

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coffee Cup Season

Autumn. The return of chilly mornings, hot drinks, and of course, all things pumpkin. If you enjoy a hot beverage and you frequent coffee shops, this is for you.

Single-use hot beverage cups *cannot* be recycled in Tehama County. As much as we wish they could be, they can't. These disposable cups handed out at coffee shops are made of paper lined with a thin layer of plastic, which prevents your drink from leaking out of the cup and all over you. This is helpful for the consumer, but not so much for the planet. Though paper and plastic can be recycled individually, when combined in this way, they must go into the garbage. From there they are sent to landfills, where they take decades to degrade.

It is estimated that **50 billion** disposable coffee cups are used annually in the United States. That is a lot of unnecessary landfill-bound waste.

You might be wondering, "But what can I do? I am just one person".

I'm not here to tell you not to enjoy your takeout coffee. But I am going to recommend you invest in a reusable travel mug. Many coffee shops accept personal cups and some even offer a discount if you bring your own. Taking a travel mug for your morning coffee will keep your drink warm longer and prevent one more disposable cup from entering the landfill.

If you are someone who enjoys a cold to-go beverage anytime of year, you're in luck. If you don't have a reusable cup, the disposable clear plastic cups and lids can be recycled. Just make sure it's clean and empty before tossing into the recycling.

If you still find yourself with a disposable hot coffee cup, take an extra moment to recycle the plastic lid and the cardboard sleeve. And to prevent contamination of other recyclable materials, toss that hot cup into the garbage.

For information on waste reduction and what can be recycled in Tehama County, visit tehamacountylandfill.com or call (530) 528-1103.