

# Why waste it?

What you can do about the 1 billion take away coffee cups going to landfill each year.

AVOID

REDUCE

RE-USE

RECYCLE

COMPOST

Avoid waste in the first place! Avoid drinking from a takeaway cup as well as the takeaway queue and treat yourself to a barista-made coffee, at a table, in a warmed ceramic cup. Why not have that work meeting that you're rushing to, at the coffee shop so that everyone can enjoy the experience of drinking from a warm cup and some time out of the office?

If you simply can't avoid a takeaway cup then ask for it without the plastic lid and **reduce** the number of lids going to landfill.

Try to **reduce** the number of takeaway coffee cups you buy in a week by drinking the coffee at the café or using a non-disposable, re-usable cup.

**Choose to re-use** and be the change we need to see in the world. Use a **re-usable**, non-disposable coffee cup. Some cafés (check out [responsiblecafes.org](http://responsiblecafes.org)) offer discounts for using a **re-usable** takeaway cup!

Paper coffee cups **are not easily recycled** due to the two components that they are made of; paper and plastic. In order for the paper and the plastic to be recycled, they need to be separated and unfortunately, the technology required to separate the paper from the plastic lining is not yet available in Australia. So, recycling the cups is still an issue. '[Simply Cups](#)' are trying to provide a solution by setting up a coffee cup recycling facility here in Australia.

Polystyrene/foam cups **are also not recyclable** through kerbside collections. They contaminate recycling with lots of pieces of polystyrene when the cups break up.

Cups labelled as '**compostable**' are made from plant based materials and can be **composted**, but only through a commercial composting facility. They won't compost well in your home compost system. You can place them in your green lidded 'food and garden organics' bin.