

## BEVERAGE CARTON RECYCLING IN EUROPE CONTINUES TO INCREASE

### Recycling rate in Europe reached 42% in 2013

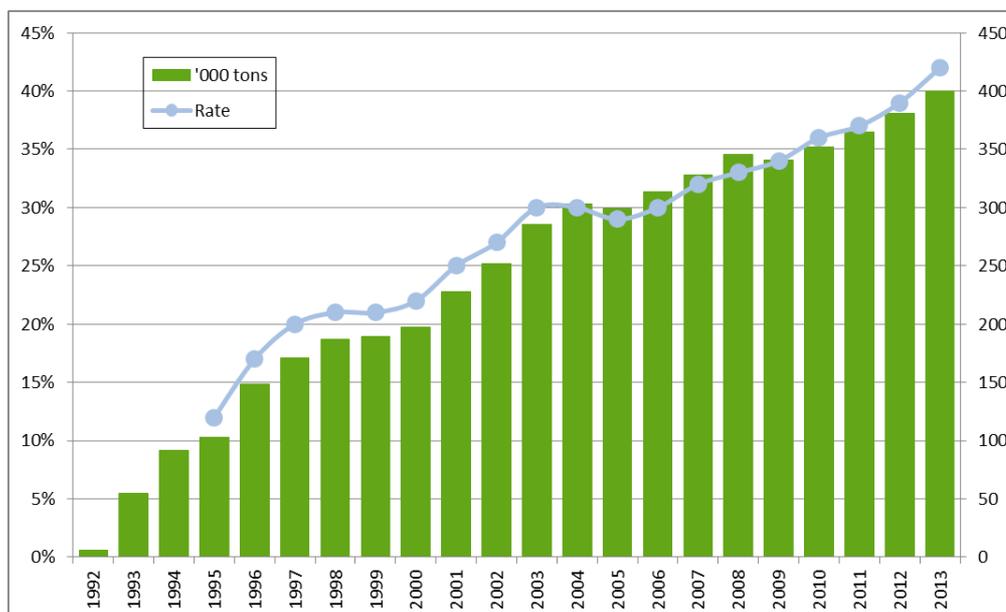
The Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE) is pleased to note that recycling of beverage cartons reached 42% in Europe (EU-28, Norway and Switzerland) in 2013. This represents an increase of 3% compared to 2012 data. The total recovery rate (recycling and energy recovery) in 2013 reached 71%.

“With 42% of beverage cartons recycled in the EU in 2013, we see a continued upward trend in beverage carton recycling in Europe, but there are still wide differences as regards recycling achievements across EU Member States” says Katarina Molin, Director General of ACE. “While some Member States have reached impressive recycling figures above 60%, several Member States still lag behind in the development of collection infrastructure and separate collection of consumer packaging, which also affects the recycling rate of beverage cartons”.

Today more than 20 paper mills recycle beverage cartons in Europe and substantial investments have been made in innovative recycling technologies. “We are very pleased to see that beverage carton recycling continues to increase. However, in order to secure continued growth also in the future, EU regulatory support and a clear legal requirement to collect beverage cartons for recycling are required”.

“We acknowledge the role of the European Commission Circular Economy Package in driving further recycling in Europe” says Molin, “but we regret that the proposal mandates Member States to set potentially divergent packaging design requirements threatening the function of the Internal Market; and that clear roles and responsibilities of the various actors in the packaging value chain, as well as clear requirements for all packaging recovery organisations (PROs) have not been defined at European level. We will continue to contribute to the further development of the Circular Economy package to find solutions which help increase beverage carton recycling on a cost-efficient manner”.

**BEVERAGE CARTON RECYCLING RATES (EU+NO+CH)**



## Note to Editors

ACE provides a European platform for beverage carton manufacturers and their paperboard suppliers to benchmark and profile cartons as renewable, recyclable and low carbon packaging solutions. Engaging with stakeholders and partners seeking high environmental stewardship, it contributes expertise to EU policy, legislation and standard-setting.

ACE members include beverage carton producers Tetra Pak, SIG Combibloc and Elopak; they develop, manufacture and market systems for the processing, packaging and distribution of food, and produce packaging material at 20 plants in Europe. About 98% of the paperboard used by ACE members in beverage cartons in Europe is produced by Stora Enso in Skoghall (Sweden) and Imatra (Finland), and BillerudKorsnäs in Gävle and Frövi (Sweden), who are also members of ACE. These paper mills and the beverage carton manufacturers in ACE together employ close to 30,000 people worldwide.

For further information please visit the ACE website [www.beveragecarton.eu](http://www.beveragecarton.eu)

or contact:

**ALBANE SIRAMY, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS MANAGER**

TEL +32 (0)2 504 07 17 • [albane.siramy@beveragecarton.eu](mailto:albane.siramy@beveragecarton.eu)

**ANNETTE REQUARDT, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER**

TEL +32 (0)2 504 07 12 • [annette.requardt@beveragecarton.eu](mailto:annette.requardt@beveragecarton.eu)