

TinHouse Designs & Coffee Company

Established in 2013, Todd Sawyer and Tyler Kilkenny introduced the TinHouse Designs & Coffee Co. to Russell, Manitoba. Their coffee shop not only offers tasty meals and delicious coffee and teas, but they've also introduced a number of sustainable practices through their operations (i.e., the home game of a business) as well as their products and services (i.e., the away game).

In its day-to-day business operations, the TinHouse has reduced the use of paper, entering into the digital world to conduct its business. In addition, the coffee shop has replaced plastic straws with compostable straws and introduced compostable take-out containers. Moreover, plastic bags have been replaced with recycled paper bags. Shipping orders are consolidated in a way that increases cargo efficiency, reducing the need to drive more than once to the same area in town. By eliminating the use of paper and plastic bags it helps society displace greenhouse gas emissions in the production and disposal of these products, as well as minimizes the risk of having plastic bags end up in our water ways and eventually into our lakes and oceans affecting the ecosystem and habitat. By reducing unnecessary driving, the coffee shop helps reduce emissions from fossil fuels. Composting is also part of its sustainable practices, where coffee grounds, potato peelings and eggshells are used as organic fertilizers in the garden.

In the coffee shop's products and services, and in its cooking in particular, herbs and other ingredients come fresh from the back garden, which not only supports the local diet but also reduces the need to ship ingredients into the coffee shop and reduces unnecessary packaging entering its premise. Supporting local buying habits, some of the products offered in the coffee shop are bamboo cleaning brushes, glass straws, wool dryer balls, and wooden cooking utensils. Todd and Tyler's business approach is to bring in products that are made of renewable material, as a way to reduce the use of plastics in the town. Through reducing the use of plastics products, it helps minimize the risk of having these products end up in landfills, which take a long time to decompose and increase greenhouse gas emissions.

Tin House Designs & Coffee Company's demonstration of climate action is a classic example of a business's home and away game in Manitoba's rural landscape.

