

HOW DO WE REDUCE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

A LOOK AT HOW WE
REDUCE SINGLE-USE
PLASTICS

SUBMISSION 2019

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Submission Summary

The Detmold Group (Detmold) is a packaging manufacturer, specialising in sustainable paper and board packaging. Detmold is a private, family owned company with its global head office in Adelaide, South Australia. Operating for over 70 years, employing over 3,000 people, with over 20 sales offices globally, Detmold manufactures in Australia, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, India and South Africa.

Detmold are recognised as an industry leader in packaging sustainability, winning multiple awards from the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) and many of the world's largest foodservice brands. We work closely and collaboratively with APCO, Planet Ark, KESAB, waste collection partners, recyclers and paper mills globally. We are uniquely positioned to support a move away from single use plastics with our global exposure to sustainable packaging solutions, our relationships with thousands of foodservice, grocery and retail brands, and our genuine commitment reducing the impact on our environment and marine life through the elimination of unnecessary single-use plastics.

“We believe Government support is a crucial part of reducing single-use plastics, with legislation needed to support a need for all single-use carry bags, cups, straws, plates and grocery bags to be recyclable. By taking a strong stance on recycling and working with the many organisations who want to create a better future, we believe that together we can inspire the population in pursuit of this important goal.”

We strongly support introducing measures to address single-use straws and coffee cups. All acceptable alternatives should be recyclable or genuinely reusable. The measures should extend to all beverage cups (not just coffee) and include plates.

Detmold agree with Victorian study 'Reducing the impacts of plastics' [i] that biodegradable, degradable and even compostable bags present a high risk to the environment because of microplastic residues and marine pollution. Detmold believe PLA straws, compostable plastic carry bags and grocery bags all present the same risk for marine pollution, litter and wildlife as other plastics, and therefore should not be approved alternatives.

[i] Reducing the impacts of plastics on the Victorian environment - join the discussion 2017'

Recycling or Composting

Whilst there are established industrial composters servicing parts of the South Australian community, this does not mean that composting is a viable commercial solution for packaging, or that it is a globally scalable solution [i] [ii].

“Only through recycling do we reduce the number of trees being cut down to make paper products, and only through recycling are we ‘keeping products, components and materials at their highest utility’ [iii] which is fundamental to supporting the global move to a circular economy.”

Detmold offer the RecycleMe™ cup solution which utilizes a next generation coating and provides a collection system which guarantees that every cup and lid collected will be recycled. There is a viable, innovative, global solution addressing the issue of the significant waste produced by disposable coffee cups not being recycled.

The RecycleMe™ coating is Green Dot certified as ‘AAA’ recyclable (EN 13430) which means that it is approved to be recycled with Mixed Waste Paper, type 5.01.

We strongly believe in a need to champion recycling over composting, then a compromise of allowing both recyclable and compostable solutions is a common concession, that still moves the economy somewhat forward toward its goal of becoming circular.

Detmold also support future consideration of a bold approach that requires all retailers to accept back all used packaging that is not recyclable through other widely available streams, and that those retailers are required to ensure that this returned packaging is disposed of appropriately.

We are proud to provide recyclable packaging options and pleased to be assisting our customers in moving toward their sustainability goals alongside a wider goal of having our products fit within a circular economy.

[i] Introducing compostable packaging before processing systems are in place is creating a problem not solving one', AUCKLAND, May 30, 2018, The Packaging Forum

[ii] The compostable cup you can't compost, and the trouble with our recycling system, By Liam Mannix, Sydney Morning Herald, 1 July 2017

[iii] vGreen Industries SA 'Potential Benefits of a Circular Economy in South Australia' (2017)