

GLASS PACKAGING INDUSTRY IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

TURNING WASTE IN A VALUABLE RESOURCE

The European Container Glass manufacturing industry is a circular model genuinely recycling used bottles and jars to manufacture new ones. Once produced, glass is one of those rare materials that can be 100% and infinitely recycled in a bottle to bottle loop without any loss of quality: recycled glass is not waste, but a precious resource the industry requires to replace virgin raw materials.

Glass recycling has many benefits: more than 70% of all post-consumer glass packaging is recycled in the EU, so keeping valuable resources out of landfills. One ton of recycled glass saves 1.2 tons of virgin raw materials and cuts CO₂ emissions by 60%.

The Container Glass manufacturing industry also highly contributes to the EU economic and social welfare by creating jobs and contributing to the trade value of the goods put on the market. Some 125,000 direct and indirect jobs are maintained by the sector supporting a wide range of other industries in local regions. Annually, it invests up to €610 million to innovate and maintain a network for 155 EU plants. This equals 10% of the industry's operational costs every year. The industry contributes €9.5 billion directly to the EU annual GDP. In addition, it indirectly contributes to a positive trade balance of more than €21 billion via products primarily packed in glass.

The container glass manufacturing model fits perfectly with the EU's ambition to build a circular economy. In order to close the loop and achieve a complete circular economy for glass packaging in Europe, the European container glass industry calls on the European Institutions to consider the following points as essentials of a Circular Economy:

- *Multiple recycling of a permanent material is the best option for resource efficiency*
- *Separate collection and a ban on backfilling for recyclable materials are key to ensure that the best quality recyclates are re-introduced into the production process.*
- *Manufacturing industries, such as glass packaging, which produce sustainable products, create jobs and bring added-value to Europe need to be supported as they already are successful examples of a European Circular Economy.*

About FEVE

FEVE is the Federation of European manufacturers of glass containers and machine-made glass tableware. FEVE has some 60 corporate members belonging to approximately 20 independent corporate groups. Manufacturing plants are located across 23 European States and include global blue chip and major companies working for the world's biggest consumer brands. See more on www.feve.org
