ARA – PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY PUT INTO PRACTICE

DEVELOPMENT OF THE EPR SYSTEM ON PACKAGING WASTE IN AUSTRIA

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Webinar “Management of Plastic Packaging and Single-Use-Plastics in the EU and Croatia: Legislation, policies and best practices”
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SHAPING THE CIRCULAR FUTURE.
NOT FOR PROFIT – FOR PURPOSE:
FROM A DE FACTO-MONOPOLY TO A CUSTOMER ORIENTED MARKET LEADER IN A COMPETITIVE MARKET

1993
The packaging ordinance establishes the extended producer responsibility for packaging.
Packaging producers, packers, fillers and retailers accept their responsibility by founding the ARA system consisting of ARA and 8 BRGs.

1997
Competitive market for commercial packaging

2008
Slimmer, faster and more efficient:
Preparing for competition by merging with 7 BRGs.

2015
Market liberalisation for household packaging:
ARA is market leader in the competitive market

Delimitation Ordinance: Classification of household vs. commercial packaging

Today
ARA Servicegroup
Service provider and driver for innovation for a circular economy

Implementation of new obligations circular economy: SUP, PPWD

Packaging Ordinance, Waste Management Act

SHAPING THE CIRCULAR FUTURE.
PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL PACKAGING MATERIALS IN AUSTRIA

Producer responsibility for total costs has been in place since 1993.

Responsibility for “primary obligated” companies according to §13g Waste Management Act:

- Packers and fillers: primary distribution of packaging
- Importers: packaging of the goods they import
- Producers and importers of service packaging
Companies obligated under the Packaging Ordinance transfer to ARA AG their obligation to take back used packaging.

The member-owned non-profit ARA System organizes the nationwide collection, recycling, and recovery of packaging from households and businesses in line with the requirements specified by the Austrian Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism.

Cities, municipalities, and more than 200 waste management/recycling companies perform collection, sorting, recovery and communication activities in 94 collection regions.

1) Primary obligated for service packaging

2) Primary obligated for online/mail order selling
KEY ELEMENTS OF THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Obligated companies:

- **Classification ordinance**: A clear, practical and legally binding definition of household and commercial packaging for all obligated companies
- **Mandatory participation** in a compliance scheme for household packaging
- Auditing by **Packaging Coordination Office (VKS)**

Compliance schemes/PROs:

- Mandatory **equal treatment** of all customers
- No duplication of collection infrastructure, instead: **shared use**
  with sharing of monthly collected packaging and cost based on the respective market shares
- **Centralized services** for all compliance schemes provided by an independent
  Packaging Coordination Office (VKS), financed by compliance schemes
RECYCLING EFFECTIV UND EFFICIENT: COLLECTION +35%, COSTS -54%

Source: ARA
## COLLECTION AND RECOVERY 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PACKAGING MATERIAL</th>
<th>COLLECTION CONTAINERS</th>
<th>CONTAINERS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS</th>
<th>COLLECTION [t]</th>
<th>RECOVERY(^1) [t]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper, cardboard</td>
<td>1,575,000</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>305,000</td>
<td>299,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>64,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>209,000</td>
<td>209,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics and lightweight packaging(^3) (container collection)</td>
<td>303,000</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>191,000</td>
<td>171,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households serviced by curbside (bag) collection</td>
<td>1,865,000</td>
<td>884(^2) (bag sets)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metals</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL (CONTAINERS)</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,983,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>736,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>704,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) Net amount of packaging sent for recovery (excluding non-packaging waste), including stocks.
2) 6 bags per set (standard), excluding additional distribution
3) Including wood
Source: ARA, 2021
UNIFIED APPEARANCE FOR BETTER RECOGNITION AND SEPARATE COLLECTION

2.0 MILLION BINS FOR CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES TO SORT THEIR WASTE
EU RECYCLING TARGETS 2020/2025/2030

1) Quota for total of metal packaging
2) New calculation method „output recycling“
HOW WILL WE REACH A RECYCLING TARGET OF 50% FOR PLASTIC PACKAGING?

- Collection infrastructure
- Collection: 58% → 80%
- Transfer
- Transportation (optional): 58% → 80%
- Sorting: 78% → 80%
- Recycling

**Household packaging**
- Curbside collection with bag or bin
- Bin collection from public collection points
- Bin collection from small businesses
- Recycling yards (MRF)

**Commercial packaging**
- Industrial and commercial collection
- Customized industrial collection

**Sorting plants**
- Collected material to co-using household systems
- Collected material to co-using commercial systems

**Recycling**
- Energy recovery

**Regional transfer center**

**SHAPE THE CIRCULAR FUTURE.**
**±0€**

Member-owned non-profit
ARA, Austria Glas
Recycling, ERA

**ARA IN NUMBERS**

- **1,980 MILLION BINS**
  - For consumers and businesses to sort their waste
- **110kg**
  - Per-capita amount of packaging and waste paper collected from households
- **10kg**
  - Per-capita amount of WEEE and batteries collected

- **>70%**
  - Market share, packaging
- **>43%**
  - Market share, WEEE and batteries
- **-54%**
  - Unit cost reduction for packaging since 1993

**MARKET LEADER**

- **530,000t**
  - Carbon savings
- **1,500 CUSTOMERS, WEEE AND BATTERIES SERVICE**
- **15,000 CUSTOMERS, PACKAGING SERVICE**

**SHAPING THE CIRCULAR FUTURE.**