

# BEVERAGE CARTONS: FULLY RECYCLABLE & RECYCLED



All of the materials used in the manufacture of beverage cartons are fully recyclable, reducing raw material use and carbon emissions.

## COMMITMENT TO RECYCLING KEEPS CO<sub>2</sub> LOCKED IN

The beverage carton industry fully supports recycling and contributes to packaging waste collection schemes. All the materials used in beverage cartons are recyclable, enabling a better use of raw material resources: the life of the wood fibre is extended into other paper(board) products, with the carbon locked within them for a greater period of time (i.e. avoiding CO<sub>2</sub> emissions). The residual material, which includes aluminium and polymers, can be used in a number of different applications ranging from composite materials for products such as roof tiles to industrial raw materials or energy recovery.

## HOW IS THE CARTON RECYCLED?

After collection, used beverage cartons are sorted, and in most cases, brought to paper mills for recycling. When collection schemes are not yet in place, used beverage cartons are often processed in order to provide heat or power (energy recovery).



EU RECYCLED CARTONS  
**380,000 TONNES**  
(2012)

The simple, closed-loop water-based process (repulping) allows the paperboard to be separated from the non-fibre layers.

**A**  
The virgin fibres used in beverage cartons have maximum strength for the lowest possible weight and are a valuable raw material for new paper-based products when recycled.

**B**  
The recycling and recovery process of non-fibre components can vary depending on country and processing infrastructure.



**PAPERBOARD**

CORRUGATED BOXES    CARTON BOXES    TOWELS AND TISSUE    STATIONERY



**POLYMERS**



**ALUMINIUM**



**POLYMERS & ALUMINIUM**



**PAPERBOARD POLYMERS & ALUMINIUM**



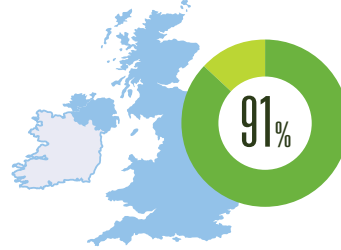
### INDUSTRY COMMITMENT TO RECYCLING

ACE UK members are committed to making it as easy as possible for consumers to recycle the 60,000 tonnes of cartons purchased in the UK each year.

Great progress has already been made – from a standing start just over seven years ago, beverage cartons are now collected by over 90% of local authority areas, compared to 20% in 2006, as well as from schools, businesses and prisons.

In September 2013 the UK's first purpose built facility for recycling beverage cartons opened as a partnership between ACE UK and Sonoco Alcore., which means that cartons collected in the UK can now be recycled here too.

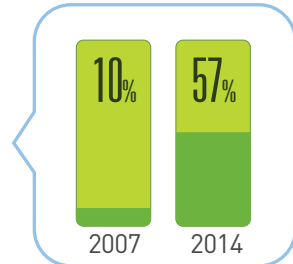
As a result, ACE UK expects even more councils will choose to collect cartons at kerbside, making it easier for consumers to recycle them and thereby increasing recycling rates.



BY WORKING CLOSELY  
WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES,  
91% COLLECT CARTONS



57% HAVE  
KERBSIDE  
COLLECTION  
AT END OF  
MAY 2014

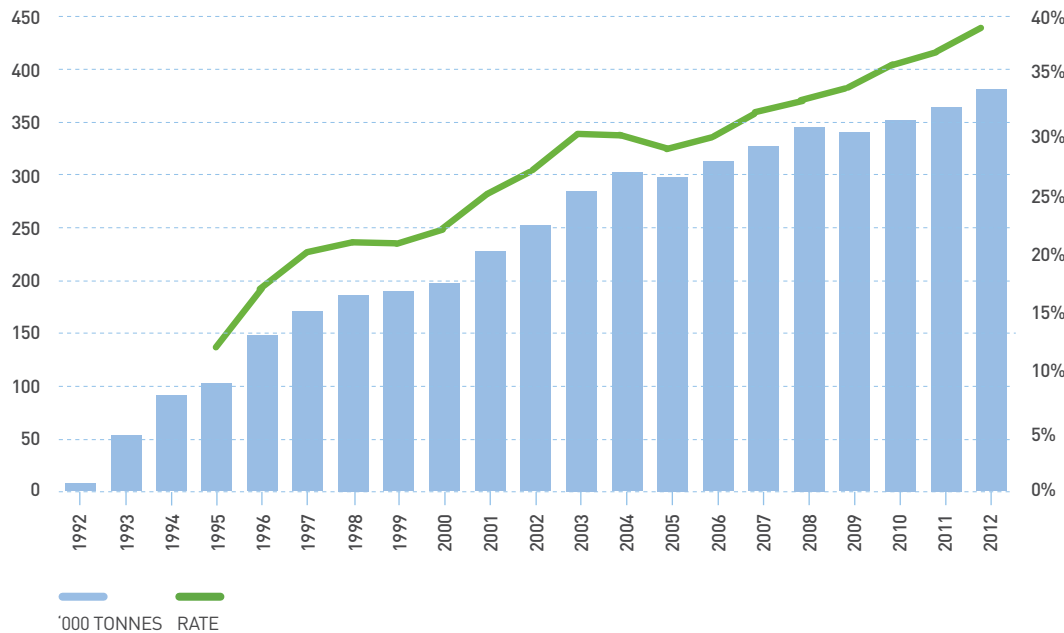


KERBSIDE INCREASE  
OVER 7 YEARS

### BEVERAGE CARTON RECYCLING: STEADY UPWARD TREND IN 2012

During 2012, there was a steady increase in the recycling of beverage cartons in South Eastern Europe and strong progress in the UK. Recycling of the 380,000 tonnes of beverage cartons keeps the valuable fibre in use in recycled paper products, and makes an important contribution to resource efficiency.

#### BC RECYCLING RATES (EU-27+NO+CH) 1992-2012



### INCREASED RECYCLING & DECOUPLING GROWTH FROM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

When examining industry growth, signs of decoupling from environmental impact can be seen. Beverage carton recycling in Europe has increased by 4% a year since 2000, outstripping market growth which is more than 1% per year (tonnage).

SOURCE: ACE 2012

