

**In Europe today, 8 out of 10 PET bottles are collected for recycling. Why? Because Europe has EPR and design for recycling.**

As you know, PET or Polyethylene terephthalate, is made to be remade, and PET bottles and trays are fully recyclable and part of a circular economy. As a proud European manufacturing industry, we make and recycle PET.

Lots of people are familiar with PET - it is used for medical devices, beverage bottles, and food trays which help farmers bring fresh meat and cheese to a market. PET bottles are the most collected, sorted and recycled plastic packaging today, in practice and at scale.

PETCORE EUROPE fully supports the goal of sustainable production and consumption of plastics. Our industry recycles billion of PET bottles every year, thereby eliminating waste. Our portfolio enables circular packaging solutions that should never end up as waste – collection is key.

We should not forget that PET is a valuable material and demand for recycled PET has increased in recent years. This is because the people who make your favourite drink offer more and more recycled bottles to the public. But if we want more PET to be recycled, then it needs to be collected. Europe is a good example: in 2022, 75% of PET beverage bottles in Europe were collected for recycling. Today, an average European PET bottle has 25% recycled content. These collection and recycled numbers are not a pilot, or a single country or a CSR activity. It is the reality of the PET industry in Europe today.

That is a good start, but we are keen to do more: European PET recyclers can recycle another 10-12 billion more of PET bottles each year. Moreover, the whole world can have the same recycling PET recycling rate, if we have global design for recycling rules, and support for collection and recycling like EPR. Nevertheless, there are still so many cases when fully recyclable PET is being sent to landfill and incineration. If we want to create a circular economy, first, we need to fix the collection issue. There are two fields, where business and government must collaborate: food contact regulation and collection.

The PET industry has been recycling for many years. But some major countries still do not allow closed loop recycling due to gaps in their food contact regulations.

The PET value chain provided the data on PET bottles recycling to the Food Safety Authorities in India and Thailand. Now, both have approved bottle to bottle recycling. This helped 1.5 billion people - or 18% of the world's population to recycle and also has started major investment in PET recycling.

Waste collection is the other area where we can work together and **as the PET industry we advocate for well-designed EPR or Extended Producer Responsibilities policies.** In the last 20 years the PET value chain has paid billions of dollars to waste collectors for used PET bottles. This investment helped to fund the circular economy - putting money into the collection and sorting system to make it viable!