

PRESS RELEASE

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STEEL PACKAGING HITS A NEW RECYCLING MILESTONE OF 82.5%

Recycling of steel packaging in Europe has hit a new all-time high of 82.5%, according to figures issued by APEAL, the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging.

This new record rate, which represents data from 2018, confirms steel as Europe's most recycled primary¹ packaging material and means that more than 8 out of 10 steel items put on the EU market this year have been recycled into new steel products.

Alexis Van Maercke, secretary general of APEAL, said: "A recycling increase of two percentage points sends a clear message to all stakeholders in the value chain that steel for packaging is a tried, tested and sustainable packaging solution, fit for a 21st century circular economy."

"Steel is circular by design. Magnetic properties make steel easy to collect and steel can be recycled over and over again without any loss of material quality. Today's rise in recycling rates is largely the result of increased separate collection in countries such as Italy and Poland. As 100% of separately collected steel packaging is used to make new products, steel is clearly the best placed of all packaging materials to achieve the aims of the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP 2.0)"

APEAL believes that there is no room for complacency, however. The industry has achieved a great deal already, but we must continue to strive towards the improvement of collection and recycling of steel packaging throughout the EU.

¹ Sales or primary packaging is packaging conceived to constitute a sales unit to the final user or consumer at the point of sales (POS). This as opposed to group and transport packaging.

Mr. Van Maercke added: “Indeed, we welcomed the European Commission’s ambition to harmonise separate collection of packaging waste streams in the EU, demonstrated in the CEAP 2.0. Separate collection is the best way of guaranteeing high-quality input into recycling operations.”

In the case of steel packaging, an input of steel scrap is a necessary component for making new steel at any one of more than 500 steel plants in Europe. Indeed, the more quality scrap that can be used in new steel production, the less raw materials and energy are needed and in turn, this reduces emissions.

In 2018 over 4 million tonnes of CO2 were saved through recycling, the equivalent of taking 870,000 cars off the road for one year².

The methodology and data sources used by APEAL to calculate the recycling rate have been independently reviewed, audited and certified by energy and waste specialist consultancy, Eunomia.

For more information, please visit www.steelforpackaging.org.

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² Green Vehicle Guide

<https://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/greenhouse-gas-emissions-typical-passenger-vehicle>

About APEAL

APEAL, the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging, is a federation of the five major producers of steel for packaging in Europe. Its members - ArcelorMittal, Liberty



Liège-Dudelange, Tata Steel, thyssenkrupp Rasselstein and U.S. Steel Košice - employ over 200,000 workers in Europe, 15,000 of whom are employed directly the production of steel for packaging across 11 dedicated manufacturing sites.

About Steel for Packaging

Steel is a unique packaging material, combining exceptional performance capabilities with unrivalled environmental credentials. Strong, formable and long-lasting, steel offers numerous benefits for the safe packaging of a wide variety of products.