

A Resolution Regarding Coffee Cup Usage

By Benson

Whereas The Sierra Club, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency all list using ceramic mugs rather than disposable cups as one of their environmental best practices, and

Whereas The Minneapolis City Council purchased between 3,000 and 4,000 disposable paper coffee cups in the past year at a cost of between \$360 and \$480, and

Whereas many people have extra ceramic mugs, which if donated to the city would cost nothing. In addition, ceramic mugs can be purchased at a second hand store for approximately \$1 per cup; and

Whereas 3,000 paper coffee cups equals 133 pounds of waste that, due to chemicals applied to the paper to allow it to hold hot liquids, is not readily biodegradable; and

Whereas according to research by Pablo Paster, a Sustainability Engineer with Climate Check, using 46 polystyrene cups or 3 paper cups is equal in material resources to making one ceramic mug; and

Whereas a ceramic mug has a life expectancy that far exceeds 46 uses, but disposable cups are designed for single usage;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City Council will cease purchasing disposable cups. Instead, beverages will be served in ceramic mugs donated by council staff or purchased second hand.

Be It Further Resolved that the Council will only purchase environmentally responsible dish washing detergent.

Be It Further Resolved that the Council encourages all city departments to adopt a similar policy.