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# Packaging recycling in Finland

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# In this lesson you will learn about

- EU legislation regarding packaging recycling and how it is typically organised in the EU Member States
- What happens to recycled packaging materials
- How much packaging material is recycled in Finland

# About RINKI



- RINKI takes care of implementing companies' obligations of producer responsibility for packaging in Finland
- Non-profit service company of the 5 Finnish producer organisations
- Owned by the Finnish industries-and trade
- Founded in 1997
- Turnover 17 Meur (2020)
- Almost 4 700 member companies (industry and retail)
- RINKI and the producer organisations arrange collection and recycling of carton, glass, metal, plastic and wooden packaging, and inform consumers on behalf of the member companies so that the requirements of the legislation are met.

RINKI reaches recycling targets together with producer organisations cost-efficiently and environmentally effectively.

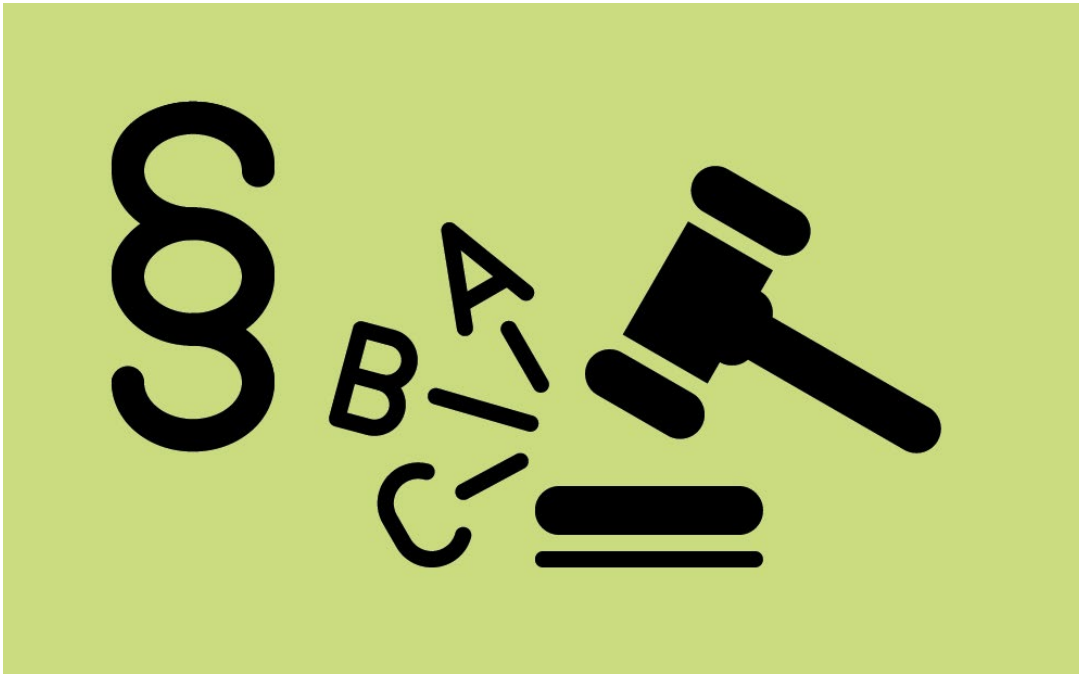


RINKI

Huolehditaan yhdessä siitä, että pakkaus kiertää!



# What does producer responsibility in packaging mean?



In Finland, **producer responsibility** is based on national legislation which derives from the **EU waste legislation**. Failure to fulfil obligations leads to a fine set by the responsible authority in Finland, the Pirkanmaa ELY Centre. **Producer responsibility applies to:**

- A Finnish packer or a foreign company's Finnish branch, which packs products for the Finnish market
- A Finnish importer or a foreign company's Finnish branch, which operates as an importer of packed products to the Finnish market
- A foreign operator which is established in another country than Finland and sells packed products directly to users in Finland through distance sales (e.g. online)

IF

- the company has a total turnover of at least 1 M€.

A company is also responsible for its packaging, if the packing or logistics has been outsourced to another company.

# Implementing producer responsibility in Finland

- **Producer responsibility** means that a company must by law take care of the collection and recycling of the packaging of its products, as well as informing companies and consumers on packaging waste collection and sorting.
- Companies that belong to RINKI only need to report their packaging materials and pay fees based on the reported volumes. RINKI together with the producer organisations takes care of all the rest: collection, recycling, reporting to the authorities, as well as communication obligations.
- More information about Producer Responsibility for packaging in Finland, please see: [Rinki UlkomEtamynti-esite-ENG 2021.pdf \(rinkiin.fi\)](#)

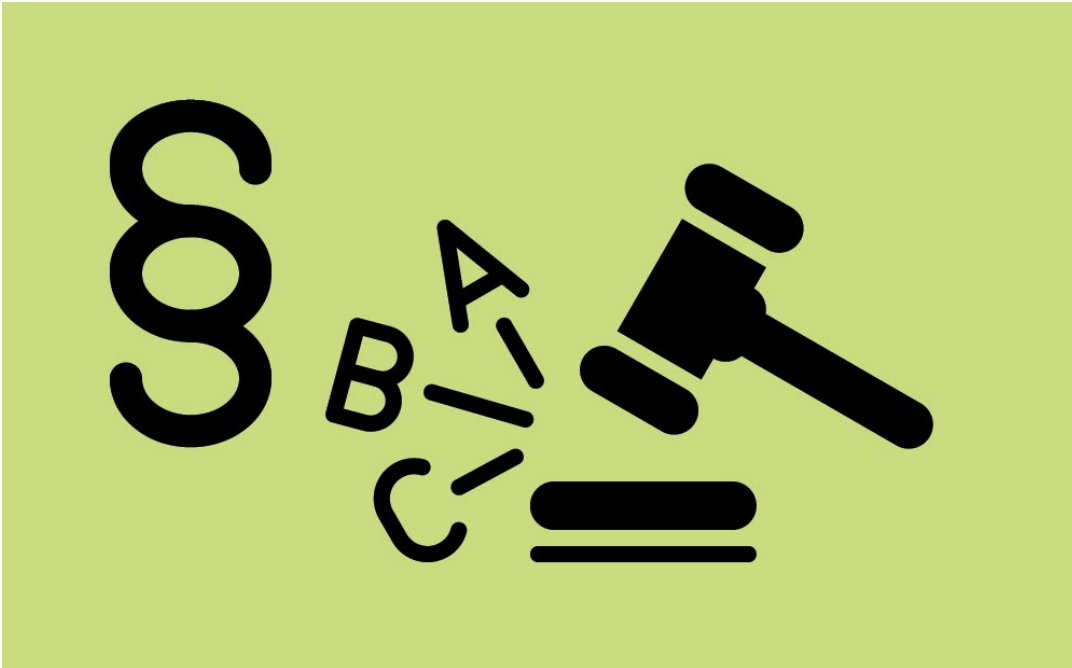
## Producer responsibility for packaging in Finland



Finnish Packaging Recycling RINKI Ltd.  
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# Main legislation regarding packaging recycling in EU



## 1. Circular Economy and Waste Management

The EU's **Circular Economy Package** (CEP) includes a set of amended waste directives (see below + next slide), approved by the EU institutions in July 2018.

## 2. Waste Framework Directive

Directive (EU) 2018/851 was adopted in 2018. According to the directive, 55 % of municipal waste must be reused or recycled, and as much as 65 % by 2035-> The Directive states that Extended producer responsibility schemes form an essential part of efficient waste management, and sets minimum operating requirements for EPR schemes.

> By 2025, Member states are required to set up separate collection for textiles, and for hazardous waste from households.

>By 31 December 2023, bio-waste must be either collected separately or recycled at source. This is in addition to the separate collection already existing for paper and cardboard, glass, metals and plastic.

## 3. Producer Responsibility

By 2025, EU countries must ensure that producer responsibility schemes are established for all packaging. They must provide for the return and/or collection of used packaging and/or packaging waste, and its channeling to the most appropriate waste management option, as well as for reuse or recycling of the collected packaging and packaging waste.

# Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive

## Targets:

By 31 December 2025, at least 65% of the weight of all packaging must be recycled and by 31 December 2030, at least 70% of packaging must be recycled.

The recycling targets for each material are:

Material	Recycling target by 31 December 2025	Recycling target by 31 December 2030
Plastic	50%	55%
Glass	70%	75%
Paper and cardboard	75%	85%
Ferrous metals	70%	80%
Aluminium	50%	60%
Wood	25%	30%

Directive (EU) 2018/852 sets out the EU's rules on managing packaging and packaging waste. It contains measures designed to:

- > **prevent** the production of packaging waste
- > **promote the reuse, recycling** and other forms of recovering of packaging waste, instead of its final disposal, thus contributing to the transition towards a circular economy.
- > **covers all packaging** placed on the European market and all packaging waste, whether it is used or released at industrial, commercial, office, shop, service, household or any other level, regardless of the material used.
- > **EU countries must take national measures** (extended producer responsibility schemes) to prevent the generation of packaging waste and to minimise the environmental impact of packaging.
- > **EU countries must also meet recycling targets** which vary depending on the packaging material, and for this purpose apply the new calculation rules.

# RINKI eco take-back points in Finland

- RINKI Ltd is responsible for the maintenance of the collection network for households.
- There are appr. 1 850 Rinki eco take-back points for carton, glass and metal packaging across Finland. Almost 700 Rinki eco take-back points accept plastic packaging.
- Consumers can use the interactive eco take-back point map on Rinki's website to search for the nearest eco take-back point.

## Number of take-back points in operation



Carton

**1849**



Glass

**1851**



Metal

**1851**



Plastic

**698**

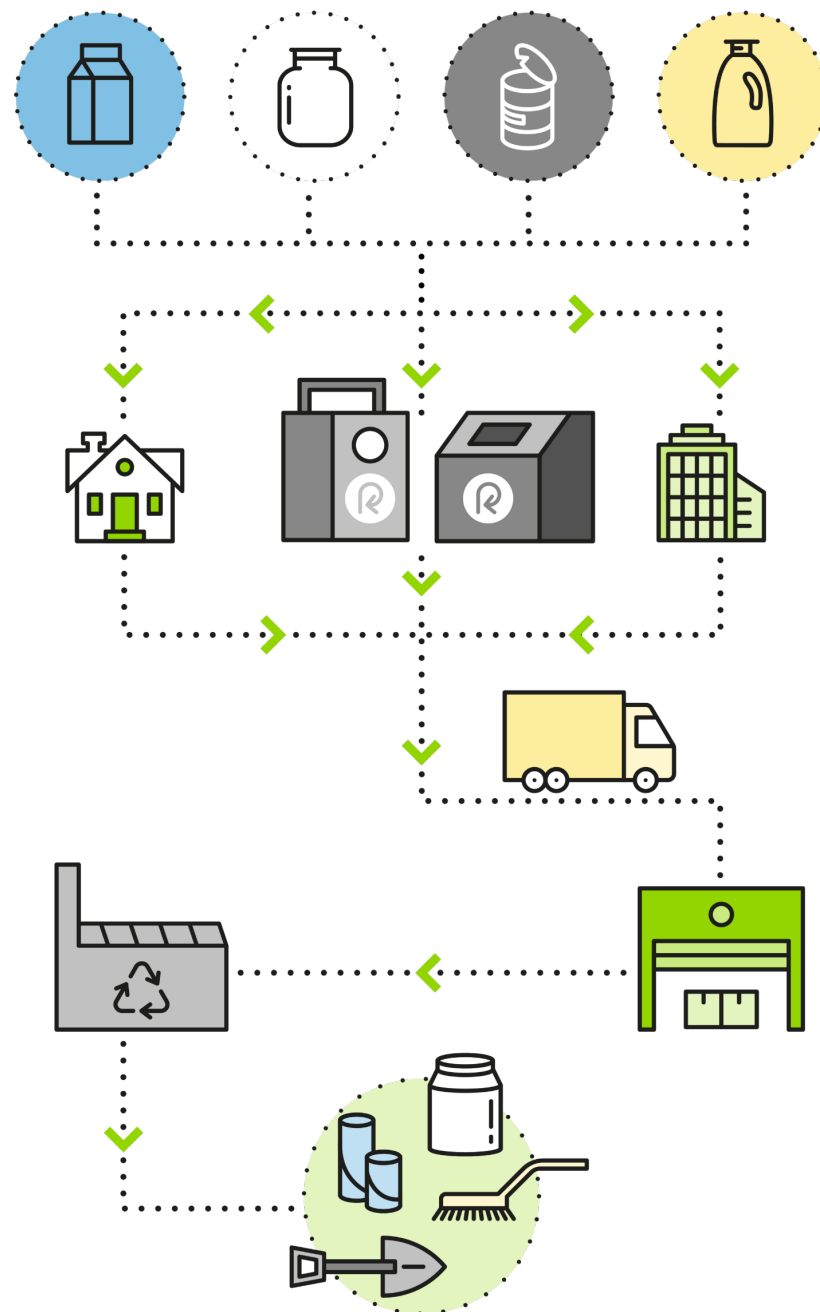


# Recycling in housing complexes with five or more households

- The revised Waste Act entered into force in Finland in July 2021. It is based on the revised EU Waste Directive of 2018.
- The most significant change for producer-responsible companies is the extension of the scope of producer responsibility to cover separate collection of packaging from residential properties.
- As of July 2023, separate collection of packaging waste (plastic, metal, glass, carton) becomes mandatory for all residential properties with at least five homes.
- Municipalities will organise tenders for separate collection of packaging from residential properties with at least five homes.
- The actual collection will be carried out by private transport companies.
- Producers will pay municipalities for collection, and they will have a say on the conditions under which collection is carried out.
- For more information, please see: [The reformed Waste Act entered into force - This changes for the producer-responsible company \(rinkiin.fi\)](#)



# What happens to used packaging?



# Turning carton packaging into raw material

Carton taken to a Rinki eco take-back point is transported to warehouses for baling. The bales are transported to carton mills for use as raw material, and carton fibre as well as plastic and aluminium coatings are separated from the carton.

The coating removed from carton fibre is mainly plastic. The coating is dried and taken to a power plant for energy production. Some of the aluminium coating in the carton packaging is separated and recycled as raw material for new products.

Recycled carton is turned into, for example:

- material for corrugated cardboard
- packaging cardboard
- envelopes
- laminated paper
- various types of cores.

For more information, please visit [RINKI's sorting school](#)

Remember to flatten the cartons! Watch the [VIDEO](#)



# New life for plastic packaging



Recycling plastic packaging saves energy in the production of plastic and reduces the need to use oil. Plastic packaging waste collected from consumers is delivered to Fortum Plastic Refinery in Riihimäki, where Fortum sorts plastics and makes recycled raw materials or finished products. After sorting, a small part goes to further processing in Finland and the rest of Europe.

At the refinery, plastic packaging waste is processed into material used in the production of recycled plastic products. Non-recyclable plastic can be used with mixed waste as fuel at waste-to-energy plants.

Recycled plastic is turned into, for example:

- various consumer goods, such as dish brushes, toilet brushes and clothes brushes, shoehorns, flower pots, watering cans, spray bottles
- furniture such as chair components
- various plastic bags and trash bags, recycled plastic bags for shops
- for construction, for example, apparatus box covers and board composites

For more information, please visit [RINKI's sorting school](#)

# Recycled glass holds its quality

Glass packaging waste from Rinki eco take-back points is transported to one of 38 terminals in Finland. From the terminals, glass waste is delivered to glass processing plants in Forssa, Finland, and Järvakandi, Estonia. Deliveries abroad are transported by sea in large batches. Glass packaging waste is processed in the processing plants. Impurities are sorted out, glass waste is cleaned and sorted by colour. After processing, it becomes raw material for glass packaging factories where new glass bottles and jars are manufactured from the material.

Glass packaging waste is turned into:

- mostly new glass packaging, i.e. glass bottles and jars.
- part of the glass packaging waste is also turned into construction products, such as foam glass and building blocks.

For more information, please visit [RINKI's sorting school](#)



# Metal can be recycled forever

The quality of metal does not deteriorate in the recycling process, so it can be recycled forever. Metal taken to eco take-back points is transported to reception terminals, where it is sorted and stored, and related statistics are also compiled. From the terminals, metal waste is transferred to crushing plants. Crushed metal waste is delivered to foundries where scrap metal is turned into new raw material for the metal industry.

Recycled metal is used, for example, in:

- new metal packaging
- bicycle frames
- spades
- car parts

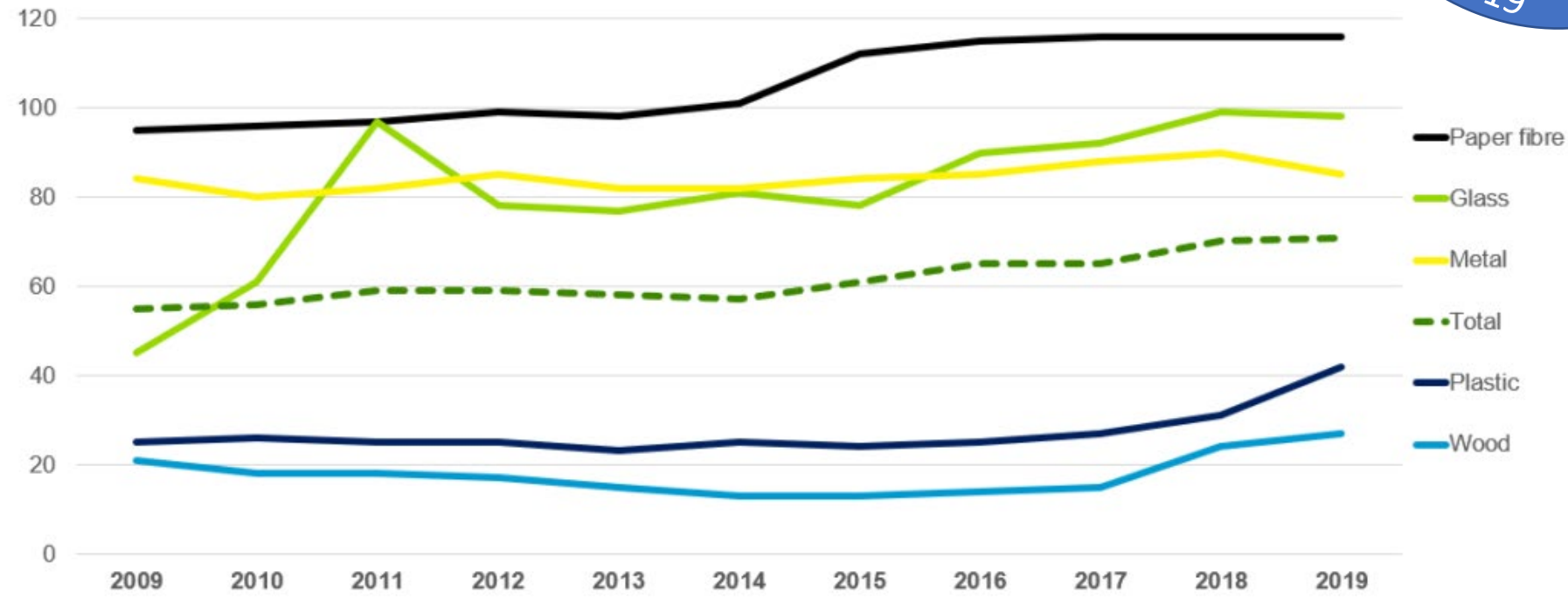
For more information, please visit [RINKI's sorting school](#)



# Packaging waste recycling rates in Finland

71% of packaging waste was recycled in Finland in 2019

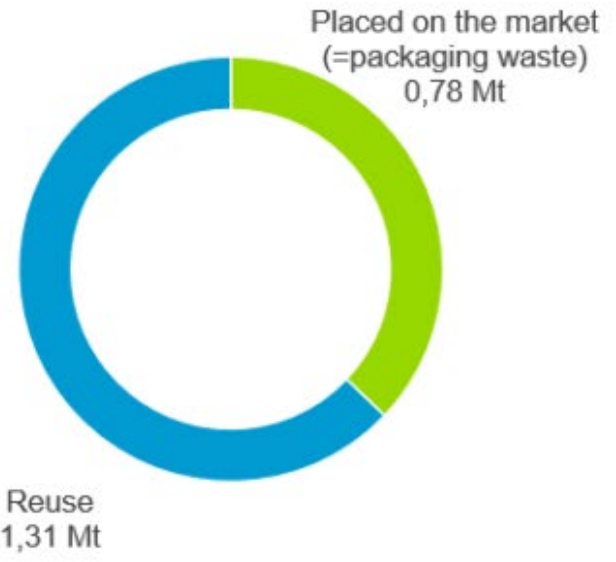
Recycling rates of packaging waste 2009-2019



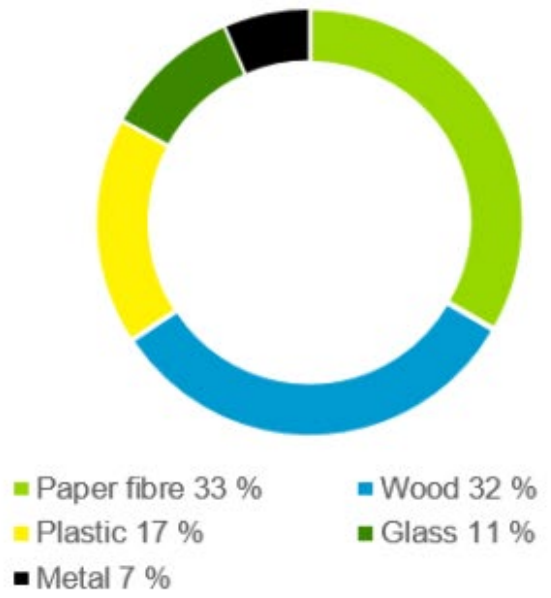
# Amount of packaging waste produced in Finland in 2019

Figures include both deposit + non-deposit packaging

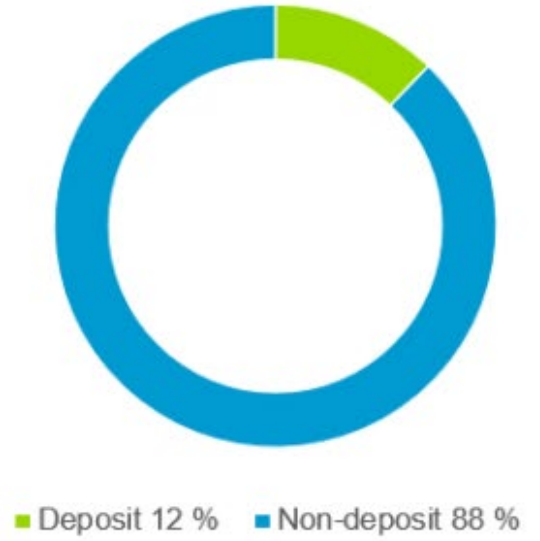
Total use of packaging  
2,09 Mt



Packaging waste by material



The share of non-deposit packaging of packaging waste



# Sorting school teaches how & why to sort packaging

## Rinki's SORTING SCHOOL

### Welcome to Rinki's sorting school!

#### Let's make sure that packaging is recycled!

Almost all products are packaged in some kind of packaging. Packaging protects products from the environment and also the environment from the products.

Empty packaging must be recycled, of course. This way, it can then be used as a raw material for the manufacture of new products, which saves energy and natural resources and mitigates climate change. Sorting and recycling are part of sustainable consumption; they are eco actions we can all include in our daily routines.

But do you know how to sort used packaging? All right, time to get your pens and notepads out – let's get started!

Basic studies ●

Advanced studies ●

Material-specific studies ●

Further studies ●

Final exam ●

Please  
check:  
[rinkiin.fi](http://rinkiin.fi) >  
sorting  
school

# Key takeaways

- **Producer responsibility** means that a company must by law take care of the collection and recycling of the packaging of its products.
- **RINKI** takes care of implementing companies' obligations of producer responsibility for packaging in Finland.
- **EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive** sets out the rules on managing packaging and packaging waste.
- **71% of packaging waste** was recycled in Finland in 2019.
- **For more information** on how packaging waste is recycled in Finland and why it is important, check RINKI's sorting school: [rinkiin.fi](https://rinkiin.fi) > sorting school



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Thank You!  
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