

Friday 9 March 2018

Paper Cup Alliance welcomes Government's response to Environmental Audit Committee recommendations on paper cups.

The Government's response to the Environmental Audit Committee report into paper cups has been published today (Friday). Responding to the Government's views, the Paper Cup Alliance has welcomed the recognition of industry efforts and supports the holistic approach being outlined to increase recycling rates and reduce litter.

Speaking on behalf of the Paper Cup Alliance, Paul Synott said:

"Paper cups are the most sustainable and safe solution for drinks on-the-go and those we manufacture in the UK are sustainably sourced, responsibly produced, recyclable and, through a number of facilities, are being recycled. Over the last 12 months the industry has made good progress in supporting recycling in the UK and we are pleased that the Government has recognised these efforts to invest in infrastructure and support country-wide initiatives.

"The best way to improve recycling and reduce littering is through coordinated and collaborative work such as the 4,000 recycling points that now exist in the UK and the new industry initiative which saw over 400 more added so far this year. The Government's response supports this approach and the industry will work closely with it to deliver increased recycling."

The cups we produce meet the most stringent health, safety and food hygiene regulations, keeping consumers safe. Cups made by PCA members use traceable wood fibre from certified sustainable forests. As a result of sustainable forestry practices, forests in Europe have doubled since the 1950s. In Finland alone the forests are growing by 100million m³ a year meaning wood fibre for global paper cups is equivalent to only 4% of Finland's annual production – around 15 days of tree growth in Finnish forests.

We acknowledge that too few cups are being recycled and, although paper cups make up only 0.7% of total paper packaging waste and 0.1% of total household waste, we are working hard across the industry to improve on this. In October 2017, organisations from across the paper cup supply chain signed an agreement with the Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE UK) to accelerate UK recycling of paper cups. The cross-industry collaboration will work towards delivering a long-term, nationwide paper cup recycling solution. The programme includes:

- All ACE UK bring banks now accept paper cups for recycling, delivering an additional 415 recycling points located in 105 local authorities across the UK.
- Cups from these recycling points are processed at ACE UK's recycling facility in Halifax.
- Drawing on its experience and existing relationships with local authorities, waste management organisations and recycling bodies, ACE UK will work to include cups in local authority kerbside collections. In addition to those which collect through bring banks, 66% of local authorities currently collect beverage cartons at kerbside, and aiming to do the same for cups.

ACE UK has been successfully running the beverage carton industry's recycling programme for the last ten years driving significant increases in carton recycling as part of its role as the UK beverage carton industry trade body. During this time it has worked closely with local



authorities and waste management companies so that today 92% of local authorities collect beverage cartons for recycling through either bring banks or kerbside collection. The agreement with ACE UK has been signed up to by Benders, Caffè Nero, Costa Coffee, Dart, Greggs, Huhtamaki, International Paper, Marks & Spencers, McDonalds, Nestle, Pret a Manger, Seda Group, Starbucks, Stora Enso and Waitrose.

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About the PCA

The Paper Cup Alliance (PCA) is made up of the eight market-leading paper cup manufacturers in the UK today, employing over 1,700 people across the country. The group was formed in 2017 to coordinate industry efforts to address the issue of paper cup recycling. PCA members are working hard to increase recycling in the UK through a variety of initiatives and through supporting the right behaviours. It aims to better communicate the industry's efforts on paper cup recycling to reassure stakeholders that the industry takes its environmental responsibilities seriously.

PCA members are part of Pack2Go, the European Association for convenience food packaging, but are specifically focused on the issue of paper cups in the UK.

For further information contact:

Tim Field

Email: tim.field@instinctif.com

DD: 01869 353 805

Tel: 01869 353 800