





LIFE Platform Meeting PLASTIC WASTE PREVENTION AND REUSE SYSTEMS

BRUSSELS / MECHELEN – BELGIUM, 10-12 FEBRUARY 2025

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SUMMARY FOR POLICY-MAKERS

¹Context and Current Challenges

- Currently, only 2% of packaging is reusable, and only 20% of market stakeholders are engaged in reuse and prevention efforts. The lack of strong regulations makes it difficult to convince the remaining 80% to follow suit.
- One of the major obstacles is that supply chains are designed for single-use plastics (SUP), making large-scale reuse difficult.



Additionally, SUP value chains are highly developed and

competitive compared to reusable alternatives.

- Efforts remain fragmented and uncoordinated across sectors, countries, regions, and value chains (VCs), which slows progress.
- The lobbying of SUP/SU industries tends to hinder the transition to reusable value chains.

The Critical Role of Policy and Regulation

• Regulatory action remains crucial to achieving significant progress in

reuse.

- A harmonized EU-wide framework is needed to ensure the economic viability of reuse systems, particularly for small markets (like Belgium) and niche sectors.
- National and EU-level legislation should be aligned to support the development of reuse value chains.
- An Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework should be implemented, requiring SUP producers to contribute financially to R&D and prevention initiatives.
- The public / customers / citizens / workers / suppliers tend to operate on a business-as-usual basis. This appears a hurdle to change. Behavioural change requires a lot of effort, information, incentives, support and social inclusion, otherwise it does not happen.
- Health and safety measures may have negative consequences for the reuse applications and the circular economy in general. This should be taken into consideration.
- The Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) is a step forward as it mandates packaging waste
 reduction, requires all packaging to be recyclable (ultimately) and defines clear reuse requirements, targets,
 and standards. Nevertheless, the development of secondary legislation is required and should clarify several
 crucial technicalities/details, such as the number of rounds of reuse for a piece of packaging to be considered
 reusable. Implementation and particularly strict enforcement at the national level is key.

Key Drivers for Optimizing Prevention and Reuse Systems

- The main drivers for improving reuse systems include reducing costs, using existing infrastructure and expanding it, and establishing common standards.
- Economic feasibility is a major consideration, and the potential role of tax incentives to drive change was discussed and experimented with at the municipal level.
- Ring-fencing the funds received through the taxes or levies support the evolution of the reuse packaging systems.





Market Stakeholders Engaged in Reuse & Prevention

¹ Policy-makers figures have been developed based on elements gathered from Ellen Mac Arthur presentations and recommendations from the different platform speakers

- Changing consumer behaviour remains a key challenge in supporting the adoption of reuse models.
- Targeting efforts strategically is essential, as reuse is not always the best solution in every case.
- Setting clear targets / requirements by sectors/regions/VCs is needed to drive make each sectors move forward



Solutions and Action Levers

- The development of reuse systems requires investments in R&D, digitalization, intense collaboration among stakeholders, guidelines and standards for reuse operations, definitions of reuse & metrics and design criteria for reusable packaging.
- Better knowledge sharing is needed to avoid "reinventing the wheel" in each country or sector.
- Policy reforms and innovative solutions should align sector-specific practices such as those in healthcare with environmental sustainability.
- Solutions accepted by the whole value chain are easier scalable and adoptable by a complete sector. Crosscountry standardisation of reusable packaging formats, and resources can be of great help too.
- The e-commerce is a large packaging producer and the introduction of reuse in this value chain is identified as a strategic initiative.
- Enforcement of the Green Claims Directive is important, particular to eliminate greenwashing.
- Introduction of Pay-As-You-Throw for households & businesses is a proven method for waste reduction.
- Mandatory use of reusables in various VCs.
- Creating or demanding a zero-waste label for local businesses implementing zero waste and waste prevention solutions supports such restaurants, shops, suppliers.
- Agree upon a sustainable/circular procurement framework for the public and private sectors and/or make it the preferred/obliged option. Circular procurement ensures the involvement of all stakeholders from the start of the procurement process.
- Improve tracking and traceability within reusables logistic VCs is essential. Digitalisation of the reusables fluxes is a solution identified to track who manages reusables, where they are used, and how to ensure return.
- Clear operational frameworks should define responsibilities at each stage of the reuse cycle, preventing bottlenecks and inefficiencies.
- To successfully engage public or attract customers: know your target audience/clients, match your product or methodology or campaign with the target audience, test it at a small scale, propose good, attractive, easy understandable alternatives.

Lessons Learned²

Particularly at the municipal level of many EU member states multiple approaches to minimise (plastic) waste have been tried and found suitable. A couple of key lessons referred to:

- Define a clear ambition/mission. It must be endorsed by multiple stakeholders/parties, easy to explain in one sentence and guided by a roadmap with measurable targets set for a certain moment.
- Set clear standards for acceptable and not acceptable packaging. In Paris this was:
 - No recycled plastics
 - No compostable plastics
 - No biodegradable plastics
 - No plastic coating/liners
- Include all actors/stakeholders from the start and take them along until the ambition is achieved.
- Be consistent and strict but remain open for suitable reuse alternatives.
- A centralized contract management of waste collection and separation delivers consistency in the way of working and streamlined processes. These are levers for a high quality of materials collected from the waste streams.

² See the relevant references and links section for further case studies, municipal initiatives and comparative studies.

- Reward sustainable / circular packaging financially.
- Provide support (financial, technical or as a facilitator) for innovative projects, upscaling of suitable alternatives and growth of mainstreamed reuse processes.

Specific case studies

Throughout the Platform meeting several case studies, including best practices and solutions that may be suitable for upscaling were presented. They covered limited - or zero - plastic events, municipal initiatives and/or regulatory approaches, and examples of single and multi-stakeholder initiatives. Below some of these are introduced, including the relevant links to find more detailed information and/or direct contacts. A library of municipal and multistakeholder initiatives can be found <u>here</u>.

1. Reuse at events in Paris, including the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The city of Paris decided to ban single-use plastics (SUP) from beverages, food and goodies by 2024, followed by zero plastic for reheating, preparation and service of food (especially at schools and collective catering) by 2026 and further steps will be taken, based on diagnostics of plastics streams, after 2026. Consequently, the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games had to eliminate all SUPs in food, beverage, and merchandise packaging, setting a new sustainability standard.

To organise the Olympic and Paralympic Games, coordination and cooperation were crucial to get all stakeholders on board for SUP-free games. Stakeholders included the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the national Olympic committees, the IOC official commercial partners and all venues in the City of Paris and surrounding areas where parts of the Games took place. As venues were located in and operated by various additional stakeholders, the coordination activities by the City of Paris were crucial to achieve a SUP-free event.

For the locations under direct supervision or ownership of the City of Paris it was relatively easy to arrange for plastic free food and beverages. The City of Paris ensured reusable food containers, reusable cups, no individual bottles, priority given to larger formats. For the competition areas held by the consortium 'Paris 2024', the City of Paris agreed to deploy 256 soda fountains and reusable glass bottles for ten competition areas in Paris. This resulted in 1,25 million beverages served through soda fountains or reusable glass bottles. For all Olympic areas the City of Paris made drinking water fountains available and provided reusable bottles to visitors.

The main results reported were the prevention of 3.6 million SUP packages/containers (45 tons of plastic waste prevented), 2,200 water fountains installed, which continue to be used with reusable bottles, an over 300 shops engaging in a plastic free label. Coca-Cola tried to prioritize soda fountains and glass bottles over plastic. However, although efforts were made towards the use of reusables, approximately 6.2 million beverages were served to the general public in reusable, deposit-return cups, filled from PET bottles and 2.2 million beverages were served to the athletes³. At the 'marathon for all', which was organised back-to-back with the Olympic marathon, 450,000 PET bottles were avoided.

In 2024 only reusables were allowed at the over 50 running events in Paris. This resulted in the saving of 20 tons SUP (within the year). 650,000 runners enjoyed fresh drinking water from reusables during in 2024. On a footnote, the return rate for the reusable cups at the Paris running events of 2024 was 82%. The City of Paris aims to increase this to over 90% in 2025, through providing improved instructions, more service to pick up the cups and better training of staff and volunteers. The City of Paris observes that runners have not yet fully embraced the use of reusable solutions, as they find them less practical during races - aid stations tend to be slower, which disrupts their pace.

After the Olympic games, Paris continued its efforts and confirmed its plan for <u>banning SUP for all sporting events</u> in the city, while promoting and providing tap water. Paris purchased 100,000 reusable cups for event organizers, covering transport, return, and cleaning during a transition period until 2026. The long-term goal is to ban disposable packaging at all 5,000 events in Paris, including sports, festivals, and fairs. The final policy is to be adopted by the Paris City Council in April 2025, reinforcing Paris' commitment to sustainability. The <u>charter of 15 eco-responsible</u> <u>commitments</u> by the French Ministry of Sports, Youth and Community Life underlies the initiatives by the City of Paris, which laid down its <u>Charte des événements écoresponsables</u>.

³ <u>https://www.cocacolaep.com/fr/news-and-stories/coca-cola-en-france-reaffirme-son-dispositif-et-ses-engagements-pour-les-jeux-olympiques-et-paralympiques-de-paris-2024-a-loccasion-du-passage-de-la-flamme-olympique-sur-son-site-de-production-de-dunkerque/; https://fne.asso.fr/actualites/jo-2024-coca-et-ses-10-millions-de-boissons-en-plastique-medaille-d-or-du-green-washing; https://reporterre.net/JO-a-la-recherche-des-fontaines-a-soda-promises-par-Coca-Cola</u>

2. Belgian EPR organisation Fost Plus develops reduce & re-use initiatives

Fost Plus is a Belgian Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) organisation, with 4,900 members, which drives sustainable packaging management since 1994. Fost Plus manages a nationwide packaging collection system, including the Blue Bag initiative, which sorts 17 different material streams and contributes to a 97% recycling rate. The organization emphasizes standardization, centralization, and data-driven approaches, such as eco-modulated Green Dot tariffs that incentivize recyclable and reusable packaging. Fost Plus invests in future-proof solutions, including reducing superfluous packaging, promoting reuse, and setting design-for-recycling guidelines to reach 100% recyclable packaging in 2025.

In recent years Fost Plus developed some (pilot) projects on prevention and reuse with partners/stakeholders. The role of Fost Plus lies firstly in raising awareness through providing data (for example the <u>annual factsheet</u> of reusable packaging applied by FostPlus members) and sharing knowledge through webinars and training. Secondly, Fost Plus set up a public reporting site against superfluous packing, any filled form with relevant evidence is reported to the company using it, including guidance on how to possibly minimise the packaging or make it more sustainable. Thirdly, a recent example is the pilot on reusable packaging for fruits and vegetables (REPACO) in the city of Mechelen in Belgium. In this pilot project, six large Belgian retailers joined forces to create the Reusable Packaging Coalition (part of the Flemish Green Deal Anders Verpakt - Green Deal in Different Packaging). The pilot with returnable/reusable mushroom boxes is developed jointly with local mushroom growers (FME), customisation specialist (MIVAS), packaging manufacturer <u>DeSter</u>, software company Twintag, Kingslize Premium Pizza which has already tested a project around reusable pizza boxes, standardisation expert <u>GS1</u>, <u>Pack4Food</u> and sector federation <u>Comeos</u>. FostPlus helps to outline the business model, facilitating the pilot project and supports to steer consumer behaviour towards reusable packaging. The pilot started in Q1, 2025, so results are not yet known.

Finally, Fost Plus mapped all reduce and reuse initiatives of its members in the '<u>Reduce & Re-Use MatchMaker</u>' service.

3. German city of Tübingen's tax on disposable packaging

The German city of Tübingen took the pioneering steps of introducing a city-wide tax on single-use plastic items, which formed just one part of a wider strategy to foster reuse within the city. Tübingen's tax is groundbreaking for a municipality to introduce, as it focuses on the prevention of waste, rather than on better recycling or cleaning operations. The tax adds an obligatory 50 cents onto all single-use packaging for food and beverages, as well as a 20 cents addition for single-use cutlery. The maximum amount of tax per single meal is limited to 1.50 EUR. The tax concept was approved by the city council in 01/2020 and came into force in 01/2022. It was challenged legally by the local McDonalds franchise holder, who won the first lawsuit. The municipal administration of Tübingen appealed and won the case in front of Germany's highest court in 01/2025.

Tübingen supplemented the local tax by a subsidy programme to support companies in the transition period. The subsidy programme offered to pay the following to local businesses:

- Up to 100% of the costs (maximum 500 EUR) to a local business that would use one of the reusable packaging systems operated by the private companies active in Tübingen and surroundings;
- Up to 50% of the costs (maximum 500 EUR) to a local business if they decided to create their own reusable packaging for cups and bowls;
- Up to 50% of the costs (maximum 1,000 EUR) to a local business if they wanted to install a dishwasher to clean the reusable cups and bowls they would receive from customers.

According to the case study report by ZWE "over a quarter (108 of 400 approximately) of affected local businesses applied and received some form of subsidy from the city. In general, the feedback from businesses has been positive".

A further accompanying measure is the requirement that all public events taking place in Tübingen must use reusable packaging for food, beverages and cutlery. This is also the case for any business participating in the city's popular Christmas market. To get a permit, organisers of any events can either use one of the pooling systems already available in Tübingen (e.g. Rebowl, reCIRCLE or Vytal), or they can use their own reusable packaging. During the Christmas market, the city provides a central cleaning station for cups, bowls and cutlery.

Before designing and introducing the local tax on single use packaging the city of Tübingen assessed the expenses for cleaning up the streets and ensuring proper disposal of single use packaging. The city calculated that each year it spent on average € 700,000 to collect and dispose of this waste collected from public spaces (streets, parks etc). 90% of these costs concerned personnel (human resources), showcasing the amount of time

and resources it took to continue maintaining clean streets in the city. Analysis done by city officials showed that 70% of the waste collected in public bins was single-use packaging, which highlighted the necessity to start preventing this waste from being generated.

The tax and some of the reactions and developments are described in several (local) newspapers, but also in 'thelocal.de' for English speakers (22/01/2025). In summer 2022 ZWE published '<u>The Story of Tübingen</u>' in its case studies series.

4. The <u>cases of Viladecans and Torrelles de Llobregat</u> (Catalonia, Spain) reducing single use plastic waste and implementing of reuse systems at the local level.

From 2023 onwards, the municipalities of Viladecans and Torrelles de Llobregat have been at the forefront in Catalonia with the project 'Elevating Reuse in Cities' (ERIC). This is a European initiative led by Zero Waste Europe (ZWE) to reduce single use plastic waste and implement reuse systems at the local level. With guidance from local organisation <u>Rezero</u>, the two municipalities developed plastic waste prevention programmes (PPPs). They implemented several measures to reduce single-use plastics by actively involving citizens, economic actors and municipal administrations, creating synergies to move towards preventive waste management and efficient resource use. The goal is a clear roadmap for sustainability, which protects both environment and public health.

In Viladecans, the municipal campaign '<u>Fes un pas, porta l'envàs</u>' ('Take a step, bring your container') was launched to reduce the use of plastics in food purchases. The initiative encouraged citizens to shop at local retailers by refilling their own reusable containers, contributing to disposable plastics reduction. Within three months the campaign achieved:

- 82 shops signing up;
- 115 families taking part;
- 3,807 purchases were made with at least one reusable item;
- 8,504 disposable items avoided, including:
 - 2,856 disposable plastic containers;
 - 5,510 disposable bags;
 - 138 disposable egg cups.

As concrete project within its PPP, Torrelles de Llobregat expanded its free municipal reusable nappy service, by offering an ecological and economical alternative to disposable nappies. The initiative was promoted through various local channels, such as the kindergarten and other municipal communications. Thus far 13 families served since 2021; 4 current active users and 11 families expressed interest in starting to use reusable nappies. Users of the municipal nappy service express great satisfaction with the service. A second campaign in Torelles de Llobregat concerns a system of reusable containers for collecting surplus food from the municipality's primary and secondary school. This food is distributed to families in vulnerable situations through the council's social services, while eliminating the use of disposable plastic containers that previously generated a considerable volume of waste. The initiative likely eliminates 25 disposable containers weekly.

5. The city of Rzgów's combination of circular procurement, incorporating also social obligations

This case concerns the application of public procurement as a tool to recruit socially and environmentally responsible companies, by the city of Rzgów in central Poland. The case was documented as a <u>good practice</u> by the EC under the <u>#WeBuySocialEU</u> of the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA).

The aim of Rzgów was to integrate people from marginalised groups into the labour market, as well as improved recycling, reuse and recovery of municipal waste as provided by the Regional Waste Management Plan of 2022. The specific municipal service was tendered through a reserved tender procedure, valued below the EU threshold, in order to create employment opportunities for people distant from the labour market. The tender included environmental requirements for the management of municipal waste - for example, stipulated levels of recycling, preparation for reuse and recovery by other methods and reducing the weight of biodegradable municipal waste transferred to storage - in line with the waste management plan for the region. The tender procedure was successful and won by Komunalka Rzgów, a local social cooperative, employing eleven people, including long-term unemployed and people with disabilities.

The replication and/or transferability of this good practice is possible to other organisations and other sectors. The municipality of Rzgów considers this and advises others. The environmental aspects support the implementation of the city's Waste Management Plan.

6. Reusable coffee cups in the city of Aarhus (Denmark)

On January 17, 2024, <u>Tomra</u> and the city of Aarhus started to <u>pilot a city-scale platform for reusable takeaway</u> <u>packaging</u>, starting with coffee cups and glasses. The project is called <u>Reusable</u>, which is also the branding name printed on the cups and the collection machines. The customer orders a drink, pays a deposit of 5 DKK (0.67 EUR), enjoys the drink and returns the cup into any of the numerous automated collection points for Reusable in Aarhus, all are open 24/7. The deposit is refunded easily on the debit/credit card or via the bank account info on the smartphone of the customer returning the Reusable cup to the machine. All returned cups are taken to the Reusable sanitization hub where they are cleaned and quality assured. Then they are used again by over fifty participating retailers in Aarhus.

During the first year over 750,000 cups were returned for reuse. The most heavily circulated Reusable cups have completed an impressive 33 loops of reuse (during the first year). According to a 2023 <u>study by Eunomia,</u> <u>Reloop, ZWE and Tomra</u>, by moving away from single-use cups (for both warm and cold drinks) the potential reduction in GHG emissions is at least 70 percent.

An article in <u>Forbes</u> and the <u>first years' anniversary</u> at the Tomra website provide more background information. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation included the Reusable pilot in Aarhus into its <u>case publications</u> and for its model to scale up returnable packaging systems, for which they developed a series of <u>publications</u> and videos.

7. Promoting and assessing pilots and their impact in Berlin, Barcelona, Paris through <u>the Reuse Vanguard</u> <u>Project</u>

Zero Waste Europe (ZWE)'s Reuse Vanguard Project (RSVP) is a project aiming to put reusable systems in the centre of the solutions agenda and create the conditions for these systems to get to scale in Europe. It starts with the implementation of pilots with food & drinks takeaway and beverages. RSVP promotes co-designed solutions for reusable packaging in cities like Barcelona, Berlin, and Paris. Financial incentives, such as pay-as-you-throw schemes, incentives for repairing and subsidies for businesses adopting circular models, help encourage waste reduction. The project is about working with reuse systems in different countries while testing a shared 'universal' model - a blueprint - setting clear definitions, minimum requirements, and KPIs to develop the shared infrastructure. This blueprint does not aim to make all systems for reuse the same, but rather define the framework it should follow to allow for:

- Simplicity and best performance;
- Scalability and replicability;
- User-friendliness

The project and its deliverables include descriptions of pilots and observations while following these, but particularly provides insights into comparisons and delivers research data presented in valuable reports, such as 'Facilitating the adoption of Takeaway Reuse systems'. This report of 11/2024 presents an assessment of reuse systems in Aarhus (Denmark) and Berlin (Germany) in terms of financial, social and political chances and challenges.

8. The case of <u>Texet</u>

Texet Workwear is a leading supplier of corporate clothing, workwear, and promotional textiles. Sustainability is a top priority, which is reflected by Texet successfully earning an EcoVadis Platinum rating (89/100) and multiple certifications, including ISO 9001, ISO 14001, <u>GOTS</u>, and FairTrade. The company is transitioning to preferred materials such as organic cotton and recycled polyester while implementing compostable polybags and an as low as possible impact production. Through the Green Deal 'Anders Verpakt', Texet reduces plastic packaging and plants a tree for every 100 polybags saved. In 2023 Texet planted 120 trees, equalling 12.000 polybags not produced (= 107 kg of saved polybags), while in 2024 Texet increased this to 466 trees, equalling 46.600 pieces not produced (around 400 kg of saved plastic).

The main challenges faced related to the habit(s) of employees, suppliers and customers to package each piece of clothing individually, while such is not necessary. Standardising bulk packaging and only providing single unit polybags if a customer actively asks for it, appear to prevent unnecessary packing and thus plastic waste prevention. One of the approaches of Texet was to ask the customers if they really wanted each piece of clothing packaged, or if they could accept bulk packages of 25 or 50 pieces per bag. Most would be in favour of bulk packaging. Raising the question already creates awareness in Texet's experience.

The concept of preventing single piece packaging and storing in bulk in closed boxes instead of shelving separately packaged clothes, saves a lot of packaging and increases awareness of customers. It is relatively easy to mainstream within one company and could be transferred to many other textile companies.

9. The case of Foodbag

The Foodbag Reusable Box Project aims to enhance sustainability in meal kit delivery by reducing packaging waste through a circular/returnable packaging system. Foodbag is a meal kit supplier in Belgium, aiming to make better food easily accessible for all Belgians. They compose meal kits from local suppliers and distribute these to their clients.

Within the Green Deal 'Anders Verpakt' Foodbag piloted the use of reusable boxes, which customers return for cleaning and redistribution. By doing so, they cut down on single-use packaging. A pilot in Antwerp successfully replaced 1,723 cardboard boxes, with users rating the sustainability impact 4.3/5. Challenges the company faced included box constraints, cost efficiency for cleaning, and logistical tracking. Despite these challenges, Foodbag believes that it is feasible to increase the efficiency of the cleaning/disinfection process and to train the drivers/delivery staff better for scanning the return boxes. Eventually, Foodbag wants to design its own boxes, to ensure that they are as easy to disinfect as possible and that they are exactly fit for the purpose of Foodbag. Training the drivers/delivery staff has to be done more thoroughly, explaining regularly and with more strictness that every box must be scanned so that it is traceable and customers are not blamed for losing or keeping their box, while this was actually not the case. Foodbag intends to scale up across Belgium by asking all (new) clients to sign up for the reusable box instead of the single use box. The audience during the Platform meeting suggested that all new clients should automatically receive the reusable box, with option to opt-out if they really prefer a cardboard box instead.

The replacement of cardboard boxes with reusable boxes is a straightforward option, which could be applied by other companies as well. The cleaning/disinfection is not much of an issue if it is not about food products, so it can be cheaper for distribution of other products, which customers receive on regular basis.

10. The case of <u>SIXPACK</u>

<u>DW Reusables</u> is a Belgium company with over 60 years of experience in returnable beverage crates, serving 50 countries; they are experts in closed-loop solutions, particularly for the beverage industry, but also for other (tailormade) applications. Within the Green Deal 'Anders Verpakt' DW Reusables developed a pilot project, which introduces the first returnable beer packaging on shelves. It was initially for six beer bottles, the sixpack. The consortium for this pilot consisted of a retailer (<u>Carrefour</u>), a brewery (<u>Royal Swinkels</u>), the <u>university of Antwerp</u>, packaging supply company (<u>MIVAS</u>), the branch organisation for food companies (<u>Fevia</u>) and DW Reusables itself.

A life cycle assessment (LCA) revealed that six-packs with reusable glass emit significantly less CO_2 than cans with plastic film or single-use glass with cardboard. The pilot included the design, development and application of a reusable plastic sixpack, integrated with a deposit system and reverse vending machines. Benefits include efficient deposit management for retailers, enhanced customer engagement for breweries, and improved traceability through digital product passports. Each reusable sixpack is traced and allows for advertisement by the actual beverage (beer) producer.

DW Reusables, and the consortium around the pilot project, faced several challenges, including the need for staff training (to scan each returned sixpack) and vending machine adjustments to be able to accept the reusable sixpack. In particular, attention is necessary to improve the low return-rate. Apparently customers keep the reusable sixpacks as a gadget or for use at home. DW Reusables intends to scale up across Belgium by working with more retailers and beverage producers, as well as through a variety of reusable sixpacks, including, for example, four sixpacks clicking together replacing the original 24 bottle crates.

The initiatives of DW Reusables indicate that introducing the returnable sixpack can be used in other sectors, for other drinks and to replace larger crates. The concept can be transferred as well as extended.

RELEVANT LINKS & REFERENCES

Below the relevant links and references to publications, organisations, best practices, LIFE Projects present in the platform and events announced during the Platform are compiled.

Organisations involved in the Platform meeting or referred to by speakers

- Public Waste Agency Flanders (<u>OVAM</u>)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, and specifically their work on the Plastics Pact
- Planet ReUse
- European Environmental Bureau (<u>EEB</u>)
- Zero Waste Europe (<u>ZWE</u>)
- <u>Circular Flanders</u>
- Health Care Without Harm Europe (<u>HCWH-E</u>) and the <u>circular healthcare projects</u>
- New European Reuse Alliance (<u>NewERA</u>)
- The Belgium national EPR organisation Fost Plus
- Misson Zero Academy (<u>MiZA</u>)
- <u>Circular Economy Office</u> (Interreg North Sea project)
- European Tyre Recycling Association (ETRA)
- Rethink Plastic Alliance (<u>RPA</u>)

LIFE projects and other projects present in the platform

- <u>LIFE22-ENV-ES-CLOOVER2</u> (Closed-LOOps VErification of REused and Recycled polyolefins crates, drums & jerry cans)
- <u>LIFE21-ENV-IT-LIFE GREEN COMPOSITE</u> (Greening kitchen sinks and worktops: exploiting industrial symbiosis to produce acrylic mineral composites from recycled and tracked production waste in a replicable circular value chain)
- <u>LIFE InReGEO</u> (Innovative Recycling of Giant ELT OTR through Water Jet)
- LIFE IP C-MARTLIFE (Circular Material Approach on Residual waste Targets and a Litter Free Environment)
- <u>LIFE IP SMART WASTE</u> (Towards a Circular Economy in the Provence-Alpes-Cote dAzur Region)
- <u>LIFE23-IPE-PL-LIFE Pom GOZilla.PL</u> (Implementation of the Waste Management Plan for the Pomorskie Voivodeship taking into account the hierarchy of handling municipal waste and the principles of circular economy)
- LIFE Waste To Resources IP (Waste To Resources Latvia boosting regional sustainability and circularity)
- <u>LIFE22-ENV-ES-LIFE ZEROLANDFILLING</u> (Recovering landfill waste through an innovative and integrated process committed to the circular economy)
- LIFE-IP CYzero WASTE (Intelligent monitoring and efficient waste reduction in Cyprus Island)
- <u>LIFE21-ENV-BE-PermaLIFE</u> (Large-scale circular production of a myco-material capable of replacing polluting materials in the packaging and insulation sectors, obtained from organic waste transformed by the action of mycelium)
- <u>LIFE21-IPE-FI-PlastLIFE</u> (Re-thinking plastics in a sustainable circular economy)
- <u>CIRCWASTE</u> (LIFE IP on waste towards circular economy in Finland)
- <u>LIFE-IP CEI-Greece</u> (Circular Economy Implementation in Greece)
- <u>LIFE21-ENV-IE-PLASTIC2WAXLIFE</u> (PLASTIC2WAXLIFE: Demonstrating a scalable modular pyrolysis process to give new life to waste plastics while enabling local production of sustainable wax)
- <u>LIFE21-ENV-PL-plasticLIFEcycle</u> (The solution for the management of mixed hard PLASTIC waste by applying CIrCuLar Economy approach)
- <u>RE-PLAN CITY LIFE</u> (RElevant Audience Plan Leading to Awareness Network for Clrcular Economy Use of Recycled TYre materials in city LIFE)
- <u>LIFE BOSS</u> (Novel recycling process for the full range of post-consumer plastic waste feedstocks including black plastic)
- <u>LIFE REMEMBRANCE</u> (Give plastic wastes from the production of hollow- fiber membranes a second life)
- INSPIRE (Innovative solutions for plastic free European rivers), Horizon Europe, project ID 101112879

- <u>WORM</u> (Waste in humanitarian Operations: Reduction and Minimisation), Horizon Europe, project ID 101135392
- <u>CircSyst</u> (Circular Systemic Solutions for Plastic, Packaging, Bio-waste, and Water), Horizon Europe, project ID 101135505

Publications

- <u>European Reuse Barometer</u>
- <u>Making Europe Transition to Reusable Packaging</u>
- <u>The need to set essential criteria for setting up managed pool systems</u>
- <u>Circular Procurement Transformation Guidance</u>
- How to organise a Circular Procurement Workshop?
- Unlocking a reuse revolution: scaling returnable packaging
- <u>Measures to minimise residual waste</u>
- <u>Disposable paper-based food packaging</u> the false solution to the packaging waste crisis
- <u>Facilitating the adoption of takeaway reuse systems</u> Cost Assessment of Moving from Single-use Packaging to a Takeaway Reuse System and Assessment of the Necessary Policy Measures
- The state of zero waste municipalities 2023 annual report, including best practices
- <u>Evaluation of the Single-Use Plastics Directive</u> Effectiveness and Compliance across Europe
- Measuring and reducing plastics in the healthcare sector

Best practices / case studies

- Stakeholder platforms of two Flemish Green Deals: <u>Vlaanderen-circulair.be</u> and <u>Circulairaankopen.be</u>, the related <u>LinkedIn networks</u>: GreenDealCirculairBouwen and CircularProcurementLearningNetwork
- Case studies of circular cities: <u>https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/cities/examples</u>
- Case studies of <u>circular economy in Europe</u>
- Recycling business partner network and cases: <u>https://www.myrecycledcontent.eu/</u>
- The <u>ReuSe Vanguard Project (RSVP)</u> concerning the efforts of Barcelona. Berlin, Gent, Leuven, Paris and Rotterdam towards reuse and waste prevention.
- Local SUP taxation by the German city of Tübingen <u>Case study</u>, (<u>Tübingen website</u>)
- <u>Gent</u> plastic free events & further circular/sustainability initiatives
- <u>Aarhus</u> municipal wide deposit return system. <u>Article Forbes</u>. <u>Presentation</u>.
- <u>Paris</u> SUP free Olympic Games and beyond
- <u>Plastic free festivals</u> case studies and references from Interreg Baltics

Conferences & events announced by participants

- The annual conference of ETRA on 25-27 March 2025: <u>https://etra-eu.org/</u>
- Reuse Economy Expo in Paris on 26-27 May 2025: <u>https://reuseeconomyexpo.com/</u>
- Sustainable waste management conference on Cyprus on 25-28 June 2025: <u>https://cyprus2025.uest.gr/</u>