



SKIP THE STUFF CASE STUDY:

## **Borough of Red Bank**

Restaurants providing single-use cutlery and condiments upon request only

# SCOPE OF WORK

Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund's ReThink Disposable program helps to stop waste before it starts.

In March 2024, Red Bank passed their Skip the Stuff Ordinance (2024-08), which has restaurants only provide single-use cutlery and condiments upon request for take-out orders. This led nine other municipalities to pass similar ordinances in 2024.

Red Bank's Green Team, with the help of Clean Water Action, created educational flyers in English and Spanish and provided outreach to businesses and residents.

In November 2024, Clean Water Action visited twenty-nine (29) restaurants in Red Bank to gauge the success rate of the Skip the Stuff Ordinance.

Of the twenty-nine (29) restaurants visited, twenty (20) restaurants were able to provide data while nine (9) did not have managers present to provide financial information. In some cases, multiple visits were made to try to speak with the person in charge but that was not always possible.

New Jersey Needs to  
**“Skip the Stuff”**



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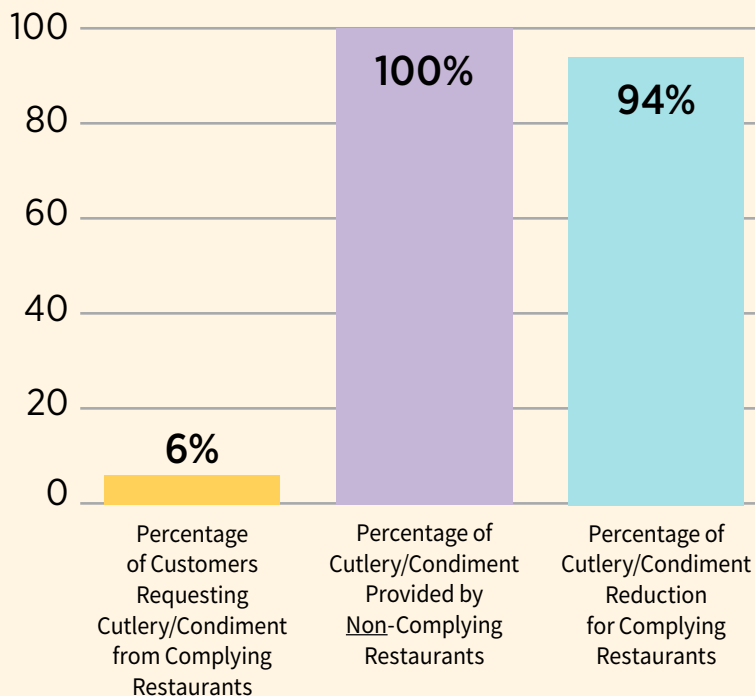
*ReThink Disposable* is a program of Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund conducted in partnership with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies. Generous support is provided by a changing list of public and private funders. To learn more about the program, its partners, and funders, visit:

<https://cleanwater.org/campaign/rethink-disposable-new-jersey>

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# MEASURING OUTCOMES

## Cutlery and Condiment Waste Reduction and Restaurant Savings



**1,578,769 pieces**

of toxic plastic cutlery (over 10,000 lbs) annually reduced from the waste stream as a result of 16 compliant restaurants in Red Bank

**94% reduction**

in single-use cutlery and condiments for all businesses following Skip the Stuff, equating to money saved

- 29 restaurants surveyed
- 20 restaurants provided data
- 9 restaurants did not provide data
- 4 restaurants were not following ordinance, either because their customers had no access to wash or it was a newly established business
- 75% reduction in single-use condiments and cutlery being provided to customers by all businesses who provided data



# WHAT THEY ARE SAYING



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INBETWEEN CAFE:

**“Some people bring their own containers. It’s a win-win for the environment and our business.”**

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CUSTOMER:

**“I have a junk drawer at home full of stuff I never use. Now I don’t have that problem!”**

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SURF TACO COASTAL CUISINE:

**“We are definitely saving a lot of money.”**

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RED BANK DINER:

**“It’s definitely saving us a lot of money.”**

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BUONA SERA:

**“We’d rather give out our own silverware than cheap plastic stuff that breaks. People just return it, even when staying at hotels.”**

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CUSTOMER:

**“Skip the Stuff is a no-brainer!”**

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