

Abstract



Image: Tata Steel

Produced by APEAL, the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging¹, this report examines the diverse routes discarded steel packaging takes, to become a secondary raw material which will be used to manufacture a new steel product.

Good practices in collection, sorting and recycling of steel for packaging showcases the varied projects, systems and processes via which steel packaging is recycled, closing the material loop. It is intended to serve as a central reference for examples of good practice which contribute to improving the recycling rate of steel for packaging.

Between being placed in a dry recyclables bin and coming to life once more as another steel product, used steel packaging is subject to a wide range of processes. These include household separate waste collections, sorting at Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), extraction via Mechanical-Biological Treatment and recovery from bottom ashes.

¹ APEAL (n.d.). Retrieved from: www.apeal.org

All of these contribute to the delivery of steel as a secondary raw material that is ready to be recycled at the steelworks and used in the production of new steel products.

A permanent material² that can be infinitely recycled with no loss of quality, steel's unique magnetic properties make it the easiest and most economical packaging material to sort, recover and recycle, over and over again.

The 2015 average recycling rate in Europe is 77.5%, which means that steel for packaging is the most recycled packaging material in Europe, bringing ever-greater savings in emissions, resource and energy use³, and making steel the perfectly fitted material for the Circular Economy.

Providing a representative sample, this report highlights examples which APEAL believes constitute best practice in different geographical areas across Europe.

² Metal Packaging Europe, Permanent Material. (n.d.). Retrieved from: www.metalpackagingeurope.org

³ APEAL. (2017). *All-time high for steel packaging recycling in Europe*. [Press release]. Retrieved from: www.apeal.org