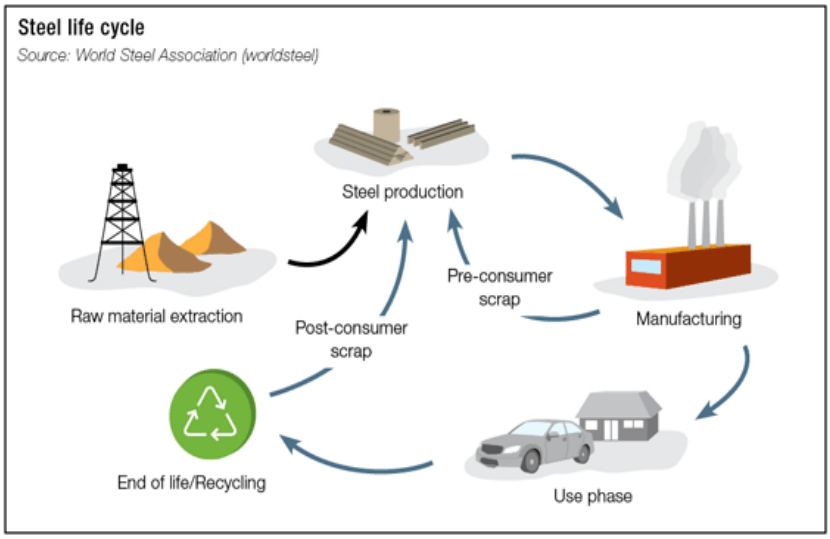
IPA White Paper – Metal Can Recycling

Metal can be recycled infinitely without losing any of its properties, saving energy and raw material each time it is re-processed. Steel cans and steel scrap are recycled into new steel products, including structural steel, nuts and bolts, and steel cans again



Recycling reduces the need for mining, which has huge negative environmental consequences, producing large quantities of waste and toxins along with the removal of natural vegetation.

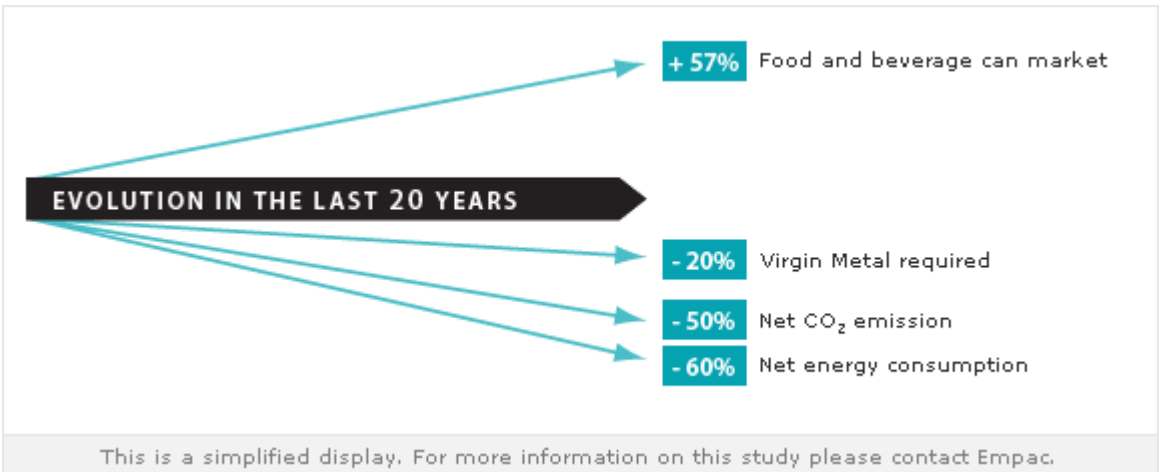
Steel recycling results in

74% savings in energy
90% savings in virgin materials
86% reduction in air pollution
40% reduction in water use
76% reduction in water pollution
97% reduction in mining wastes

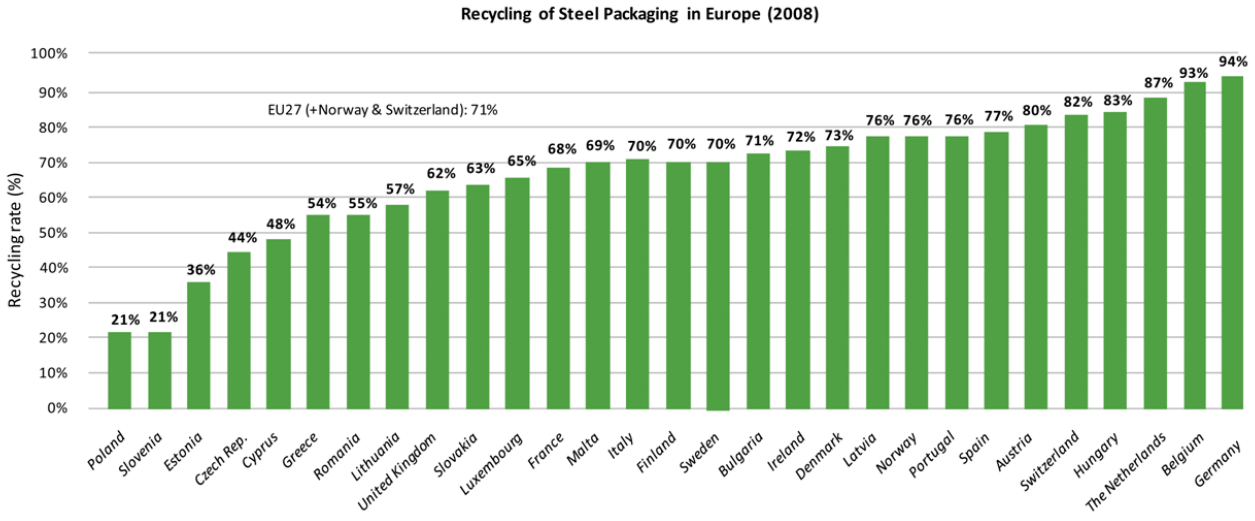
(figures from envirobank, Australia)

95% less energy is needed to make **aluminium** from recycled cans rather than from the raw material bauxite. Aluminium cans and aluminium scrap are recycled into new aluminium products including aeroplanes, cars, and more cans.

Within the last 20 years the metal for cans has become thinner and thinner. Weight reduction for aluminium cans has sum up to 28%, steel packaging has become 33% lighter. Lightweighting saves material but also transport and storage cost, and energy.



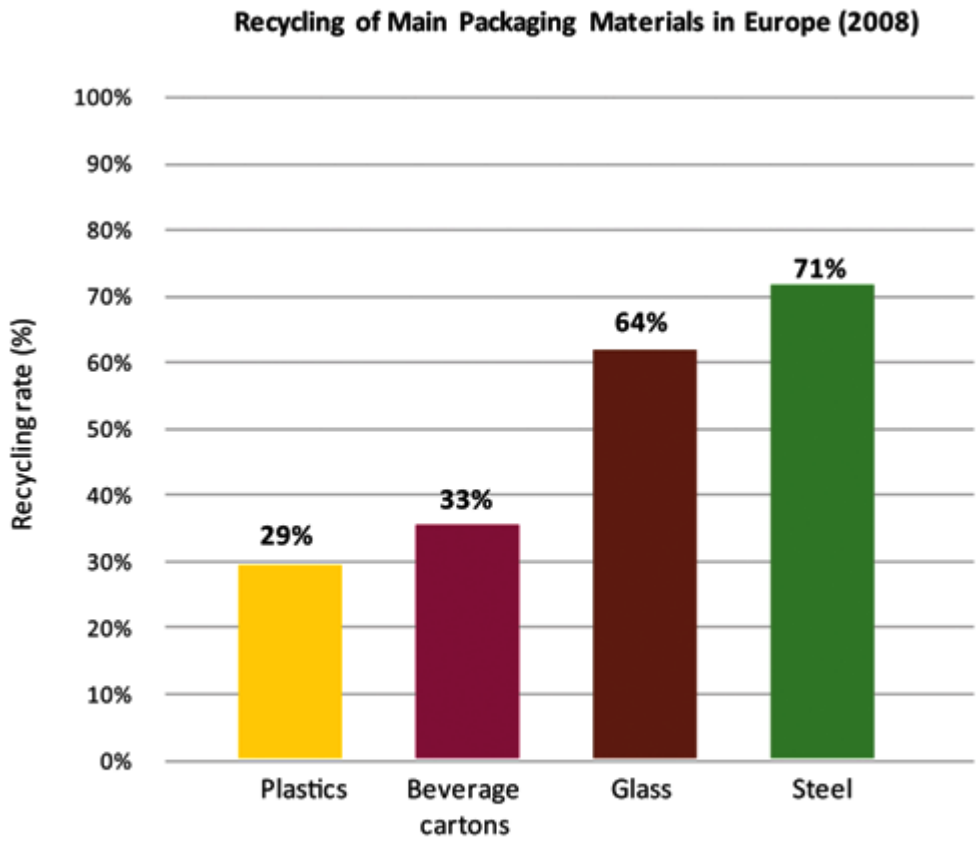
Worldwide recycling rates are improving year after year. 70% of all cans has been collected and recycled in Europe in 2008.



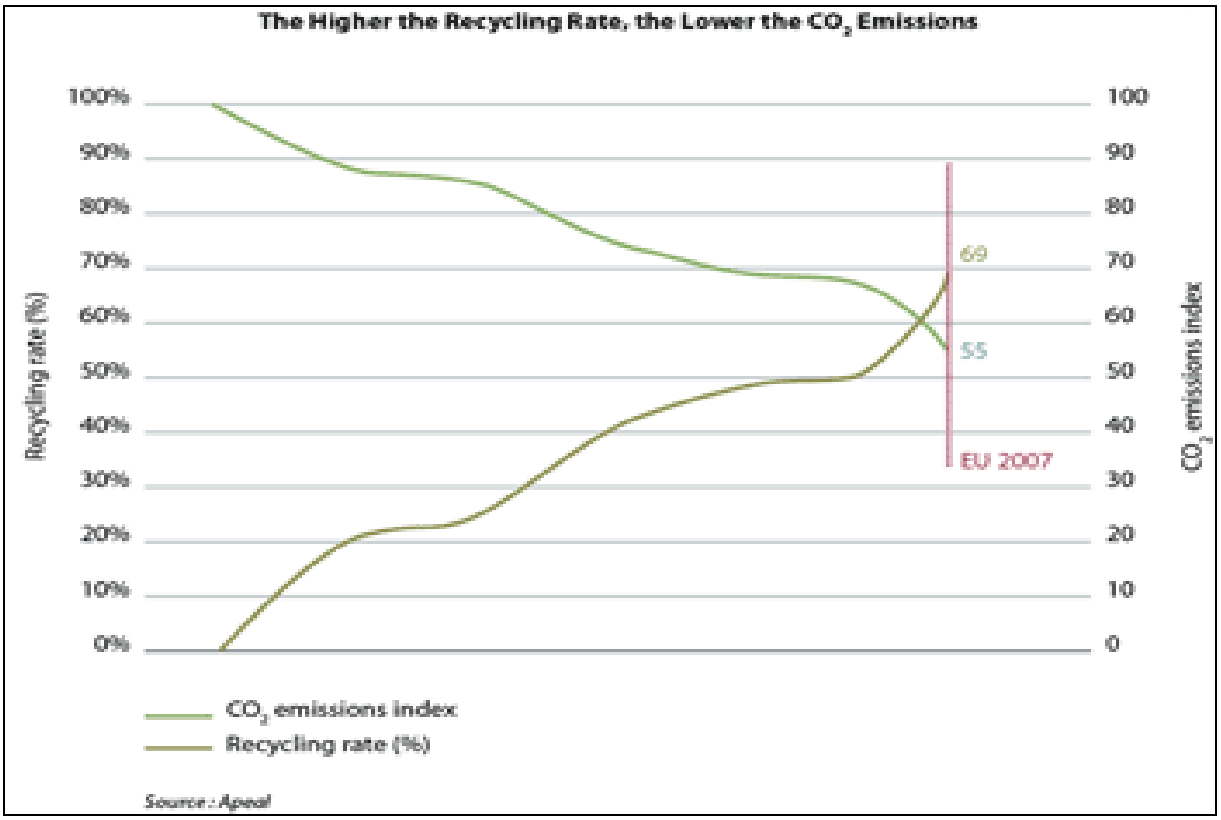
Belgium, The Netherlands, Finland, Latvia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Estonia, Malta, Bulgaria, Romania, Luxembourg: Metal packaging recycling rate (steel and aluminium)
Finland, Denmark, Greece, Poland, Slovenia, Lithuania, Romania, (2007 – latest official data)

Source : Official Member States figures and PRO's / APEAL members

Steel is the most heavily recycled material of all major packaging materials, including variety of plastics, paperboard, and glass. The recycling rate for steel products has a direct inverse relationship with the amount of CO2 emissions associated with steel products.



Source: Industry experts – Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging (APEAL) European Glass Packaging Federation (FEVE) – The Alliance for Beverage Cartons & the Environment (ACE) - PlasticsEurope


The Higher the Recycling Rate, the Lower the CO_2 Emissions
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Recycling rate (%)
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
CO_2 emissions index
69
55
EU 2007
CO_2 emissions index
Recycling rate (%)
Source : Apeal