



FOODSERVICE PACKAGING  
INSTITUTE®

# Paper Cup Recycling

Mill Commitment



# Paper Cup Recycling



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- Made with long, bleached fiber – highly desired by paper mills.
- Can be sorted into mixed paper (Grade 54) or polycoat (Grade 52) bales.
- Pulping systems can separate coatings from fiber with a 70%-90% yield.
- Fiber goes on to become cereal boxes, facial tissue, corrugated boxes, and new paper cups!



# We Want Your Paper Cups!



## OUR COMMITMENT TO RECYCLING

We, the undersigned organizations, are committed to increasing paper cup recycling. With the ever-increasing need to accelerate the recovery of foodservice packaging, we have taken many foundational and intentional steps to increase the viability of paper cup recycling and ensure end market acceptance.

## A HIGHLY DESIRABLE RECYCLED MATERIAL

Paper cups are made with long, bleached fiber that are highly desired by paper mills because it adds strength and quality to new products made with recycled fiber. To date, there are 29 paper mills across nine companies in North America that accept residential mixed paper bales with paper cups included. Additionally, there are 5 mills/facilities across three companies that accept paper cups into bales of aseptic and gable top cartons ("Grade 52" bales). Participating paper mills have performed pulpability testing and/or mill trials to determine their ability to successfully recover fiber from paper cups and use the fiber in their furnish.

## MAKING NEW EVERYDAY PRODUCTS

To provide a liquid barrier to the fiber, paper cups have a coating either on the inside (for hot drink cups) or on both sides (for cold drink cups). The pulping systems in use at our mills can separate the coatings from the fiber and recover the fiber as a feedstock for new products. Yield from the cup is in the 70 to 90 percent range, depending on whether the cup has a single or double sided coating and the pulping system in use. These fiber products go on to be made into a variety of everyday items such as cereal boxes, facial tissues, corrugated boxes, and new paper cups!

## ADDING PAPER CUP RECYCLING

Material recovery facilities (MRFs) can add paper cups to their accepted material list. Communities can advocate for the inclusion of paper cups in their recycling stream by working with their waste haulers and MRFs.

A list of mills that accept paper cups and a map are on the next page. You can also find them on an interactive map [here](#).

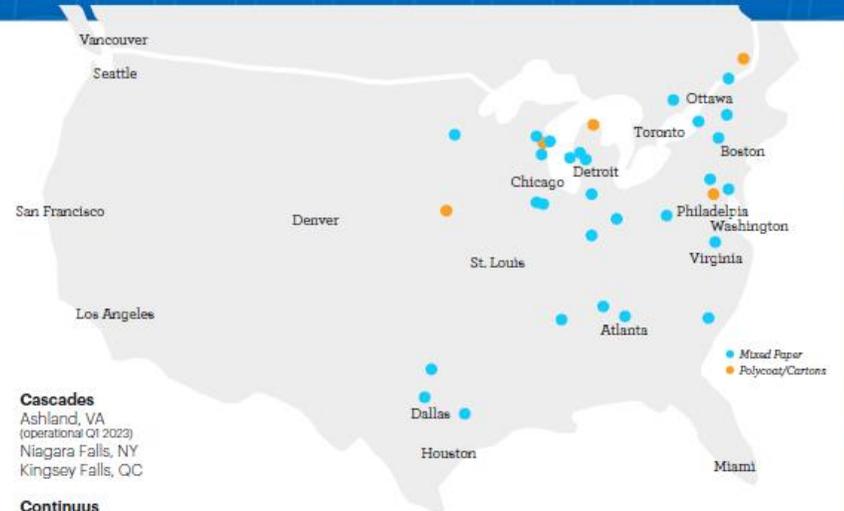
## JOIN THE PAPER CUP RECYCLING MOVEMENT

Many of us are members of the Foodservice Packaging Institute, which provides industry-funded grants to MRFs, waste haulers, and communities that expand paper cup recycling access, increase current recovery capabilities, and educate residents on new paper cup recycling programs. If you are interested in partnering with FPI to add paper cup recycling to your recycling program, visit [www.recyclefsp.org](http://www.recyclefsp.org) or email [recyclefsp@fpi.org](mailto:recyclefsp@fpi.org).

Additional information about paper cup recycling may be found at: [www.recyclepapercups.org](http://www.recyclepapercups.org).



# We Want Your Paper Cups!



**Cascades**  
Ashland, VA  
(operational Q1 2022)  
Niagara Falls, NY  
Kingsey Falls, QC

**Continuus**  
Des Moines, IA  
Philadelphia, PA

**Essity**  
Barton, AL  
Menasha, WI  
Middletown, OH  
South Glens Falls, NY

**Georgia-Pacific**  
Green Bay, WI  
Muskogee, OK

**Graphic Packaging International**  
Battle Creek, MI  
East Angus, QC  
Middletown, OH  
Kalamazoo, MI

**Great Lakes Tissue**  
Cheboygan, MI

**Green Bay Packaging**  
Green Bay, WI

**ND Paper**  
Fairmont, WV

**Pratt**  
Conyers, GA  
Shreveport, LA  
Staten Island, NY  
Valparaiso, IN  
Wapakoneta, OH

**Sonoco**  
Hartsville, SC

**Sustana**  
Levis, QC  
DePere, WI

**WestRock**  
Aurora, IL  
Battle Creek, MI  
Chattanooga, TN  
Dallas, TX  
Eaton, IN  
Missisquoi, VT  
St. Paul, MN  
Stroudsburg, PA

## THE MIXED PAPER MILLS ON THIS LIST REPRESENT:



of the U.S./Canadian mixed paper demand (% by quantity consumed)



of the U.S./Canadian mills consuming mixed paper (% by mill count)

Generators should contact end markets directly or via their broker to determine specifications and terms. \*as of 6/2022

# Paper Cups Accepted in 2 Commodities

5

mills/facilities

3

companies

accept cups  
in polycoat  
bales

29

mills

9

companies

accept cups in  
mixed paper  
bales

representing

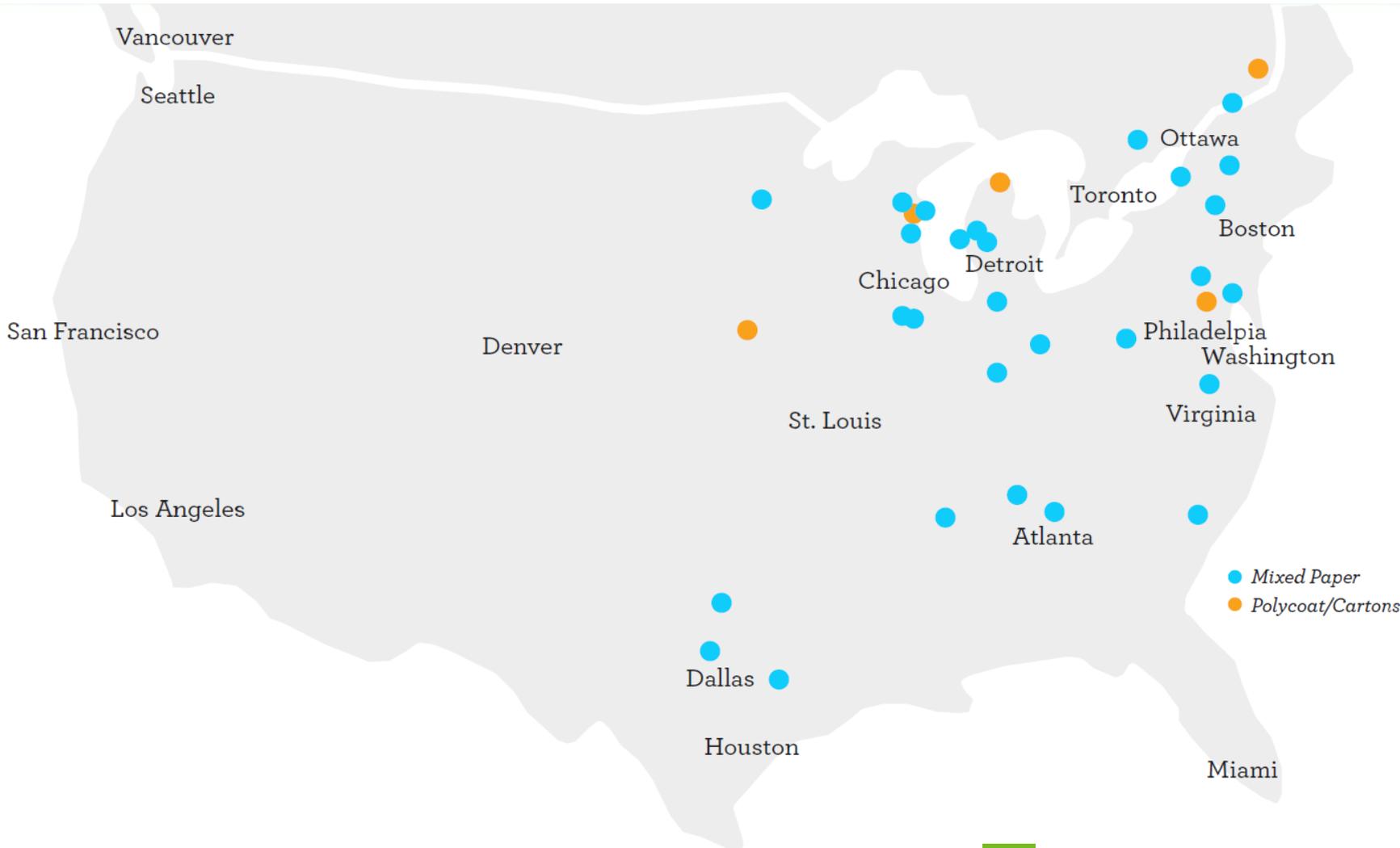


Of U.S./Canadian  
mixed paper  
demand (% by  
quantity consumed)



Of U.S./Canadian  
mills consuming  
mixed paper (% by  
mill count)

# North American Paper Cup Acceptance



[www.RecyclePaperCups.org](http://www.RecyclePaperCups.org)

