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New recycling labels make clear paper cups can be recycled

The OPRL (On Pack Recycling Label) has announced today (Wednesday 29 January) that paper cups can be recycled as part of the extensive collection infrastructure around the UK's high streets, offices and local authority recycling points.

The new rules for the market-leading recycling labels have been drawn together based on extensive data and evidence, wide consultations and consumer testing. This research has designated a specialist label, specifically for paper cups, that recognises the industry's collaborative approach to improving the recycling infrastructure.

Welcoming the announcement, Paul Synott from the Paper Cup Alliance, said:

"This is a significant and positive step to improve consumer awareness of the recyclability of their paper cup. OPRL's rigorous and extensive review of the data and evidence has resulted in paper cups getting a clear, specific label highlighting the breadth of recycling options available to consumers. Paper cups remain the safest and most sustainable option for on-the-go consumption and we want to see every coffee shop, workplace and shopping centre installing collection points to help consumers recycle.

"The PCA is committed to an ambitious target of 85% of paper cups being recycled by 2030 and we are working across the industry and the whole coffee shop supply chain to ensure recycling increases."

-ENDS-

About the PCA

The Paper Cup Alliance (PCA) is made up of the 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.

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