

Boosting closed loop glass recycling in Europe:

Why we say no to a recycling DRS



Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) and glass

For decades, glass has been successfully collected for recycling via kerbside and bottle bank collection across the EU (under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes). Calls are growing to move away from existing EPR recycling schemes to new parallel DRS-led systems for single-use packaging.

DRS?



Let's improve EPR!



Did you know?



In a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), consumers pay a deposit when purchasing a beverage container, which they can redeem on returning the empty container. While a DRS for reusable glass packaging is a workable system, DRS for glass recycling is not and experience proves it.



Glass for a Circular Economy

European Container Glass manufacturing is a genuine circular model, which perfectly fits with the EU's ambition to build a circular economy. Glass is 100% and infinitely recyclable in a closed bottle to bottle loop. Latest figures put EU collection at 76% and, with high demand for recycled glass, most recycled glass packaging is processed back into glass packaging (closed-loop recycling), resulting in:



A saving of over 12 million tonnes of raw material



An average recycled content of 52% in European glass



Over 7 million tonnes of CO₂ being avoided



There is ambition and potential to do more. FEVE is part of **Close The Glass Loop**, a multi-stakeholder partnership bringing together the container glass value chain to boost the average EU collection rate of used glass to **90% by 2030** and improve the quality of recycled glass, so more recycled content can be used in a new production loop.



DRS is not a one-size-fits-all solution

When applied to plastic containers, a DRS scheme can help reduce littering, boost collection rates and optimise plastic recycling processes for food contact applications. **But DRS doesn't maximise quantity or quality of recycled glass.** While it's heavily dependent on the existing EPR recycling infrastructure, it also threatens its existence by **putting the current glass collection systems (door-to-door and bottle banks) at risk.**

DRS = €213 per tonne* EPR = €94 per tonne*



DRS doesn't make sense for glass

The cost of operating a DRS scheme is substantially higher than that of EPR schemes – especially for glass – and undoes decades of investment in infrastructure & education.



Running two glass collection systems in parallel can lead to **confusion among consumers** – meaning less effective recycling.



Evidence shows that the introduction of a DRS for glass shifts the market away from glass packaging, creating unintended consequences and a market distortion.



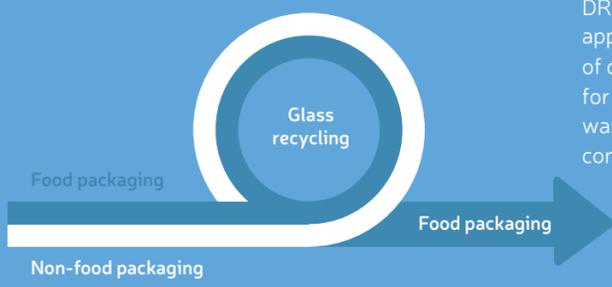
Existing EPR systems are proven to work

10 EU countries have a glass recycling rate above 80% ...

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| Belgium | Finland |
| Slovenia | Netherlands |
| Luxembourg | Germany |
| Denmark | Ireland |
| Sweden | Austria |

DRS systems are typically only used for beverage containers (beer, water, soft drinks). Contrary to DRS, Extended Producer Responsibility schemes already ensure that all glass packaging types - and not simply a small portion - are collected and recycled effectively via kerbside and bottle bank collection. The 6 DRS in operation across the EU only tackle 3.1% of total waste glass generated.

... and **only 3** operate a **combined DRS/EPR** system



Unlike plastic, food and non-food container glass can be collected together without impacting the closed loop recycling back into food and beverage packaging.

Typical EPR schemes



Typical DRS scheme

~~DRS proposals~~

Let's improve EPR!

Let's avoid the risk of reducing the glass packaging recycling rate.

Take glass out of recycling DRS proposals, and improve existing EPR schemes for glass to achieve a 90% average EU collection rate by 2030.