# Reusable Packaging for a Sustainable Supply Chain

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The Reusable Packaging Association is a non-profit trade organization We connect the industry and promote reusable transport packaging systems



**Technology and Labeling Services** 





What is reusable "transport" packaging?







Reusable packaging is about the system, not just the product







Reusable packaging for a sustainable supply chain



Supply Chain Sustainability:

"the management of environmental, social and economic impacts, and the encouragement of good governance practices, throughout the lifecycles of goods and services."

Objective: to create, protect
and grow long-term value

Environmental	Social	Economic	
Planet	People	Profit	(3Ps "Triple Bottom Line")



#### Packaging impacts on a sustainable supply chain

#### **Environmental**

- Natural resources
- Mining and deforestation

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- Climate change
- Atmospheric emissions
- Energy consumption
- Water consumption
- Solid and hazardous waste

#### <u>Social</u>

- Employment
- Wages and benefits
- Worker health and safety
- Ergonomics
- Training and best practices
- Weight limitations
- Equipment performance

#### <u>Economic</u>

- Raw material sourcing
- Manufacturing costs
- Transportation
- Storage and inventory
- Packing time and labor
- Pallet unitization
- Cube utilization
- Product protection/quality
- Recovery and recycling







#### Changing models for environment, social and economic sustainability

#### Linear Economy

- "Take, Make, Waste" system fueled by consumption
- Turns natural resources into products for sale through a series of value-adding steps
- Ownership and liability for risk and waste is passed downstream

"Packaging exemplifies a linear system of production and waste, even as companies ramp up efforts to increase the recyclability and actual recycling of packaging materials."

– GreenBiz, "How packaging plays in the circular economy," K. O'Dea, March 2015

#### **Circular Economy**

- Reuse/Repair/Recycle system fueled by restoration
- Keep products and materials at highest utility and value
- Reprocessing activities create jobs while reducing energy, resource needs and waste

"For a sustainable world, the transition from a linear to a circular economy is essential."

- Frans van Houten, CEO and Chairman, Philips





Linear Economy











Sources: Adapted from Ellen MacArthur Foundation; Philips







Reuse versus recycling

#### Why Recycling Will Be a Last Resort in a Truly Circular Economy

by Joe Iles (/user/87933)





May 5, 2016

"...by returning a product to its constituent materials you lose all the energy, labour and expense that went into creating it in the first place."



Source: sustainablebrands.com



#### Reuse hits sustainability trifecta





\*63% of US consumers believing this to be a "key purchasing driver." Mintel, Global Packaging Tends, 2016



#### Circular benefits on the environment, economy and workforce

"A study of seven European nations found that a shift to a circular economy would reduce each nation's greenhousegas emissions by up to 70% and grow its workforce by about 4%."

- NATURE, Walter Stahel, March 24, 2016

Over US\$1 trillion a year could be generated for the global economy by 2025 and *100,000* new jobs created within the next five years if companies focused on building circular supply chains to increase the rate of recycling, reuse and remanufacture.

- "Towards the Circular Economy: Accelerating the scale-up across global supply chains," World Economic Forum, January 2014

...adopting circular economy principles, Europe can take advantage of the impending technology revolution to create a net benefit of  $\in$ 1.8 trillion by 2030, or  $\in$ 0.9 trillion more than in the current linear development path.

• European GDP could increase as much as 11% by 2030 compared with 4% in current development.

<sup>-</sup> "Growth Within: a circular economy vision for a competitive Europe", Ellen MacArthur Foundation, McKinsey & Co., June 2015.

> "Across the studies, however, we conclude that the circular economy has the potential to become a trillion-dollar opportunity globally in the near future."

- Accenture, "Circular Advantage," 2014





Essentials for reusable packaging in a circular economy





Source: Adapted from Philips.com; Reusable Packaging Association



Technology is the real enabler for reusable packaging in a circular economy



Product tracking Supply chain visibility Inventory management Predictive analyses Service-based models

\_ Internet of Things (IoT) RFID



Collaboration

Networks Big data analytics Cloud computing/information access Sharing platforms



Material science 3D printing/speed to market Sensor functions Connected/intelligent assets



Consolidation hubs Fleet efficiency Route optimization Autonomous vehicles

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Transitioning to a sustainable circular supply chain...and beyond?





Source: Benoit Montreuil, R.D. Meller & E. Ballot (2012) Physical Internet Foundation



Reusable packaging for a sustainable supply chain



The reuse of transport packaging advances environmental, social and economic sustainability



Reusable packaging is aligned with circular economy principles



Recycling is great, but a system of reuse is better for sustainable materials management



Technology advancements are taking the reusable packaging opportunity to new levels







