

Recycled Products

Product:
In-flight coffee cups

Company:
United Airlines, Inc.
Chicago, Illinois
united.com

Recycled Content:
Up to 50 percent recycled PET plastic

Market:
Food service

As part of a broader mission to reduce airplane waste and increase recycling, United Airlines is now serving coffee in cups made from up to 50 percent recycled PET plastic.

Introduced on domestic flights this March, the InCycle cups are made in the U.S. by Washington-based recycled polymer company MicroGREEN. One plastic bottle can contribute to more than four of the cups, which themselves are also recyclable as part of the clear PET stream, a 2013 life-cycle analysis by MicroGREEN suggests. An insulated design further cuts down on waste by making sleeves unnecessary. "At United, we are constantly working to improve the sustainability of our products and reduce our waste at the same time," says Angela Foster-Rice, United's managing director of global environmental affairs and sustainability.

Over the past six years, United has recycled 23.5 million pounds of aluminum cans, paper and plastic. The airline hopes to boost annual diversion totals by collecting and recycling the new cups.



Product:
Desktop computer

Company:
Dell, Inc.
Round Rock, Texas
dell.com

Recycled Content:
10.8 percent recycled e-plastic

Market:
Computers

Dell's latest "all-in-one" desktop features more than 10 percent post-consumer recycled plastic that comes from reclaimed electronic devices.

The OptiPlex 3030 AIO, which comes in four different models, features a 19.5-inch screen and is marketed as a business-class device "designed specifically for networked environments." All four versions of the desktop feature 10.8 percent post-consumer recycled plastic, an increase over past OptiPlex computers. In 2013, the company's OptiPlex line utilized 7.8 million pounds of recycled plastic, an increase over 2012 totals of 7.4 million pounds. It is the first computer to incorporate UL-Environment certified closed-loop recycled plastic through Wistron Green Tech, according to a Dell press release.

A touch-screen iteration of the OptiPlex 3030 incorporating Windows 8 is also available for purchase and is slated to ship in July.



Product:
Food containers

Company:
Placon
Fitchburg, Wisconsin
placon.com

Recycled Content:
Up to 100 percent recycled PET plastic

Market:
Food service

Placon's Crystal Seal reFresh packaging line comes in eight shapes and sizes and can be custom-configured or sold as stock plastic packaging for a variety of uses.

One noticeable attribute of all eight of the reFresh containers is their clarity – and that, the company says, has a lot to do with the recycled content. "Every reFresh package is made with our EcoStar PET which contains high clarity, recycled plastic that we purchase in bales at our recycling facility, then wash and recycle into new packaging," says Jeff Lucash, director of sales at Placon Stock Products. In addition to packaging clarity, the company touts the product for its "leak-resistant" and "tamper-evident" design. The packaging is made from 100 percent curbside-collected plastic bottles and thermoforms and contains up to 100 percent recycled content.

The containers are fully recyclable and can be purchased through placon.com.



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