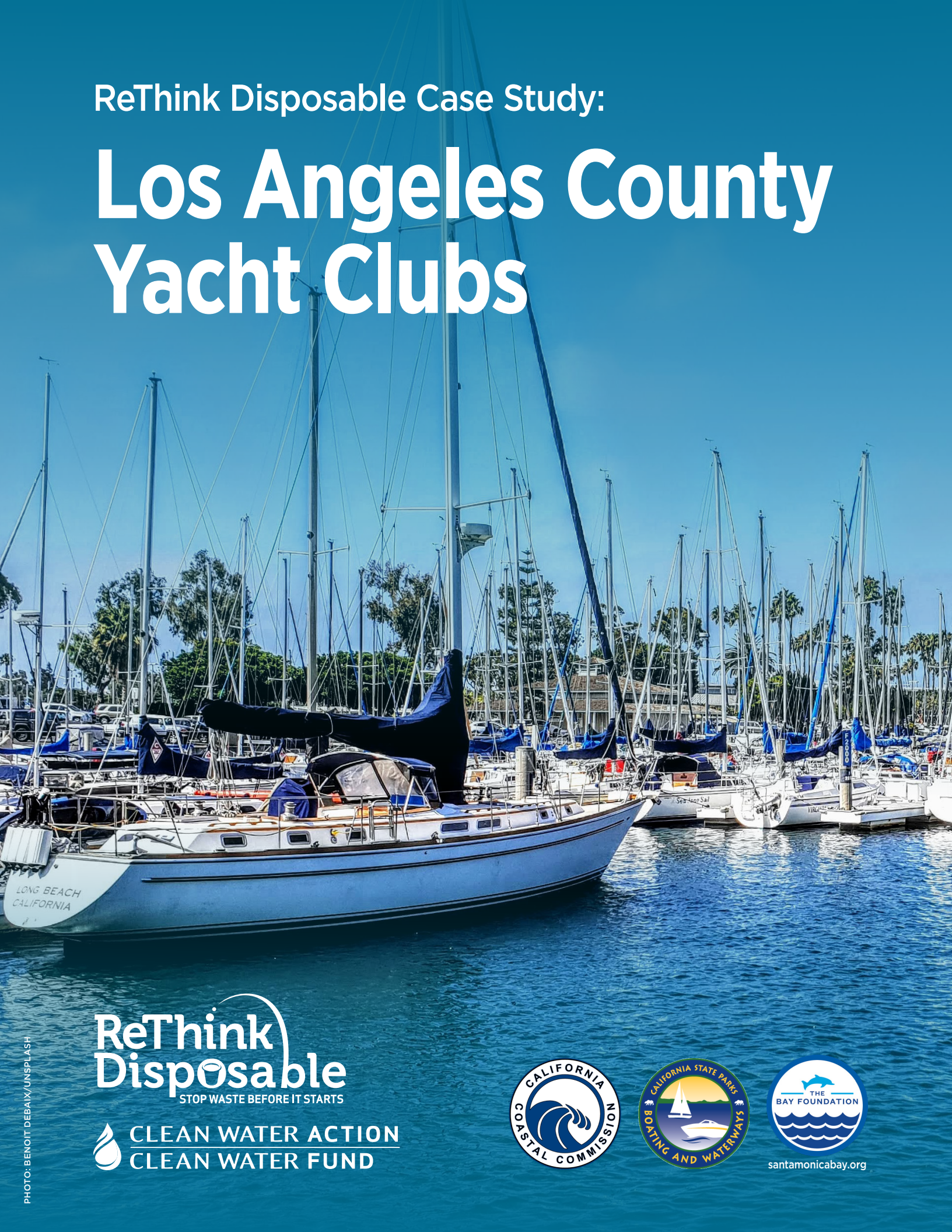


ReThink Disposable Case Study:

Los Angeles County Yacht Clubs



**ReThink
Disposable**
STOP WASTE BEFORE IT STARTS



**CLEAN WATER ACTION
CLEAN WATER FUND**



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Background

ReThink Disposable, a program of Clean Water Action (CWA) and Clean Water Fund (CWF), prevents waste before it starts. Prevention at the source cuts costs, conserves resources, and prevents marine debris. In follow up to a successful pilot with six Northern California yacht clubs in 2019, CWA and CWF partnered with the California State Parks and the California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program and The Bay Foundation to implement **ReThink Disposable** at yacht clubs throughout Los Angeles County. A potent combination of partner collaboration, an endorsement from the Southern California Yachting Association, and passionate club commodores led to three yacht clubs carrying out dedicated efforts to reduce waste and enhance ocean stewardship. This case study is a snapshot of each club's accomplishments.



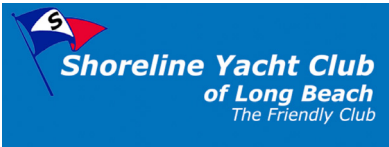
Lessons learned and tips for yacht clubs interested in the zero-packaging movement

- **Get Board approval early on** for new source reduction programs. This will help determine your reusable foodware budget and what needs to be reported to members and the board, thus streamlining the process.
- For changes to really stick, it's important to **train staff, servers, bartenders, dishwashers, and caterers** on new re-use centric food operations. Without all hands on deck, even the most well intentioned plan will go unrealized.
- **Carefully examine food service operation for opportunities to reduce single-use disposables.** Beyond the obvious cups, plates, and utensils, there may be unique, less obvious opportunities to exchange something disposable for a reusable, washable alternative.
- If you are a model, zero-packaging club, **mentor a sister club** to do the same.
- **It's ok to start small.** For example, encourage members to bring their own travel mugs for hot beverages, post a sign at the coffee station, and tell your community about it via a newsletter, bulletin board, website, etc.
- **Start with getting rid of single-use plastic water bottles.** Instruct the crew to bring their own reusable water bottle onboard the vessel. Or better yet, request a water bottle refill station at the club.

CASE STUDY:

Shoreline Yacht Club Long Beach, CA

Founded: 1983
Members: 400
Number of on site dining seats: 131
Dining and bar service 4 days a week



Pre-ReThink Disposable Packaging Practices: Shoreline Yacht Club (SYC) used reusable ceramic plates and stainless steel cutlery for their dining operations with drinks from the bar served in glassware with disposable straws. Water was served in disposable plastic cups. In addition to dining and bar service operations, self-service water and coffee stations featured disposable plastic water cups and disposable plastic-lined paper hot cups.



Before: Coffee was available in disposable plastic-lined paper cups at SYC's self-serve station.



After: Reusable mugs and educational signage are available at the self-serve station.

Recommendations Implemented: After participating in **ReThink Disposable**, for onsite dining operations, SYC switched to reusable water cups and reduced disposable straws by utilizing reusable metal ones. They also stopped placing disposable cups at their self-serve stations and instead now feature reusable water cups and reusable mugs. SYC's Judy Fusco led the initiative to eliminate these three disposable items. Judy is passionate about making changes to prevent waste at the source and leads their club's water-enthusiastic community.



Before: Disposable plastic water cups were available at SYC's self-serve water station.



After: Reusable plastic tumblers are placed with educational signage on single-use waste alongside the water station.



"Working with ReThink Disposable was a great experience. They provided support and encouragement as we worked through the implementation of this program. I was hoping to see a bigger change at the club but just seeing the disposable plastic cups being replaced with reusable cups is a big win!" — Judy Fusco

SYC's ReThink Disposable efforts annually **eliminate 19,467 single-use** disposables items, **prevent 408 pounds of trash** from entering landfills, and yield **\$1,443 in total net savings**.

CASE STUDY:

Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club, Marina del Rey, CA

Founded: 1941
Members: 225
Number of on site dining seats: 35
Dining and bar service 5 days a week



Pre-ReThink Disposable Packaging Practices: Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club (SMWYC) used reusable cocktail cups with disposable paper straws for drinks and stirrers. Water was served in disposable cups with disposable paper straws. For onsite dining, disposable paper plates were used, and disposable paper or plastic bags were available for to-go orders. Condiments such as sugar were available at the bar in individual paper packets.

ReThink Disposable Recommendations Implemented:

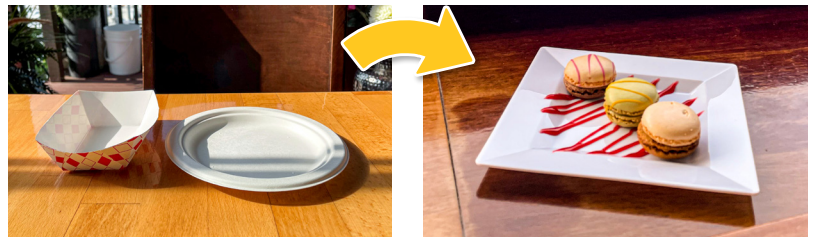
After participating in **ReThink Disposable**, SMWYC switched to reusable water cups, reusable plates, and incorporated a reusable bulk sugar dispenser. Additionally, straws, drink stirrers, and to-go bags are available upon request only. Israel Caro, SMWYC's Food and Beverage Operator, led efforts to eliminate these disposable items and reduce waste. Israel was on board with these upgrades right away and was enthusiastic about making changes for the betterment of the environment and SMWYC.



Before and After: The club replaced individual self-serve sugar packets with a reusable bulk sugar dispenser available at the bar.



Before: Disposable plastic and paper bags were given for to-go orders (left) and paper straws were given for to-go drinks (right).



Before: Meals were served on disposable small plates.

After: Meals are served on reusable small plates.



After: Signage is placed at the bar to inform guests that straws, drink stirrers, and to-go bags are upon request only.

“Estamos muy contentos de participar en este tipo de programas, especialmente cuando estás en contacto directo con nuestros mares (sailing), te das cuenta que hay muchos plásticos, globos y basura. Como personas tenemos la responsabilidad de cuidar nuestro planeta y dejarlo a las siguientes generaciones mejor de como lo encontramos.”



“We are so excited to be participating in a program like this, especially when we are in close proximity to our ocean. We notice firsthand how much plastic, balloons, and trash there are. As people, we have a responsibility to take care of our planet and leave it better than we found it for generations to come.” — Israel Caro

SMWYC's ReThink Disposable efforts annually **eliminate 33,357 single-use** disposables items, **prevent 354 pounds of trash** from entering landfills, and yield **\$916.77 in total net savings**.

CASE STUDY:

Port Royal Yacht Club Redondo Beach, CA

Founded: 1990

Members: 75

Number of on site dining seats: 60

Self-serve dining & bar service 7 days/week;
events with 100+ guests at least twice a year



Pre-ReThink Disposable Packaging Practices: Port Royal Yacht Club (PRYC) in Redondo Beach used disposable plastic cups to serve water, cocktails, wine, and beer during daily operations at their self-serve bar and self-serve water station.

Coffee was served in disposable paper cups, and during racing events, a self-serve station was arranged with disposable paper cups. For large dining events, disposable plastic cups, disposable paper cups, disposable cutlery, and disposable paper plates were used.

ReThink Disposable Recommendations Implemented: PRYC switched to reusable multi-use glass cups (water, cocktails, beer, and coffee) and reusable wine glasses for both daily self-serve station operations and events. Anne Walker, PRYC member/Staff Commodore, Barbara Smith, and Commodore Carole Smith championed **ReThink Disposable** and oversaw the implementation of the reusable cups. In addition to ReThink Disposable program-supported changes coupled with the club's interest in reducing waste, PRYC leadership has recently continued implementation of reusable best practices in the club, such as replacing disposable plastic cutlery with reusable cutlery and the planning of swapping disposable plates with reusable ones in the near future.



Before: Disposable plastic cups were used in the bar area for cocktails, beer, wine, and water.



After: Reusable glass multi-use cups are used for cocktails, beer, and water (left). Reusable glasses are now used for wine (right).

“Being aware of these issues is something we all need to do. It’s not just about us sending our country to different summits, it’s about everyone doing their part. When I first started looking into plastic use, I was amazed to see how much plastic I personally was using. To think about that use reflected for many more people was really impactful to me. The ReThink program is helping PRYC be more environmentally conscious and responsible. I am excited for the future of the club and the future implementation of even more reusable items.” — Anne Walker



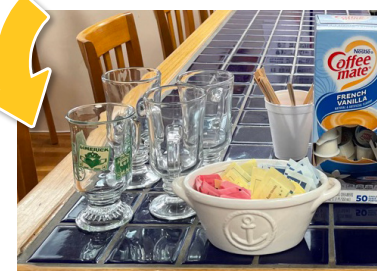
Before: Disposable plastic cutlery placed at various self-serve areas in the club.



After: Reusable cutlery storage is available in the self-serve area.



Before: Disposable paper cups were used for self-serve coffee.



After: Reusable glass cups and mugs are placed by the coffee station for both self-serve operations and events.

PRYC's ReThink Disposable efforts annually **eliminate 5,975 single-use** disposables items, **prevent 83 pounds of trash** from entering landfills, and yield **\$366.53 in total net savings**.



PHOTO: DANIEL SINCOA/UNSPLASH

ReThink Disposable

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ReThink Disposable is a program of Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund conducted in partnership with local organizations, 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.



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