

120 BILLION

disposable cups are used by Americans each year.²



Placed end to end these could circle the equator almost 333 times!



PAPER: 54 billion



PLASTIC: 38 billion



FOAM: 26 billion²

Impact of the annual disposable cup habit in the U.S.



Generates
2.2 Billion lbs. of waste
enough waste to fill
78,571 garbage trucks!



35 Billion Gallons
of water
enough to fill almost 53,000
Olympic size swimming pools!



4 Billion lbs. of
CO₂ equivalent
equal to the annual
emissions of 366,384 cars!



11+ Million Trees!



MOST CUPS AREN'T RECYCLED: almost all disposable cups are made of hard-to-recycle materials like plastic-coated paper or foam.^{4,5,6}

*Data on waste, water, and CO₂ impacts sourced from a Franklin Associates Report prepared for the Plastic Foodservice Packaging Group, 2011. Tree data quantified using the Environmental Paper Network calculator.^{1,3}

It's time to break the disposable cup habit.

By replacing one disposable cup a day for one year with a reusable mug you prevent:



OR



23 lbs. greenhouse gas emissions



281 gallons water usage



16 lbs. of solid waste



1 tree from being chopped down



and Save \$91

*assumes 25¢ discount per use

*Cup impacts data sourced from Franklin Associates Report, 2011. Tree data sourced from Environmental Paper Network.^{1,3}



ReThink Disposable is a program of Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund conducted in partnership with local businesses and government agencies. Generous support is provided by public and private funders. To learn more about the program, its partners and funders, visit www.rethinkdisposable.org.



ASSUMPTIONS:

*Data represents waste, water, CO₂, and tree impacts from paper and foam 16 ounce and 32 ounce disposable hot and cold cups. Only waste data on plastic cups is included.

*Assumes all cups go to landfill with a 50% decomposition factor.

*Water only includes process and cooling usage in manufacturing.

*GHG emission only factor in fossil fuels for process and transport.

SOURCES:

- 1 <https://plasticfoodservicefacts.com/life-cycle-inventory-foodservice-products>
- 2 <http://www.freedoniagroup.com/industry-study/3174/cups-and-lids.htm>
- 3 <http://c.environmentalpaper.org/home>
- 4 <http://ourworld.unu.edu/en/storm-in-a-paper-cup>
- 5 <https://www.bostonglobe.com/magazine/2014/04/02/why-paper-cups-just-aren-greener/W3TIBJ9dff8INlumPQvHSI/story.html>
- 6 <http://grist.org/article/plastics/>