



How to get your community involved with Responsible Cafes

This handy guide has been created to help you ignite a community movement, involving more cafes and encouraging your neighbours to think twice about their relationship with single use items.

WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE CAFES?

Responsible Cafes is a not-for-profit initiative founded in 2013 by a group of passionate everyday people eager to change the game on this massive issue.



23,000+ followers on social media



100,000+ unique map searches per month



Average cafe saves 12,000 cups from landfill per year

The idea is simple. Cafes have the power to change behaviour by incentivising hot drink lovers to bring their own takeaway cup. By offering a discount to customers with their own cup, we hope to create a change in consumer behaviour and a movement around reuse to stop unnecessary waste.

What is the problem?

It is estimated nearly 1 billion disposable coffee cups are used in Australia each year. Very few are ever recycled so they usually end up landfilled or littered.



Sadly, 'biodegradable' or 'compostable' cups or not a solution as they are non-recyclable and the correct streams to get these sent to be recovered are not in place.



With 4,500+ cafes we are saving 58M+ cups a year

Step one

Set yourself a goal and ignite the team

Have a think about what you would like to achieve through your efforts. Perhaps you want to get five new cafes on board in your suburb and let the residents know that they can visit these cafes to get a discount. Or you could think bigger and reach out to your fellow community members, family and friends through a meeting or via social media.

Step two

Make a plan of attack!

Check [the map on our website](#) to see which, if any, cafes are already registered in your area. Put aside a few mornings or a weekend when you can go and visit cafes in your area that are not on the map to see if they want to jump on board. Go to [our downloads page](#) on the website to arm yourself with the reusable knowledge.

Step three

What's the best way to engage your community?

Do you have local markets where you could host a stall? We can provide you with guidance and materials to get you setup to educate members of your community so please get in touch with us. Or is your council a partner of Responsible Cafes? Check our website (link to partners page) and if so, get in touch with them to collaborate on their existing campaign. If not, let your council know you would be keen to work together to make Responsible Cafes happen in your community.

Step four

Get creative

Remember to take lots of photos of what you're up to. Get pics with cafe owners, pics of the Responsible Cafes poster on display in a cafe, you and your Team members. Use the hashtag #ResponsibleCafes and your pics will be included on the social stream on our website.



Final tip

Stay positive!

It is important to keep it upbeat & positive when talking to businesses and the community. You can certainly educate them on the stats on the impact of our wasteful decisions, but remember to offer the solutions too.

To delve deeper into this, you may be interested in the [ABC War on Waste toolkit](#)

Common questions

Can 'biodegradable' or 'compostable' cups be composted at home?

No. They can only break down in industrial composting facilities as they need to be in a controlled environment where the waste is warmed up to a specific heat and constantly rotated to break down, which is not possible with home composting.

Will 'biodegradable' cups break down in landfill?

No. In order for organic materials, including food scraps and bio-materials to break down in landfill, they need access to oxygen. In landfill everything is squashed down so much, the cups will not have access to oxygen so instead they will rot. As they rot, they release toxic methane gases which can cause landfills to set on fire. [Read more here.](#)

Are single-use takeaway cups recyclable?

Technically they ARE recyclable but not in your kerbside recycling. The materials CAN be recycled but the plastic needs to be removed from the paper which is not possible with the current recycling systems in place.

THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR SINGLE USE.

If you'd like to keep more up to date with Responsible Cafes volunteers, join our ["Responsible Cafes Ambassadors" group on Facebook.](#)

[responsiblecafes.org](#) @ResponsibleCafes