Environmental Ireland Conference 2022

Circular Economy
Embracing the Challenge

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Agenda

› **Repak Ltd**

› **Complexity of the Policy Landscape**

› **Legislative Landscape**

› **Key Factors for Success**

› **Summary**

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› **Established in 1997 as Irelands Packaging Recovery Compliance Scheme - Fees based on a pay-as-you-produce basis i.e. Polluter Pays Principle**

› **A leading environmental organisation with over 3,450 Members**

› **Launched business and consumer initiatives to increase recycling rates and reduce packaging waste**

MEMBERS 3,450 €500m	DECC – Approval 2025 LA & WERLA's EPA	Recovery Operators 100 Support 5048 jobs	Employees 35

*2021 Total 1.022m Tonnes
97% Recovery & 67% Recycling

Members Tonnes = 690k

* Estimated

- **Repak Plastic Strategy 2018 - 2030**

- **Repak Members' Plastic Pledge Report - 150 companies**

- **Repak Packaging Design Guide**

- **Repak Apartment Trials with Voice**

- **Plastic Challenge Working Group**

- **Repak Team Green Initiative**

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Repak Members' Plastic Pledge

FIVE KEY OBJECTIVES

1.
Prevent Waste

Focus on prevention of plastic packaging waste by minimising single use packaging and promoting reuse.

2. Support the Circular Economy

Support Ireland to deliver the Circular Economy plastic packaging recycling targets of: 50% of all plastics recycled by 2025 and 55% of all plastic packaging recycled by 2030, as set out by the European Commission.

3. Simplify Polymers

Reduce complexity within the plastic packaging supply chain by simplifying polymer usage and eliminating non-recyclable components in all plastic packaging by 2030.

4.
Use Recycled

Help build the circular economy for used plastic packaging by increasing the use of plastic packaging with recycled content.
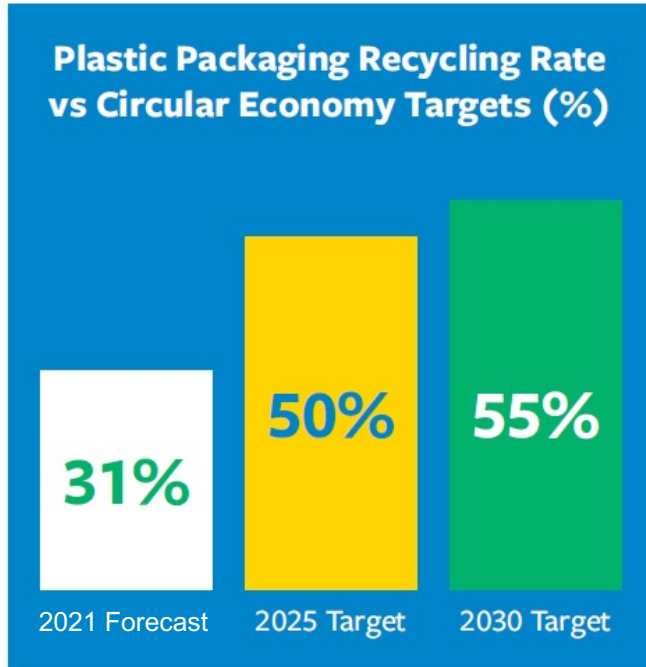
5.
Avoid Food Waste

Ensure the reductions in use of plastic packaging do not jeopardise opportunities to achieve Ireland's goal of a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030, as set out in Ireland's Food Waste Charter.

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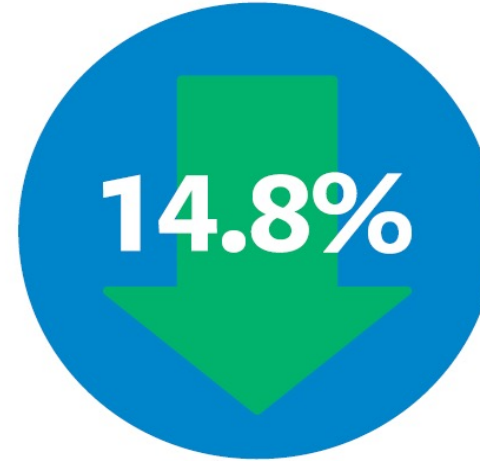
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Repak Packaging Design Guide

⟩ Repak's Interactive and online packaging design guide launched in 2020.

⟩ Considers the impact of packaging design on recycling processes.
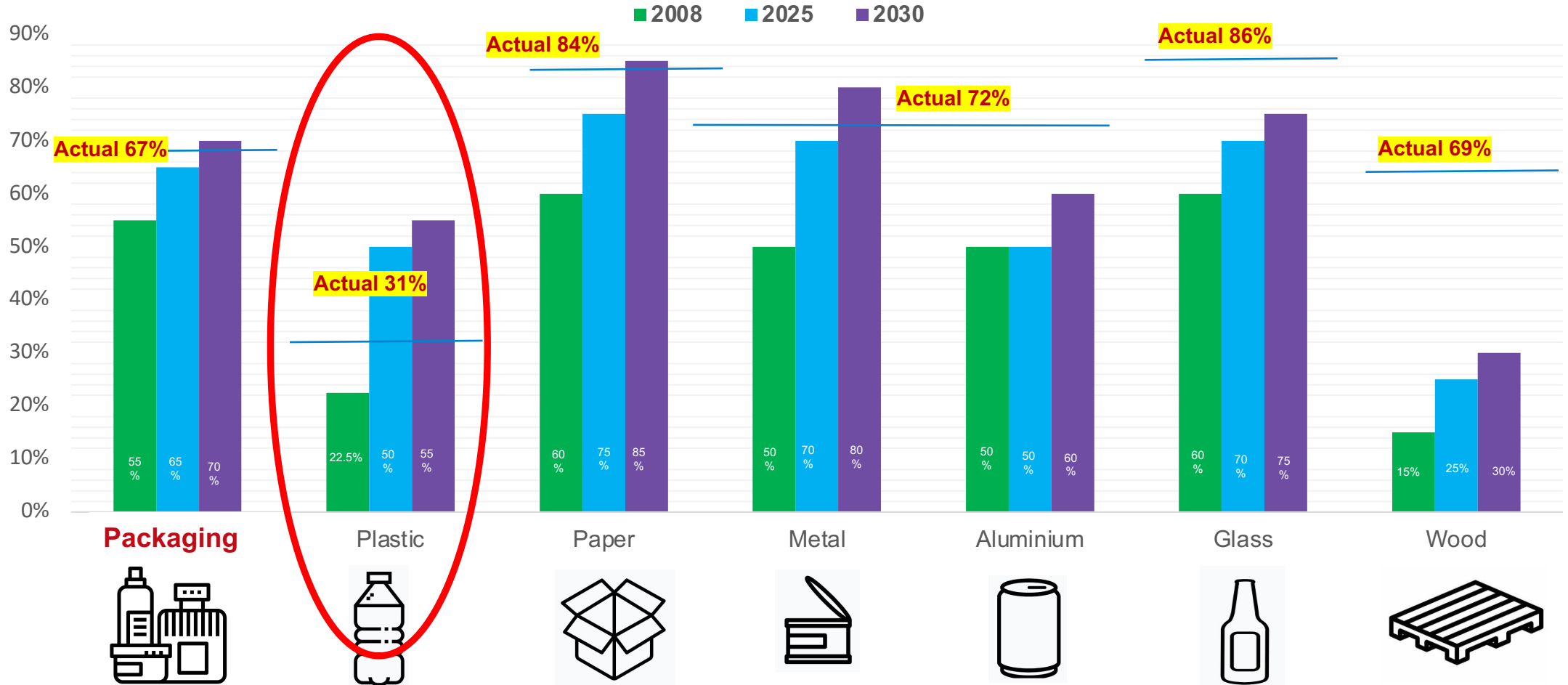
⟩ Helps members to enhance packaging recyclability.

⟩ **Updated version released in September 2021 to update design advice on soft plastics.**

⟩ https://repak.ie/images/uploads/downloads/PS_PackagingDesign_V2_2021_FINAL.pdf

COLLECTION   SORTING

PAPER   METAL

PLASTIC   GLASS

Targets – Forecast 2021

Legend: 2008, 2025, 2030

Packaging — Actual 67% (55%, 65%, 70%)
Plastic — Actual 31% (22.5%, 50%, 55%)
Paper — Actual 84% (60%, 75%, 85%)
Metal — Actual 72% (50%, 70%, 80%)
Aluminium (50%, 50%, 60%)
Glass — Actual 86% (60%, 70%, 75%)
Wood — Actual 69% (15%, 25%, 30%)
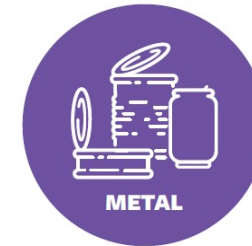
Red: Forecast @Dec 2021 as per EPA criteria

All 2021 Targets achieved

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Complex Policy Landscape

UN & EU

❯ **UN Sustainability Goals (12 - sustainable consumption)**

❯ **European Green Deal & Paris Agreement**

❯ **EU Budget 2021 - 2027 & Covid Recovery Plan**

❯ **Plastic Own Recourses' Tax - effective 01 January 2021**

❯ **Publication of the 8th Environmental Action Plan**

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Complex Policy Landscape

National

› **EU Circular Economy Package** (CEP) in (WFD, PPWD, Landfill) **2018**

› **National Policy Statement on Bio-economy 2018**

› **Climate Action Plan 2018**

› **Climate Action Plan 2019 - 2021 with CEP embedded**

› **Publication of the Waste Action for CEP 2020 - 2025** (Includes SUP, EPR Responsibilities, Enforcement)

› **Program for Government - 'Our Shared Future' September 2021**

› **Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy 2022 - 2023 (Published Dec 2021)**

   Multiple Actions - Roadmaps to be developed?

› **The Circular Economy Programme 2021 - 2027 (Published Dec 2021) Multiple Actions - Roadmaps to follow**

› **National Waste Management Plan 2021 - 2027 (Due early 2022)**

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Policy Landscape

Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2020 - 2025

❯ **Key objective - circularity**

❯ **Roadmap with over 200 action items**

HOUSEHOLD AND BUSINESS
- RECYCLING TARGETS FOR WASTE COLLECTORS
- STANDARDISED BIN COLOURS ACROSS THE STATE: GREEN FOR RECYCLING, BLACK FOR RESIDUAL AND BROWN FOR ORGANIC WASTE
- WASTE RECOVERY LEVY TO ENCOURAGE RECYCLING
- WASTE OVERSIGHT BODY TO MANAGE CONSUMER RIGHTS
- EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE WASTE SEGREGATION

PLASTIC, PACKAGING AND SINGLE USE PLASTIC (SUP)
- DEPOSIT AND RETURN SCHEME FOR PLASTIC BOTTLES AND ALUMINIUM CANS
- SINGLE USE ITEMS BANNED FROM JULY 2021: COTTON BUD STICKS, CUTLERY, PLATES, STIRRERS, CHOPSTICKS, STRAWS, POLYSTYRENE CONTAINERS AND OXO-DEGRADABLE PLASTIC PRODUCTS
- SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE SUPS BEING PLACED ON THE MARKET BY 2026
- ALL PACKAGING REUSABLE OR RECYCLABLE BY 2030

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)
- MANDATORY EPR FOR ALL PACKAGING PRODUCERS BEFORE 2024 EU DEADLINE
- NEW RULES FOR EPR SCHEMES TO INCENTIVISE GOOD PRACTICE IN WASTE RECYCLING AND DRIVE BETTER PRODUCT DESIGN
- PRODUCERS LIABLE FOR €CO MODULATION FEES
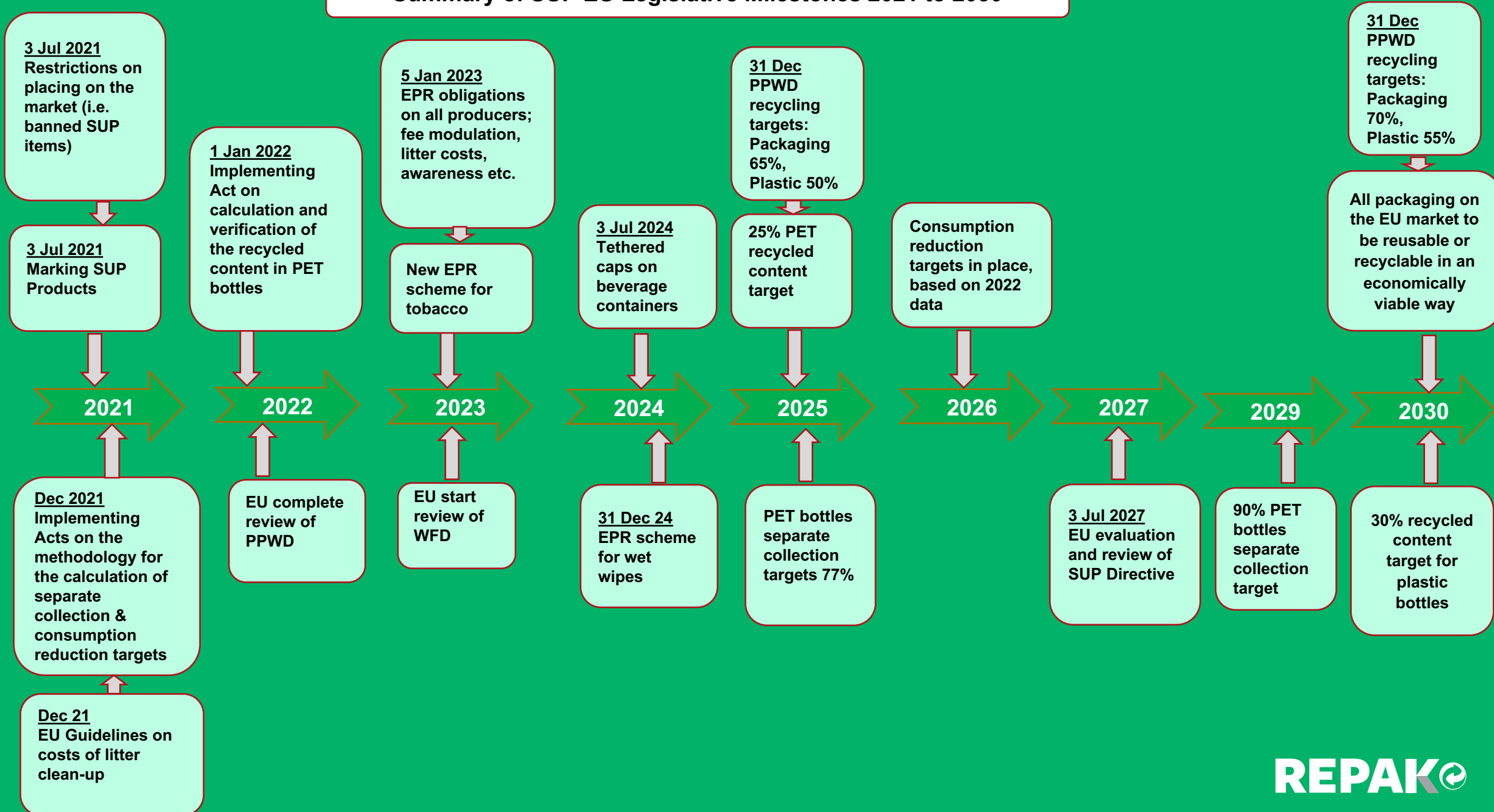
GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY
- HIGH LEVEL ALL OF GOVERNMENT CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY
- INCLUSION OF GREEN CRITERIA AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES IN ALL PUBLIC PROCUREMENT
- DEVELOP CIRCULAR ECONOMY SECTORAL ROADMAPS
- EXPLORE HOW IRELAND'S DIGITAL SECTOR CAN ACCELERATE TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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Summary of SUP EU Legislative Milestones 2021 to 2030

3 Jul 2021
Restrictions on placing on the market (i.e. banned SUP items)

3 Jul 2021
Marking SUP Products

1 Jan 2022
Implementing Act on calculation and verification of the recycled content in PET bottles

5 Jan 2023
EPR obligations on all producers; fee modulation, litter costs, awareness etc.

New EPR scheme for tobacco

31 Dec
PPWD recycling targets:
Packaging 65%,
Plastic 50%

3 Jul 2024
Tethered caps on beverage containers

25% PET recycled content target

Consumption reduction targets in place, based on 2022 data

31 Dec
PPWD recycling targets:
Packaging 70%,
Plastic 55%

All packaging on the EU market to be reusable or recyclable in an economically viable way

2021 → **2022** → **2023** → **2024** → **2025** → **2026** → **2027** → **2029** → **2030**

Dec 2021
Implementing Acts on the methodology for the calculation of separate collection & consumption reduction targets

Dec 21
EU Guidelines on costs of litter clean-up

EU complete review of PPWD

EU start review of WFD

31 Dec 24
EPR scheme for wet wipes

PET bottles separate collection targets 77%

3 Jul 2027
EU evaluation and review of SUP Directive

90% PET bottles separate collection target

30% recycled content target for plastic bottles

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Key factors for Success

> **Circularity Communication and Key Messaging**

- Stakeholder inclusion – Whole of Society (B2B, B2C, Policy, Waste Industry, NGO's etc)
- Who is responsible for overall communication?

> **Cohesive National Framework Policy**

- Consistency of Approach across whole of Government
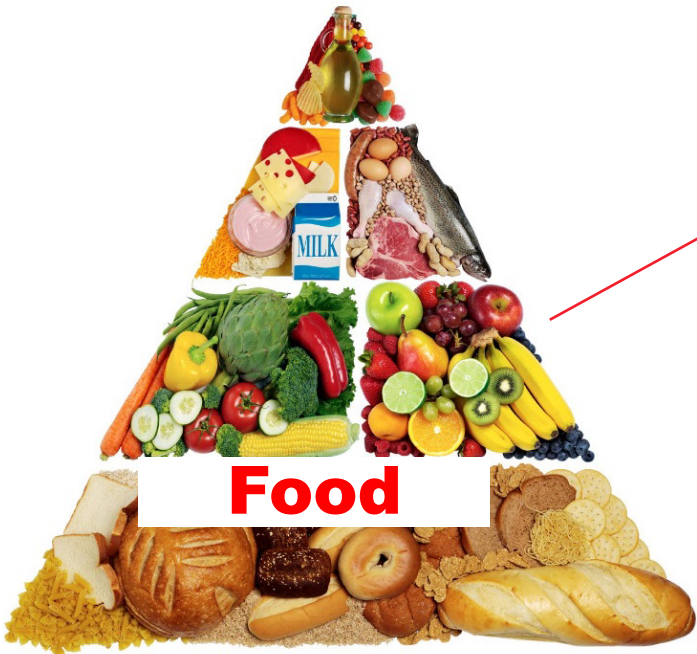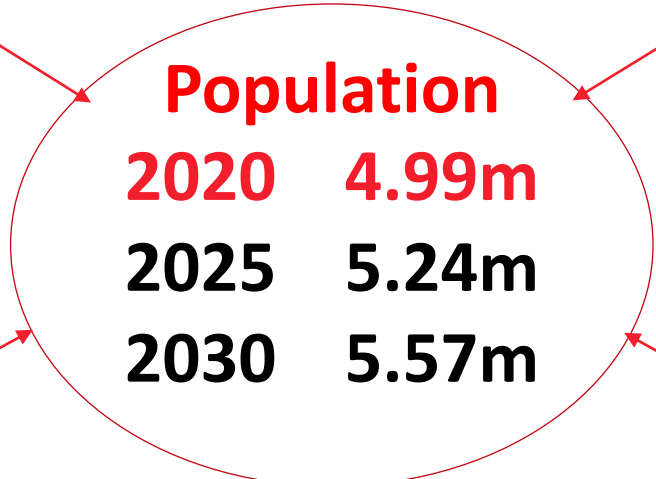- Prioritisation required – 250 + actions identified

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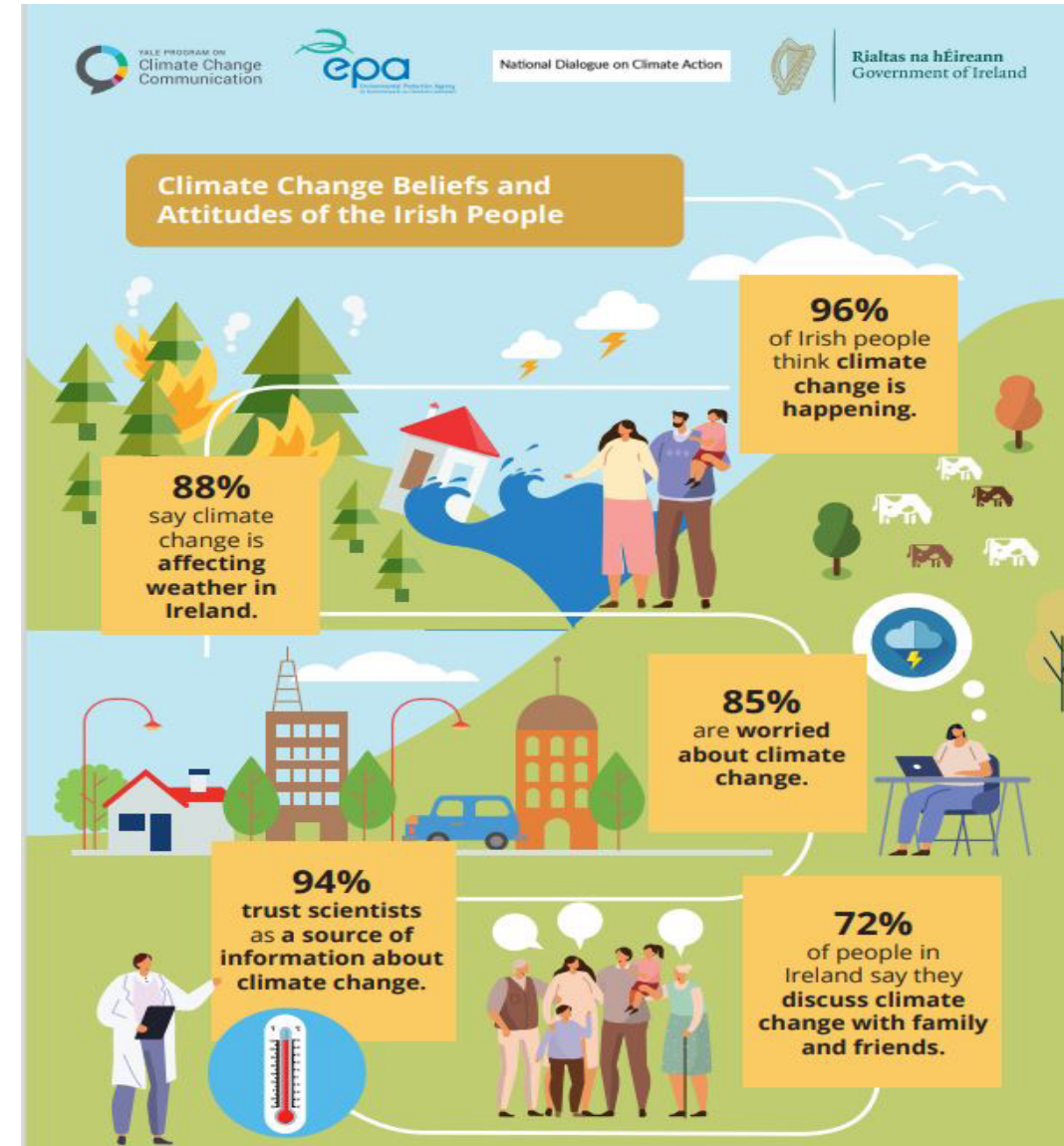
Water

The Starting Point

1. Where are we at?
2. Where are we aiming for?

Energy

Population

2020	4.99m
2025	5.24m
2030	5.57m

Clear – Simple – Targets
Consumers & Businesses

Food

Waste

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Key Factors for Success

❯ Leadership - Ownership – Accountability

- Who is responsible for the implementation of the CEP?
- Measurable targets and outcomes needed

❯ Timeframe Alignments

- EU/National Policy Timelines
- Clear Roadmaps needed for all elements of CEP implementations?

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Summary

- Circularity is a difficult concept to communicate – Whole of Society

- Policy Landscape is complex – Aligned, Timelines and Roadmaps

- Prioritise actions with measurable outcomes

- Leadership and accountability needs clarity

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Thank you
Happy New Year

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