



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 30, 2005**

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**This Summer Open A Can Of Pork & Beans and Help Fight Global Warming!**  
*Study Reveals that steel cans are the most energy efficient food delivery system available*

**Pittsburgh, PA** –A study released today by the Steel Recycling Institute (SRI) reveals that canned foods offer a more energy efficient delivery system than either refrigerated or frozen foods. The study, performed by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) of Oakland, California, assessed the energy consumption of refrigerated, frozen, and canned food delivery systems quantifying the energy requirements at every stage depending on form of packaging.

“As more and more companies become aware of the tremendous impact CO2 has relative to global warming, and just as importantly, are awakening to an additional impact from refrigeration -- a chemical refrigerant called HFCs or hydrofluorocarbons -- companies, environmentalists, and consumers are questioning the methods of delivering food to consumers,” said SRI President, Bill Heenan. He also pointed out that the steel can continues to be North America’s most recycled package at an almost 62 percent recycling rate.

Based on the results of the SCS study, the relative use of energy within the entire food production system is as follows:

Energy Consumption			
	Canned	Frozen	Refrigerated
Total Kcal/lb (range)	1,136 - 1,607	2,250 - 2,406	1,152 - 1,692
Increase Over Cans (Kcal/lb)	Base	1,114 - 799	16 - 85
Increase Over Cans (percent)	Base	98% - 50%	1% - 5%

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The food industry, which provides the most basic fuel of all, from a human point of view, utilizes a supply chain that consumes energy at every step of moving agricultural produce from the field to the table. The study performed by SCS analyzed the relative use of energy in each stage from growing/harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, storing for wholesale and retail distribution, as well as home storage.

Also included in this study was the preparing of food in our nation's home kitchens. "Because nutritious canned foods are stored in consumers' pantries, they do not require electricity for home storage and therefore do not spoil when there is a power outage," said Richard Tavoletti, Director of the Canned Food Alliance (CFA).

"The consuming public in general does not understand the complexities of the modern global food system. They tend to live and shop for groceries far away from where food was produced and processed. They rarely stop to consider whether the food was imported and sold at a grocery chain that takes five minutes by automobile to reach, or whether it was grown by local farmers and sold at a green grocer within walking distance of their homes. When considering the price of food, few take into account the environmental costs related to producing, processing, storing or transporting food. Among the largely unseen environmental costs is the increased amount of fossil fuel required to transport food over long distances combined with the electricity needed to keep these foods cold or frozen," Heenan said.

The study's assessment considers energy expenditures for the energy consumed in the movement of produce from farm to table for the three primary modes of delivery: refrigerated, frozen and canned. However, as is common in life cycle assessment practice, the energy used to build the processing and distribution facilities, the stores, the homes or the trucks and cars used to transport the goods is not included.

"Bottom line," Heenan stated, "the most efficient, convenient, and nutritional delivery system of food to a dinner table is brought to the consumer through steel cans. Now we know that in addition to being the most recycled food package, cans are also a way for us to reduce greenhouse gases."

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The Steel Recycling Institute (SRI) is an industry association that promotes and sustains the recycling of all steel products. The SRI educates the solid waste industry, government, business and ultimately the consumer about the benefits of steel's infinite recycling cycle.

For more information about steel, steel cans, and their applications, view AISI's website at [www.steel.org](http://www.steel.org). Also visit the CFA's website at [www.mealtime.org](http://www.mealtime.org), and for recycling information, visit SRI's website at [www.recycle-steel.org](http://www.recycle-steel.org).

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