



Starbucks expecting good news, hot issues at shareholders' meeting

by TIM ROBINSON / KING 5 News

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SEATTLE -- Starbucks will be celebrating some good news today as well as confronting a couple of controversial issues at the annual shareholders meeting in Seattle.

After a couple years of lukewarm performance, Starbucks stock is as hot as its products. But some of those products activists are taking aim at.

A national pro-recycling group is urging Starbucks shareholders to adopt tougher recycling standards. The company goes through 3 billion paper cups a year, but only a few cities can recycle those cups.

And it's the other products that Starbucks sells that the group "As You Sow" wants made with recycling in mind.

Another group targeting Starbucks is the Brady Campaign to End Gun Violence. They've recently protested Starbucks' policy that allows guns in the stores. Starbucks says that policy is simply abiding by local law.

A couple of issues here in 2010, instead of the Starbucks layoffs that dominated headlines in 2008-2009, which company chairman Howard Schultz said, back then, would lead to better times ahead.

Shareholders will be voting on a resolution for an aggressive recycling campaign proposed by the activist group. Starbucks management says they already have a recycling program they are embarking on. As for the anti-gun violence activists, they plan to hand out fliers outside the shareholders' meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Seattle.