# Steel confirmed as most recycled packaging material in Europe

APEAL (the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging) has released the latest European steel recycling figures.

In 2012, 2.7 million tonnes of steel packaging were recycled to make new steel products, corresponding to an average European rate of 74%. This reinforces the long term trend for steel as the most recycled packaging material in Europe.

Steel packaging’s recycling rate has increased threefold over the last 20 years thanks to a combination of its infinite recyclability, the ease with which magnetic steel can be recovered from the waste stream and recycled, and an understanding of the resource and emissions savings to be gained.

Alexander Mohr, Secretary General of APEAL, commented: “These figures evidence a continued dedication to the recycling of steel packaging and just how big an impact it can have in driving up rates.

“While steel maintains its position as the most recycled packaging material in Europe, it is clear there is still some work to be done in order for the industry to hit its vision of 80% recycling rate by 2020.

“APEAL has no doubt that these targets will be achieved especially when you consider that the top five recycling countries in Europe already have an average steel recycling rate of 90%.”

Steel remains the most recycled packaging material in Europe. Plastic, beverage cartons, aluminium and glass demonstrate rates of 35%, 39%, 68% and 70% respectively (according to latest available data).

A tonne of recycled steel saves over one and a half times its weight in CO2 emissions, over twice its weight in raw materials and uses 70% less energy than producing steel from virgin sources.

The methodology and data sources used for the calculation of the European steel recycling rate have been once again reviewed independently by the energy and waste specialist consultancy, Eunomia, who have confirmed the credibility of APEAL’s methodology and data.

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**About APEAL**

APEAL - the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging is a federation of four multi-national producers of steel for packaging (ArcelorMittal, Tata Steel Packaging, ThyssenKrupp Rasselstein, U.S. Steel Košice). In total these four companies employ over 200,000 workers in Europe. Founded in 1986, APEAL represents today about 95% of the total European production of steel for packaging.

**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.