

# PLASTIC-FREE RESTAURANTS

## Reduce Your Plastic Footprint in 5 Simple Steps



Plastics are a problem. **Together, we are the solution.**

### 1. Straws and lids upon request.

Put straws and lids behind the counter. You'll protect the Gulf Coast and save on costs.



**Tip:** Let customers know items are available. We can send you designs for signage or table-toppers to help.

### 2. Let go of to-go habits.

Much of what you stuff into to-go bags goes straight into the trash. Train your staff to ask before adding plastic cutlery and condiments to takeaway orders.



**Tip:** Go one-step further and ditch the plastic bags.

### 3. Find great alternatives.

Today, many sustainable products are not only affordable, they perform better than plastic. Ask your supplier for recommendations, or visit [PlasticFreeGulfCoast.com](http://PlasticFreeGulfCoast.com) for suggestions.



**Tip:** Wrap biscuits and sandwiches in deli paper or use waxed paper bags instead of clamshells.

### 4. Go old school where possible.

Use real cutlery and dinnerware whenever possible. Saves money and produces less waste.



**Tip:** Provide a discount for customers who bring their own cups. Discounts are popular and don't make a dent in your profit when you no longer provide a cup.

### 5. Celebrate your success!

Email us so we can add you to our map of Plastic Free Restaurants. We can also send you a Plastic Free Gulf Coast window cling.



**Tip:** Let your customers know you are making changes because you love the Gulf Coast.

# OUR VISION: A PLASTIC-FREE GULF COAST

Plastic is cheap, convenient and quickly becoming one of the world's greatest environmental challenges. Plastic trash litters every corner of the world, and "microplastics" have been found in fish, shellfish, salt, and even bottled water and beer. Plastic Free Gulf Coast is a collaboration of individuals, restaurants, schools, and more, protecting the legacy of our region by eliminating plastic use before it becomes part of the wastestream.

## SUCCESS STORY:

### The Mockingbird Cafe

When Mockingbird Cafe in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, was approached by Plastic Free Gulf Coast, their longtime dream of "going green" was finally made possible. Supported by the initiative and eager to get started, Mockingbird Cafe team members mapped out a plan that would ensure they could reduce their plastic consumption without breaking the bank.

The solution? Offering items by request. By passing out certain items like straws, lids and cutlery only when asked by the customer, the restaurant minimized the size (and cost) of their weekly supply order, giving them the ability to invest in alternatives while staying within their budget. Their efforts also proved to be a hit with customers, who soon realized the positive impacts that avoiding unnecessary plastic could have on their town.

Do you have questions or want to learn more? Visit [PlasticFreeGulfCoast.com](http://PlasticFreeGulfCoast.com) or email [e.engebretson@msstate.edu](mailto:e.engebretson@msstate.edu)



## QUESTIONS?

We're happy to help. Email us at [e.engebretson@msstate.edu](mailto:e.engebretson@msstate.edu).