



Why go SUCfree?

Background

SUC stands for single-use-cups and refers to takeaway cups used for hot drinks which 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.

Takeaway hot drinks are a way of life now and a source of income for many, however as a non-essential item and with many SUCfree alternatives, it is our objective to make Queenstown SUCfree by 2026.

There are many ways to begin the journey towards being a SUCfree cafe:

- Provide a mug library
- Setup a loan cup scheme
- Add a surcharge to throwaway cups
- Display signage or posters to encourage customers to bring their own cups
- Encourage your customers to dine-in and enjoy their drink

Combining all the options of 'Sit, bring, borrow' will enable your cafe to be fully SUCfree. We can provide more information and guidance on any of these steps.



Benefits

Environmental: By not consuming throwaway cups we will not only be reducing waste and carbon emissions, which will help reduce global warming, we will also be avoiding the extraction of natural resources and saving energy that is consumed in the process of making the cups in the first place.

To reach this goal people need to be educated about this issue, behavioural change will keep our landfills clear of cups and our recycling bins less contaminated. Understanding that reuse is the key will make the difference - our convenience of using a throwaway cup for a few minutes will cost the planet and our community for many years to come.

Financial: Simple - remove the cost of throwaway cups from your business OR reduce costs when you swap in for a loan cup scheme. You may also make a margin from selling more keep cups.

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