

Improving climate protection by recycling aluminium packaging

Peak rate of recycling of 87.8 per cent

Düsseldorf, 04 February 2013 - The high level of recycling of aluminium packaging in Germany has risen again, and reached a new peak in 2011. Of the 93,700 tonnes of aluminium **packaging** used **on the market** in this year, 82,200 tonnes were recycled. This corresponds to a rate of recycling of 87.8 per cent, according to findings in a current study by the Gesellschaft für Verpackungsmarktforschung mbH (GVM), Mainz. "The high rates of recycling show that we have an excellently functioning packaging recycling system here in Germany. The yellow bin has established itself and is successful. Modern separation technologies such as efficient eddy current separators are used nationwide. The conditions are favourable to open up this system now as so-called recycling bin for other used products made of metal," commented Hans-Jürgen Schmidt, Managing Director of Deutsche Aluminium Verpackung Recycling GmbH (DAVR), Grevenbroich, in response to the positive recycling figures.

Every year GVM determines the amounts and the recycling of packaging in Germany – also on behalf of The Federal Environment Agency [Umweltbundesamt] in Berlin. Taken into account are also the rates of recycling of the various dual systems as well as the return of used packaging through other organizations and means of collection.

"The current figures of GVM document the importance of recycling for the aluminium industry," said Christian Wellner, Executive Director of the Gesamtverband der Aluminiumindustrie (GDA) in Düsseldorf. The recycling of used aluminium from packaging, vehicles or other applications will be of increasing importance in the coming years. "That's why the GDA will support the recycling of aluminium even more in future, and has activated its aluminium recycling division for this," said Christian Wellner.

By recycling aluminium it is possible to save up to 95 per cent of the energy required for primary production, so valuable raw materials and resources can be saved. The contribution to climate protection made by recycling metal from packaging is also considerable. According to calculations of DAVR, based on the rates of recycling achieved now, annual savings of greenhouse gases amount to around 430,000 tonnes of so-called CO₂ equivalents. Expenditures for collection, preparation and recycling, as well as rates of material loss were taken into consideration. This corresponds to the full **annual fuel consumption** of roughly 180,000 cars on Germany's streets, alone from the recycling of used aluminium packaging.

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