

NIVO– Report on Single Use Coffee Cups – May 2018

➤ Background facts

- All the cups we supply are 100% recyclable. Infrastructure for cups recycling is growing, but not yet throughout the UK.
- The supply-chain, collection and return infrastructure for single use drinking cups is the biggest current problem. Most recovered cups are contaminated by other products unless a formal cup collection plan is implemented.
- On the 9th March the UK government rejected calls for the “25p latte tax” – stating “the government is serious about the issue – but did not want to jump to hasty conclusions.” This could return as a proposal.
- Only 1% of consumers use their own cups in-store. Reusable hot drink cups made from recycled single use cups are now available. Some hot drink machines can be set for use with reusable cups
- The levels of Co2 created in the manufacture and distribution of disposable cups is significantly lower than with conventional drinking vessels. Disposable cups are more hygienic than conventional cups which need power and water to clean. The chemical waste from cup cleaning ends its life in the environment.

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▶ Other frequently asked questions

◦ **Q - Are compostable cups available?**

◦ **A** - Yes – These are paper cups lined with a natural/vegetable based product (PLA). For composting, they need to be collected and sent to a suitable facility for recycling. These are very limited. These cups can be placed in food waste subject to the composting company approval as they do always not breakdown at the same speed as organic matter.

◦ **Q – Are cups that are fully compostable as good as regular paper/PE cups?**

◦ **A** – They are in most aspects with one unstable exception. The liner does not give as reliable a seal as PE cup lining. That said, they are still pretty good.

◦ **Q – Are compostable cups widely available?**

◦ **A** – They are widely available, but in fewer sizes, so that may be an issue for some. Because of the process they cost more to manufacture and buy.

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▶ What can individual companies do? Possible options

1. Join a cup recovery scheme

Negatives	Positives
Expensive	All cup types included
Not available throughout UK	PR & Marketing support
Major internal education needed at site	Comprehensive back-up
	Bespoke schemes for customer available.

2. We will be happy to arrange this for you

3. Educate your staff/customers

- Set up separate bins for cup disposal (readily available) and educate your staff.