

# Disposable Cup Facts

- In 2006, it is estimated that paper cups accounted for about 114 million kg of garbage in the US. Paper cups also accounted for 4 billion gallons of water wasted, 6.5 million trees cut down, and 4,884 billion BTU's used.
- In Canada, each individual generated about **971 kg of solid waste in 2002** – about 2.6 kg per person, per day.
- Refillable mugs reduce cups in the waste system, space required for landfill, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Manufacturing reusable cups creates a bigger environmental impact than that of paper cups, but that impact lessens over time as the reusable cup is reused. Each reusable cup has a “**breaking point**” – the point at which it becomes more environmentally friendly than a paper cup.
- Disposable paper coffee cups aren't made from recycled paper. Most cups are manufactured using 100% bleached virgin paperboard.
- The process involved with manufacturing paper cups is **extremely resource-intensive** and during the manufacturing process, cups are laminated with a plastic resin called polyethylene. The plastic prevents the cups from being recycled.
- Once in a landfill, the paper will begin to decompose. This process releases methane, a greenhouse gas with 23 times the heat-trapping power of carbon dioxide. **Landfill sites account for about 38% of Canada's total methane emissions.** Methane is 20 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

<http://sustainabilityissexy.com/facts.html>

