

From: advocacy-bounce@bounces.revolutionaries.ie on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [SingleUse](#)
Subject: Submission to consultation on the single use cup levy
Date: Monday 12 December 2022 15:22:18

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Dear Circular Economy - Materials Management Division,

I support the introduction of a 20-cent levy on single-use disposable cups. I believe that this type of measure will reduce the use of single-use cups, raise awareness around single-use packaging more generally and serve as an example for other measures in the future to reduce our consumption of disposable packaging.

I support the levy because the preparatory research done on this scheme by EnvEcon estimates that, in Ireland, we are using 200-730 million disposable cups annually and that a charge will be much more effective than just awareness-raising and/or a discount in changing behaviour and reducing this number. Research for Bewleys found the charge could quickly increase the use of reusable cups from 2.3% to 12.5%. The EnvEcon reports recommends a 20 cent levy on single use disposable cups and I support that recommendation.

I also agree with the EnvEcon findings that this levy should apply equally to all types of disposable cups, including traditional, compostable and recyclable. The on-street infrastructure does not exist for even the most conscious consumer to recycle or compost take-way cups, and moreover the experience is that no amount of public information prevents all types of disposable cups ending up as litter in the wrong bins.

It also essential that the new scheme has a strong definition of what counts as reusable to avoid the problem that is happening at the moment with plastic cutlery. Single-use plastic cutlery is now banned under EU law but some cafes are just rebranding the same plastic knives and forks as reusable and putting the responsibility back on consumers without providing any information, collection, sanitisation or logistics system to make reuse possible. The levy scheme must ensure that cafes are not able to give out free plastic cups that are theoretically 'reusable', but in all likelihood won't be reused.

Finally, it is important to remember that the disposable cup tax is just one part of what must be a much bigger effort by Government to reduce the use of plastic packaging, extending producer responsibility and making it easier for people to avoid plastic in their everyday consumer experience. With regards to this I would like to see the levy expanded to all single-use packaging, beyond disposable cups alone. A complete ban on the use of single-use packaging on premises (i.e. when a customer eats-in in a café or restaurant) is needed. Re-use targets are also needed for not only 'front-of-house packaging' but for secondary and tertiary packaging too.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]