

Be a SUCfree Workplace!

Sustainable Queenstown have launched a project called '**SUCfree Whakatipu**'. You may be familiar with this name after the successful SUCfree Wanaka project.

What's the problem?

SUC stands for single-use-cups and refers to takeaway cups used for hot drinks and these have become a significant problem worldwide. In New Zealand it's estimated that **295 million** takeaway cups end up in landfill each year! Regardless of whether takeaway cups are PLA or plastic lined (or any of the 'bio and eco' products marketed to us), in landfill they emit methane when they degrade. In addition to the landfill problem, many people discard their used cups into the recycling bins under the impression these will be recycled, but as soiled and non-recyclable containers they contaminate the entire recycling bin which as a result is sent to landfill.

'Compostable' takeaway cups and lids are only ever compostable when they are processed through a commercial composting unit, access to these is very rare and we do not have one in Queenstown, so again they end up in landfill, not to mention waterways and littering our beautiful streets.

Our project sets out to ensure that every cafe and member of our community are aware of the issues SUCs present, what the alternatives are and to make the change away from SUCs.

What are the alternatives?

1. Sit - take 5 minutes to slow down, chat to your neighbor and dine-in with your hot drink!
2. Bring - bring your own keep cup, mug or jar
3. Borrow - if 1 or 2 won't work for you, borrow a cup from the cup library or a loan cup scheme (SUCfree Whakatipu are helping cafes to get set up with these as options)

What can my workplace do to help?

We would love you to support the cause, ensure you always avoid SUCs and declare yourselves a 'SUCfree Office'! This will show huge support for the movement and send a great message through the professional circles in Queenstown. We will of course make lots of noise via social media about your business supporting this important environmental cause and we'd love you to join us.

Remember that "use your own" doesn't need to stop with cups. Always consider your options and use what you've got when you can. Most cafes will accept your own containers for food too. We are getting there!

For more information or to discuss how you and your workplace can become SUCfree, please contact [Sustainable Queenstown](https://www.sustainablequeenstown.org.nz) or micaela@sustainablequeenstown.org.nz