
Improving container glass collection & recycling: a European Perspective

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Abstract

Glass is one of the only packaging materials that can be infinitely recyclable in a closed bottle-to-bottle loop. Once produced, a glass bottle becomes the primary resource needed to produce new bottles – saving resources, energy and lowering carbon emissions. For decades, glass has been successfully collected for recycling via kerbside and bottle bank collection across the EU under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes. Today, more than 8 in 10 glass bottles in the EU are collected for recycling, and projects such as the Close the Glass Loop partnership aim to increase this rate to 90%.

This session will look into the importance of closed loop glass recycling for the container glass industry in terms of decarbonisation and circularity, the main drivers explaining high levels of collection & closed-loop recycling in Europe, what are the remaining challenges and how the glass packaging value chain collaborates to address them.

Keywords: Sustainability, glass packaging, collection, recycling, decarbonisation, partnerships

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