



# Back to Reusables

In the last three decades, public schools across the U.S. switched to single-use plastic foodware, got rid of their dishwashers, and became dependent on a constant linear supply chain of disposable foodware with no end market.

School communities now want to switch to reusable foodware, driven by **HEALTH, WASTE,** and **CLIMATE** concerns. But they don't know how. Or whether they can do it within their nutrition budget.

**Stopwaste and the Center for Environmental Health are partnering to give school districts the information and assistance they need to transition to a reusable foodware system that fits their context.**

## We are Currently Piloting 3 Reusable Foodware Systems:

**ON-SITE MODEL:** A school district purchases stainless steel foodware. Dishwashers are bought and installed in each school kitchen. Lunchroom staffers wash and restock the foodware on-site at each school.

**CENTRALIZED MODEL:** A school district purchases stainless steel foodware and one large dishwasher that is installed at a single location. District staff collects dirty foodware from each school, washes it at the central hub, then returns it clean.

**OFF-SITE MODEL:** A school district purchases stainless steel reusable foodware and contracts with a third-party dishwashing service to collect dirty foodware from each school, wash it off-site at the company's headquarters, and return it clean.



## Our Project Team Will:

- 1 COLLECT** data on 3 reusable foodware models we are piloting in school districts in Alameda County, CA.
- 2 PARTNER** with a national lab that will conduct a techno-economic analysis (TEA), comparing the costs and labor impacts of disposable foodware systems to the 3 reusable foodware models we are piloting.
- 3 CREATE** a comprehensive toolkit for school districts that features the TEA, data from life-cycle analyses, details on the 3 transition models, and vendor lists.
- 4 REACH** 300+ schools with the toolkit and connect U.S. stainless steel foodware suppliers with school districts – a significant new customer base.
- 5 TRANSITION** more school districts using the refined, replicable processes and info this project produces.

**DISPOSABLE FOODWARE**



**EXPOSURE TO TOXICS  
COPIOUS WASTE • GHGs  
FOSSIL FUEL IMPACTS**

**REUSABLE FOODWARE**



**NO TOXICS EXPOSURE  
LESS WASTE • MORE JOBS  
LESS POLLUTION & GHGs**