



Eliminating Single Use



PLASTIC CUPS

Cups are a necessity for providing water and other beverages but depending on the application there are many reusable and recoverable alternatives.

Reusable alternatives

Avoidance is always better than recycling.

If you organise small functions or cater for meetings provide reusable cups for hot and cold drinks. Glass and ceramic options are readily available in most office and function places. They are a great reusable, durable and low cost option. Make sure you communicate your preferences to your caterers.

For eat in customers at cafes and restaurants there is no excuse for single use. Reusable glass, stainless steel and reusable plastic cups are perfect in these situations.

For big outdoor events look into reusable cup deposit schemes. Suppliers are

- **Globelet** <http://www.globelet.com/>
- **Cup Concept** <https://www.cupconcept.com/en.html>

In 2018 the Sydney Opera House avoided 10,000 single use plastic cups by using a reusable cup deposit scheme at a forecourt event.

Recoverable single use alternatives

If you need to provide a disposable takeaway cup option, then make sure you're offering an alternative with the least environmental impact.

This will depend on the recycling stream available to your customers.

The table over the page can help you identify the best material for the recycling stream you have available.

| Recycling Stream | Materials | Pros | Cons |
|---------------------|---|--|--|
| Organics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood • Bamboo • Compostable plastics (PLA, RCPLA, Bioplastic) • Paper cups (Non-plastic lined) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Fully recoverable when an organics bin is provided + Made from renewable, natural materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Typically more expensive than single use plastic - If organics bin is not available it goes to landfill |
| Co-mingled | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigid Plastic (PP, PET) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + If clean they are fully recoverable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Made from non-renewable materials - If highly contaminated they are likely to be sent to landfill |
| Paper and Cardboard | There are currently no single use cup options available that can be recovered through the Paper & Cardboard recycling stream | | |



Suppliers

Compostable products

Biopack

<https://www.biopak.com.au>

Vegware

<http://www.vegware.com.au/>

Pac Trading

<https://www.pactrading.com.au/>

Greenpack

<https://www.greenpack.com.au/>

Composting and recycling services

Check with your current waste service provider if organics composting services are available.

Or check out:

Soilco

<https://www.soilco.com.au/>

Organic Recycling Group

<http://org.com.au/>