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Petcore and EuPR publish PET¹ collection figures for 2010² - European PET bottle collection increases by more than 6%

Petcore and EuPR announced today that European post-sorting PET collection reached 1.45 million tonnes in 2010, an increase of 6.5% on 2009.

The overall collection rate in 2010 remained at 48.3% of all PET bottles on the market.

Blowmoulding outlets grew with more than 25% of the resulting RPET, or nearly a quarter on a million tonnes, used to produce containers in 2010. The 2010 share of fibres as an end use for recycled PET flake decreased to 39% although the overall tonnage rose slightly. The strapping market rebounded with the resumption of construction and manufacturing after the recent recession. Nearly 100,000 tonnes of RPET were used in this application in 2010. There was a 25,000 tonne decrease in RPET used in the APET sheet market. This was attributed to higher volumes of sheet imports and the price of suitable quality RPET almost matching that of virgin PET for most of the year.

It was estimated that there is a total mechanical reclamation capacity in the European region of 1.7 million tonnes.

Exports to the Far East fell for a second year to 13% of collected PET and imports of baled PET bottles from outside the area were also smaller.

All but 2 of the surveyed countries have a collection rate above the 22.5% target rate for plastic recovery set by the Packaging Waste Directive. The collection rate by country depends on the maturity and extent of their collection systems as well as economic instruments in place. Collection rates of over 70% are being recorded by many countries.

“I am delighted that PET collection increased again last year” said Robert Bertaggia, Chairman of the Petcore Board. He further commented that “with every European country collecting PET bottles, the high year on year increases of earlier years had to fall, but the 6.5% increase in 2010 is an excellent result. The PET industry chain has worked with Compliance Agencies, National Bodies and European Recyclers to achieve a collection rate of nearly 50% of all PET bottles placed on the market”.

The Chairman of the EuPR PET Working Group, Casper van den Dungen, agreed. “Capacity utilisation of our recycle plants is only 79% at present. This provides the challenge for municipalities, other collectors and industry to increase the current collection rate beyond 50% to load the recycling facilities already in place”.

He continued, “Recycled PET is a reliable and sought-after feedstock in the PET value chain and sustainable, long life uses are being developed to utilise the growing supply of recycled PET.

¹ PET = Poly ethyleneterephthalate (Plastic Code No 1)

² This report “Post Consumer PET recycling in Europe 2010 and Prospects to 2015” was prepared for Petcore by PCI PET Packaging, Resin & Recycling Ltd. To purchase a copy of this report please contact PCI directly at info@pcipetpackaging.com



Whether PET bottles are recycled into another bottle, fibre, sheet, strapping tape or one of the new applications the energy saving will be significant“.

Both Chairmen emphasised that Petcore and EuPR will endeavour to ensure that the growth in PET recycling continues. “This sustainable growth reflects the expectations of consumers who themselves are an important part of the recycle chain.”

Petcore’s publication, PET Profile, has been updated to include the 2010 collection figures.

Petcore (PET containers recycling Europe) is a non-profit European trade association based in Brussels. Its mission focuses on sustainable growth for post consumer PET collection whilst supporting all PET recycling processes as a key integrated part of European Plastics Waste Management initiatives and by validating and supporting innovative PET solutions from a recycle perspective

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EuPR is the professional representative body of plastics recyclers in Europe. EuPR promotes plastics mechanical recycling and conditions that enable profitable and sustainable business, while offering a service platform to its members. EuPR members constitute 80% of the European recycling capacity, processing more than 5 million tonnes of collected plastics per year.

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