

It might sound preposterous...

...to replace today's recycling system with one that is worse for the environment and several times more expensive, but that is exactly what could happen if many of the special interests that are now lobbying against manufacturer responsibility are heard.

In one corner of the ring are large tenant organizations and property owners who want manufacturers to fund collection points close to their properties, by building recycling rooms in multifamily dwellings, for example. In the other corner of the ring are a number of municipalities and Avfall Sverige (Swedish Waste Management), who want to give municipalities collection responsibility and free rein to design everything using their own discretion, but be allowed to submit the bill to the manufacturers. In the third corner is the Återvinningsindustrierna (Swedish Recycling Industries' Association) which, despite the name, consists mainly of haulers who wish to have ownership rights to the profitable recycling materials, while allowing manufacturers to take care of the unprofitable materials. They want the free market to apply during strong economic cycles, when prices are high, while requiring compensation from manufacturers during down markets. In the fourth corner are politicians and other opinionmakers who believe that collection in so-called material streams is the wave of the future. They believe this, despite the fact that it would not result in significantly more environmental benefits, but would instead raze the entire foundation for manufacturer responsibility by forcing REPA companies to pay for collection of other materials than simply their own.

For FTI, it is important to be able to participate in the debate and clarify the consequences of the proposals of the various parties. Much also indicates that the debate will become more intense in the future, and if we are going to be able to manage the challenge, it will require that everyone who has reason to defend manufacturer responsibility will stand up and be counted. You are welcome to join in the debate!

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FTI at Almedal week

It has now been 14 years since the law regarding manufacturer responsibility for packaging and newsprint became effective. Despite the fact that Sweden is a world leader in recycling, there is an ongoing debate as to what the recycling system should look like – who should have primary responsibility and how the system should be financed. Why are the parties not in agreement? What interests are controlling the debate? Under the heading, "Recycling system of the future – what does it look like", FTI will be conducting a seminar during the Almedal week with the following participants:

- Claes Västerteg, Member of Parliament (c) and deputy chairman of the Environment and Agriculture committee
- Weine Wiquist, President, Avfall Sverige (Swedish Waste Management)
- Annika Helker-Lundström, President, Återvinningsindustrierna (Swedish Recycling Industries' Association)
- John Strand, President, FTI

Moderator: Paul Ronge, PR consultant and former journalist

Time and location: Tuesday, July 8, 10 a.m.–12:00 noon, Gotland University College, room B22

New employees

Rabeeh Najafi has been working one day a week as in-house salesperson for REPA for the past year. Since June 2, Rabeeh has been employed fulltime and will continue her job by connecting new

companies to REPA. This involves her calling up companies that might need help solving their manufacturer responsibility for plastic, metal, paper/paperboard and corrugated cardboard, and offering them REPA's solutions.

REPA days planned for this autumn

This autumn, we will be implementing a host of informational meetings around the country, so-called REPA days. During the meetings, we will be taking up issues surrounding manufacturer responsibility for packaging and how REPA and FTI operate. There will also be room for questions and discussions. Invitations and information regarding the date and location will be forthcoming at a future date.

Record high collection of packaging and newspapers

Recycling statistics for 2007 show that collection continues to increase in absolute figures and in relation to consumption in most types of materials. The recycling degree continues to rise, from 77.5% to a record high 78.2%. The figure represents how much of the material put on the market that is collected and recycled.

The high recycling degree reflects the recovery system's capacity and a high willingness to recycle among the Swedish population. With this result, Sweden's secures its position at the absolute world best.

PLASTIC PACKAGING

There were 163,450 tons of plastic packaging in the market*.

49,119 tons = 30.1% material recycled.

56,434 tons = 34.5.% energy recycled.

In total 64.6% were recycled.

The government's recycling target: 70% total, of which 30% material recycling.

PAPER PACKAGING

- packaging made of board, paper, cardboard and corrugated board

There were 694,000 tons of paper and cardboard packaging in the market*.

504,000 tons = 72.6% material recycled.

The government's recycling target: 65% material recycling.

METAL PACKAGING

There were 52,400 tons of metal packaging in the market*.

35,300 tons = 67% material recycled.

The government's recycling target: 70% total material recycling.

GLASS PACKAGING

There were 181,000 tons of glass packaging in the market*.

171,000 tons = 95% material recycled.

The government's recycling target: 70% material recycling.

NEWSPAPER

There were 559,000 tons of newspaper in the market*.

474,000 tons = 85% material recycled.

The government's recycling target: 75% material recycling.

*Market

The estimates for plastic, paper and metal are based on the packaging volumes reported by REPA-affiliated companies. REPA covers most of the packaging in the Swedish market. The result for glass packaging is based on those packaging volumes reported to Svensk GlasÅtervinning's fee collection system, which covers more than 99 % of all glass packaging in the Swedish market. The reported result for newspaper is based on statistics from Pressretur.

Packaging fees

Metals, cans > 16 cm in diameter	SEK 0.45/kg
Metals, aluminium, other	SEK 0.75/kg
Metals, steel plate, other	SEK 0.75/kg
Metals, drums	SEK 0.06/kg
Metals, steel band and wire	SEK 0.20/kg
Cardboard/paper, beverage carton ¹	SEK 0.60/kg
Cardboard/paper, other	SEK 0.45/kg
Cardboard/paper, certain industrial packaging ²	SEK 0.02/kg
Corrugated board ³	SEK 0.02 - 0.75/kg
Corrugated board, service packaging ⁴	SEK 0.45/kg
Plastics, commercial packaging ⁵	SEK 0.00/kg
Plastics, other (household)	SEK 1.25/kg
Plastics, service and grower packaging ⁶	SEK 1.13/kg

1) E.g. juice and milk packaging, cartons for soup etc.

2) That is shells and paper tubes (paper cores in the center of rolls) except those which could end up with the consumer. Molded pulp drums. End covers and wrapping paper for large paper rolls delivered from paper mills.

3) The fee payable is printed on the reporting form and depends on the company's operating sector.

4) Service packaging refers to packaging that is mainly "filled" in the store/restaurant (e.g. pizza cartons made of corrugated board) or by consumers themselves

5) Commercial packaging means plastic packaging for goods that are not intended for individual consumer use. Amounts shall be shown despite the fact that the fee is SEK 0.00/kg.

6) Service packaging refers to plastic packaging that is mainly "filled" in the store/restaurant or by consumers themselves, for example bags on roll, carrier bags and cling film. Grower packaging refers to plastic packaging that is used for packaging mainly unprocessed products from agriculture, market-gardening and the like for example cucumber film, lettuce film and plastic bags for carrots.

Current announcements

Lower packaging fees for paper packaging starting January 1, 2009

The fee for paper packaging will be lowered effective January 1, 2009. The new fees will be:

Paperboard/Paper, liquid boardSEK 0.50/kg
Paperboard/Paper, otherSEK 0.35/kg

For "Paperboard/Paper, certain industrial packaging", the fee remains unchanged at SEK 0.02/kg.