

BEVERAGE CARTONS: FULLY RECYCLABLE & RECYCLED



All of the materials used in the manufacture of beverage cartons are fully recyclable, reducing raw material use and carbon emissions.

COMMITMENT TO RECYCLING KEEPS CO₂ LOCKED IN

The beverage carton industry fully supports recycling and contributes to packaging waste collection schemes. All the materials used in beverage cartons are recyclable, enabling a better use of raw material resources: the life of the wood fibre is extended into other paper(board) products, with the carbon locked within them for a greater period of time (i.e. avoiding CO₂ emissions). The residual material, which includes aluminium and polymers, can be used in a number of different applications ranging from composite materials for products such as roof tiles to industrial raw materials or energy recovery.

HOW IS THE CARTON RECYCLED?

After collection, used beverage cartons are sorted, and in most cases, brought to paper mills for recycling. When collection schemes are not yet in place, used beverage cartons are often processed in order to provide heat or power (energy recovery).



EU RECYCLED CARTONS
365,000 TONNES
(2011)

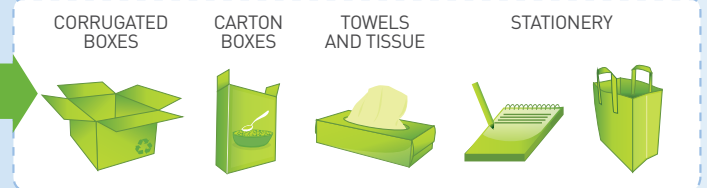
The simple, closed-loop water-based process (repulping) allows the paperboard to be separated from the non-fibre layers.

A
The virgin fibres used in beverage cartons have maximum strength for the lowest possible weight and are a valuable raw material for new paper-based products when recycled.

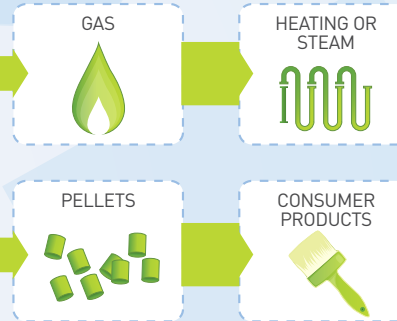
B
The recycling and recovery process of non-fibre components can vary depending on country and processing infrastructure.



PAPERBOARD



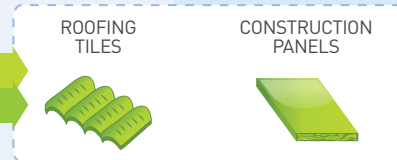
POLYMERS



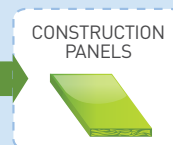
ALUMINIUM



POLYMERS & ALUMINIUM



PAPERBOARD POLYMERS & ALUMINIUM



INDUSTRY COMMITMENT TO RECYCLING

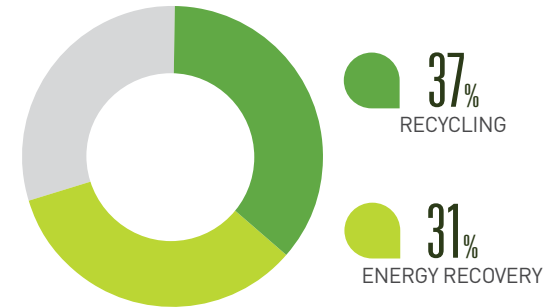
ACE members are committed to supporting and promoting recycling across Europe. Indeed, recycling of beverage cartons in Europe (EU-27, Norway and Switzerland) has grown steadily over the last fifteen years, with around 365,000 tonnes (over 13 billion cartons) recycled in 2011.

Combined recycling and energy recovery rates for the whole region reached roughly 650,000 tonnes (a 68% recovery rate). These figures reflect a clear long-term growth trend in beverage carton recycling since 1992, when only 6,000 tonnes were recycled.

TOTAL EUROPE EU-27, NORWAY & SWITZERLAND TOTAL



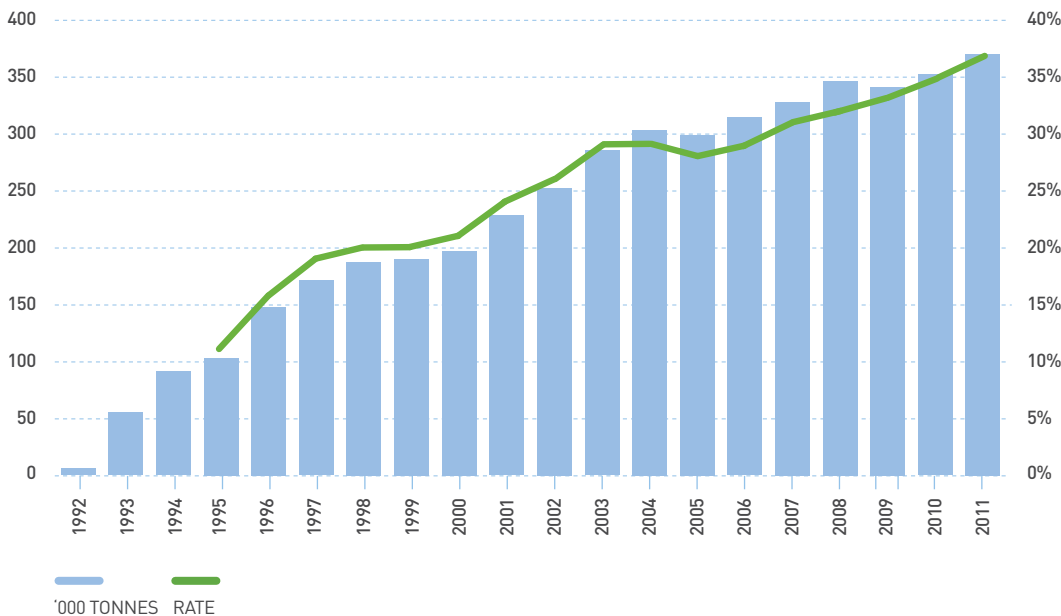
68%
RECYCLING & ENERGY RECOVERY



BEVERAGE CARTON RECYCLING: STEADY UPWARD TREND IN 2011

During 2011, there was a steady increase in the recycling of beverage cartons in South Eastern Europe and strong progress in the UK. Recycling of the 365,000 tonnes of beverage cartons keeps the valuable fibre in use in recycled paper products, and makes an important contribution to resource efficiency.

BC RECYCLING RATES (EU-27+NO+CH) 1992-2010



INCREASED RECYCLING & DECOUPLING GROWTH FROM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

When examining industry growth, signs of decoupling from environmental impact can be seen. Beverage carton recycling in Europe has increased by 5% a year since 2000, outstripping market growth which is more than 1% per year (tonnage).

SOURCE: ACE 2010

