PRESS INFORMATION

PCRRG REPORTS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS MANIFESTO GOALS

The Paper Cup Recovery and Recycling Group (PCRRG) has reported significant progress towards its goal that ‘by 2020 the greater majority of the UK population will have access to facilities that enable used paper cups to be sustainably recovered and recycled.’

The PCRRG is a membership organisation comprising member companies who have signed up to the Paper Cups Manifesto and have jointly pledged to significantly increase recycling rates of paper cups.

The PCRRG has published a Progress Report, reviewing action and activity over the past year and reporting on the work undertaken by the four working groups and by individual members.

Most significantly, the number of points where used paper cups can now be recycled has increased hugely since July 2016. The PCRRG estimates that there are more than 4000 points for the collection of cups for recycling in the UK, including those in Costa Coffee stores, Starbucks, McDonald’s restaurants and in the City of London with many of the retailers taking cups other than their own. In addition, a number of third party operations, including Simply Cups, have also significantly increased their networks and partnerships over the past 12 months. Recovered cups are being recycled at a number of facilities including James Cropper and ACE UK.

Neil Whittall, Chairman of the PCRRG Says: “The role of the PCRRG is to facilitate collaboration and engagement across the supply chain. Over the past year we have brought together diverse businesses across the paper cup supply chain, many of whom are competitors, to work together and share information in order to make progress towards our common goal. The PCRRG believes that whilst new and innovative solutions have a role to play, the most effective and scalable way of recycling used paper cups is to facilitate their widespread recovery and reprocessing. We are delighted to report that the number of paper cup recycling points has substantially grown over the past year and that many of our retail coffee operator members are working together and, in accepting each other’s used cups for onward processing.

“The PCRRG has taken the lead by enabling knowledge sharing and acting as a catalyst for conversations that have joined up the supply chain along its entire length - this is the first time any such collaboration has taken place in the UK.  We know there are still challenges that we need to address in terms of the growth of the market, infrastructure restrictions and consumer behavior change, but we are determined to impact these.”

The PCRRG Report also sets out the scope of PCRRG activity for the coming year, which moves from collaboration to facilitating and funding a number of projects relating to recovery and recycling a
used paper cups. Specifically the PCRRG is funding Keep Scotland Beautiful’s Litter Composition Study which is taking place this Autumn.

A second project will research how mainstream sorting of cups might be encouraged at UK Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) by assessing different MRF sorting systems in relations to used cups in order to optimize cup capture and ensure high quality output material.

The PCRRG Progress Report and be viewed and downloaded [here](#)

For more information about the PCRRG go to [www.pcrrg.uk](http://www.pcrrg.uk)

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