Global Green and Elemental Impact: Exploring the Value Chain of Food & Beverage Packaging

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Container Recycling Institute
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CRI’s mission is to make North America a global model for the collection and quality recycling of packaging materials. We do this by:

- Creating and maintaining a database on containers and packaging
- Studying container and packaging reuse and recycling options and legislation, including deposit systems, and their environmental and economic impacts
- Educating on recycling options for government, elected officials, for citizen groups, the print and broadcast media, publications and industry groups
- Creating national networks
CRI History

Formed in 1991 as a 501c3 nonprofit
Reduce waste of all packaging, not just beverage containers
All material types
Programs are paid for by consumers and producers, not taxpayers and ratepayers
Emphasis on high-quality materials that are able to achieve the promise of recycling, which is replacement of virgin materials in the manufacturing process
High quantities of recyclables, high quality, lowest cost programs
Goals & Strategies

Research “best in class” programs; educate on best practices; assist with technical data

Emphasis on high-quality materials that are able to achieve the promise of recycling, which is replacement of virgin materials in the manufacturing process

Information and Training: Technical support to industry and state-based NGO’s (very little direct lobbying)
Beverage container sales and recovery, state-by-state
Data, fact sheets and reports on deposit systems
Web site page for over 40 deposit systems worldwide
Environmental and economic impacts
Expertise on California system (ecosystem)
Modernizing deposit systems
Alternative voice for EPR for packaging
Presentations – 10 to 20 per year, nationwide
PET Container Recycling Rates by Country

Sources: Plastic Waste Management Institute, Abipet, Petcore, NAPCOR, Petco, Ecoce AC, PACIA

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Aluminum Used Beverage Can Recycling Rate
Europe, US, and Canada 2009

Recycle Rate Percentage

Germany 96
Finland 92
Norway (+ Iceland) 88
Switzerland 88
Denmark 88
Sweden 75
*Netherlands 73
Turkey 70
**Canada 59
Cyprus 59
Poland 57
Estonia 55
Spain 51
Italy 51
UK 47
***Belgium (+ Luxembourg) 47
France 40
USA 38
Austria 34
Slovenia 34
Czech Rep. (+ Slovakia) 34
Ireland 30
Hungary 30
Portugal 30
Lithuania 30
Greece 30
Romania (+ Bulgaria) 30
Latvia 30
Malta 30

Sources: European Aluminum Association, US EPA, Who Pays What
*Recycled aluminum in the Netherlands is mainly from incinerator bottom ash.
**2010 rate is used for Canada because data is missing for 2009 data set.
***Including incinerator bottom ash, aluminum recycling rate for Belgium is 93%.
Glass Recycling Rates By Country 1996/98 vs. 2010

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<td>33%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>+ 0%</td>
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</tbody>
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Sources: FEVE, Europan (for Belgium and Luxembourg 1998 rates)
Note: 1998 glass recycling rates were used for Belgium and Luxembourg because these data were missing from the 1996 dataset

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Container Deposit Return Programs Result in Higher Beverage Container Recycling Rates

Average Beverage Container Recycling Rates
(By Weight)

Source: CRI’s 2008 Beverage Market Data Analysis (using 2006 data)
U.S. States with Container Deposit Laws

- Oregon
- Vermont
- Michigan
- Maine
- Iowa
- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- New York
- California
- Hawaii
- Guam (new)
Returning to Work
Understanding the Domestic Jobs Impacts from Different Methods of Recycling Beverage Containers

By Jeffery Morris, Ph.D., and Clarissa Morawek
for the Container Recycling Institute
December 2011

Prepared by:
Sound Resource Management
CM Consulting
Understanding economic and environmental impacts of single-stream collection systems
Glass: Deposit vs. Single Stream
Contaminants at a Paper Mill (6)
of PET bales collected in the U.S. are exported
In the average single-stream collection program, if you collect 100 tons of recyclables at the curb, on average, 75 tons will actually be recycled into new products, and most of the rest will be landfilled.
To Get More Information

- Webinars
- Weekly Headlines Newsletter (electronic)
- Quarterly Newsletter on Packaging Legislation
- Reports (downloadable)
- Magazine articles
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