



catering supplies

H^ARWELL

CASE STUDY

Tap&Reuse™ by Circular&Co Returnable Cup Scheme

- Bunzl Catering Supplies
- Eures, Compass Foodbuy
- Harwell Science and Innovation Campus



5,875

returnable cups
borrowed

5,625

returnable cups
returned

96%

impressive
return rate

Since January 2026, Tap&Reuse™ returnable cup scheme has been in place at the Lightbox Café & Bar, and the DiSH Bar, at Harwell Science and Innovation Campus.

The scheme was introduced by Bunzl Catering Supplies, Harwell's trusted non-food consumables distributor and a long-standing supply partner to Eures, Compass Group UK&I and Foodbuy Group. As the UK's leading distributor to contract caterers, Bunzl Catering Supplies used its category expertise and sustainability insight and worked with Foodbuy to bring Tap&Reuse to Harwell early, helping Eures and Compass adopt an innovative returnable cup solution that cuts single-use waste and supports lower-carbon operations. The project reflects Bunzl's focus on bringing practical product and service innovations to market that deliver measurable environmental benefits for customers.

The scheme has been well received by both site teams and customers.

Sam Mitchell, Business Development & Contract Director, Eures, Compass Group UK & Ireland, comments: "Tap&Reuse has been a fantastic success at Harwell and such a simple system to implement. We have successfully transitioned from single use cups to a zero-waste returnable solution with little to no stress. For both customers and staff, it has quickly become the new normal. It seems crazy to think we used to use paper cups once and then just throw them away."

In the first four months, the scheme has delivered strong results:

- 5,875 returnable cups borrowed.
- 5,625 returnable cups returned.
- That's an impressive return rate of 96%.

Shezmin Madhani, Senior National Account Manager at Bunzl Catering Supplies, adds: "We work closely with customers to introduce practical innovations that reduce waste and lower carbon footprint in line with their sustainability goals. Tap&Reuse is a strong example of how Bunzl can bring the right product and service innovation to market quickly, helping Eures, Compass Foodbuy move away from single-use cups at Harwell with excellent early results."





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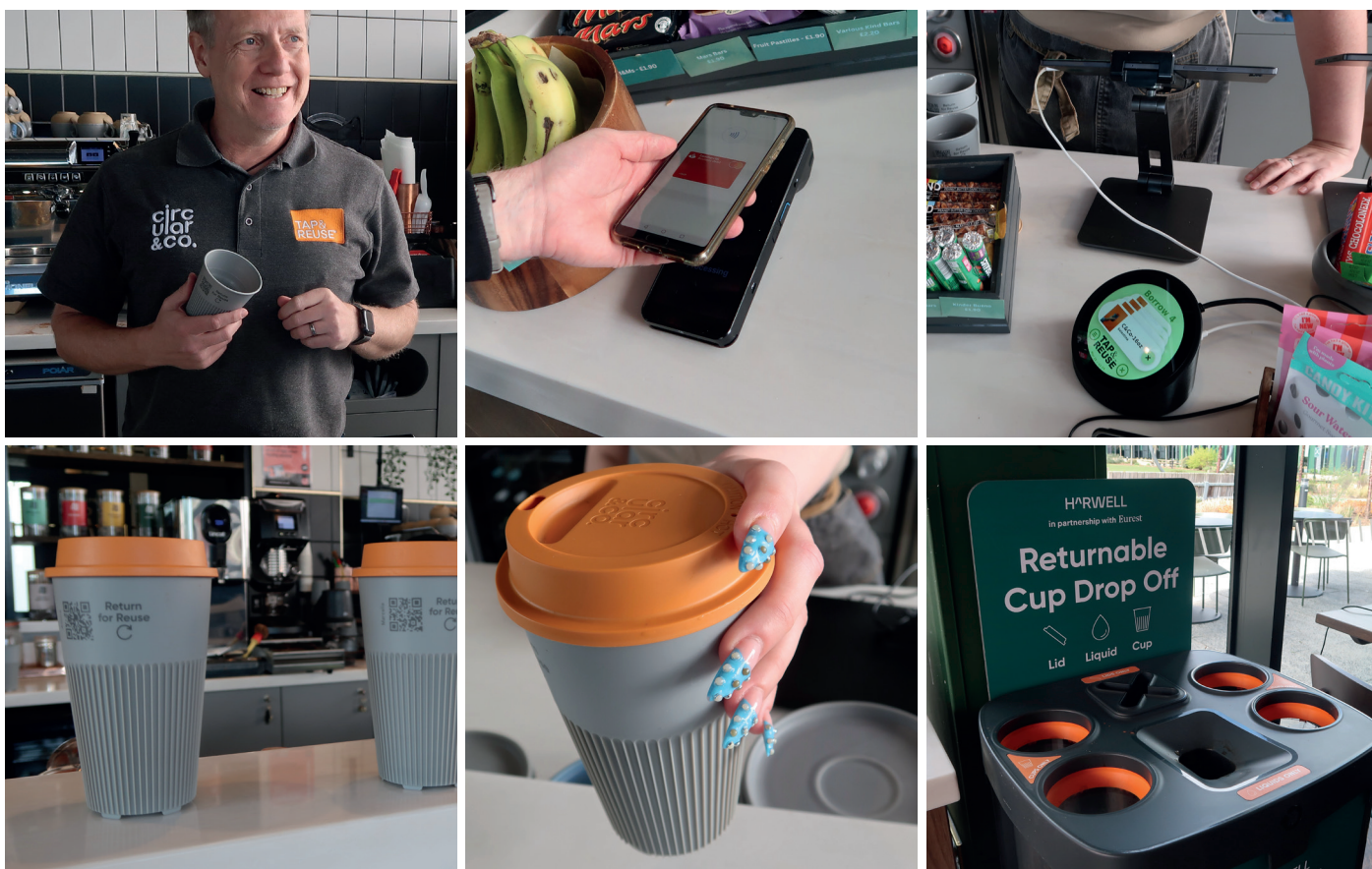
About Tap&Reuse™

Returnable Cup Scheme

TAP & REUSE™

A simple solution to end the use of single-use cups

Launched in 2025, Tap&Reuse is a returnable cup scheme designed to make reuse simple and accessible. Supported by Circular&Co, the system enables customers to borrow a reusable cup, return it to a collection point after use, and have it washed and put back into circulation. With no app, no upfront deposit and a simple return process, Tap&Reuse offers an easy experience for customers while giving operators a practical, supported route away from single-use cups.



How it works:

1. Customer taps the 'Tap & Reuse' terminal to pre-authorise a £ 0.00 payment for a returnable cup and lid.
2. Barista taps the returnable cup on the 'Magic Counter' to scan out the borrowed cup and lid.
3. Customer returns the borrowed cup and lid to an approved drop-off bin.
Customer can scan the on-cup QR code to see the return deadline and nearest, approved drop off bin.
4. When the cup and lid is returned within 8 days, no charge is applied.
Any cups not returned within 8 days incur a £ 3.00 charge.
5. Operator retrieves and scans the returned used cups and lids from the approved drop off bins.
Operator scans with RFID reader - a single scan will register all cups in one scan.
6. Operator washes the returned cups and lids for reuse.