





Indigo Valley – Clarity on Sustainability

Term	Explanation	Products	Symbol	Comments
Biodegradable	Capable of degradation through the action of living organisms.	All our cones & paper portion pots Natural paper products such as straws Wooden cutlery and other wooden products Pulp paper products PLA lined cups PLA clear cups		There are many biodegradation sites in the UK that can accept all manner of products. Please see DEFRA for more information and check with your local site.
Compostable	Compostable means that packaging can break down in under 12 weeks in commercial composting conditions, and is therefore suitable for industrial composting. This is not a generic term, and must be proven by a certification scheme. Just because something is Biodegradable does not make it compostable. There are several certification schemes, but our products are “Seedling Certified”, or “BPI certified”. If we wish to use these logos on our products they must feature the appropriate certificate number.	PLA lined paper cups PLA clear cups		Compostable packaging needs to be in composting conditions in order to compost. Industrial composting creates the perfect balance of microbes, moisture and warmth to facilitate this.
		Genpak Cones Genpak Portion Pots		
Recyclable	Recycling is the process of converting waste materials into new materials and objects. UK recycling policy focusses on: - Glass - Paper - Plastic - Metal Cans	Any PP, PS, PET, PC product Our ACPACC04 paper cones		PE or PLA lined paper cups need to be recycled in suitable sites. As of 2019 there are 17 separate UK sorting plants.
Coffee Cups	The plastic lining on conventional paper cups prevents them from being easily and widely recycled. Specialist recyclers do exist, and are growing in number. These are capable of removing the plastic lining and recovering and recycling the paper that remains.	PE lined hot and cold cups		PE lined paper hot cups are recyclable if dealt with in the right way at their end of life. There are four specialist separation facilities in the UK which accept paper hot cups for recycling.
PLA cups	PLA cups are lined with PLA instead of polyethylene (PE). This makes them compostable, but currently prevents them from being easily recycled.	PLA lined hot and cold cups		PLA cups should be disposed of with appropriate waste destined for commercial composting sites. If a PLA product enters landfill, whilst not its intended end of life option, it stands a much better chance of harmlessly degrading than a plastic lined, or plastic based product.