

Repak Welcomes EPA Report Findings

10.01.06 Repak has welcomed the findings of the EPA 2004 Waste Database which confirms the recovery/recycling of 479,000 tonnes of packaging waste in 2004. This according to the EPA, equates to over 56% of all packaging on the market place and comes a full year before Ireland's 2005 EU Packaging Waste Recovery target of 50%.

As part of the 2004 Waste Database, the EPA revised its methodology of packaging waste arising which Repak believe better reflects the amount of packaging placed on the market and hence results in better than anticipated packaging waste recovery performance.

Welcoming the announcement Andrew Hetherington, CEO, Repak said "We are delighted with the EPA figures, which confirms our success and show the huge progress made by the collaborative effort of Repak members, Government, local authorities, collectors, industry and householders in packaging recycling in Ireland in a short time. Packaging waste recycling has grown from just under 15% in 1998 to 56% as reported by the EPA. This success is a clear testament to the €100 million invested in packaging recycling by Repak members over the last number of years."

In commenting on the future of recycling, Mr. Hetherington indicated that although Ireland has achieved a lot there was no place for complacency "Now that we have achieved our 2005 EU target one year ahead of target, something we should be justifiably proud of, we need to focus on the 2011 target of 60%. As we near the higher targets the challenge increases sharply and we need to get more householders recycling and more of the obligated industry contributing into the Repak scheme to pay for the potentially high costs of packaging recycling in the future. Repak and Irish industry are also mandated to make significant progress towards prevention and reduce the amount of packaging used by industry."

About Repak

Repak is a not-for-profit voluntary member's based packaging recycling scheme established under a voluntary agreement between industry and the Department of the Environment and Local Government. It was established as industry's response to the obligations placed on Ireland by the EU directive on Packaging Waste (94/62/EC) and is the only government approved packaging compliance scheme under the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 1997. Repak succeeded in reaching and exceeding Ireland's EU National Packaging Recovery and Recycling Target of 25% of packaging waste in 2001 and the 2005 EU packaging recovery target of 50%.

In addition to funding and recording used packaging recycling Repak also

operates a number of key programmes such as Repak Green Christmas, Repak Recycling Week, Easter Recycling, Repak Cash for Cans and the Repak Recycling Awards.

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