

# RECYCLABILITY UPDATE



# RECYCLABLE K-CUP® POD LAUNCH

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Now available at Keurig.ca and AFH channels.



Limited quantities of pods are available. For the moment, only the Van Houtte® Original House Blend is offered.

Our recyclable K-Cup® pod deliver on our rigorous beverage quality and performance criteria.

Our new pod is made from #5 plastic, accepted in 93% of Canadian communities.

We are working with plastics and recycling experts to demonstrate that it can be sorted with existing recycling infrastructures, despite its relatively small size.

# FANTASTIC NEWS

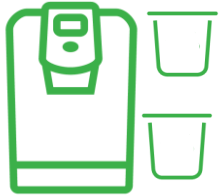
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- Keurig Canada has been prioritized for the roll-out of recyclable K-Cup pods in our North-American network.
- We have already started the conversion process of our first production line in Montreal.
- Additional capacity is coming soon, with availability in 2017.
- Keurig Canada aim to reach the 100% completion target in 2018.



# OUR RECYCLABLE K-CUP® POD

Keurig's recyclable K-Cup® pod offers several advantages



**Sensory & Performance:** Meets our oxygen barrier and puncture requirements to ensure beverage freshness and quality performance in our brewers



**Lower Impact:** Has a lower environmental/LCA impacts than current #7 pods and other #6 pods in energy demand and global warming potential



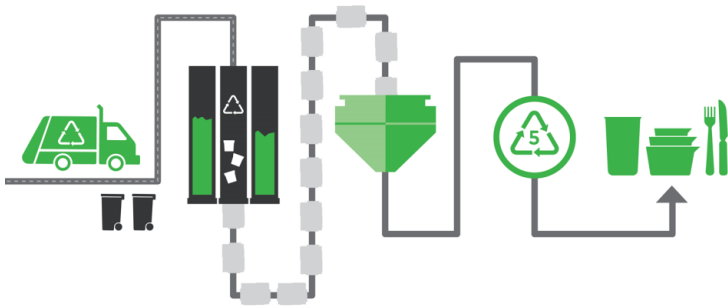
**Greater Recycling Access:** #5 polypropylene is accepted for recycling in the majority of communities (93%) in Canada



**High Value:** #5 polypropylene is valuable material to recyclers and can be used in a variety of products such automobile parts and buckets

# CONCEPT VALIDATION AND TESTING CONFIRMED THE VIABILITY OF THE RECYCLABLE K-CUP®

## Collaboration with MRFs, Reclaimers and Experts informed our design



## Consumer experience throughout the recycling process is a key factor



## Insights uncovered during testing confirmed our design assumptions

- Pods are **not too small** to be recovered.
- **Filter paper** being attached to the pod is not a problem for recovery or recycling.
- **Polypropylene (#5) plastic** is a highly recyclable and desirable material.
- Preference to have **grounds emptied** from the pod prior to collection.
- RFID technology used during testing protocol provides **100% traceability of pods** through any MRF
- **Optical sorter optimization** is possible to increase capture rate of K-Cup® pods
- **Crushing of the pods** increases overall capture rate
- Increased MRF and industry engagement has led to development of **small item recovery working group**

# INSIDE OUR NEW RECYCLABLE\* K-CUP® POD

Air-tight foil lid, after brewing peel from puncture point to prepare cup for recycling

Filter remains attached to cup when recycled



Cup made of recyclable #5 plastic, providing oxygen, light, and humidity barrier

Freshly ground coffee, can be composted after brewing

Freshly brewed coffee

\*Check locally

# 3 SIMPLE STEPS TO RECYCLE

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## PEEL

lid and dispose.



## EMPTY

contents or compost.  
Filter can remain.



## RECYCLE

# OTHER RECYCLABLE PODS ON THE MARKETPLACE

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At Keurig, the challenge has been to create a recyclable K-Cup® pod format that doesn't compromise on beverage taste or pod performance.

- We have stringent pod requirements including:
  - Compatibility with ALL Keurig® brewers with 99.999% efficiency
  - Sufficient oxygen barrier to keep pod contents fresh
  - Top and bottom pod puncturability
  - Manufacturability within our current network of more than 100 packaging lines
  - **No incremental cost to the consumer**
- **We have not found any other solution available on the market now that meets all these criteria.**
- **Our tests show freshness/quality issues with other recyclable/compostable pods.**



# RECYCLABLE OR COMPOSTABLE?

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**Most compostable products currently in the marketplace don't degrade in home settings, but require sophisticated municipal facilities which are not common across Canada.**

- **We believe the infrastructure around recycling is stronger, and therefore we wanted to ensure we selected a pod material that had strong value to recyclers and strong potential to find a second life in another product.**
- Our work with plastics and recycling industry experts led us to select polypropylene for products today, and by focusing on recyclability, we will reach more consumers and have a bigger impact.
- In an effort to drive continued innovation, we are pursuing tomorrow's innovations, including use of recycled content, fiber and bioplastics.

# COMPOSTABLE BUT NOT ACCEPTED IN FACILITIES

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*The practice of composting packaging materials is not widely accepted and placing plastic packaging in composting bins is discouraged in many areas.\**

- Compostable containers are not automatically accepted in composting sites. Whether a product or a container is accepted is managed by each and every composting facility.
- For example, the Vancouver area requests that all *plastics, even those marked biodegradable or compostable be removed from the yard trimming and food scrap collection bins*. Excessive plastic contamination in collection bins may cause the entire load to be landfilled.
- In a 2015 study, out of 75 composting facilities in Canada, only 15 mentioned they could accept “food service ware” aka the BPI certified plastic pods.

\* For reference, see the [Globe&Mail in 2015](#) and [CBC article 2016](#)

# SUSTAINABILITY AT KEURIG



# OUR 2020 SUSTAINABILITY TARGETS:



Engage 1 million people in our supply chains to significantly improve their livelihoods including water security and climate resilience.



Achieve zero waste-to-landfill at our owned and operated manufacturing and distribution facilities.



Engage 100% of employees to understand our vision and values and present opportunities that allow them to contribute to our targets.



100% of K-Cup® pods will be recyclable.



Source 100% of primary agricultural and manufactured products according to established Keurig Green Mountain responsible sourcing guidelines.



Reduce life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions of brewed beverages by 25% vs. 2012 baseline.



Balance the water in our 2020 brewed beverage volume of all our beverages, ounce for ounce.

# PRODUCTS THAT USE RESOURCES SMARTLY

By brewing only what you need, the Keurig® system helps use water and energy smartly, especially in a workplace setting.

