

# THE DISPOSABLE CUP CRISIS

Hello America. Did you know that more than 100 BILLION throw-away cups are sent to U.S. landfills each year?

That's enough cup trash to circle the earth an astounding 1,744 times!

Every time you use and toss a paper, plastic or styrofoam cup, it depletes resources, increases CO2 emissions, escalates health risks, and adds to our global landfill crisis.

When 315 million Americans repeat this behavior daily, it adds up to a real problem.

**58 BILLION**  
paper cups  
thrown away in the U.S. annually



Mostly plastic-coated virgin paper

**20 Million**  
trees are cut down to  
make paper cups each year



Every four paper cups are responsible  
for creating 1 pound of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

**12 Billion**  
gallons of water are used to  
make a year's worth of  
paper cups




**53,000 HOMES**  
could be powered annually by energy  
needed to make & dispose of paper cups



**MOST PAPER CUPS ARE  
COATED WITH PLASTIC AND  
CAN'T BE RECYCLED**



The paper industry is  
the largest industrial  
consumer of water and  
third largest industrial  
greenhouse gas emitter



**25 BILLION**  
foam cups  
consumed in the U.S. annually



Polystyrene (PS) aka "Styrofoam"

**FOAM CUPS ARE MADE OF  
A NON-BIODEGRADABLE,  
PETROLEUM-BASED PLASTIC**



Contains toxic chemicals that can  
leach and threaten human health  
and reproductive systems

Foam litter hard to contain  
and is a significant component  
of land and water pollution




Can be fatal when consumed  
by birds, fish and wildlife



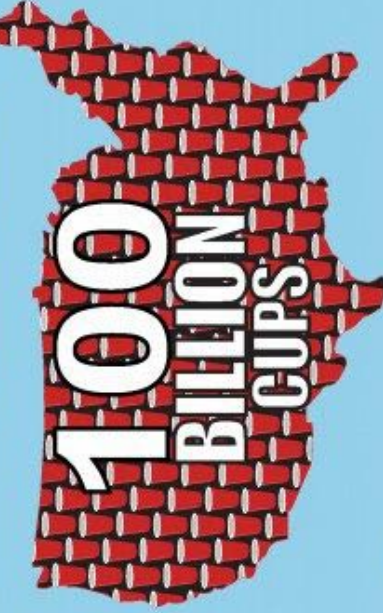
Polystyrene manufacturing 5th largest  
industrial producer of hazardous waste

Recycled at low rates & will languish  
in landfill for **500 years or more**

When incinerated by disposal  
companies produces up to 90  
toxic & hazardous chemicals



**100  
BILLION  
CUPS**



**TENS OF BILLIONS**  
of single-use plastic cups trashed  
at U.S. restaurants, cafes & events




Polyethylene Terephthalate (PETE)  
Polystyrene (PS) & Polypropylene (PP)

**IN THE U.S. AIRLINE  
INDUSTRY ALONE ALMOST  
9 BILLION  
PLASTIC CUPS ARE USED ANNUALLY**



Plastic creates toxic pollution at  
every stage of its existence:  
manufacture, use, and disposal




**63 pounds**  
of plastic, per person, per year  
are trashed in the U.S., comprising  
up to 30% OF LANDFILL SPACE




THE LARGEST  
CATEGORIES OF  
PLASTIC WASTE  
are packaging +  
containers like  
cups, bottles,  
lids, straws  
& take-out  
foodware




In 2010, plastic cup recycling  
rates were so small it was  
considered negligible



Plastic trash makes up to 80% of all  
marine debris ...it's estimated we  
have 6 times more plastic trash in  
our oceans than plankton



Harmful chemicals leached by  
plastics are present in the  
bodies of almost every human  
being, including newborns



SOURCES: Infographic Research & Design by SteelysDrinkware.com

Cup Waste Data Sources >> Paper Cup Waste: U.S. EPA; Styrofoam Cup Waste: Environmental Defense Fund; Plastic Pollution Coalition, Treelinger.com, wikipedia.org, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Californians Against Waste, Earth911, ChrisJordan.com, Alliance for Environmental Innovation, thinkoutsidethebin.com.

>> Factory Sources: U.S. EPA, Environmental Defense Fund, Plastic Pollution Coalition, Treelinger.com, wikipedia.org, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Californians Against Waste, Earth911, ChrisJordan.com.

Please share this info to promote more thoughtful cup consumption & choose reusable whenever you can.