UK Aerosols Recycling Initiative (UKARI)

Tuesday 28th January 2025

Content

1. **Metal Packaging Recycling in the UK – Now & Next**

2. **Enter UKARI – Who, What, How?**

3. **Work to Date and What's Coming Up?**

Metal Packaging Recycling in the UK – Now & Next

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Context – Now

- 90%+ UK residents can recycle aerosols at home.

- Aerosols recycled as part of aluminium or steel streams.

- Consumers don't always recycle them correctly; 50% 'capture rate' for metal aerosols!

- 69% recycling rate for aluminium, 78% for steel.

Context – Next

- UK Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) will remove drinks containers from metals from 2027.

- UK Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system places new, higher recycling targets on aerosols and other packs.

- Aerosols might not be recycled as now without changes to recycling systems.

Everything is changing!

THE UK AEROSOL RECYCLING INITIATIVE

Enter UKARI – Who, What, How?

UKARI Members – A Partnership for Change!

Complete value-chain engagement!

Aims

- Increase the amount of empty metal aerosols being placed out for recycling by the public.

- Create a blueprint for how those aerosols could be efficiently sorted and sent for recycling.

- Protect the UK aerosols market from excessive and punitive EPR fees and regulations.

Objectives

- Improve recycling data quality and granularity, including robust baselines and monitoring.

- Produce effective public behaviour change campaigns that drive up empty aerosol recycling.

- Develop and trial solutions that will overcome barriers to higher aerosol recycling rates.

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Work to Date and What's Coming Up?

Roadmap to Higher Recycling Rates for Aerosols
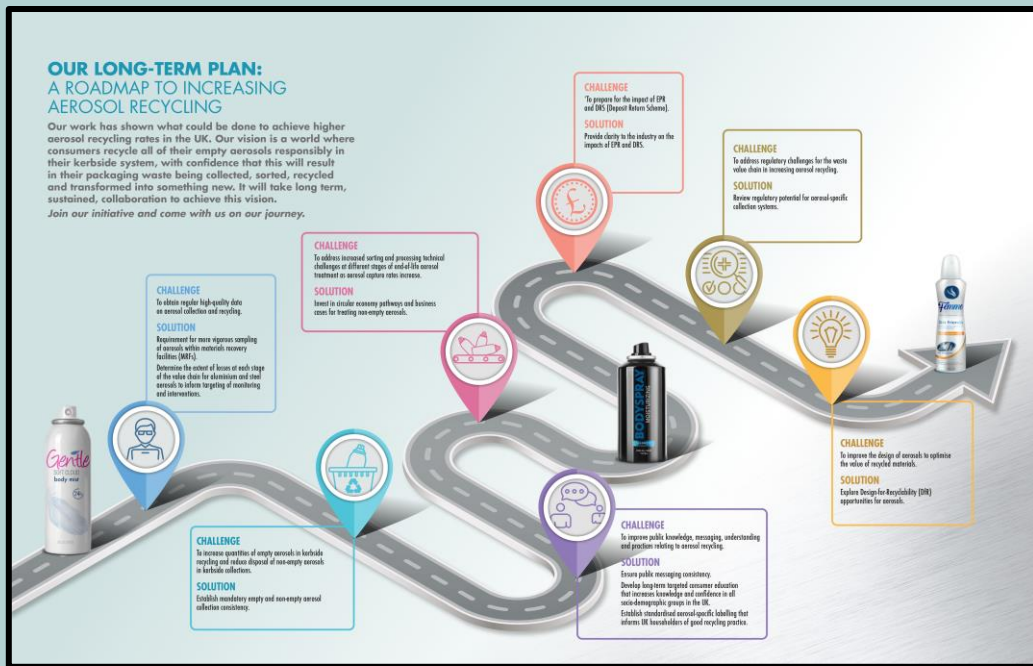
Roadmap to Higher Recycling Rates for Aerosols

5 focus areas, supported by projects and workstreams including:-

- Cost-benefit modelling of several aerosol recycling scenarios.

- Creation and testing of public behaviour change campaigns.

- Collection & sorting trials.

https://alupro.org.uk/industry/programmes/the-uk-aerosol-recycling-initiative/a-roadmap-to-increasing-uk-aerosol-recycling/