



**comieco**

Consorzio Nazionale Recupero e Riciclo  
degli Imballaggi a base Cellulosica

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The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of Comieco on separate paper and board collection disclosed in Rome  
**PAPER AND BOARD COLLECTION RATES REMAIN UNCHANGED IN 2011  
DESPITE DECLINING CONSUMPTIONS**

**ITALY AS A TOP PERFORMER IN EUROPE: 9 PACKAGING ITEMS OUT OF 10 ARE  
RECOVERED AND RECYCLED**

**THE SECTOR CONTINUES TO PRODUCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:  
1 BILLION EUR PROVIDED BY COMIECO TO THE CITIES IN 14 YEARS  
26 NEW LANDFILLS AVOIDED IN 2011 (248 SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
CONSORTIUM)**

*A by-now mature and consolidated phenomenon that continues unabated despite the decline of consumptions (-0.9%) and of urban waste (estimated around 2.5%) thanks to the engagement of households, companies, and the Italian municipalities, as well as to the effort of Comieco. A total of over 3 million tons of paper and board were collected, with an average per capita amount of 50.6 kg/inhab. This is significant data, also in view of the General Assembly on the Green Economy, the Italian response to Rio+20 to pursue the green economy processes that can offer a concrete way towards sustainable development and, at the same time, counter the economic downturn in our Country.*

**Over 3 million tons of  
paper and board  
collected**

Italy is “cutting” consumptions and producing less waste, particularly in the big cities, but it does not change its good habits and continues to perform separate paper and board collection. This is the picture drawn by the 17<sup>th</sup> Report on separate paper and board collection, drafted by Comieco – the National Consortium for paper and board packaging recovery and recycling – and disclosed today in Rome as the first step of a process that leads towards the General Assembly on the Green Economy, due to take place on November 7-8 next in Rimini.

**An average 50.6 kg per  
capita collection**

Separate paper and board collection is substantially stable in 2011 (-0.9%) vs. a total 2.5% decline of urban waste. In absolute terms, 3.04 million tons of paper and board were collected in Italy, which means 50.6 kg per capita on average.

**An 80% recycling  
rate**

As confirmed by the report, today Italy is a top performer in terms of recycling rate, i.e. the percent amount of packaging that is recovered and recycled: this rate is 79.6% in 2011, 0.9% up vs. the previous year, and places Italy above the European average. Adding the figure for energy recovery from waste, the recovery rate totals 87.6: 9 packaging units out of 10 are recovered and recycled in Italy, which is thus a top performer in Europe.

**26 avoided landfills,  
almost 500 million  
EUR of economic  
benefits**

In short, paper and board recycling is a true pride of the Italian green economy: considering employment and related business, the value of the raw materials generated by recycling, and the avoided disposal costs, the economic benefits produced by the system in 2011 amount to 478 million EUR – approximately 4 billion EUR from 1999 to this day. From 1999 to 2011, the construction of as many as 248 new landfills was avoided – and 26 in 2011 alone – thanks to the outcome of separate collection.

**1 million tons of  
materials still to be  
intercepted**

*“While the commitment of Italian households, companies, and Cities allows the relentless development of separate paper and board collection, a recent study showed that at least 1 million tons of pulp-based materials still end up with general waste. Recovering this material*

**120 million EUR transferred by Comieco to the Cities**

*would further increase the separate collection rate by at least 3%," says Carlo Montalbetti, General Manager, Comieco. "Over 29 million tons of material were collected in thirteen years, which translated into a gradual increase of the **economic resources that Comieco**, as the expression of the whole paper pipeline, from paper mills to processors and recoverers, **pays to the Cities for separate collection services**. In fact, the Cities received almost **120 million EUR in 2011**, and 877 million EUR from 1998 to this day, through the agreement system."*

**Emilia Romagna confirms its national leadership by per capita amounts**

Per capita collection in 2011 (50.6 kg/inhab) settled on the same values as in 2010, with a minimal decline (-0.5% kg/inhab) recorded homogeneously in the three macro-areas. In these circumstances, **Emilia Romagna** confirms its national leadership (85.8 kg/inhab) vs. **Trentino Alto Adige** (3.3 kg/inhab). In the centre, **Tuscany** settles on 79.3 kg/inhab, however still far above the other regions in the same area. In the south, **Abruzzo** stands out with 43.4 kg/inhab and, thanks to the increase in collection, is still competing with **Sardinia** (44.6 kg/inhab) for the local leadership.

A large share of the 3 million tons of collected paper and board continues to come from the central and northern regions that, however, recorded a slight decline in 2011. The trend was substantially in line with the previous year in **Piedmont** (-0.8%) and **Trentino Alto Adige** (-0.9%), but declining in **Veneto** (-1.8%), **Lombardy** (-1.9%), and in such a consolidated region as **Tuscany** (-5.6%). However, some central regions helped make up for some of this decline, such as **Emilia Romagna** (+1.0%), **Latium** (+4,300 tons), and **Marche** (+5.5%). Lights and shades are confirmed in southern Italy, instead: while negative signs come from the bigger regions in particular, such as **Campania**, **Puglia**, and **Sicily** (-12thousand tons globally), positive ones come from **Abruzzo** (+14.6%) and **Calabria** (+1.9%), which make up for the decline. **Sardinia** is stable with 70-75thousand t/year – the best per-capita yield in the south.

**The importance of separate collection is growing in large metropolitan areas**

An analysis of trends in big cities, including **Florence**, **Milan**, **Naples**, **Rome**, and **Turin**, shows that **separate paper and board collection is stable or even growing vs. a decline of urban waste (-3%)**. While **Milan**, **Turin**, and **Naples** record a decline of the net collected amount (-1.5%), the corresponding decrease of the produced waste results into a positive balance and a growing separate collection rate (just below 1%). A similar trend is observed in **Florence**, with a decrease of waste "as is" (-6.3%) but a growing amount of separate collection (+900 tons), which brings the separate collection rate above 40%. Lastly the amounts collected separately in **Rome** grew by 2%.

**For further information:**

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