

# ALUMINIUM RECYCLING

By The International Aluminium Institute (IAI)

## FROM RECYCLABLE TO RECYCLING

Aluminium can be recycled again and again, almost infinitely, making it an incredibly sustainable material. With comprehensive global data and pioneering material flow analysis, the IAI can track scrap annually from source to consumer by product, quality, form and region.



**95%**

Recycling aluminium requires up to 95% less energy than production from ore, avoiding emissions, including greenhouse gases.

## A WORLD VIEW

**75%**

Around 75% of the almost 1.5 billion tonnes of aluminium ever produced is still in productive use today.



**32%**

The 2018 global Recycling Input Rate (RIR) of aluminium is currently 32%. The RIR is an indicator of the proportion of recycled from new<sup>1</sup> and old<sup>2</sup> scrap contained in the metal produced in a given region.



**76%**

The global Recycling Efficiency Rate (RER) of aluminium is currently 76%. The RER defines how efficiently aluminium is recycled throughout the value chain. It is an indicator used to estimate the amount of recycled aluminium produced annually from new scrap<sup>1</sup> and old scrap<sup>2</sup>, as a percentage of the total amount of available scrap sources. This rate includes collection, processing and melting losses, but internal scrap<sup>3</sup> is not included.

<sup>1</sup>Unaround scrap, <sup>2</sup>pre-consumer scrap, <sup>3</sup>post-consumer scrap

## ON THE MOVE

The transportation industry is responsible for recycling the most aluminium products, both in tonnage (9 million tonnes) and efficiency (86%).

**40,000 miles**

On average, recycling one tonne of aluminium saves over 16 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, globally. This is equivalent to driving over 40,000 miles in an average vehicle in the USA - or three-and-a-half years of journeys!



## NOTABLE REGIONS

**57%**

57% of all the metal produced in North America originates from scrap, meaning the region has the highest Recycling Input Rate (RIR) in the world.

**81%**

Europe has the highest Recycling Efficiency Rate (RER) of any region in the world, recycling 81% of the aluminium scrap potentially available in the region.



Every year, aluminium recycling saves enough electricity - from cans and buildings to cars and planes - to power the whole of France.

**10 million tonnes**

China is the largest producer and consumer of recycled aluminium in the world, producing more than 10 million tonnes of metal from scrap, approximately 1/3 of annual global volumes.

## A 'CAN' DO ATTITUDE

**70%**

Almost 70% of all aluminium beverage cans globally are recycled, which makes the aluminium can the most recycled drinks container on the planet.



**20 smartphones**

Recycling one aluminium can saves enough energy to recharge almost 20 smartphones.



Visit [world-aluminium.org](http://world-aluminium.org) for more information.