



Design For Recycling Guidelines for PET Trays published

Petcore Europe and Plastics Recyclers Europe Press Release, 3 December 2018 - Design for Recycling Guidelines for PET Thermoformed Trays "Clear transparent to be recycled even in food applications".

Trays made out of PET sheet are ideal for numerous applications: fresh food and dairy (fresh and sliced meats, cheese, fresh pasta, ...), blister packaging (lamps, tools, stationary, body care, ...) and medical packaging (tablets, scalpels, catheters, ...), providing great performances in transparency and improving the shelf life of products.

PET is the polymer champion in circularity and PET trays are already great performers in terms of use of recyclates; in the EU market, PET-based trays contain on average around 55% of recycled plastics but this is just the first step already achieved towards circularity.

There is a growing trend in the collection of PET trays for specific recycling activities. Nonetheless, more work must be done. **Besides separate collection and proper sorting of trays and other PET sheet-based products, design for recycling is a major tool to boost their circularity.**

To extend the success story of PET bottles (www.epbp.org/) and their high recycling rate in Europe, Petcore Europe and PRE publish today the **Design for Recycling Guidelines for PET trays "clear transparent to be recycled even in food applications"**. The guidelines (attached to this press release and available on www.petcore-europe.org/ and on www.plasticsrecyclers.eu/) have been developed by the PET Thermoforms Working Group under Petcore Europe and can be consulted by the industry to improve the design for recycling of their packaging. The guidelines will be shortly implemented in the PRE RecyClass tool (www.recyclass.eu/).

With these guidelines the PET industry wants to show that **properly designed packaging, separate collection, good sorting and recycling of PET trays are the way towards circularity**. They reflect the current status-of-the art of technology; Petcore Europe will welcome any suggestion and will evaluate any new incoming technology in order to improve the document.

Every interested part can contact Petcore Europe to join this specific Working Group to cooperate towards an improved sustainability of PET-based trays.

About

Petcore Europe is the association representing the complete PET value chain in Europe since 1993. Its mission is to ensure that the entire PET industry is well aligned to enhance its value and sustainable growth, to represent the PET industry before the European institutions and other stakeholders, to ensure that PET is positioned as an outstanding packaging material and recognized as environmentally sound, to support and validate innovative packaging solutions from a recycling perspective, and to promote a continuous increase of PET post-consumer collection and recycling.

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About

Plastics Recyclers Europe (PRE) is the professional representative body of plastics recyclers in Europe. PRE promotes plastics mechanical recycling and conditions that enable profitable and sustainable business, while offering a service platform to its members. Our members constitute 80% of the European recycling capacity, processing more than 3 million tonnes of collected plastics per year.

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