

Packaging optimisation by recyclability

	Investigate further	Implement now	Comments
Recycled content			
General			
Could the use of recycled material be considered/increased?			
Can materials be specified in terms of technical performance rather than material origin?			
Can recycled material containing post-consumer waste as well as recycled offcuts be specified?			
Has the use of recycled material for packaging food products been fully considered?			
Are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Green Claims Code guidelines being followed?			
Use of recycled paper and board			
If corrugated board is used, does it contain a high percentage of recycled material? Could this be increased?			
Where a smooth printing surface is required, can a recycled micro-flute board be used?			
Does the cartonboard used contain a high percentage of recycled material?			
Would a virgin layer (e.g. to protect the product from the recycled material) enable cartonboard with a higher percentage of recycled material to be used?			
For food products, would a laminated cartonboard allow recycled board to be used?			
For food products, would a plastic inner bag allow recycled board to be used (ensure this does not increase the environmental impact of the packaging used)?			
Use of recycled plastics			
Can some recycled plastics be used without compromising the performance specification?			
Can the container or film be co-extruded to use some recycled post-consumer plastics in the inner layer?			
Are production wastes (sprues) re-used as prime production materials?			

	Investigate further	Implement now	Comments
Use of recycled glass			
Can clear glass be specified for imported containers instead of brown or green?			
In the UK, can glass containers be specified/manufactured from green or brown glass waste?			
Can plastic shrink sleeves or organic coatings be used to provide colour, thereby allowing the re-use of green/brown glass?			
Packaging recyclability			
General			
Has a segregation, collection and sorting regime for recycling been considered?			
Have the end markets for the materials been considered?			
Single materials and compatible polymers			
Can an all-cardboard design be used instead of a cardboard container with expanded polystyrene/plastic inserts?			
Can a blister pack be replaced with an all-cardboard pack with illustration/photo?			
Have efforts been made to stick to a single polymer design for plastic containers?			
Are component polymers identified using the EU/APME numbering and labeling system?			
Minimising contamination			
Has the use of colourants in plastic containers been reduced/avoided?			
Has the use of potential contaminants (inks, adhesives, coatings and labels) been minimised?			
Can labels be replaced with information that is directly moulded/printed on the packaging?			
On paper packaging, could more use be made of interlocking tabs?			
On plastic packaging, could more use be made of integrally moulded press-studs?			
Is it possible to use fasteners that are easier to remove (e.g. use paper tape with natural adhesives rather than plastic adhesive tape), or fasteners instead to eliminate tape completely (ensure this does not increase the overall environmental impact or contaminate the recycling stream)?			
On paper and board packaging, can pressure-sensitive and cold-seal adhesives be avoided?			
Can plastic and foil laminates, and UV varnishes on paper packaging be eliminated?			

Name	
Date	
Signature	

We hope that you have found this checklist helpful on your route to greater resource efficiency. Don't forget that WRAP is here to help you to improve resource efficiency and save you money. Visit the website at www.wrap.org.uk or contact the WRAP Resource Efficiency Helpline on 0808 100 2040 for further information.

While we have tried to make sure this checklist is accurate, we cannot accept responsibility or be held legally responsible for any loss or damage arising out of or in connection with this information being inaccurate, incomplete or misleading. This material is copyrighted. You can copy it free of charge as long as the material is accurate and not used in a misleading context. You must identify the source of the material and acknowledge our copyright. You must not use material to endorse or suggest we have endorsed a commercial product or service. For more details please see our terms and conditions on our website at www.wrap.org.uk

**Waste & Resources
Action Programme**

The Old Academy
21 Horse Fair
Banbury, Oxon
OX16 0AH

Tel: 01295 819 900
Fax: 01295 819 911
Email: info@wrap.org.uk

Resource Efficiency Helpline:
0808 100 2040

www.wrap.org.uk/brehub

March 2013

