

interzero®
zero waste solutions

ALL
IN



...URE +++ FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS +++

1,763

employees

give their all at Interzero
every day.*

37,700 t

We produced this
volume **recycled
plastics** in 2022.

1,000,000 t

of greenhouse **gas emissions** were saved by
Interzero's recycling activities in 2021.

100%

for a world
without waste

4:20

min

was the delay we achieved for
Earth Overshoot Day together
with our employees, customers
and partners.

810,000 t

This is how much raw material we source
from the dual systems and process in our
sorting plants.

* Not including Interzero Plastics Recycling (IPR), Container
Dienst Zundel GmbH, Interzero Plastics Processing GmbH,
Interzero Plastics Recycling GmbH, RDB plastics GmbH

We're teaming up to go

ALL IN

Sometimes, you have to raise the stakes. When you know that only you can make a difference and you can't wait for others to make the first move. And that's what we do at Interzero, with our vision of a world without waste.

Our sustainable closed-loop systems and innovative recycling solutions actively contribute to conserving resources and protecting the climate. We realise this vision together with our customers and partners. **As a modern company, you have to go all in if you're looking to create and sustain long-term value.** And our door is always open – whether you need advice on making packaging or products more recyclable, or want to apply a closed-loop approach to your entire business model.

Our sustainability magazine showcases examples of best practice while highlighting some recent innovations in the field of recycling. With EINFACH MEHRWEG, we developed a simple, all-in-one solution for takeaway food and beverages, and launched this on the market with our partner Sykell. Another groundbreaking development is our cooperation with ALDI: the classic detergent Tandil is now available in a packaging box made of recycled plastic.

Let's work together to make the world a more climate-friendly place with sustainable, closed-loop systems and innovative recycling solutions.

Sincerely,

Dr Axel Schweitzer

Chairman and Owner, Interzero



**"We help you
transform entire
business models
into closed loops
– for a world
without waste."**

We're GOING ALL IN

ALL IN for recycling

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Closed-loop champions

Plant pots from Pöppelmann TEKU are made with 100% recycled material from Interzero.



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Avoid. Reuse. Recycle.

Available now: the Tandil detergent boxes are made from recycled lightweight packaging.



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Full speed ahead for foil

In Poland, windscreen maker Pilkington needed a sustainable solution for excess PVB foil.

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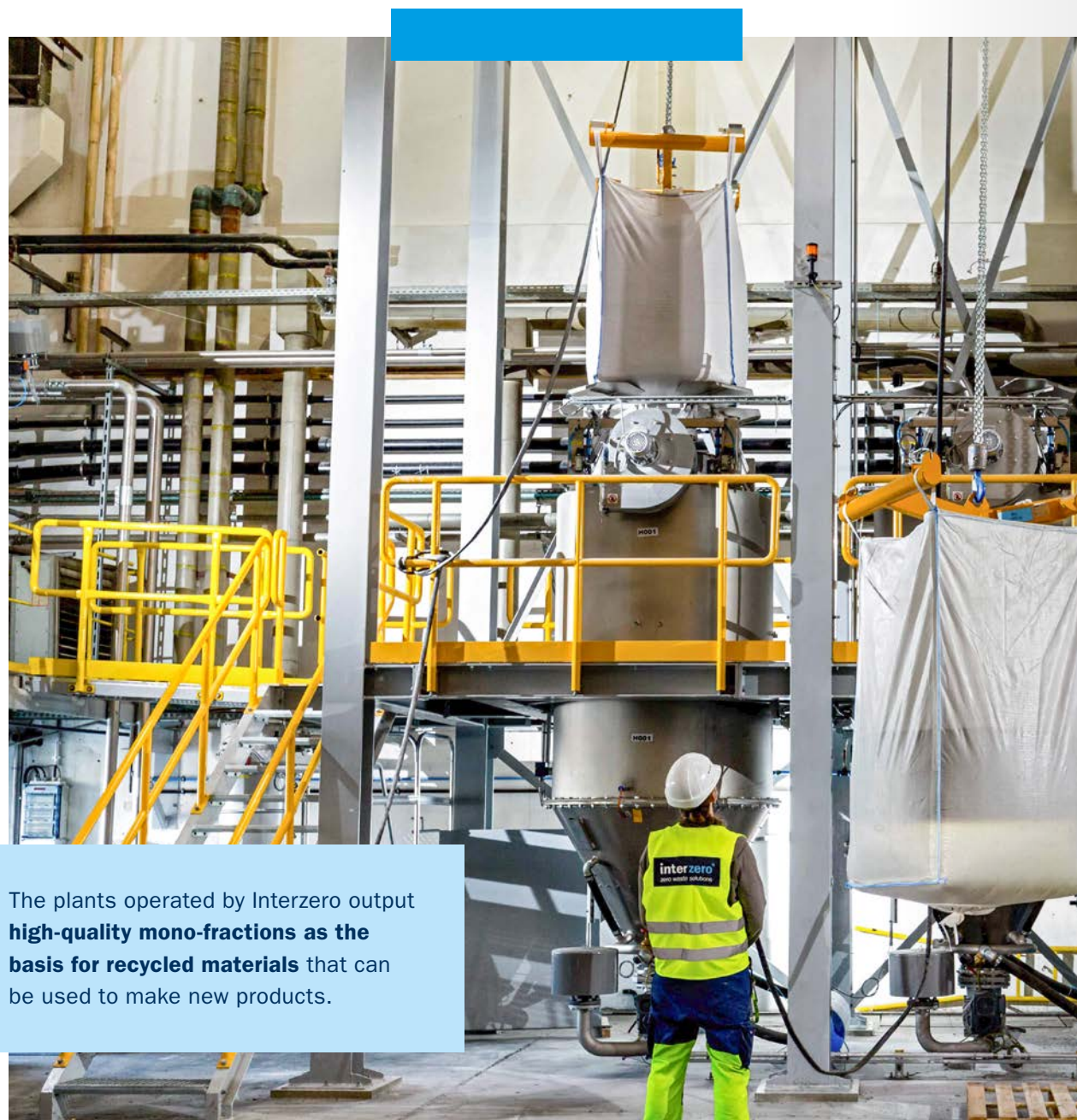
An easy, all-in-one solution

EINFACH MEHRWEG, the deposit return system from Interzero and Sykell, has been launched nationwide in REWE supermarkets.



GOING ALL IN

Our recycled plastics are being turned into new products worldwide.



The plants operated by Interzero output **high-quality mono-fractions as the basis for recycled materials** that can be used to make new products.

Recycled materials from Interzero already cover a wide range of products and many other use cases are still possible. The recyclable materials from domestic yellow bins are being used to make new plant pots, paint tubs, baskets and crates for logistics, for example. Even **parts for sustainable biogas plants** are now based on recycled plastics from Interzero: in Mönchengladbach, techno-plast Kampes GmbH has developed an important plastic component for use in biological desulphurisation plants. "Biogas production generates hydrogen sulphide, which needs to be removed in the biogas plant", explains Dr Achim Kampes, Managing Director of this family-run business. The packing material used here consists of many cross-struts, whose surfaces are then colonised by specialised bacteria that can split hydrogen sulphide and separate it from the biogas. Kampes: "If I want to make a part like this using injection moulding, I need a homogeneous material with good flow properties. **Interzero supplies us with a polypropylene recyclate that is highly uniform. Material properties are extremely consistent and, as another huge advantage, the plastic has virtually no odour.**"

Made-to-measure properties

As an industry pioneer, Interzero takes a cradle-to-grave approach to plastics. "We start with the lightweight packaging stream from the dual systems", explains Dr Ulrich Kückelmann, Senior Sales Professional at Interzero. "Our sorting plants provide us with certain fractions, like polypropylene (PP), for example. This material is then shredded, cleaned and separated again at our processing plant in Eisenhüttenstadt. The final product is a granulate raw material for use in the plastics industry." This high-performance sorting plant can produce various recycled plastics. Kückelmann: "We always have the option of adjusting material properties to meet customer needs. We can also include certain additives to make the plastics more flexible, more stable or easier to shape."



Dr Ulrich Kückelmann
Sales & Business
Development, Interzero

1,100 kg

Greenhouse gas emissions saved per tonne when using the recycled plastic Recythen instead of primary plastics manufactured from crude oil.



Closed-loop CHAMPIONS



Pöppelmann TEKU is a global manufacturer of plant pots made from Interzero's recycled plastics.

If you've ever grown fresh herbs in your kitchen, you'll already be familiar with Pöppelmann's handy little plant pots. This family-run business from Lohne is the market leader in plastic pots for commercial growers – and now also a pioneer in the use of recycled materials. “A few years ago, no-one was really talking about plastics recycling like they do today”, recalls Lukas Scheeben, Team Lead Strategic Sales at Pöppelmann. “But we made the most of our market position to make an early start here. Thanks to our partnership with

Interzero, we now have a complete range of plant pots whose plastic is 100% sourced from recycled polypropylene. And demand for these has really grown, as consumers now want truly sustainable products – even in gardening.”

Consumers now want truly sustainable products – even in gardening.

Lukas Scheeben

Team Lead Strategic Sales
at Pöppelmann



“When it comes to developing pioneering plastics solutions that save resources and the climate, Interzero is our ideal partner.”



Reliable material quality

With its PÖPPELMANN blue® initiative, the company has set the standard to follow when it comes to closing material loops. One highlight of this project is the Circular360 product range, whose PCR polypropylene is sourced from the dual system domestic recyclables collections, with the overall product also being 100% recyclable. It can simply be disposed of using the standard yellow bags and bins. Unsurprisingly, a study from Fraunhofer UMSICHT has given the Pöppelmann plant pots full marks in terms of closed-loop compatibility, resource conservation and climate protection. The production process at Pöppelmann specifies stringent quality requirements for its Recythen PP: quantified, tested, reliable and reproducible material quality forms the basis for the Interzero and Pöppelmann partnership. Since certification is a key aspect of the material loop, Interzero ticks all the boxes with its European Certification of Plastics Recyclers (EUCertPlast) certification and the proof of a 100% PCR proportion in its Recythen PP. Quality managers at the two companies also work closely together to compare and modify their inspection methods to ensure these tough requirements are met.



A perfect match for the product

The company has been working with Interzero since 2018, and Pöppelmann's sustainable plant pots are now available all over the world. “Our pots are real closed-loop champions”, comments Lukas Scheeben. “It's a perfect match for our products. When it comes to developing pioneering plastics solutions that save resources and the climate, Interzero is our ideal partner.”

Avoid. Reuse. RECYCLE.

ALDI continues to take huge steps towards sustainability, as the new Tandil 3in1 box made mostly from recycled materials shows.

Now in its fifth year, the “ALDI Packaging Mission” is striving to make own-brand packaging more environmentally friendly. Customers can identify this packaging by the logo of the ALDI Packaging Mission. **“We avoid or reduce packaging wherever we can or optimise it with a view to sustainability”**, explained Arne Ringkowski, Manager Circular Economy at ALDI North Germany. “We follow the principles of the circular economy, focusing on four areas in particular: increasing recyclability, cutting packaging material, reducing new plastics and deliberately using recycled material.”

Packaging made from recycled plastic materials

A clear example of this is the new packaging of ALDI’s classic detergent. For decades, the discount store has sold the successful own brand Tandil that is raising the bar – not only in terms of getting clothes, clean but also as regards sustainability. “When redesigning the packaging for Tandil 3-in-1 Active Caps and the Colour Caps, we worked closely with the Interzero subsidiary Interseroh+ to make full use of its dual system”, said Alexander Markov, Managing Director National Supply Chain Management at ALDI SÜD. “Our goal was to have packaging that directly reuses plastics from the yellow bag or yellow bin, thus closing the material cycle. This is the reason we formed the Recycling Alliance with Interseroh+ in 2022.” One outcome, among others, is the new packaging boxes, which will be rolled out in numerous ALDI Nord and ALDI SÜD stores from the middle of this year. The containers are almost completely (92 percent) made from recycled polypropylene¹. Based on the volume of sales at ALDI Nord and ALDI SÜD in 2022, the change could save around 60 metric tonnes of new plastic per year.



Around

60 t

This is how much new plastic the optimised Tandil packaging saves per year²

¹ The remaining 8 percent comprises fillers/additives needed to stabilise and process the material. The recycled share of 92 percent relates to the packaging, except for the labels.

² based on the volume of sales at ALDI Nord and ALDI SÜD in 2022.

Less colourful, more sustainable

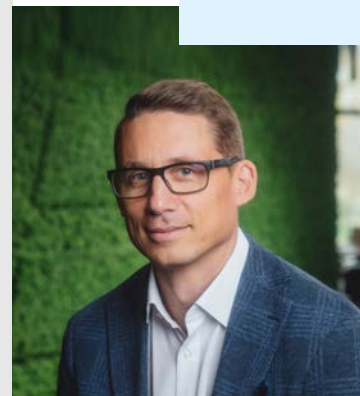
This step is not quite as easy as it appears at first glance. After all, the lightweight packaging that enters the sorting facilities differs with each truckload, so the quality of the sorted fraction also varies. However, the quality is what determines whether the polypropylene can be processed at the packaging manufacturer. The challenge was therefore to produce packaging that was both environmentally and economically sustainable using recycling processes and processing methods that were as lean as possible. “One of the things that helped us was the decision to produce the Tandil box in a standard grey instead of different colours, which avoids time-consuming colour sorting”, Alexander Markov explained. “Going forward, heavy-duty detergent and colour detergent will be differentiated by the label rather than the colour of the whole box.”

“Interseroh+ and ALDI bring stakeholders together throughout the value chain, allowing everyone to contribute at various stages.”



Arne Ringkowski
Director Supply Chain Management Solutions at ALDI Nord

“Our goal was to have packaging that directly reuses plastics from the yellow bag or yellow bin, thus closing the material cycle.”



Alexander Markov
Managing Director National Supply Chain Management at ALDI SÜD



Dr Manica Ulcnik-Krump
Managing Director Interzero Plastics Innovations, Head of R&D

This step will reduce effort and costs at multiple levels and underpin our understanding of discounting and sustainability.” The high quality of Interzero’s sorting facilities was not the only reason behind the decision to collaborate with Interseroh+; ALDI was also keen to take advantage of the wide range of services its partner offers: **“The overall package of licensing and joint development of packaging for our own brands is highly compelling”**, Arne Ringkowski said. “Interseroh+ and ALDI bring stakeholders together throughout the value chain, allowing everyone to contribute at various stages. All of these are essential requirements for a functioning circular economy.”

Radically rethinking the loop

Interzero is ushering in a new era for the circular economy with its 'material account'. In this interview, Sebastiaan Krol, CEO of Interzero Circular Solutions, explains the ins and outs of this innovative new model.



Mr Krol, how would you summarise the global status quo for the circular economy?

Right now, there are a couple of issues that have pushed the circular economy way up the corporate agenda. The first of these is a sharp rise in public pressure: there are fewer and fewer consumers who are prepared to buy products that ignore sustainability requirements. The second is the overall geopolitical situation, which has again thrown our raw material dependencies into sharp relief. If we're unable to obtain raw materials by conventional means, then our focus quickly turns to the topics of recycling and the circular economy.

Are there any obvious examples?

There's a real run on battery recycling at the moment. You need nickel to make new batteries, but old batteries are the only place we can source this from in Germany. At Interzero, we've worked with our partners to set up the first fully closed material loop for lithium-ion vehicle batteries on European territory. While recycling batteries isn't rocket science, reclaiming the raw materials for a manufacturer is something else again. We call this new service of recovering raw material the 'material account'.

What does Interzero's material account involve?

Well, it's not merely a new tool but a change to the actual business model used by the waste management industry. The conventional approach is for the waste management company to collect customer waste and then dispose of it or recycle it. However, this means that these materials have virtually no chance of becoming a new product of the same type as the waste product. In addition, customers also lose access to something truly valuable – namely, a potential stock of raw materials for their future products.

We've set up the first fully closed material loop for lithium-ion vehicle batteries on European territory.



We need to create a world where the closed-loop economy is a basic requirement.

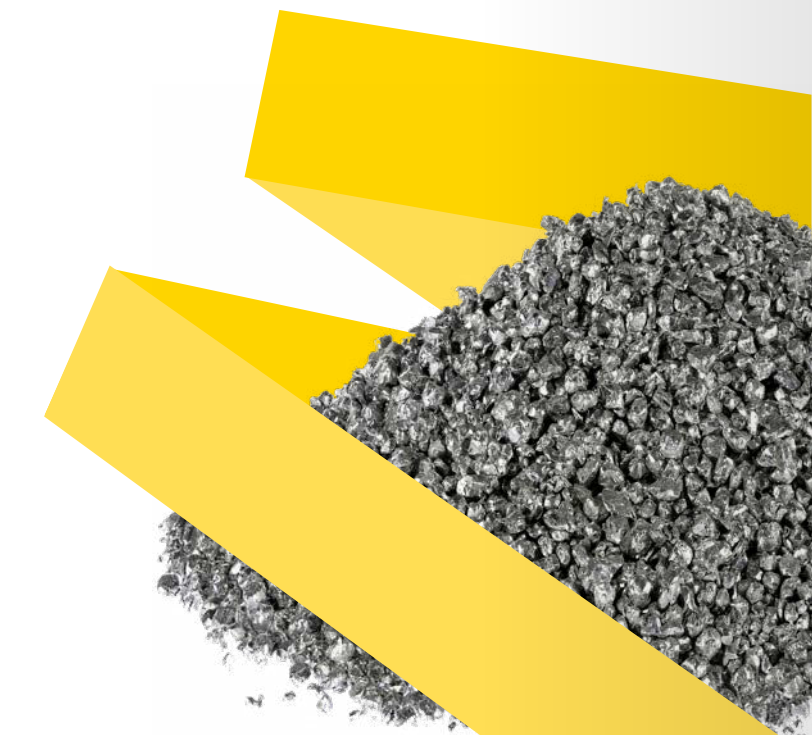
So how does the material account change this principle?

The customer decides what happens to the raw materials. In effect, the raw materials are physically 'deposited' in an account. **Interzero then works with customers to develop an end-to-end recycling path, including raw material returns to a location of their choice** – i.e. the factory or the supply chain. At the end, customers see this movement physically on the account. If the customer has deposited 1,000 kg of aluminium waste in their material account, then this can be recycled into around 800 kg of aluminium, which then shows up on their account and is effectively available to be 'paid out'.



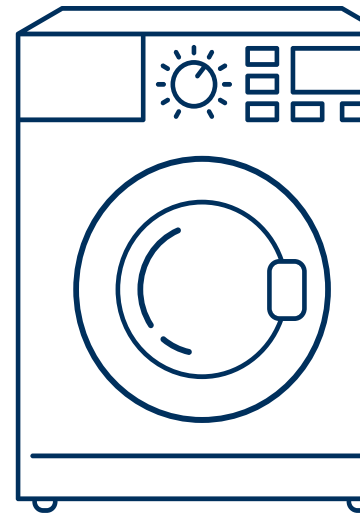
Sebastiaan Krol
CEO Interzero
Circular Solutions

Our material account provides customers with full access to their own raw materials.



ALL-ROUND SUPPORT

for manufacturers



Interzero has developed a set of online tools that give clients a quick and simple way to fulfil their duties from the German Electrical and Electronic Equipment Act and EU EPR.

Already talked about at eBay Open 2022 – the networking meet-up for commercial sellers on this popular sales platform – it has since become a reality: the Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Portal is now live, providing support to producers and distributors of electrical equipment, who are now required by the German Electrical and Electronic Equipment Act (ElektroG) to organise the take-back and recycling of electrical equipment they have sold in Germany. **This new WEEE Portal from Interzero offers simple, quick and reliable support.** A pricing calculator also gives users a no-obligation quote for services.

A peace-of-mind package

Anyone making and/or distributing electrical or electronic devices for sale in Germany is considered a 'producer' and must first register with the German Clearing House (Stiftung Elektro-Altgeräte Register – ear) before then fulfilling a number of other legal duties as a producer. Interzero offers a peace-of-mind package here that deals with all this red tape to avoid stress and ensure legal compliance. The new WEEE Portal also expands Interzero's digital service portfolio for EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) fulfilment. For a number of years now, the Lizenzero online shop has been helping online retailers comply



with the requirements of the German Packaging Act and is already an important part of the company's existing partnership with eBay. The Packaging Act also requires e-commerce businesses to license their packaging and therefore ensure its take-back and recycling, and has imposed new auditing duties on the operators of digital marketplaces.

Proactive climate action

"The legislation makes sense for everyone", explains Interzero's Patrick Cantos-Bravo. "It has **laid the groundwork necessary for a functional and an efficient closed-loop economy in Germany.** Specifically, this means that, once used, valuable materials can either be reused or can be recycled to make something new. This substantially reduces annual GHG emissions and raw material use, and actively contributes to climate change mitigation."



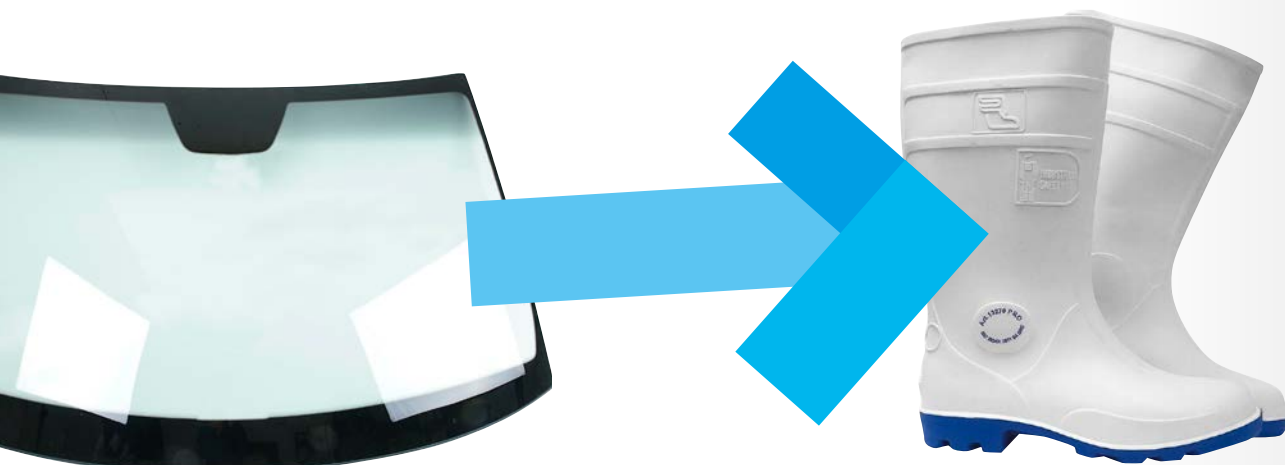
Scan the code to visit Interzero's WEEE Portal



Scan the code to visit Interzero's online shop for packaging licensing

Taking recycling from **ZERO to HUNDRED** percent

In Poland, car windscreen manufacturer Pilkington Automotive Poland was looking for a sustainable solution for their surplus PVB foil. Thanks to Interzero, they can make money from it, too.



A vehicle's windscreen should not shatter into a thousand pieces in an emergency. That is why they are usually made from laminated glass, which consists of at least two panes of glass

joined together by elastic and non-breakable polymer foil. Unfortunately, the same component that lowers the risk that a car's occupants will be injured in the event of an accident also creates large volumes of waste foil that was previously impossible to dispose of sustainably. "We take care of everything to do with waste management at Pilkington in Poland", said Anna Grom, Head of Interzero Circular Solutions Europe. "The production of laminated windscreens creates large volumes of leftover foil that could only be thermally treated – in other words, the waste was incinerated. The windscreen manufacturer was no longer willing to put up with this situation, so we began looking for a solution for them."

"At the first, it seemed as if it was useless, and now we have a

100%

recyclable material."

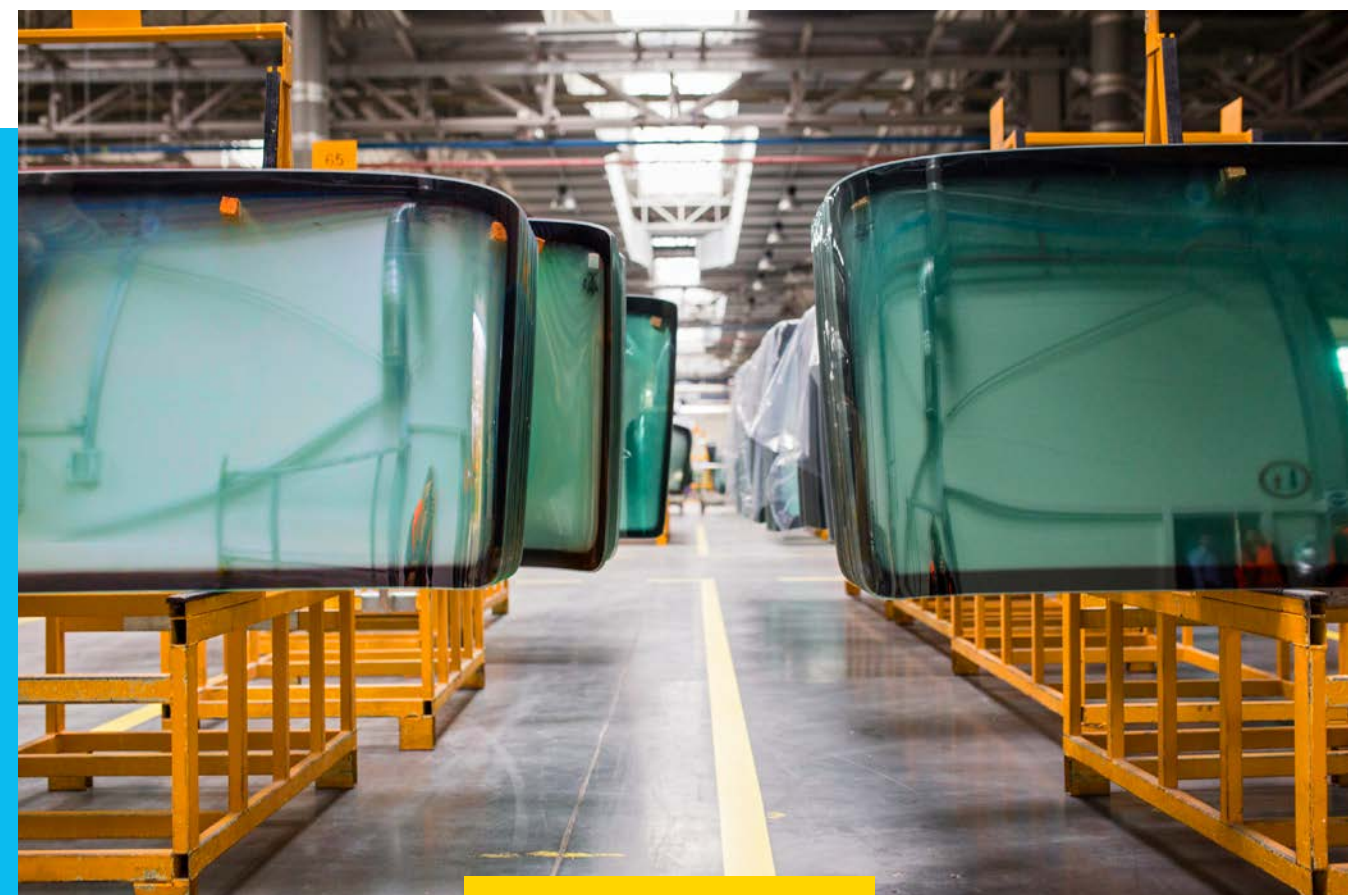
Putting a stop to waste

Pilkington runs a large central warehouse and a windscreen production facility in Poland. Since 2006, this previously British company has been part of the Japanese NSG Group, one of the world's leading suppliers of glass and glazing systems, and a company with high standards when it comes to sustainability. "On the one hand, disposing of large volumes of foil was very costly, on the other hand, Pilkington Automotive Poland didn't want to simply throw this high-quality material away any longer", Anna Grom emphasized. "Our job was to put a stop to this kind of waste." Interzero started by going through its own network in Poland. While Anna Grom is well aware that recycling firms generally do not accept foil made from polyvinyl butyral (PVB), "our aim was to achieve the highest possible recycling rate for our customer."

Thanks to Interzero
our surplus PVB foil
can be used. This is
a great success.



Ryszard Jania
Country Manager
NSG Group in Poland



A boot manufacturer with a recycling subsidiary

Interzero eventually struck gold in the small eastern Polish town of Łuków. The town is the home of FAGUM STOMIL, a manufacturer of safety footwear and wellington boots who make some of their products entirely from plastic. “FAGUM STOMIL already had experience with recycling, but not based on PVB foil”, explained Anna Grom. “Nevertheless, we were able to convince them to carry out some test runs, as we were confident that there must be a way to turn this foil into plastic granules that can be used to make new products.” As FAGUM STOMIL operates a small recycling subsidiary, they were prepared to give this a try in cooperation with Interzero’s experts. And sure enough, after a year of testing and trying, they were able to convert the foil into granulate.

“We used the foil pulverization process. This plastic powder is then mixed with another material so that it can be processed further”, the Interzero manager explained.

“A fantastic project”

FAGUM STOMIL is aiming to start serial production and manufacture its first wellington boots made entirely from Pilkington’s excess PVB foil this year. “Circular economy solutions are groundbreaking for our company and lay the foundations for other solutions that we can introduce to the market as eco-products”, said Grzegorz Skomorowski, Vice Director of FAGUM STOMIL. “We want everyone who chooses a pair of our boots to feel that they are part of a fantastic project, one that is about responsibility, sustainable development and, above all, caring for our planet’s environment for ourselves and for future generations.”

“Circular economy solutions are groundbreaking for our company.”

Grzegorz Skomorowski
Vice Director of FAGUM STOMIL



New life for old a: The Polish company FAGUM STOMIL produces boots from the foil recycle.

1

Residuals from the production of car windows can either be thrown away and disposed of ...



2

... but you can also extract PVB foil from it ...

3

... from which in the process of recycling we obtain granules.



4

The granules are then used to make boots and safety shoes.



A genuine win-win situation

The project also marks a major success for Interzero in Poland. “We have developed a sustainable business model that benefits both parties”, said Anna Grom. “At the first, it seemed as if it was useless, and now we have a 100 per cent recyclable material. As well as saving money on waste disposal, Pilkington Automotive Poland will even earn money from the foil from now on. It’s a genuine win-win situation!”

It also highlights Interzero’s approach of integrating different partners to develop new recycling loops – something that worked perfectly here. “It is fair to say that some materials cannot be recycled simply because nobody has really tried to do it yet”, said Anna Grom. “You just need the will and creativity to make it happen.”

It is fair to say that some materials cannot be recycled simply because nobody has really tried to do it yet. You just need the will and creativity to make it happen.



Anna Grom
Head of Interzero Circular Solutions Europe



A convenient,

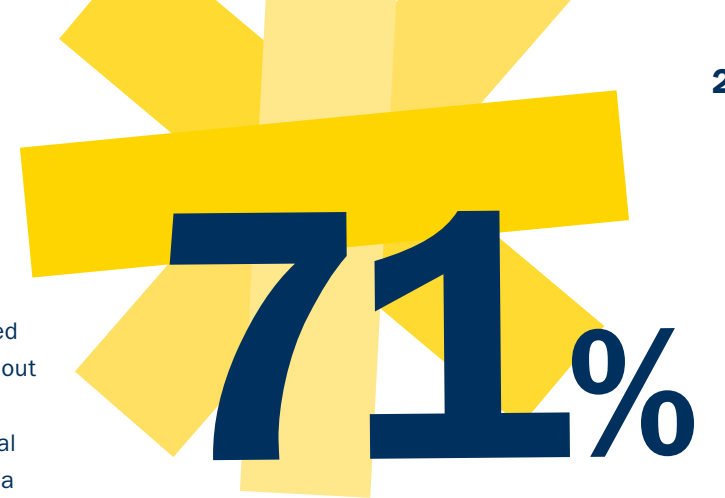
**all-in-one
SOLUTION**

At the start of the year, the EINFACH MEHRWEG deposit return system from Interzero and Sykell was launched nationwide in REWE supermarkets, where it's helping to save plenty of single-use plastic.

Reverse vending machines are pretty clever. New types of bottles can simply be programmed in so that the machine detects them and pays out the right total deposit. Exploiting this principle for reusable coffee cups and food trays is a real game-changer for sustainability. This is the idea behind the EINFACH MEHRWEG system that Interzero has developed with the Berlin-based start-up Sykell. Our partner Sykell designed reusable containers that are compatible with standard reverse vending machines, while Interzero handles all of the logistics, as well as container cleaning and (later) recycling.

A new legal environment

The project was triggered by new provisions in the German Packaging Act, which entered into force on 1 January 2023, with restaurants and retailers offering out-of-home sales now being required to provide a returnable solution for packaging. "Our EINFACH MEHRWEG system follows the approach of extending the obvious benefits of the established deposit infrastructure for beverages to other kinds of products and food categories", explains Sykell's CEO and Founder Davide Mazzanti.



This is the amount by which Sykell containers cut carbon emissions with EINFACH MEHRWEG compared with single-use plastics.

"The scaling up of our integrated solution has been supported by our strategic partner Interzero, who not only offers long experience in return logistics but is also providing us with high-performance cleaning systems."



"Our EINFACH MEHRWEG system follows the approach of extending the obvious benefits of the established deposit infrastructure for beverages to other kinds of products and food categories."

Davide Mazzanti
CEO and Founder, Sykell

How it works

EINFACH MEHRWEG



4 Collection and cleaning



5 Deposit clearing



6 Logistics (outbound delivery/collection)



3 Take-back via reverse vending machine



2 Use



1 Handover to customer

The integrated EINFACH MEHRWEG system meets the needs of small, owner-managed restaurants just as easily as those of large retailers.



“EINFACH MEHRWEG is a convenient service proposition and enables flexible use of the containers and cups for our customers in our stores.”

Peter Maly
Chief Operating Officer
at REWE



#allin



Climate action needs teamwork: Trips with the basketball team are now even greener for Johannes Thiemann from ALBA BERLIN.

Nationwide rollout of EINFACH MEHRWEG

Early this year, EINFACH MEHRWEG was launched nationwide in thousands of REWE supermarkets, which offer takeout food at salad bars and soup counters, for example. The reusable containers are also suitable for pre-cut fruit and vegetables, and the ubiquitous coffee-to-go. Customers pay a small deposit for the containers at the till. Returns and deposit refunds are handled by each participating supermarket either manually or with reverse vending machines.

“We support return schemes as they are more beneficial for the environment than disposable alternatives. To be successful in the long term, however, the scheme needs to be highly efficient and convenient for consumers”, stresses Peter Maly, Management Board member and Chief Operating Officer of the REWE Group, who is responsible for logistics and supply chain management for REWE in Germany and across the Group. “EINFACH MEHRWEG is such a solution, which we developed together with our partners. It enables flexible use of the containers and cups for our customers in our stores. Due to the open system approach, it is in the company’s interest to have more retailers join the reusable scheme, so that customers have as many return points as possible and reusable products are widely accepted – making the solution even more sustainable.”

350 million tonnes of single-use plastic saved

For consumers, it’s now easier to live more sustainably and avoid creating waste. And this is what Sykell, a start-up formed in 2021, is all about. “We want to put an end to the 350 million tonnes of single-use plastic produced every year”, says Davide Mazzanti, CEO and Founder of Sykell. “We simply can’t stand idly by and watch our mountains of waste grow higher and higher. Our EINFACH MEHRWEG containers are permanently reusable and therefore prevent millions of tonnes of plastic packaging from being produced and ending up in the environment.”



Carolyn Kollig
Head of Business Unit
Interzero Pooling Cycle
and reusable solutions
expert



Making **SUSTAINABILITY** accessible to everyone

And what about Interzero itself? We have Sustainability Ambassadors, who help us focus on the environment in our day-to-day work.

“Lights out!” It all started with this simple request. In 2015, some employees at Interzero first got together to form a team of Sustainability Ambassadors, with the aim of making day-to-day work more environmentally friendly. Saving energy was the first topic tackled. As office lighting was occasionally left on even when everyone was already at home, our new Sustainability Ambassadors had the idea of posting up stickers on light switches with a quick reminder to turn them off when not in use. Apart from the text, these stickers also featured an outstretched green hand – the first campaign was started and did indeed help to save electricity.

Credit for cyclists

Since 2022, Antonia Schüttler and Katharina Müller have headed up the Sustainability Ambassadors at Interzero, whose ranks have now swelled to no less than 20 people, which requires a little more organisation than before. “You don’t need to be a Sustainability Ambassador yourself to make a difference”, Katharina Müller explains. “We receive a steady stream of suggestions for changes to make our day-to-day work at Interzero more eco-friendly. Our team then investigates these ideas for feasibility and also talks to company management – because sometimes we’ll need a budget.”

The Ambassadors themselves naturally also think up new approaches for saving resources and motivating employees to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle. “Our aim is to promote an atmosphere of well-being rather than finger-wagging. **We have started several campaigns that make use of incentive systems** – which makes joining in all the more fun”, Müller continues. One example she mentions is the voucher campaign: anyone who leaves the car at home and cycles to work receives a food voucher after completing their fifth commute. “This is really popular!”

Anyone who leaves the car at home and cycles to work receives a food voucher after completing their fifth commute.



Interzero now has its own beehive and also organises regular litter-picking walks.

Keeping it creative

To ensure that the environmentally friendly two-wheelers remain roadworthy, the “bike doctor” pays a visit to the company’s Cologne premises in spring every year to give employees’ cycles a tune-up. Interzero also has a bike leasing programme to encourage staff to make the switch.

These are both ideas implemented by the Sustainability Ambassadors, who keep coming up with new schemes or modifications to ongoing campaigns. “We’re not trying to change Interzero’s business model”, clarifies Antonia Schüttler. “Instead, we’re looking for the most creative ways to promote sustainability with the aim of inspiring as many employees as possible.” A shared sustainability target also strengthens team spirit, Schüttler explains. After eight years, the sheer variety of ideas speaks for itself: Interzero has its own beehive, goes on litter-picking walks, holds cycling challenges, and organises donations for children in need and disadvantaged families. At the moment, the team is developing **car-sharing and ride-sharing programmes for their co-workers.** With some employees unable to cycle to work, the aim is to at least reduce the number of car trips.

A few “Lights out!” stickers can still be found on office doors at Interzero in Cologne and the green hand has become the official logo, plus the slogan “Getting a grip on sustainability – the future in our hands”.

I love being part of the Sustainability Ambassador team. I get the chance to be creative and see my personal ideas for the company come to life.



Katharina Müller
Product Manager
“Made for Recycling”



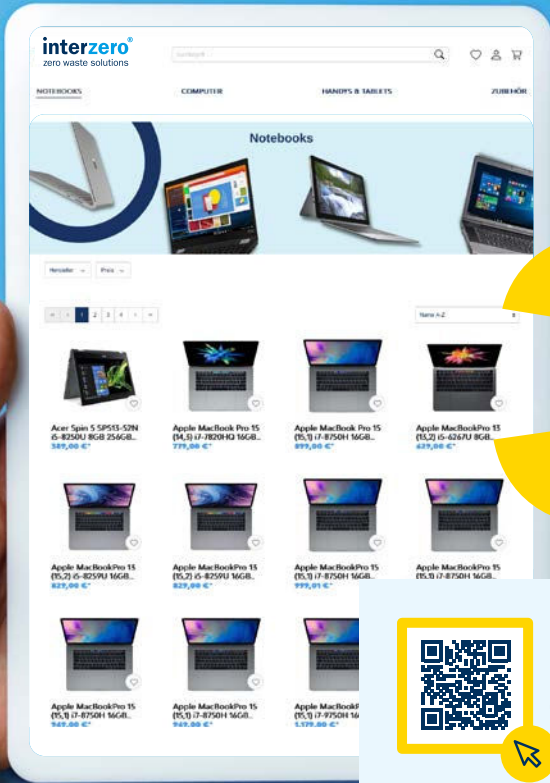
Bought used. Money saved.

Can old computers and phones be recycled?
Yes – but an even better approach is to fix them up so that these devices can be used again. Interzero does this with its online shop for refurbished smartphones and IT equipment.

Three tonnes of gold are worth roughly EUR 180 million. The same amount of this metal is present in the 210 million old phones lying around in German households. This is the conclusion of a 2022 study from the Bitkom digital association, which found that we are still hoarding around 49 million laptops and 26 million tablets here in Germany – a total of 300 million used devices. An unmitigated disaster in terms of sustainability. “A lot of raw materials, energy and resources go into making a smartphone. The longer the device is used,

the more positive the effect on its ecological footprint”, emphasises Bitkom CEO Dr Bernhard Rohleder. “We Germans are sitting on a mountain of raw materials. As we continue to hear about problems in global supply chains, this makes it even more important that we make use of the raw materials available to us in our own homes.”

Sustainable shopping
Interzero is looking to encourage more people to purchase a refurbished device instead of a new model. This is the idea behind the Gebrauchte-Technik.de online shop, which offers a range of inexpensive **phones, laptops, PCs and tablets** that have all been professionally refurbished and tested. Many of these devices are only one or two years old. Purchasing used devices makes financial sense and is good for the planet: a refurbished smartphone saves 14 kg of resources and 58 kg of greenhouse gases compared with the purchase of a new device.



300

million old and unused devices in German homes.



Everything you need to know about the circular economy of tomorrow
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Interzero is launching the Interzero Academy. Employees of customer companies receive practical knowledge from Interzero experts as a supplement to academic offerings. The topics covered include circular economy, design for circularity, recycling fundamentals, waste management, legislation, and extended producer responsibility (EPR).



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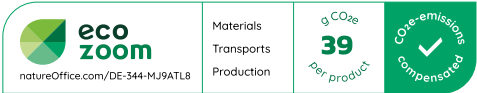
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