



EXPRA PACKAGING EPR GLOSSARY

WELCOME TO THE EXPRA GLOSSARY

This glossary is a collection of terms that are commonly used in the field of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and in the waste management sector. The EXPRA glossary seeks to offer a common reference point for the meaning of the terms used in relation to EPR and waste management, that will bring harmonisation to the meaning and understanding of the terms. EXPRA aims to support better understanding for all stakeholders of the everyday terms used in our sector, which will reduce misunderstandings and misperceptions. Ultimately EXPRA hopes to facilitate agreement between stakeholders around a single definition of specific technical terms. The EXPRA glossary includes both the relevant technical and business terminology used in the waste sector and aims to improve the communications between stakeholders working and interested in the EPR and waste management sectors. From 'automatic sorting' to the 'Waste Framework Directive', many terms are included in our glossary and we hope you can find a definition for any term you are looking for. We therefore hope that you find the EXPRA glossary useful and informative. The EXPRA glossary is also a living document and we welcome feedback from users who would like to offer suggestions for additions or further clarifications. We would also be delighted to consider requests from interested stakeholders to link this glossary to their own website. We look forward to hearing from you!

EXPRA

TERM	DEFINITION
Automatic sorting	The automatic separation of specific recyclable material types or subtypes from the stream of collected waste. It is done by machines using NIR or Photo sorting systems, often with a small amount of sorting by hand to optimize the quality of the output.
Awareness building	To raise awareness and stimulate participation and communication to all stakeholders, including the public, on relevant issues relating to waste management.
Away-from-home (Out of Home)	All places outside residential areas where inhabitants consume packaged products, resulting in packaging waste similar to residential packaging waste. (Includes parks, beaches, public transport stations, leisure places, offices etc.)
Bio based packaging	The material or product is (fully or partly) derived from biomass (plants). Biomass used for bioplastics stems from e.g. corn, sugarcane, or cellulose and castor plants. The range of bioplastic materials used in the European packaging market today is much broader than at the beginning. The polymers used for diverse applications can be biobased, biodegradable or both. Please see http://en.european-bioplastics.org/market/applications/packaging/ for more information
Biodegradable packaging	A process during which micro-organisms that are available in the environment convert materials into natural substances such as water, carbon dioxide and biomass. The process of biodegradation depends on the surrounding environmental conditions (e.g. location or temperature), on the material itself, and on the application. Consequently, the process and its outcome can vary considerably. Biodegradability is independent of the resource basis of a material/product, it is dependent on the chemical structure and an inherent property of certain bioplastic materials that can have a benefit in specific applications (e.g. biowaste bags or service ware). Please see http://en.european-bioplastics.org/press/faq-bioplastics/#diff for more information.
Bioplastics	A family of plastic materials that are biobased, biodegradable or both.
Blue bag	System used for the collection of PMD packaging through door-to-door collection. (Eg. Belgium, Luxemburg)
Branch solution	A separate, self-compliant system for the financing, collection and recycling of packaging within certain branches. This term comes from the German implementation of the Packaging Directive. Instead of participating in a compliance scheme, obliged companies can participate in a so called branch solution. This solution offers a collection and recovery system for a specific sector and specific packaging only. Such a specific system was originally developed for used engine oil containers arising at petrol stations.
Bring Center	Containers to which inhabitants have to bring their separately collected materials

TERM	DEFINITION
CEN Standards for packaging and packaging waste	<p>Standards which are determined at the request of the European Commission that are used to support the requirements of Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste. The European Commission mandated the development of standards for packaging and packaging waste, as well as the 'Requirements for packaging recoverable through composting and biodegradation - Test scheme and evaluation criteria for the final acceptance of packaging'.</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p>
Chemical recovery	<p>Following the ISO guidelines in the field of packaging and the environment 18601:2013, chemical recovery refers to a "process to recover valuable chemical substances by chemical treatment of used packaging by hydrosis, glycolysis, methanolysis, catalytic reaction, thermal reaction, and other chemical processes - process to substitute used packaging for natural resources".</p> <p>Link to this reference here, however the ISO standards are not accessible without purchase.</p>
Cherry picking	<p>The strategy that can be used by obliged companies or compliance schemes to fulfil their legal obligations by performing or coordinating activities that are not in line with their scope and/or leaving out activities that should be in their scope, to operate in an easier or cheaper way than should be the case when fulfilling the legal obligations related to their scope.</p> <p>Examples include: if a compliance scheme is trying to fulfil its obligations by only recycling commercial packaging instead of participating in the collection and recycling of household packaging, or if compliance schemes do not inform their customers about eco-design of packaging and the prevention of packaging waste.</p> <p>If waste management companies intend to collect mainly the valuable materials from easy sources such as shopping malls etc., it can be also considered as cherry picking.</p>
Collection	<p>Collection is a part of the waste management process. It is the transfer of (solid) waste from the point of use (e.g. private households) and disposal to the point of treatment or landfill.</p>
Co-mingled collection	<p>Co-mingled collection refers to collection of a mix of dedicated waste materials which is subsequently sorted for recycling at specialised facilities.</p> <p>Usually, various kinds of packaging materials are collected together with newspapers and other kinds of paper and board.</p> <p>This kind of collection is mainly known in the UK ("Blue box") or in Greece ("Blue container")</p>

TERM	DEFINITION
Commercial packaging	Commercial packaging comprises all packaging which arises at retailers; usually it contains secondary and tertiary packaging. The material collected at bring centers and/or containers in the primeses of the retailers which serve the public is considered as household packaging.
Communication campaigns	Communication campaigns encompass strategies for producing effects on the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour of large populations across a variety of domains. They are purposive attempts to inform, persuade, or motivate behaviour changes in a relatively well-defined and large audience by means of organized communication activities.
Compliance fees	This is a financial contribution for products placed on the market by obliged companies who participate in the recovery system for packaging through a compliance scheme. (May also be considered as a „service fee“)
Compliance scheme	An organization that performs activities for listed or unlisted customers in order to ensure that these customers comply with specific legislation. In the field of packaging, it is usually used as a synonym to (packaging) recovery organisation. A compliance scheme sometimes takes over legal responsibilities (e.g. reaching recycling rates) from their customers.
Compostable packaging (Industrial)	<p>EN 13432:2000 sets out requirements for packaging recoverable through industrial composting. In accordance with this norm, in order to be claimed to be compostable, a material must have the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodegradability > 90% in 6 months - Disintegrability > 90% in 3 months - Absence of negative effects on composting processes - Low heavy metal levels and no netavie effect on the final compost <p>Compostability is a characteristic of a product, packaging or associated component that allows it to biodegrade under specific conditions (e.g. a certain temperature, timeframe, etc). These specific conditions are described in standards, such as the European standard on industrial composting EN 13432. Materials and products complying with this standard can be certified and labelled accordingly. http://en.european-bioplastics.org/press/faq-bioplastics/#diff</p>
Corporate social responsibility (CSR)	<p>The European Commission defines CSR as the responsibility of enterprises for their impacts on society. To fully meet their social responsibility, enterprises should have in place a process to integrate social, environmental, ethical human rights and consumer concerns into their business operations and core strategy in close collaboration with their stakeholders.</p> <p>Link to this referencehere.</p>

TERM	DEFINITION
Curbside collection	This is a synonym of door-to-door collection. (Curbside collection usually refers to the collection of waste at the curbside with bins or bags close to home, not door-to-door, as described further on.)
Deposit-refund system	A deposit-refund system is a surcharge on a product when purchased and a rebate when it is returned. A well-known example is when container deposit legislation mandates that a refund is given when a beverage container is returned.
Design for recycling	The strategy and/or operation to design a product or packaging in such a way, that it can be entirely recycled, and if not entirely recyclable, the share of contents that are recyclable is optimized. The designed-for-recycling method incorporates recycling and recyclability criteria (e.g. easy to dismantle, easy to remove parts/components, etc.) into the design phase of products, with the aim of making the recycling of the packaging possible or easier. Examples are the avoidance of multilayer packaging, preferring clear PET instead of using certain colours, avoiding full-body sleeves around bottles etc.
Disposal	According to the EU Waste Framework Directive, disposal means “any operation which is not recovery even where the operation has as a secondary consequence the reclamation of substances or energy”. Link to this reference here.
Door-to-door collection	Door-to-door collection refers to collection of waste directly at the residential home. That means that collection equipment like bags or bins are kept directly in the houses.
Dual system	The organization of collection infrastructure and collection services, run by private organizations, parallel to municipal collection systems. The “Dual” system is characterized by the fact that a second packaging waste collection system is run in parallel to the waste collection system of the local authorities without their physical and/or financial involvement. It is run physically and financially by one or more compliance schemes on behalf of obliged companies without the involvement of local authorities. It was invented in 1990 in Germany by Der Grüne Punkt Duales System Deutschland GmbH and implemented in a similar way in Austria and Sweden. France then developed the “shared responsibility” approach followed by most of the other European countries.
Dump sites	A dump site is a piece of land where waste materials are dumped, often in an illegal way which is not in accordance with European and national standards. According to the EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) there are certain conditions that landfills need to meet in order to operate.
Eco design	Ecodesign is an approach to design of a product with special consideration for the environmental impacts of the product during its whole lifecycle.

TERM	DEFINITION
Education programs	Education programs are aimed at educating the community about particular issues relating to waste i.e. littering.
End-of-waste criteria	<p>As defined by the European Commission, End-of-waste criteria specify when certain waste ceases to be waste and obtain a status of a product (or a secondary raw material). According to Article 6 (1) and (2) of the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC, certain specified waste shall cease to be waste when it has undergone a recovery (including recycling) operation and complies with specific criteria to be developed in line with certain legal conditions, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the substance or object is commonly used for specific purposes; · there is an existing market or demand for the substance or object; · the use is lawful (substance or object fulfils the technical requirements for the specific purposes and meets the existing legislation and standards applicable to products); · the use will not lead to overall adverse environmental or human health impacts. <p>Links to the criteria established so far:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Regulation 333/2011 on scrap metal 2) Regulation 1179/2012 on glass cullet 3) Regulation 715/2013 on copper
Energy recovery	<p>Following the ISO guidelines on the recovery and recycling of plastics waste 15270:2008, energy recovery refers to the “production of useful energy through direct and controlled combustion”.</p> <p>Link to this reference here, however the ISO standards are not accessible without purchase.</p>
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
EPR scheme / organisation / system	Usually used as synonym to (packaging) recovery organisation.
Essential Requirements	<p>The EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC) defines in its Annex II the essential requirements for packaging and packaging waste. These include requirements related to the design, manufacturing and composition of packaging, the reusable nature of packaging, as well as requirements related to the recoverable nature of packaging.</p> <p>Link to the Directive here.</p>
EXPRA	Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance

TERM	DEFINITION
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	<p>An environmental policy approach where a producer is responsible for the entire life cycle of its product in order to meet legal obligations. This means that the producer is responsible for designing its products with materials that are the least damaging to the environment and in such a way that the recycling of the product is optimized. Furthermore, the producer is responsible for the collection and treatment of its products, with a focus on recycling.</p> <p>(OECD Definition: EPR is an environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle.)</p> <p>(i.e. end of life management of the product)</p> <p>Link to this reference.</p>
Extra costs	This is a synonym to incremental costs.
Filler	The filler, or the brand name owner, is usually the economic player in the packaging chain that has developed the product and puts it into specific packaging.
Food Contact Material	<p>Food contact materials are materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Packaging materials; Cutlery and dishes; Processing machines; Containers; Materials and articles in contact with water for human consumption. <p>Link to the EC page: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/foodcontact/index_en.htm</p>
Free Rider	Obligated companies that do not fulfil their legal obligations, either by not participating in any recovery system at all or by not reporting all obliged packaging. (The companies that are not registered in the system of the Ministry of Environment may also be considered as Free Riders)
Full cost system	<p>Within a "full cost system" obliged companies pay all arising costs for the separate collection, sorting and recovery of used packaging, either to local authorities or to waste management companies.</p> <p>It is also a model where a compliance scheme pays all arising costs that are necessary to meet legal requirements, or to even go beyond: eco-design and prevention, anti-littering campaigns, awareness campaigns and other communication to stimulate separate collection, sorting and recovery of packaging waste.</p>

TERM	DEFINITION
Good governance	<p>According to the UN, governance can be defined as “the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented)”. In this context, good governance has the following eight key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · participatory; · consensus oriented; · accountable; · transparent; · responsive; · effective; · efficient. <p>Link to this reference here.</p>
Green Dot	<p>The mark „The Green Dot” on packaging means that, for such packaging, a financial contribution has been paid to a national packaging recovery company (organization) that has been set up in accordance with the principles defined in the European Packaging Directive No. 94/62 and national law. The trademark is owned by Der Grüne Punkt Duales System Deutschland GmbH and licensed for all European countries (besides Germany) to PRO EUROPE asbl which itself has concluded sub-license agreements with several European compliance schemes. These sub-licenses then pass another sub-license to companies which would like to use the Green Dot on their packaging.</p>
Group packaging	<p>According to the Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste, grouped packaging is a synonym of secondary packaging.</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p>
HDPE	<p>The acronym HDPE (high density polyethylene) is often used to refer to type 2 plastic. HDPE plastic is often used to make bottles for beverages with short shelf life, such as milk and juice. Because HDPE has good chemical resistance, it is also often used for containing household and industrial chemicals such as detergents and bleach. It is also available as a biobased version - biobased HDPE (derived from sugarcane). HDPE is also used to manufacture grocery and retain bags. Examples of recycling codes for HDPE plastic are seen below. The “PE-HD” symbol is often used by plastic bag industries. HDPE plastic can be recycled into bottles for holding household chemicals such as detergent, shampoo, conditioner and even motor oil. Recycled HDPE plastic can also be made into pipes, buckets and bins, pens, flower pots, film and sheets, benches, and even dog houses.</p>

TERM	DEFINITION
Home composting	<p>Home composting can be defined as the controlled biological decomposition of organic waste under managed conditions that are predominantly aerobic and that allow the development of thermophilic conditions as a result of biologically produced heat, including cooler aerobic breakdown of bulky wastes in small scale composters and by 'slow-stack' treatment methods, where temperatures are in the psychrophilic (0-20 °C) to mesophylic (20- 45 °C) ranges.</p> <p>The definition can be found here.</p>
HORECA sector	<p>HORECA is the sector of the food service industry that consists of establishments which prepare and serve food and beverages. It refers to hotel, restaurant and catering companies.</p>
Household packaging	<p>Household packaging waste is packaging waste generated by households. It is usually sales (or primary) packaging but may also be group (or secondary) packaging. (The packaging wastes originating from industry may also be considered as household waste if it originates from sources like dining halls, meeting centers, etc. of the industrial complexes. The material collected from the bring centers and also from commercial complexes, such as a mall should also be considered as household waste.)</p> <p>It can also be defined as „packaging waste, predominantly produced by households but also by organizations and small companies, which is collected by municipalities.“</p>
Importer	<p>An importer is a business or an individual that brings packaging and packaged products from one country into another.</p> <p>Commercial imports of packaging respective packaged goods are contained in European statistics as the basis for the calculation of the national recycling quotas.</p> <p>Private imports are currently not taken into account although they can have big effects on the amounts of packaged goods consumed in a member state.</p>
Incineration	<p>Waste destruction in a furnace by controlled burning at high temperatures.</p>
Incineration with energy recovery	<p>Following the ISO guidelines on energy recovery 18605:2013, incineration with energy recovery refers to a process whereby, during the incineration process, incineration plants are “able to decouple energy efficiently and use it in the form of energy recovery”.</p> <p>Link to this reference here, however the ISO standards are not accessible without purchase.</p>
Incremental costs	<p>The incremental costs - often also called “extra” costs or “additional costs” - are those costs that arise on top of the usual costs for the disposal of waste if household packaging is separately collected, sorted and recovered.</p> <p>If the treatment of waste costs 100 and the separate collection, sorting and recovery 150, the incremental costs are 50.</p>

TERM	DEFINITION
Individual Producer Responsibility	<p>Individual producer responsibility refers to the producer's commitment to managing the end-of-life phase of their specific products.</p> <p>It is mainly used in the WEEE sector where the producers of electrical and electronic equipment are motivated to take back and recycle their own products after usage.</p>
Industrial composting	<p>Industrial composting is an established process with commonly agreed requirements concerning temperature and timeframe for transforming biodegradable waste into stable, sanitised products to be used in agriculture. This process takes place in industrial or municipal composting plants. The criteria for the industrial compostability of packaging are set out in EN 13432. Materials and products complying with this standard can be certified and labelled accordingly. There is currently no common European standard for home composting. Regulations, national standards, or certification programmes can be found in Italy (UNI 11183), Belgium (Vinçotte, OK compost home label) and the United Kingdom (European Bioplastics).</p> <p>Sources EuBP http://en.european-bioplastics.org/press/faq-bioplastics/#compost Factsheet Industrial composting: http://en.european-bioplastics.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/fs/FactSheet_Industrial_Composting.pdf</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p>
Industrial packaging	<p>Industrial packaging comprises all packaging which arises at production plants. It can be all kinds of packaging, from primary to secondary to tertiary packaging.</p>
Industry owned compliance scheme	<p>PRO that has been founded and is owned by the obliged companies (meaning those companies that have to comply with certain legislation). This is contrary to PRO's which are owned by third parties meaning waste management companies, recyclers or financial investors</p>
Island Solutions	<p>In the beginning of the mandatory deposit system for one way beverage containers in Germany retailers set up an isolated system that limited the guarantee to receive the deposit to the special retail chain where the respective beverage container has been purchased</p>
ISO Standards for packaging and environment	<p>The ISO standards for packaging and the environment are applicable to a supplier responsible for placing packaging or packaged goods on the market. The standards aim to reduce the environmental impact of packaging and minimise the risk of technical barriers to trade.</p> <p>The standards were created in 2005, and are accessible at this link.</p>

TERM	DEFINITION
Landfilling	<p>Landfilling is a method of solid waste disposal in which refuse is buried between layers of dirt so as to fill in or reclaim low-lying ground.</p> <p>According to the Council Directive 1999 31 EC, „Landfilling“ is also defined as ; A waste disposal site for the deposit of the waste onto or into land (i.e. underground), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - internal waste disposal sites (i.e. landfill where a producer of waste is carrying out its own waste disposal at the place of production), and - a permanent site (i.e. more than one year) which is used for temporary storage of waste, but excluding: - facilities where waste is unloaded in order to permit its preparation for further transport for recovery, treatment or disposal elsewhere, and - storage of waste prior to recovery or treatment for a period less than three years as a general rule, or - storage of waste prior to disposal for a period less than one year
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment or Life Cycle Analysis
LDPE	<p>The acronym LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene) is used to refer to type 4 plastic. Given its toughness, flexibility and relative transparency, LDPE plastic is often used in cable insulation, flexible bottles, as well as film applications. LDPE is also used extensively in manufacturing breadbags, tote bags, dry cleaning bags, furniture, carpets, and squeezable bottles. It is also available as a biobased version - biobased LDPE (derived from sugarcane).</p> <p>Examples of LDPE plastic recycling codes can be seen below. The “PE-LD” recycling codes are often used by plastic bag manufacturers. Recycled LDPE plastic can be made into garbage can liners, floor tile, film and sheet, bins, landscape timber and lumber.</p>
Level playing field	<p>Level playing field refers to the concept that all companies in a given field have equal opportunities to achieve their goals, that they have to follow the same rules and standards and that the government is enforcing these rules and standards in a strict and equal way to all market players.</p> <p>Especially in member states where the Packaging Directive is implemented by promoting several compliance schemes for the same purpose, the creation of a level playing field is the biggest challenge</p>
License fees	Usually, a license fee is paid by the user of a trademark to its owner. In the packaging EPR world, “license fee” is a term used for the compliance fee that an obliged company has to pay to a compliance scheme to have the right to use the Green Dot trademark on their packaging. EPR organizations that don't utilize a trademark do not impose license fees, but compliance fees or contribution fees.
Littering	Littering is the (illegal) act of leaving waste such as cigarette butts, paper, tins, and bottles lying in an open or public place.

TERM	DEFINITION
Manual sorting	Manual sorting refers to materials being sorted for recycling by hand on so-called manual picking lines.
Marine debris	Marine debris is human-created waste that has deliberately or accidentally been released in a lake, sea, ocean or waterway.
Marine litter	<p>Following the European Commission's definition, "marine litter consists of items that have been deliberately discarded, unintentionally lost, or transported by winds and rivers, into the sea and on beaches. It mainly consists of plastics, wood, metals, glass, rubber, clothing and paper". UNEP apply the following definition: Marine debris predominantly originates from land (up to 80%), mainly due to irresponsible littering and badly managed landfills. If waste is deposited in open landfills, lightweight materials - and this especially accounts for plastics - can be blown away or washed away by rain.</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p>
Material producer	The material producer is the company that develops those materials that packaging is made of: the plastic, paper, glass or metal producer. In case of glass and metals the material producer can also be the packaging producer
Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)	A specialized plant that receives, separates and prepares recoverable materials for marketing to end-user manufacturers.
Material recycling	<p>Following the ISO guidelines on material recycling 18604:2013, material recycling refers to "reprocessing, by means of a manufacturing process, of a used packaging material into a product, a component incorporated into a product, or a secondary (recycled) raw material; excluding energy recovery and the use of the product as a fuel".</p> <p>Link to this reference here, however the ISO standards are not accessible without purchase.</p>
Minimization	See Prevention
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
Multiple compliance scheme approach / competitive approach	A member state has implemented the Packaging Directive in a way by promoting several competing compliance schemes for the same purpose; examples can be found in Germany, the UK and Poland
Municipalities / local authorities	A municipality is a geographically limited, local public administrative division having corporate status and usually powers of self-government or jurisdiction. Local government is a form of public administration which in a majority of contexts, exists as the lowest tier of administration within a given country.

TERM	DEFINITION
NIR sorting	Plastic resins are composed of a range of polymer types. Similarities in the size and shape of the resins make them difficult to distinguish by sight alone. In this application note, near infrared (NIR) spectroscopy is used to sort colored resins composed of different polymers. Diffuse reflection measurements are made in the NIR region to capture distinct spectral differences resulting from the unique polymer compositions, while avoiding the detection of spectral differences arising from resin color.
Non profit	Non-profit refers to a business that is conducted in a way that it should fulfil the (public benefit) goals of its founders contrary to normal business which aim to make profit by conducting a certain business activity.
Obligated companies	In the context of EPR, obliged companies are the companies that are given obligations and duties by law. This can be obligations with respect to the production of packaging (such as prevention, eco design) and the collection and treatment of packaging waste (with a focus on recycling). In the packaging sector, obliged companies come predominantly from the sectors of manufacturing, fillers, retailers and importers, but also material production and packaging production.
One way packaging	One way packaging is packaging that is designed to contain, protect, handle, deliver or present a product during transport from the producer to the consumer, where it becomes waste; this is contrary to reusable packaging which is designed to be used for several usages of the same kind of product.
Optimisation	This term when used in connection with packaging means that a producer of packaging and the filler is trying to improve the performance of the packaging used for a specific product without any impact on the quality of the product itself. This can be to eliminate unnecessary volume, weight, shrinking the thickness of the packaging etc.
Oxo-fragmentable	Oxo-fragmentable plastic is polyolefin plastic to which has been added amounts of metal salts. These catalyse the degradation process to speed it up so that the oxo plastic will degrade resulting in micro fragments of plastic and metals which will remain in the environment but will not be seen as a visual contaminant. Oxo-fragmentable materials cannot biodegrade as defined in industry accepted standard specifications such as ASTM D6400, ASTM D6868, ASTM, D7081 or EN 13432. http://en.european-bioplastics.org/press/faq-bioplastics/#diffoxo

TERM	DEFINITION
Packaging	<p>According to Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste, packaging shall mean all products made of any materials of any nature to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery and presentation of goods, from raw materials to processed goods, from the producer to the user or the consumer. 'Non-returnable' items used for the same purposes shall also be considered to constitute packaging.</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p> <p>The definition was further clarified through amending Directive 2004/12/EC, introducing an annex of illustrative examples.</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p>
Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD)	<p>The PPWD deals with the problems of packaging waste and the currently permitted heavy metal content in packaging. It is concerned with minimising the creation of packaging waste material and promotes energy recovery, re-use and recycling of packaging.</p> <p>Link to the Directive here. It is currently under revision.</p>
Packaging optimisation	<p>Following the ISO guidelines on the optimisation of the packaging system 18602:2013, packaging optimisation refers to a "process for the achievement of a minimum adequate weight or volume (source reduction) the design for recycling and the use of recycled materials for meeting the necessary requirements of primary or secondary or transport packaging, when performance and user/consumer acceptability remain unchanged or adequate, thereby reducing the impact on the environment".</p> <p>Link to this reference here, however the ISO standards are not accessible without purchase.</p>
Packaging producer	<p>A packaging producer is the company that converts raw (primary or/and secondary) materials into packaging.</p>
Packaging recovery organisation	<p>A packaging recovery organisation is a company - authorized by the government - that fulfils the legal obligations of obliged companies that participate in the respective system on their behalf, usually by organising the separate collection, sorting and recovery of used packaging</p>
Packaging Waste	<p>Any packaging or packaging material covered by the definition of waste in Directive 75/442/EEC, excluding production residues;</p>
Packer	<p>See obliged company</p>

TERM	DEFINITION
PAYT	<p>Pay as you throw (PAYT) is a usage-pricing model for disposing of municipal solid waste. Users are charged a rate based on how much waste they present for collection to the municipality or local authority.</p> <p>There are many different ways to apply PAYT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Fixed annual fees per household but volume of the bin and/or empty frequency can be chosen. · Fees for the purchase of mandatory refuse bags for residual waste. · Fees per emptying of a bin · Fees per collected weight
PEF	<p>PEF is a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)-based method to calculate the environmental performance of a product.</p> <p>Currently, the concept is still discussed at the EU level. The first PEF pilot projects will start in 2014.</p> <p>http://en.european-bioplastics.org/ecg-4/</p>
PET	<p>The acronym PETE (polyethylene terephthalate) or PET (poly ethylene terephthalate) are often used interchangeably, to refer to type 1 plastic. PET or PETE plastics are often used in soft drink bottles, as well as food and non-food containers, because of their good gas and moisture barrier properties. PET and PETE plastic can be recycled into carpet yarns, fiberfill, tote bags, food and drink containers, luggage and clothing. PET is also available as biobased version - biobased PET (derived from sugarcane).</p>
PLA	<p>Polylactic acid (PLA) is a transparent plastic produced from corn^[12] or dextrose. It not only resembles conventional petrochemical-based mass plastics (like PET, PS or PE) in its characteristics, but it can also be processed on standard equipment that already exist for the production of some conventional plastics. PLA and PLA blends generally come in the form of granulates with various properties, and are used in the plastic processing industry for the production of films, fibers, plastic containers, cups and bottles.</p>
Plastic Carrier Bag	<p>A polymer carry bag provided or utilised at the retail point of sale for carrying and transporting retail goods. This includes all plastic retail carry bags, but excludes produce bags used in-store, dry cleaning bags, garbage bags and other primary product packaging</p>
PMD	<p>PMD is the name for the collection of lightweight packaging in households . It stands for the packaging materials intended to be collected: plastic bottles and flasks, beverage cartons and metal packaging. (Eg. Belgium and Luxemburg)</p>
Point of Sale	<p>Is the point at which a customer makes a payment to the merchant in exchange for goods or services</p>

TERM	DEFINITION
Point-of-sale return	Point-of-sale return means that a consumer either leaves packaging directly with the retailer when purchasing packaging products; or returns used packaging to the retailer instead of collecting it at home.
POM	Packaging on the Market, the weight of all packaging that is sold within or imported to a certain geographically restricted area
PP	The acronym PP (Polypropylene) is used to refer to type 5 plastic. PP plastic is used extensively for packaging purposes. Given its high melting point and good chemical resistance, it is also used to contain hot-fill liquids, and molded in automotive parts. Recycled PP plastic can be made into brooms, rakes, brushes, signal lights, ice scrapers, and trays. This will also be available as a biobased version soon.
PPWD	Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, short description for the European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste
Prevention	According to the Waste Framework Directive, prevention can be defined as: "measures taken before a substance, material or product has become waste, that reduce: (a) the quantity of waste, including through the re-use of products or the extension of the life span of products; (b) the adverse impacts of the generated waste on the environment and human health; or (c) the content of harmful substances in materials and products;" Link to the Directive here.
Primary packaging	According to the Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste, primary packaging is a synonym of sales packaging. Link to this reference here.
PRN (EPRN)	Packaging Recovery Notes (PRNs) are used in the UK and are a type of document that provide evidence that waste packaging material has been recycled into a new product. EPRN are used if the recycling has not taken place in UK but abroad.
Profit not for distribution	Profit not for distribution refers to profit earned by a business that is not allocated to different categories of recipients such as stockholders and owners, but used to run the business in the following business years, for example by lowering the financial contribution of its members.

TERM	DEFINITION
PS	The acronym PS (Polystyrene) is used to refer to type 6 plastic. Given its clear and hard properties, PS plastic is often used in protective packaging, such as CD covers or cases. PS plastic can also be foamed, to be made into Styrofoam which are in turn made into disposable plates and cups and take-away containers, etc. Recycled PS can be used in manufacturing rulers, license plate frames, foam packaging, foam utensils, plate and cups, vents, switch boards, and thermal insulation items.
PVC	The acronym PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride or Vinyl) is used to refer to type 3 plastic. There are two types of PVC plastic. Rigid PVC are made into bottles and packaging sheet, as well as pipes and fittings, carpet backing and windows in the construction market. Given its stable electrical properties, flexible PVC are used in wire and cable insulation. Given its excellent chemical resistance, flexible PVC are also made into blood bags and medical tubing. Recycled PVC can be made into packaging, mud flaps, film and sheet, floor tiles and mats, resilient flooring, trays, electrical boxes, cables, traffic cones, garden hose.
RDF	RDF, or Refuse Derived Fuel, uses a technology that produces energy from waste that is unsuitable for traditional recycling. RDF consists largely of combustible components of municipal waste such as plastics and biodegradable waste.
Recovery	<p>According to the Waste Framework Directive, 2008/98/EC, "recovery means any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy".</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p>
Recovery Targets	<p>Waste recovery targets for 2020 are set in the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).</p> <p>Link to this Directive here.</p> <p>The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive sets recovery targets specifically for packaging. These were increased with the 2004 revision of the Directive.</p> <p>Link to the Directive here.</p>
Recyclability	Recyclability is the ability of a material to be captured and separated from a waste stream for conversion and further treatment.
Recycler	A recycler is a business that converts sorted packaging waste into a new product (secondary raw material).

TERM	DEFINITION
Recycling	<p>According to the Waste Framework Directive, 2008/98/EC, "recycling means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations".</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p>
Recycling station (Municipal Amenities)	<p>A recycling station is a site where different kinds of waste can be sorted in detail. Often these sites offer separation for 20 or more waste streams including hazardous waste. They are usually run by local authorities.</p>
Recycling Targets	<p>Recycling targets are set out under the EU Waste Framework Directive and Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive.</p> <p>With regards to the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, Recycling targets are covered under Article 6.1, and these were increased in the 2004 revision of the Directive.</p> <p>Link to this reference here and here.</p>
Reduce / Reduction	See Prevention
Refillable packaging	Packaging that can be refilled or reused more than once.
Retailer	<p>A retailer is a business that sells (packaged) goods to the consumer, as opposed to a wholesaler or supplier, who normally sell their goods to other businesses. Retailers, along with distributors, have in many jurisdictions the responsibility to take back used packaging.</p>
Reuse	<p>Following the ISO guidelines on reuse 18603:2013, reuse is an "operation by which packaging is refilled or used for the same purpose for which it was conceived, with or without the support of auxiliary products present on the market enabling the packaging to be refilled".</p> <p>Link to this reference here, however the ISO standards are not accessible without purchase.</p>
Reverse vending machine	<p>A reverse vending machine is a device that accepts used (empty) beverage containers and returns money to the user (the reverse of the typical vending cycle).</p>

TERM	DEFINITION
Sales packaging	<p>According to the Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste, sales packaging or primary packaging refers to packaging conceived so as to constitute a sales unit to the final user or consumer at the point of purchase.</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p>
Sanitation company	<p>Synonym for waste management company mainly used in the new member states.</p>
Secondary packaging	<p>According to Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste, secondary packaging or grouped packaging, refers to packaging conceived so as to constitute at the point of purchase a grouping of a certain number of sales units, whether the latter is sold as such to the final user or consumer, or whether it serves only as a means to replenish the shelves at the point of sale; it can be removed from the product without affecting its characteristics.</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p>
Self-compliance	<p>Self-compliance means that an obliged company fulfils the take back and recycling obligations for its product individually and not by participating in a compliance scheme.</p> <p>It is discussed whether the compliance has to take place on an individual basis or whether several obliged companies may unite and fulfil their obligations together and mandate a specialised service provider (-> branch solution)</p>
Separate collection	<p>Separate collection is a selective collection of (e.g. packaging) waste materials intended for recycling, in other words, it is carried out for a specific type of product.</p> <p>It is done by specially designated bags, bins or container stations.</p>
Shared cost system	<p>A system where the extra costs of separate collection of waste are divided among the mandated companies and/or the compliance schemes and municipalities. This is related to several parameters and variables therefore there are no fixed shares.</p> <p>Within a shared cost system obliged companies within the mandated compliance schemes pay only a part of the costs for the separate collection, sorting and recovery of used packaging to local authorities.</p> <p>The exact share is different from country to country and usually depends on a political compromise between the stakeholders.</p> <p>Often, the shares of the costs are the incremental costs.</p> <p>This approach was developed in France and implemented in a similar way in Spain, Italy, Belgium, Czech Republic and almost all other European countries.</p>

TERM	DEFINITION
Single service provider approach	A member state that has implemented the packaging directive in a way that promotes the use of a single compliance scheme as a clearing and steering organisation for the packaging recovery system. Usually, the competitive approach is used at the operational levels, meaning calling for tenders for the collection, sorting and recycling of used packaging.
Sorting from mixed waste	Sorting of mixed waste into specific recyclable material types or subtypes. Sorting from mixed waste means that residual waste is not collected separately at source but brought to a sorting centre where the sorting is done. Mixing with bio and green waste and pollution from other wastes, can make it more difficult to separate recyclables to a good quality. Although technically recyclable, materials coming from food waste have limited application possibilities because of food contact regulations.
Stewardship organisation	Usually used as synonym to a PRO, mainly used in the US and Canada.
Sustainability	<p>Sustainability in the context of the environment is the quality of not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources, and thereby supporting long-term ecological balance.</p> <p>A commonly used definition of sustainability, or sustainable development, is to be able "[to meet] the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p>
Take back obligation	The take-back obligation (TBO) is the obligation of the producer to accept, collect and process a discarded product (e.g. discarded appliance) brought to the producer by the customer.
Tertiary packaging	Synonym of Transport Packaging.
Transparency	Transparency implies openness, communication, and accountability. Transparency is operating in such a way that it is easy for others to see what actions are performed.
Transport packaging	<p>According to the Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste, transport packaging or tertiary packaging refers to packaging conceived so as to facilitate handling and transport of a number of sales units or grouped packaging in order to prevent physical handling and transport damage. Transport packaging does not include road, rail, ship and air containers.</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p>

TERM	DEFINITION
Waste	<p>According to the Waste Framework Directive, 2008/98/EC, waste is defined as “any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard”.</p> <p>Link to this reference here.</p>
Waste Converter	<p>A processor who changes the physical characteristics of the secondary raw materials.</p>
Waste Framework Directive (WFD)	<p>The EU Waste Framework Directive (WFD) provides the legislative framework for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste, and includes a common definition of waste. The directive also requires member states to take appropriate measures to encourage firstly, the prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness and secondly the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation or any other process with a view to extracting secondary raw materials, or the use of waste as a source of energy.</p> <p>Link to the Directive here.</p>
Waste hierarchy	<p>The waste hierarchy is a classification of waste management options in order of their environmental impact, such as: reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery, included in Article 4 of the Directive 2008/98/EC (Waste Framework Directive)</p> <p>Link to the Directive here.</p>
Waste management company	<p>A waste management company is a business that specialises in collection, transport, processing or disposal, managing and monitoring of waste materials.</p>
Waste operator	<p>Synonym for waste management company.</p>
WFD	<p>Waste Framework Directive, short description for Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives</p>

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