

CONTRIBUTIONS TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CASE STUDY
RECYCLING #9

SOME CALL IT WASTE, WE CALL IT RAW MATERIAL: FLOOR UNDERLAY FROM 100% RECYCLED EPS SCRAP

- The Italian EPS Industry Association (AIPE) has a long-standing commitment to recycling.
- In cooperation with COREPLA, Italy's national plastic recycling organization, they have established a nationwide collection system for EPS waste.
- The infrastructure involves the whole supply chain and recyclers and ensures the circularity of EPS products.



DESCRIPTION

Already in 2003, AIPE signed a contract with COREPLA for the selective collection of EPS from post-use packaging in Italy.

The company offers central EPS collection points (PEPS) throughout the country and prepares the waste for transport to specialized recyclers. The recycled material can then be used, for example, as floor underlay in the building industry.

In 2015, the collection and recycling numbers resulting from this process were as follows:

- Waste available for collection: 61,000 tonnes
- Waste for mechanical recycling: 26,000 tonnes
- Waste destined for energy recovery: 10,000 tonnes
- Recovery material returned to the market by PEPS: 4,500 tonnes
- Recovery material returned to the market by recyclers: 26,000 tonnes

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EPS is easily recyclable and thus the market demand for the material is high. However, the collection of EPS waste is crucial for its subsequent re-use. COREPLA is an important part of the closed loop of EPS products: Waste is collected, sorted, and prepared for proper EPS recycling.

PARTNERS

AIPE, COREPLA

“In partnership with our industry supply chain and COREPLA, we have found a sustainable solution to the recycling challenge – with the EPS collection points throughout Italy.”

Paolo Garbagna, Vice President, AIPE