

Repak plays a central role in improving the efficiency and **optimisation of Ireland's packaging journey, from design through to recycling**. We are proud to work with over 3,500 Members across Ireland to promote a circular economy of reduce, reuse, refill and recycle.

**This Best Practice Guide provides practical advice to help your business** minimise waste management costs, improve overall operational efficiency, and reduce packaging waste.

## Organise



General Recycle Food

A well organised external waste management area is essential. Clear and consistent bin signs make it easier for everyone to dispose of waste correctly.

## Shop Around



Shop around for best value waste contractor (WC). Work with your WC to ensure optimised segregation and sorting – it's the law that WC's must provide 3 bins.

For a list of registered WC's [click HERE](#).

## Engage and Train



Staff manage waste every day, so they are best placed to identify potential improvements. Engage regularly with your team for new suggestions and provide training on current waste management systems.

## Review Supplier Packaging



Optimise on-site packaging to reduce waste & request reusable and / or recyclable packaging where possible from all suppliers.

## Minimise Bulk



To reduce waste management costs, bale your cardboard and other materials as these have value. You may receive payment for them or collection may be free of charge.

## Member Success Story

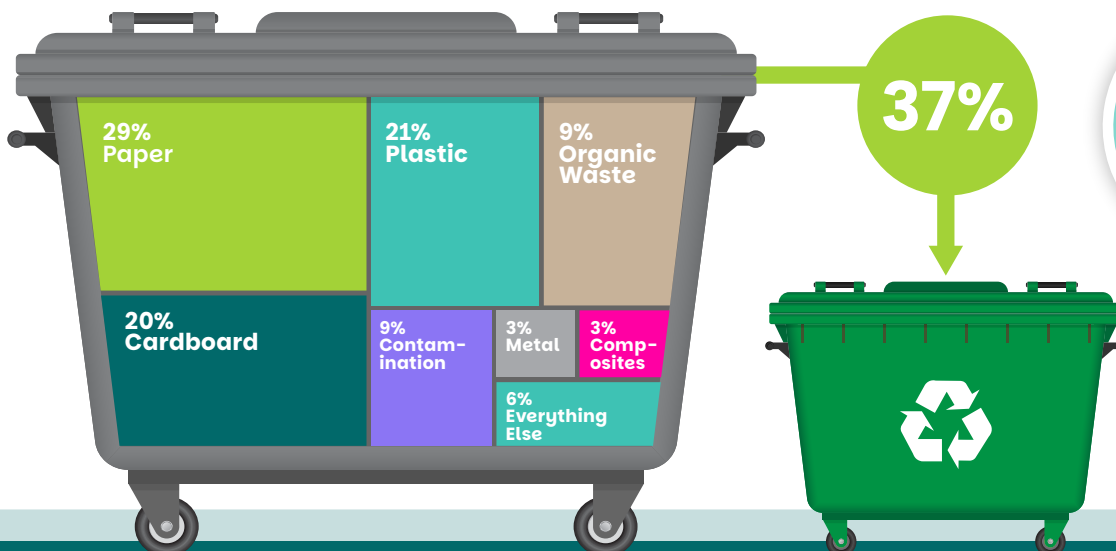
“Our much loved mayonnaise now comes in fully recyclable plastic bottles. This optimisation removed over **13,000 virgin plastic bottles** from the market in 2025.

Ballymaloe Foods



## Redirect to Recycling Bin

Commercial waste bins are often filled with materials that could be recycled but aren't. One of the most effective changes you can make is to ensure recyclable materials are placed Clean, Dry & Loose in the recycling bin.



EPA research shows at least 37% of commercial waste could be redirected to recycling streams\*

\*Source: EPA Municipal Waste Characterisation Studies, 2023

## Design Guide

Packaging design can have an impact on the recyclability of that material.

Before manufacturing, maximise the chances of capturing packaging for either reuse or high-quality recycling by having a material that can be recycled without significant technical challenges.

## Top packaging design considerations



Choose single-material packaging - this is far easier for recycling facilities to sort and reprocess.



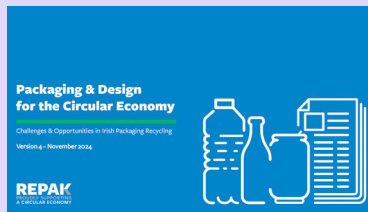
Ensure components can be easily separated by the consumer or during mechanical sorting.



Limit elements that reduce material quality like heavy inks, PVC labels or adhesives and multi-layer films.

View the **Packaging Design Guide**

[Click Here](#)



## Member Success Story



“We've eliminated over 2 tonnes of non-recyclable plastic packaging with Repak's expert guidance. We've also reduced paper labels by printing directly onto film and introduced bulk containers for raw ingredients, saving 70,000 paper bags every year.”  
Coglan's Artisan Bakers



**Did you know?**

€23.4m of our Member fees was spent on supporting recycling waste collected from households in 2024.

€5M PPWR Transition Fund Available for members.

[Apply Now](#)

## Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulations Overview

PPWR is the new EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation that introduces harmonised rules on packaging design, reporting and recycling across all Member States. Find out more information in our **PPWR summary booklet** or contact our Membership team for guidance.

### Prevention Targets

Packaging waste generated per capita should be reduced compared to 2018 baseline by at least: -5% by 2030

Prevention targets:  
-10% by 2035  
-15% by 2040

### Re-Use and Refill Targets

New % targets to be made available in reusable packaging within a system for re-use or by enabling refill.  
By 2030 percentages range from 10-100% across categories

Transport, group and alcoholic and nonalcoholic packaging are affected

### Recyclable Packaging

By 2030 packaging that does not meet 70% recyclability threshold cannot be placed on EU market.

In 2038 the recyclability threshold will be moved to 80%

### Minimum Recycled Content in Plastic

Any plastic part of packaging placed on the market must contain minimum %s of recycled content recovered from post-consumer plastic waste by: **1 January 2030**

Categorised per packaging type and format calculated as an average per manufacturing plant and year

### Compostable Packaging

36 months after the regulation takes effect, specific packaging shall be compatible for composting in industrial bio-waste treatment facilities

Packaging, including biodegradable plastic polymers types to allow material recycling in line with Article 6 without affecting the recyclability of other waste streams

View the **Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulations Summary**

[Click Here](#)



## Contact us today...

Our dedicated membership team are on hand to answer your questions, guide you through your reporting requirements, and offer advice on improving the sustainability of your business.

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