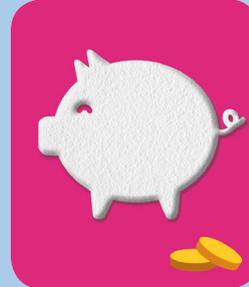


# CONTRIBUTIONS TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CASE STUDY  
RECYCLING #6

## EPS WASTE – A VALUABLE RESOURCE IN GERMANY

- Estimated EPS post-consumer packaging recycling in Germany is approx. 45%
- Extended producer responsibility program facilitates on-site collection
- The collection and recycling is organised by public-private-partnerships
- Clean EPS waste is re-processed into high quality material, such as lightweight concrete and new EPS beads



## DESCRIPTION

Recycling quotas are high as proper waste separation and collection is recognised as a common-sense practice by German consumers, facilitated by a solid infrastructure. Despite the fact that EPS waste is a valuable resource for a number of waste collection companies, a large quantity of this waste is still being incinerated.

As a partner to the Duales System Deutschland, the largest recycler in Germany has access to organised EPS collection programs covering multinational retailers and consumer good producers (furniture, electronic goods, white goods etc.). Further, the private investment in central collection points, compressors for on-site collection and a nation-wide infrastructure is crucial to ensure a constant material flow. The collected clean EPS is re-processed into raw material which is used as high-quality admixture for new products.

However, the demand for EPS waste is higher than the supply, and market players are working on technologies to get access to more waste streams.

## CONTRIBUTION TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The EPS waste is re-used in various ways; construction applications (mechanically shredded) or as PS for CD covers, coat-hangers or park benches. The re-processing of EPS waste into raw material and its use as admixture significantly improves the environmental footprint of new converted products; especially regarding energy and water consumption.

The industry constantly improves on the quality of the new products with the aim to produce raw material from EPS waste in virgin material quality.

## PARTNERS

Fischer Recycling, Duale Systeme Deutschland, Industry partners, IK Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen

**“Our industry manages to cover many EPS waste streams, but the market offers much more. We are constantly investigating new technologies, new ideas and new partners and the business outlook is positive”**

Juergen Sohn, Fischer Recycling