

DON'T WASTE IT.

MILK CARTONS — THE CASE AGAINST.

- All milk carton material is imported. It is merely fabricated in Australia. It is a high value-added commodity that sees most of the profits flow back to manufacturers in Scandinavia.
- The pulp used is a high-quality chemical pulp. The yield from the chemical pulping process is only 45 percent — the other 55 percent of the original fibre is burnt. It is totally inappropriate to use such a high-quality pulp for a single-use item like a milk carton.
- The energy for the process comes from burning the 55 percent of fibre left over from the pulping process. This makes the kraft chemical pulping process almost energy self-sufficient. But this is hardly a merit — it is hard to sustain an argument that by using an inefficient pulping process that wastes half the fibre, that this then makes kraft pulping an energy-efficient process.
- ALC claims that by planting more trees in Scandinavia than it harvests (the veracity of this we cannot ascertain) they are locking up carbon in the young trees. But if this claim is true, then the benefits are negated by the pulping process used. The 55 percent of fibre that is wasted in the pulping process is burnt to provide energy for the pulping process — thereby liberating more than half of the carbon dioxide in the original trees.
- ALC claims the milk carton is degradable. This is a false and misleading claim. It is untrue because the carton's plastic layer is incapable of biological degradation in the environment.
- Almost all milk cartons end up at the tip. At the same time we are facing a landfill crisis. In Sydney landfill space will run out before the turn of the century.
- Recycling is non-viable. Door-to-door collection of milk cartons is extremely expensive. The cost is so prohibitive that it is unlikely that widespread door-to-door collections will be established.
- Milk cartons are expensive. The 600ml carton costs the consumer 5.7c, whereas the 600ml refillable milk bottle costs only 1.3 cents per use. And not only is the refillable bottle cheaper, it's better for the environment.

F.A.L.P.P.S.

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