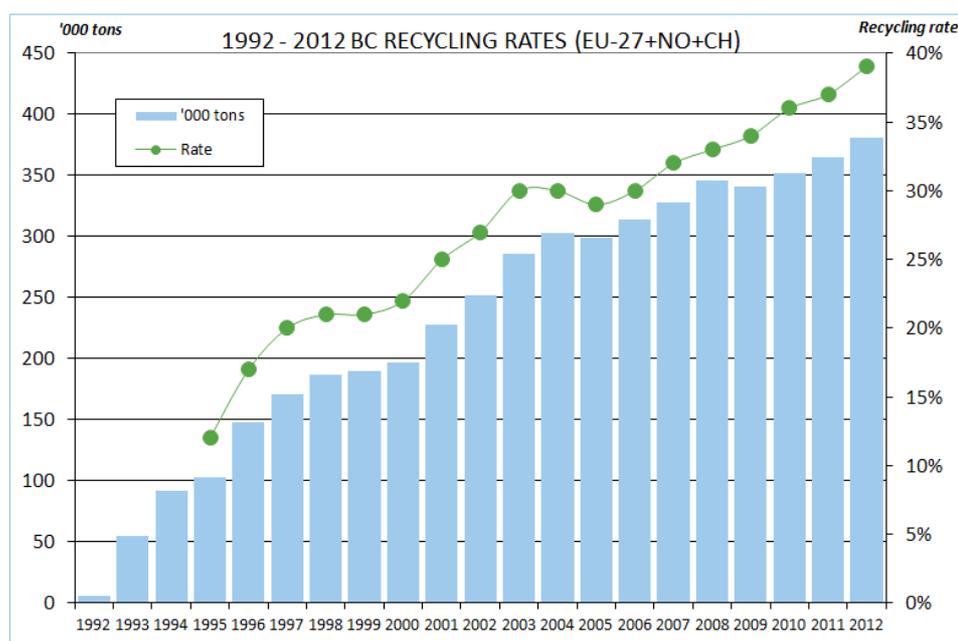


## 40% of beverage cartons recycled across the EU in 2012

ACE members are committed to supporting and promoting beverage carton recycling across Europe. ACE – the Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment – is pleased to note that recycling of beverage cartons reached 40% in the EU in 2012. This represents an increase of 3% compared to 2011 data. The total recovery rate (recycling and energy recovery) reached 69% in the EU. An increase in recycling rates was also recorded across Europe (EU-27, Norway and Switzerland) with 39% of beverage cartons being recycled and total recovery reaching 70% in 2012.

“After 20 years of tracking recycling rates in Europe, our industry is very happy with the progress made. In 1992 only 6,000 tonnes of post-consumer beverage cartons were recycled, in 2012 this number has increased to about 380,000 tons. ACE members have been very much engaged across Europe to foster the recycling of beverage cartons. A lot has been already achieved, but more progress can be made in supporting the recycling of beverage cartons by ensuring an appropriate EU regulatory framework is in place” says **Katarina Molin, Director General of ACE**. “Recycling is definitely our favoured waste management option. Increasing beverage carton recycling across Europe is fully in line with the Commission’s vision to move towards a recycling economy as laid down in the EU Roadmap for a Resource Efficient Europe.”

Beverage cartons are made on average from 75% paper board, 21% polymers and 4% aluminium. The paper fibres from post-consumer beverage cartons are high quality and as such play a crucial role in ensuring that recycled paper maintains its properties and can be used to produce new packaging for consumer goods. Once recycled the polymer and aluminium is also in demand in a number of different applications ranging from composite products such as construction panels to industrial raw material.



**Note to Editors**

ACE provides a European platform for beverage carton manufacturers and their paperboard suppliers to benchmark and profile cartons as renewable, recyclable and low carbon packaging solutions. Engaging with stakeholders and partners seeking high environmental stewardship, it contributes expertise to EU policy, legislation and standard-setting.

ACE members include beverage carton producers Tetra Pak, SIG Combibloc and Elopak; they develop, manufacture and market systems for the processing, packaging and distribution of food, and produce packaging material at 20 plants in Europe. About 98% of the paperboard used by ACE members in beverage cartons in Europe is produced by Stora Enso in Skoghall (Sweden) and Imatra (Finland), and BillerudKorsnäs in Gävle and Frövi (Sweden), who are also members of ACE. These paper mills and the beverage carton manufacturers in ACE together employ close to 30,000 people worldwide.

For further information please visit the ACE website [www.beveragecarton.eu](http://www.beveragecarton.eu)

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