

# *plastic free* RESTAURANTS

## Annual Report 2023



# A note from the Executive Director

It feels as though 2023 was when we finally hit our stride while simultaneously learning a lot of lessons about how not to do things moving forward.

I personally did a much better job of delegating tasks, setting bigger and more specific expectations from our amazing Board of Directors (which has stepped up to the challenge), and being open to receiving help from additional sources of volunteers. We ramped up our data collection such that we are finally able to release our first proper Annual Report. We instituted a more robust and specific policy for the testing of heavy metals in the reusable food ware items we subsidize for schools. We created a new intake survey for subsidy applicants of all stripes, to streamline our approval process. We said thank you and farewell to three of our founding Board Members while welcoming seven(!) new Board Members. And we created a new Associate Board which welcomes passionate voices as young as ten years old. In the twelve months ending 12/31/23, we eliminated nearly three million single-use plastic items from 25 schools, 15 restaurants, and one Meals On Wheels chapter, expanding our footprint to ten US states.

I would like to extend an enormous Thank You to the Boston Consulting Group, which assigned a pro bono team of four brilliant consultants to a six-week assignment on behalf of our humble non-profit in 2023. Suffice it to say that PFR would not have made the advancements spelled out above without BCG's recommendations and wisdom.

More than three years in, we continue to be a **100% volunteer-run operation** that has kept overhead costs below 5% of revenue since inception. If you have supported us in the past, we thank you for putting your faith in our mission. If not, we hope you'll join us moving forward. We will continue using our donors' dollars wisely and sparingly, for the sole purpose of eliminating single-use plastic from our nation's school cafeterias, restaurants, soup kitchens, Meals On Wheels, health care facilities, event spaces, and stadiums.

Thanks for your help in making that happen.

Cheers,  
John Charles Meyer  
February 2024

A photograph of four children sitting at a table, eating fruit. The children are diverse in age and ethnicity. They are looking towards the camera. The background is a soft, light pink color. The text is overlaid on the image.

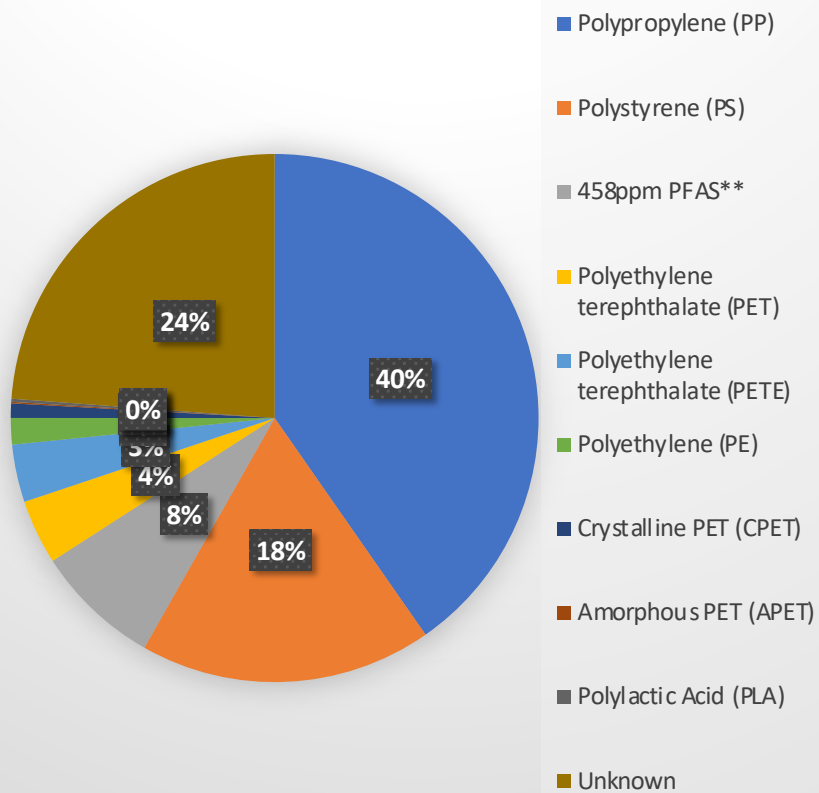
In 2023,  
PlasticFreeRestaurants.org eliminated

**2,897,411**

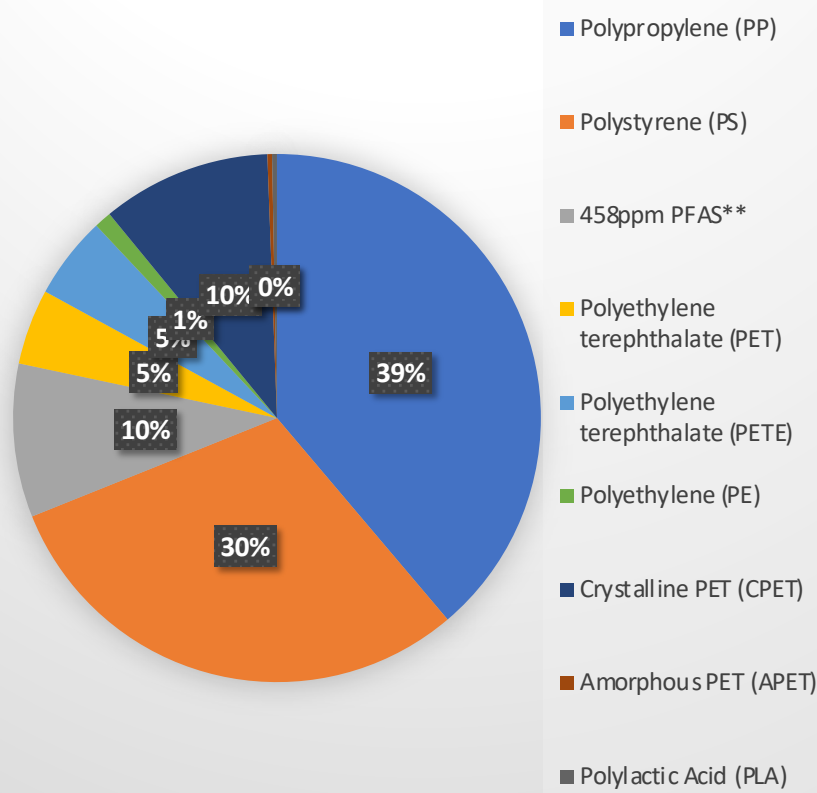
Single-Use Plastic (SUP) items  
weighing more than\*

**16,418 pounds**

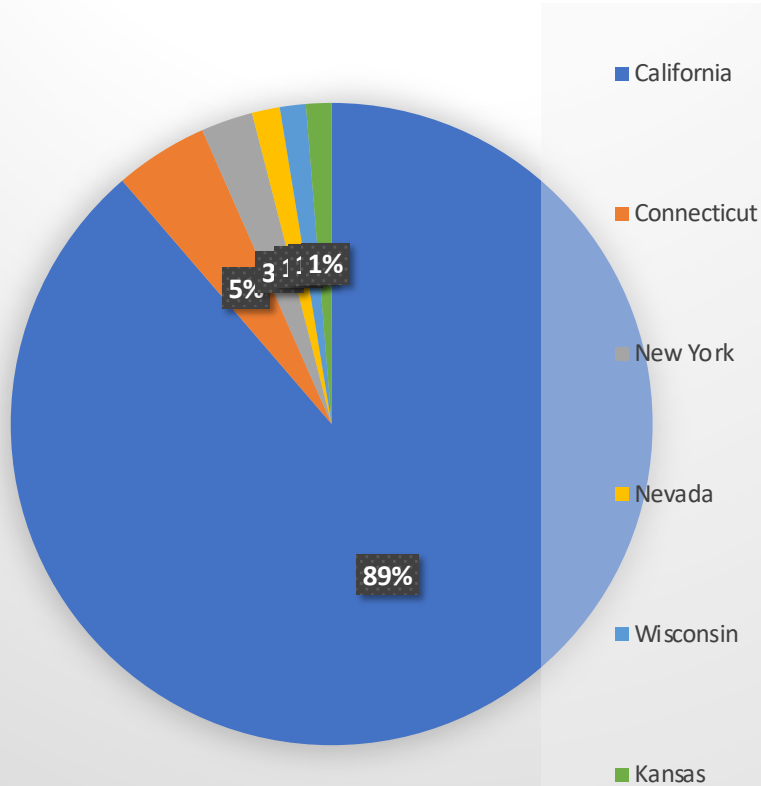
## Number of SUP Items Eliminated, by Plastic Type



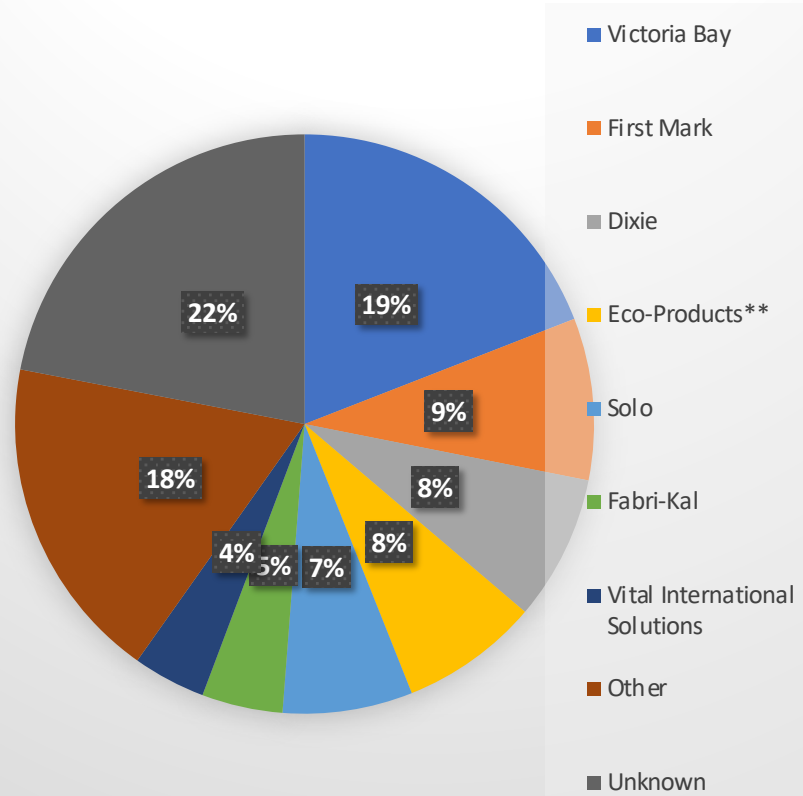
## Weight\* of SUP Items Eliminated, by Plastic Type



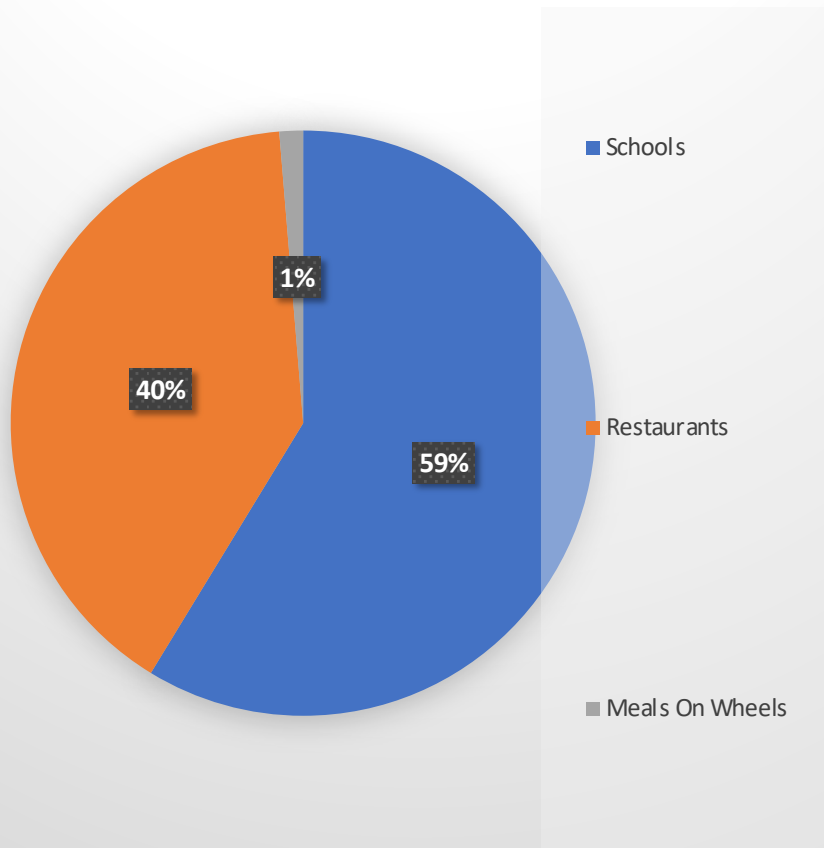
### Number of SUP Items Eliminated, by State



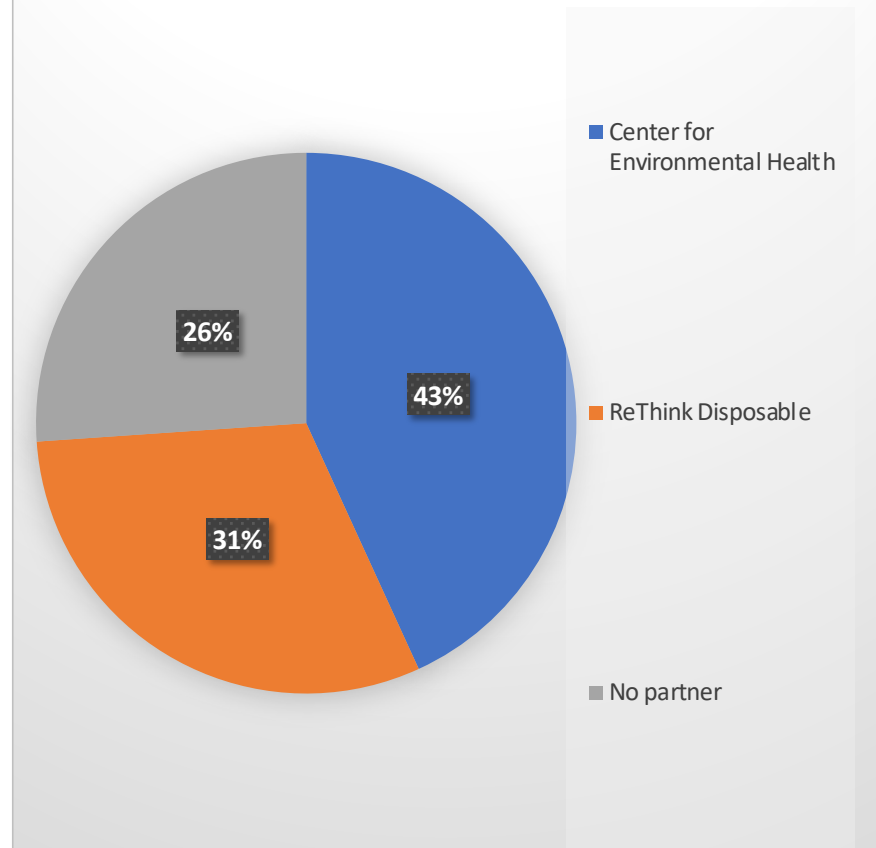
### Number of SUP Items Eliminated, by Manufacturer



Number of SUP Items Eliminated,  
by Subsidy Recipient Type



Number of SUP Items Eliminated  
via Non-Profit Partnerships





In 2023,  
PlasticFreeRestaurants.org subsidized

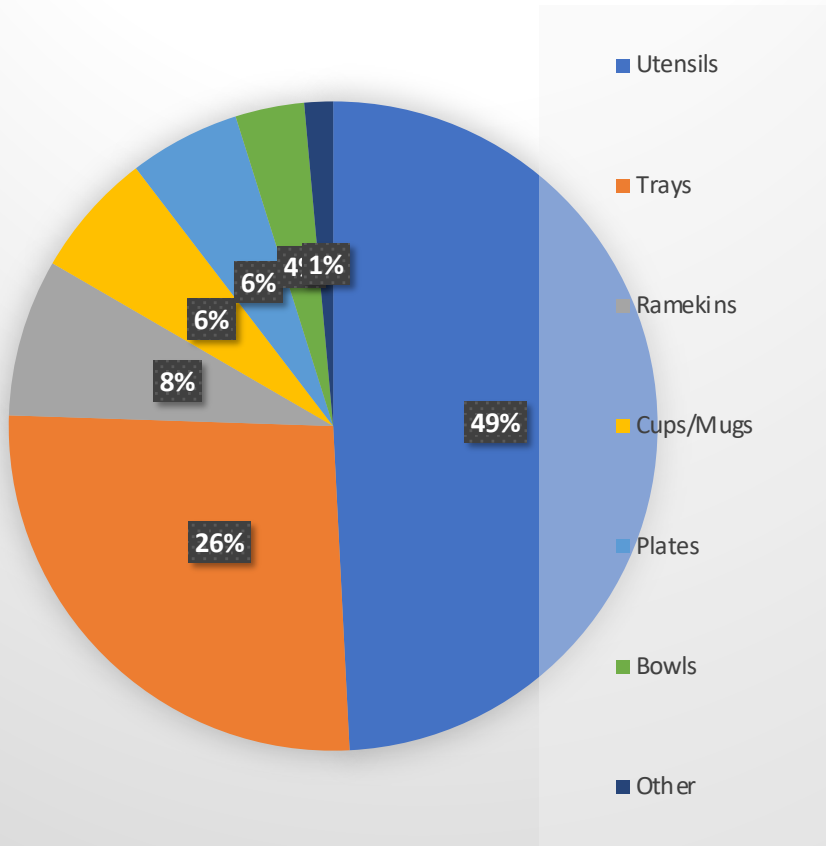
**17,925**

reusable food ware items with just

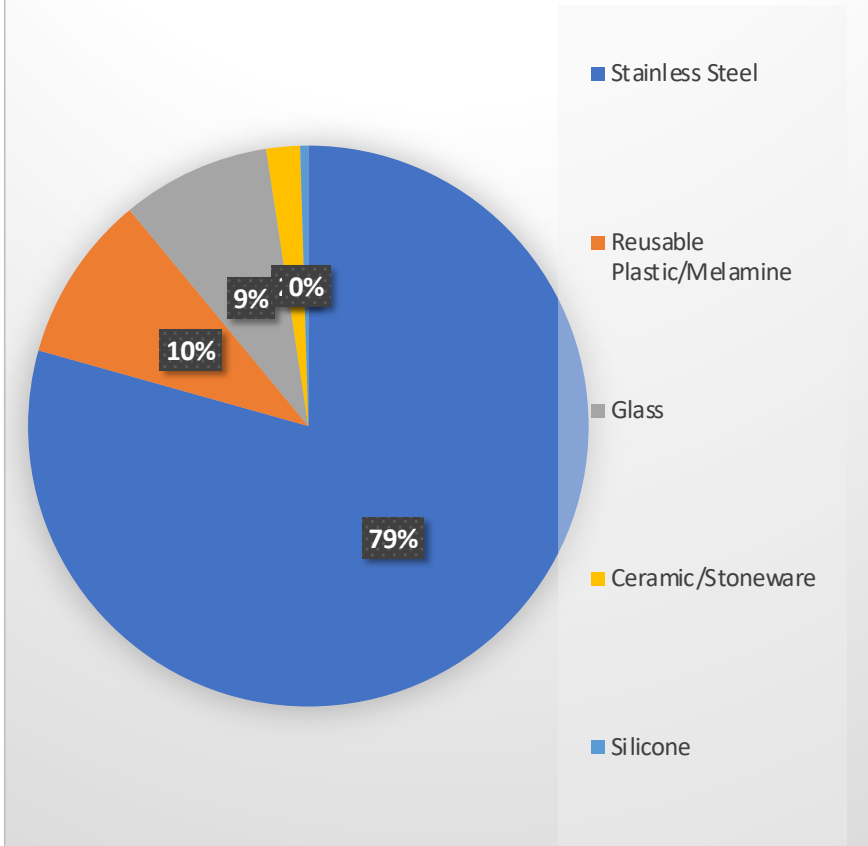
**\$25,654.56**

of our donors' funds.

### Number of Reusable Items Subsidized, by Type

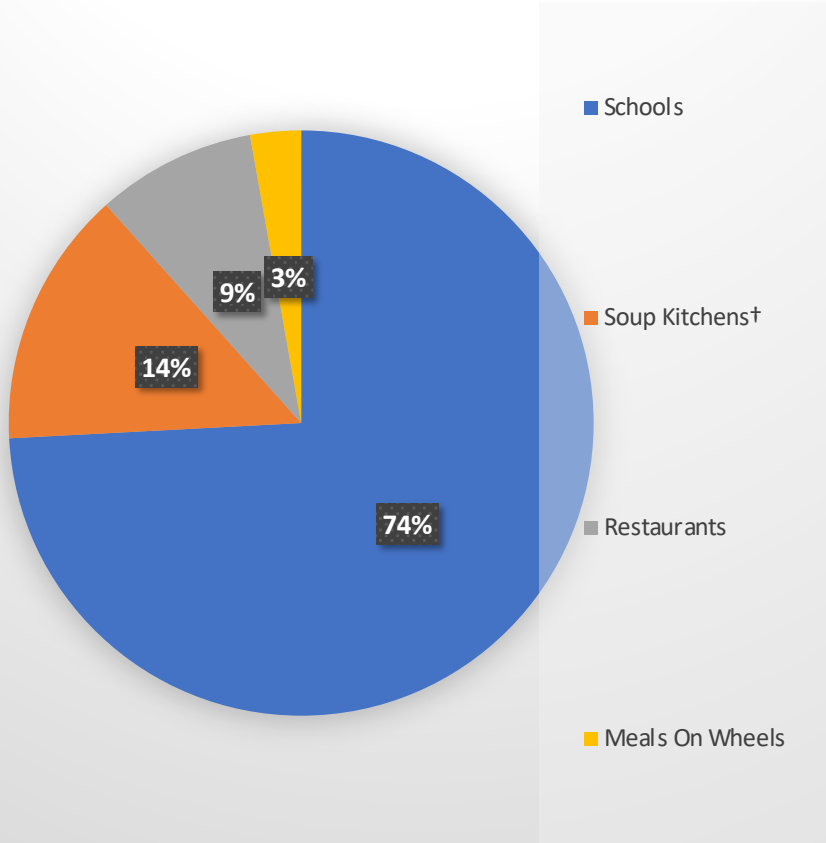


### Reusable Items Purchased, by Material Type

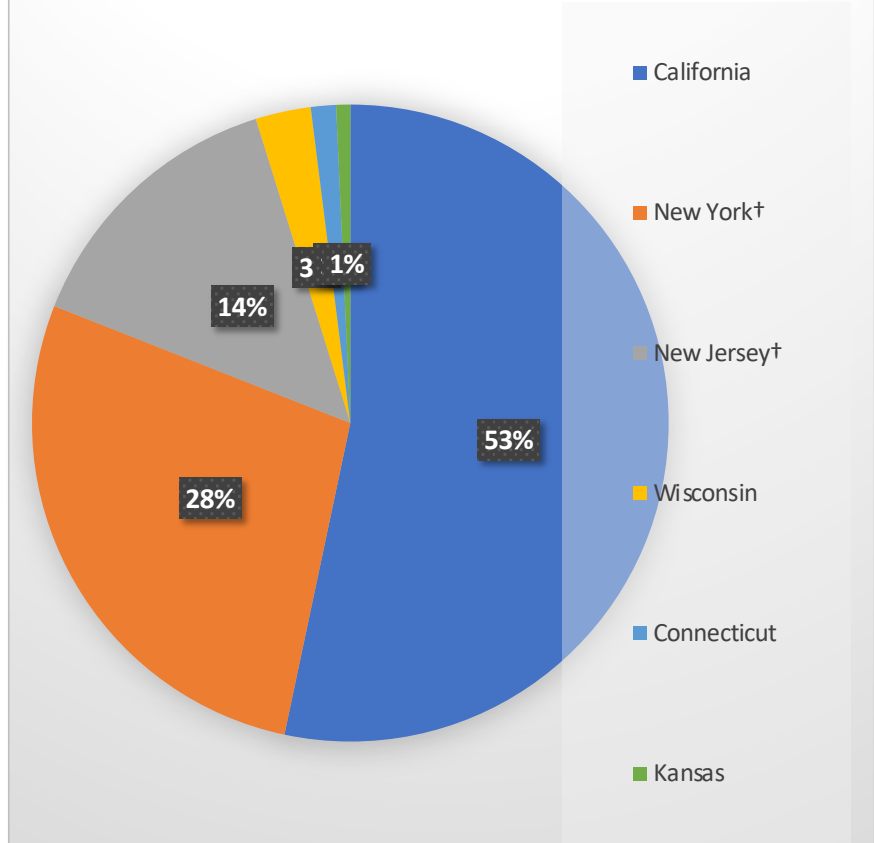




### Subsidy Spending, by Recipient Type



### Subsidy Spending, by State



A photograph of four children sitting at a light blue table, eating pizza. The children are diverse in age and ethnicity. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. There are two trays of pizza on the table. The background is a solid light purple color.

In 2023,  
PlasticFreeRestaurants.org raised

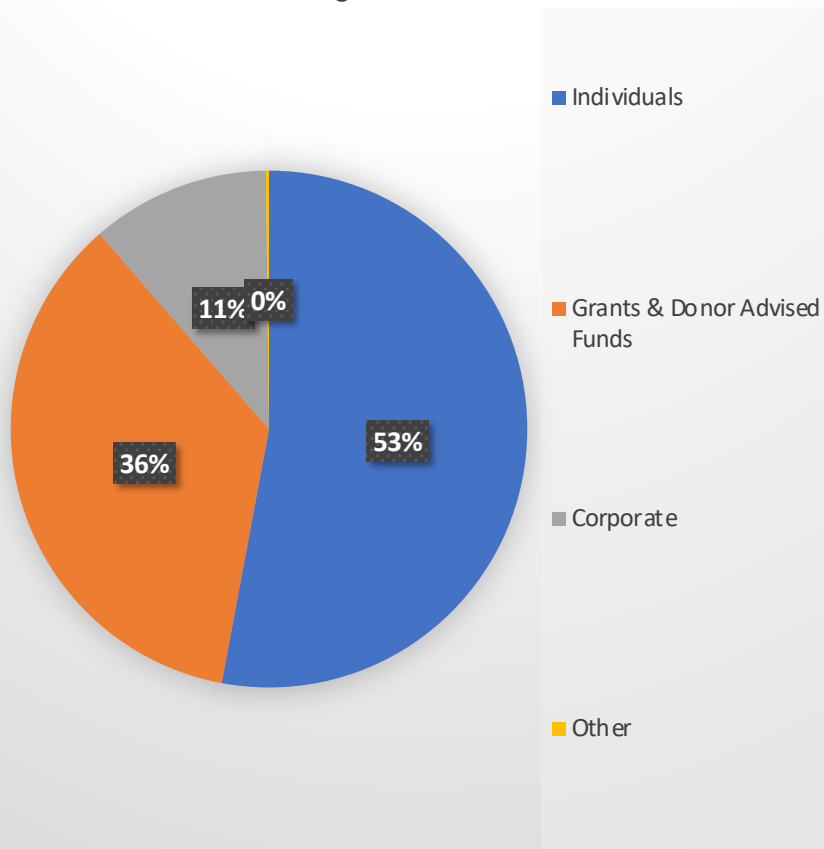
**\$65,296.46**

and spent just

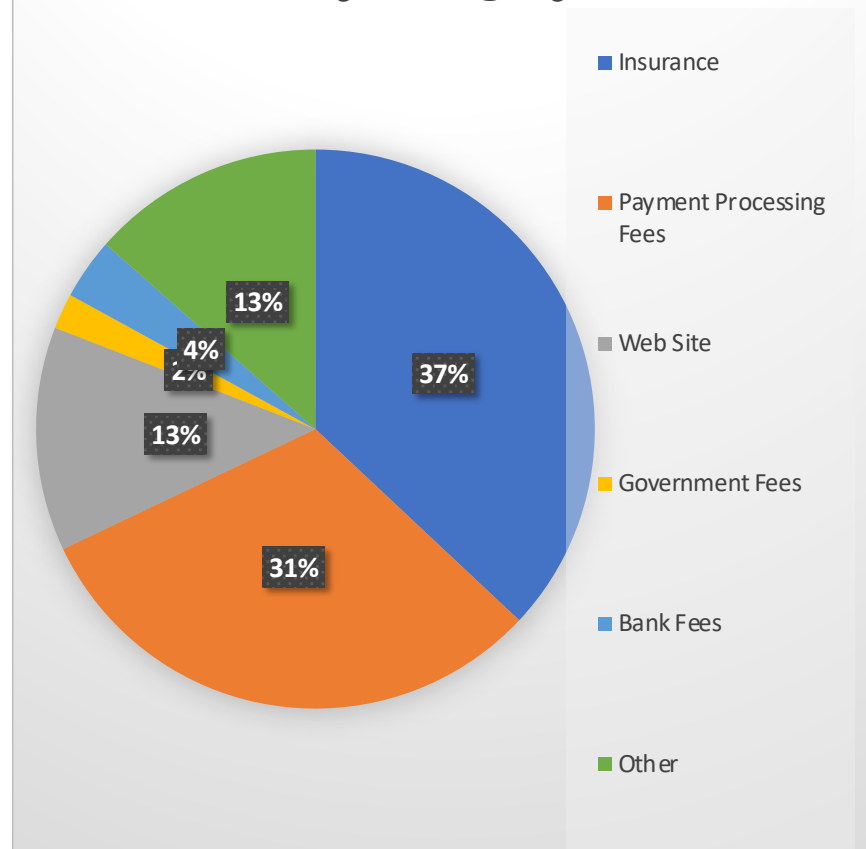
**\$2,433.18**

(3.7%) on overhead.

### \$65,296.46 of 2023 Funding, by Source



### \$2,433.18 of 2023 Overhead, by Category





## Spotlight: Fremont Unified School District (CA)

- 2,995 stainless steel trays subsidized
- 1,850 stainless steel utensils subsidized
- 771,840 single-use plastic\*\* items eliminated *per school year*
- Five more schools going reusable in 2024

# Full List of Subsidized Locations∞ To Date

## Restaurants & Soup Kitchens

(all CA unless noted otherwise)

[Abanico Coffee](#)  
[Aqua Adventure Water Park](#)  
[Aramex](#)  
Bakery La Mejor  
Ballast  
[Bucket O' Crawfish](#)  
[The Butter House](#)  
[Chic N' Time](#)  
[China Villa](#)  
Crawford County Central Kitchen (WI)  
New Wing Dim Sum  
Crossroad Pizzeria  
[Crudo e Nudo](#)☞  
[Deja Blue Soul Food Restaurant & Club](#)  
[El Gran Taco Loco](#)  
El Migueleno  
[El Toro Taqueria](#)  
[Experience Burma](#)  
[Flor de Cafe & Ma's Tacos](#)  
[Gaters](#)  
[Happy Donut](#)  
[House of Dim Sum](#)  
[House of Xian Dumpling](#)  
[Jake's Steaks](#)  
[Jay's Coffee & Tea](#)  
[Jersey Joe's](#)  
JT Restaurant  
[La Corneta](#)  
[La Torta Gordá](#)  
Las Cazuelas Taqueria  
Las Marias Bar & Grill  
[Little Joe's](#)  
[Lola's Chicken Shack](#)  
[Manhattan Hub](#)  
Mediterranean Bite

[Metro Hong Kong Desserts](#)  
Michael Gourmet Kitchen  
[Muse Juice Bar](#)  
My Candy House  
[Namaste Pizza](#)  
[Nation's Giant Hamburger](#)  
[New Bamboo Kitchen](#)  
[New Fortune](#)  
New Lun Ting Cafe  
New Wing Dim Sum  
[Nobhill Pizza](#)  
[Noodle-Ly](#)☞  
Original Bakery  
[Pancho Villa Taqueria](#)  
[Q's Halal Chicken](#)  
[Ramen Sky](#)  
Seaside Seafood & Market  
[Sidestreet Pho](#)  
Star Bagel  
[Sweet Bar Bakery](#)  
[Taqueria Buen Sabor](#)  
[Taqueria Casa la Revolucion](#)  
Taqueria Guadalajara  
[Taqueria Limon](#)  
[Taqueria Vallarta](#)  
[Tootsies](#)  
[Topeka Zoo & Conservation Center](#) (KS)  
Tortas Las Picudos  
[Truly Mediterranean](#)  
[World Wrapps](#)  
Yasmin  
[Yojimbo](#)  
Yummy Dim Sum  
[YuYu Sushi](#)

## Schools

[Amelia Earhart Elementary](#) (CA)  
[Anna Yates Elementary](#) (CA)  
[Bay Farm School](#) (CA)  
[Beecher Road](#) (CT)  
[Beman Middle](#) (CT)  
[Bielefield Elementary](#) (CT)  
[Blacow Elementary](#) (CA)  
[Boynton Middle](#) (NY)  
[Cabrillo Elementary](#) (CA)  
[Cragmont Elementary](#) (CA)  
[Empire Elementary](#) (NV)  
[Farm Hill Elementary](#) (CT)  
[Field Elementary](#) (CA)  
[Forest Park Elementary](#) (CA)  
[Hirsch Elementary](#) (CA)  
[Hugh Hartman Elementary](#) (OR)  
[John Muir Elementary](#) (CA)  
[King Middle](#) (CA)  
[La Center Elementary](#) (WA)  
[Lawrence Elementary](#) (CT)  
[Lehman Alternative Comm.](#) (NY)  
[Love Elementary](#) (CA)  
[MacDonough Elementary](#) (CT)  
[Mansfield Elementary](#) (CT)  
[Middletown High](#) (CT)  
[Moody Elementary](#) (CT)  
[Oakland Central Kitchen](#) (CA)  
[PS 015 Patrick F. Daly](#) (NY)  
[Sage Elementary](#) (OR)  
[Sharon High](#) (MA)  
[Spencer Elementary](#) (CT)  
[Terrebonne Elementary](#) (OR)

[Tom McCall Elementary](#) (OR)  
[Warm Spring Elementary](#) (CA)  
[Wesley Elementary](#) (CT)  
[Wilbert Snow Elementary](#) (CT)

# Get Involved!

[Contribute at  
PlasticFreeRestaurants.org/donate](https://PlasticFreeRestaurants.org/donate)

Checks made to PlasticFreeRestaurants.org may be mailed to:  
1988 El Arbolita Drive, Glendale CA 91208

We are always looking for new Board Members and volunteers.

Follow us on social media:  
Instagram [@PlasticFreeRestaurants](https://www.instagram.com/PlasticFreeRestaurants)  
Facebook [@PlasticFreeRestaurants](https://www.facebook.com/PlasticFreeRestaurants)  
LinkedIn [@PlasticFreeRestaurants](https://www.linkedin.com/company/PlasticFreeRestaurants)  
[#86thePlastic](https://www.instagram.com/PlasticFreeRestaurants)

PlasticFreeRestaurants.org is a 501(c)(3) registered charitable organization. EIN#85-1083459  
**Donations are tax-deductible.**



# Our Team

## **Board of Directors**

Kate Damon (Co-Chair)  
Eva Holman (Co-Chair)  
Travis Schuldt (CFO)  
Erick Mullen (Secretary)  
Charles Leisenring  
Kenneth Suarez  
Patrick R. Krill  
Jody Foldesy  
Achim Dettweiler  
Janis Parthun  
Vanessa Williams  
Chris Walton  
Erika Bond  
Amy Retzinger  
Oliver Tenlen

## **Associate Board**

Murphy Moon  
Rachael Berkey  
Harry Bainbridge  
Melissa Aguayo  
Scott Goodstein  
Melanie Renfroe  
Kim Estes  
Maria Campbell  
Sara Leikin  
Lia Leilani Webb  
Kareena Desai  
Nyala Honey  
Vanessa Pope  
Jace Furman  
Sean Winn



# Our Supporters

## **HERO (\$25K+ cumulative)**

Jody Foldesy  
Daniel Deutsch Fund at Oregon Community Foundation

## **CHAMPION (\$10K+ cumulative)**

Elizabeth Hormel  
John Charles Meyer & Jennifer Etienne Eckert

## **MEDALIST (\$5K+ cumulative)**

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Kaze Design  
Patrick R. Krill  
Travis Schuldt & Natalie Zea

## **PACESETTER (\$2,500+ cumulative)**

Anonymous  
Rachael Berkey  
Erick Mullen  
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives  
Melanie & James Renfroe  
Amy Retzinger & Luis Pires  
Purpose Pictures LLC  
StopWaste of Alameda County CA  
World Centric

## **PLATINUM PLATTER (\$135+/month)**

Achim Dettweiler  
Daniel Knight  
Erick Mullen

## **GOLDEN CUP (\$63+/month)**

Ferrari Talent  
Purpose Pictures LLC

## **SILVER SPOON (\$28+/month)**

Timothy Clark  
Kaze Design  
Amy Hansen

# Notes

\*Total weight was much more than is being reported, as 690,533 eliminated plastic items lacked sufficient data to discern per-unit weight (and are thus reported as zero).

\*\*In 2023, we added “single-use compostables containing added [PFAS](#)” to the list of items that we will subsidize switches from. The items in this report labeled “458ppm PFAS” were sugarcane-based food trays that were found to contain 458 parts per million of PFAS. These trays were being used by five California schools that we subsidized. We have included their numbers in our reporting on number and weight of plastic items eliminated, despite the fact that PFAS is not plastic.

†Most of the 2023 subsidy funds spent in New York and all of the subsidy funds spent in New Jersey are for 2024 projects/impact.

∞ Includes locations that had received funding and incorporated the subsidized reusables as of 12/31/23.

¥ Subsidized as part of our short-lived compostables program in 2021.

Promotional photography generously donated by [Bettina Niedermann](#).

Plastic Free Restaurants logo designed pro bono by [Kaze Design](#).

## **Contact us:**

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