



Roundtables – Coffee Cup Revolution 2015 – Information sheet

Thank you very much for accepting our invitation to participate as a panelist at the Coffee Cup Revolution Roundtables.

The Roundtable discussions will take place between **10am-12pm** on **September 10th** at Victory Square.

Overview

The Coffee Cup Revolution will feature two roundtable discussions bringing together members of the community and subject-matter experts to discuss two issues:

- 1) exploring new solutions to coffee cup waste and environmentalism in the City; (10:00am)
- 2) new economies: income-generating opportunities in the City. (11:00am)

The purpose of these roundtables is to explore and formulate ideas to inform the Binners' Project in the coming year as the project works on its larger goals of decreasing stigma around binning and increasing income-generating opportunities for binners.

Roundtable 1: Exploring new solutions to coffee cup waste and environmentalism in the City

Thursday, September 10th – 10am – 10:45am

The average North American consumes 2.8 paper coffee cups every day. This is an enormous burden on our landfills with material that is recyclable just to fuel our caffeine addiction. It is estimated that 1.6 billion paper cups end up in Canadian landfills every year, which amounts to approximately 350,000 trees and 400 million gallons of water to manufacture these disposable coffee cups.

Issues with recycling the coffee cup is due to the inner plastic lining, as it is difficult and expensive to separate from the outer paper. Secondly, although coffee cups can be potentially placed in the paper streams, they contain liquids that can contaminate the paper stream. Numerous companies are looking to solve this problem through the use of new materials, (biodegradable cups, compostable cups, green cups) but ultimately we arrive at the same problem: retrieval.

Retrieving paper cups is challenging because garbage bins in Vancouver have a wide variety of waste separation – from single-stream waste to four-stream recycling (landfill, paper, recyclable



BINNERS' PROJECT

containers, and compost). One such method to encourage high return rates is to attach a deposit-refund value to the cups. **Coffee cups are recyclable since April 2014 in Metro Vancouver for residential waste only.**

- What are some ways to increase the percentage of coffee cups recycled? Is a deposit-refund system an effective way to encourage coffee cup recycling?
- To whom does the responsibility of coffee waste ultimately lie upon: producer, consumer, corporations or is it a common problem? Can those accountable contribute to this new economy?
- Should businesses that are finding new methods to mitigate waste get economic incentives?
- Is there enough demand for paper coffee cups as a recyclable commodity?
- We look for technological solutions, like new materials, to help solve coffee cup waste. Are we relying too much on innovations, when it is merely a problem of incentives?

Panelists for Roundtable 1

Moderator: Ann Cooper – Green Events Program Coordinator at the City of Vancouver

Louise Schwarz – Founder & Co-owner at Recycling Alternative

Jason Dault – Director of Operations at Regional Recycling

Paul Henderson – General Manager Solid Waste Services for Metro Vancouver

Suzuki Foundation Board of Director member (Name TBC)

Richard Benjamin – Core Group of binner member

Tobin Postma – Communications Manager - Issues Management and Media Relations at City of Vancouver

Useful resources for Roundtable 1

Coffee Cup debate:

<http://www.rbc.ca/education/additional-resources/tip-month-jan-april>

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/sustainability/documents/DisposableCoffeeCup.pdf>

Facts about coffee cup waste:

<http://www.sustainabilityissexy.com/facts.html>



<http://talkintrashwithuhn.com/2013/05/08/wake-up-and-smell-the-coffee/>

Roundtable 2: New economies: income-generating opportunities in the city

Thursday, September 10th – 11am – 11:45am

There is no monetary value on paper cups and no incentive for the public to separate coffee cups from waste. With an informal economy of binners already existing in Vancouver, creating a monetary value on coffee cups would not only help decrease coffee cup waste (which will align with, for example, Vancouver's 2020 Greenest City Goals) but also open up new income-generating opportunities in the city (part of the Downtown Eastside Local Area Plan).

With ideas like this and the Coffee Cup Revolution serving as a backdrop to this, are there further opportunities to broaden the informal income-generating opportunities already existing in the Downtown Eastside (DTES)? There are already efforts in place by several organisations in this community working to create these opportunities following a social enterprise model (for example, Mission Possible and Potluck Café Society).

- Is there an opportunity to include the coffee cup in the deposit-refund system as a way to not only mitigate waste, but also introduce new economic opportunities for those reliant on the refund system as part of their livelihoods?
- What does a just city look like in terms of economic and social inclusion of populations such as the binners?
- Should these informal activities be more organized or formalized? What are the social costs and benefits to this?
 - o Is the DTES community receptive and open to this?
- What are other informal activities that could take place (or already take place) in the DTES?

Panelists for Roundtable 2

Moderator: Kathleen Leahy – UBC Learning Exchange Director & Binners' Project Steering Committee Chair

Margot Young – UBC Law Professor & Advisor for the Binners' Project

Am Johal – Director SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement

Colin Stansfield – Executive Director at Potluck Cafe and Catering



Roland Clarke – DTES Street Market Coordinator

Hendrick Baune – Core Group of binner member & Megaphone Vendor

Sean Condon – Executive Director at Megaphone Magazine

Paul Hendren – External Relations and Protocol Officer City of Vancouver

Haven't confirmed yet:

J Stewart – Pivot Legal Society

Will Wang – Propaganda Coffee Shop

Useful resources for Roundtable 2

Homeless Count

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/HomelessnessPublications/2014MVHomelessCountJuly31-14Results.pdf>

DTES Plan

<http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/downtown-eastside-plan.pdf>

Binning as informal activity

http://www.crystalremblay.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Crystal-Tremblay-MA_Thesis-Final-2007-reduced.pdf

Co-Op in Developing Countries

Medina, Martin. "Scavenger cooperatives in Asia and Latin America." *Resources, Conservation and Recycling* (2000): 51-69.

Informal vs formal

http://wiego.org/sites/wiego.org/files/publications/files/Chen_WIEGO_WP1.pdf

This document was prepared by Gurraj Ahluwalia & Gabby Korcheva for the Bidders' Project.