

VERSION 1: DECEMBER 2024

AUSTRALIAN PACKAGING

PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND RECOVERY

2022–2023 FACTSHEET



Australian
Packaging Covenant
Organisation



Summary

2022-23



A total of **7,039,812 tonnes of packaging was placed on market (POM) in 2022-23**. Over half of the packaging POM was paper and paperboard (54%), with large contributions by glass (16%) and plastics (18%). Wood (8%) and metals (4%) were the smallest material groups.

For the first time since reporting began in 2018-19, packaging consumption per capita decreased year on year, down from 269kg/capita in 2021-22 to 264kg/capita in 2022-23. Packaging per capita is expected to rise over the 5 years to 2027-28 at a compound annual growth rate of 2.6%.

Total recovery was 56% of all packaging POM, consistent with the recovery rate of 56% in 2021-22.

Recovery rates are highest across paper and paperboard (65%) and glass (69%), while rigid plastics (28%) flexible plastics (6%) had the lowest recovery rates.

Further incremental progress has been made across most of the National Packaging Target areas:

- **Target 1 → 100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable**
Improved from 84% to 86% between 2021-22 and 2022-23
- **Target 2 → 70% of plastic packaging is recycled or composted**
Declined slightly from 20% to 19% between 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- **Target 3 → 50% average recycled content in packaging**
Improved from 40% to 44% between 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- **Target 4 → Phase out of problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging**
Improved from -33% to -40% (against the baseline year) between 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Total **reprocessing capacity for the system has continued to improve**, with total reprocessing capacity representing 49% of all packaging POM, up from 40% in 2021-22 and up from 31% in 2018-19.

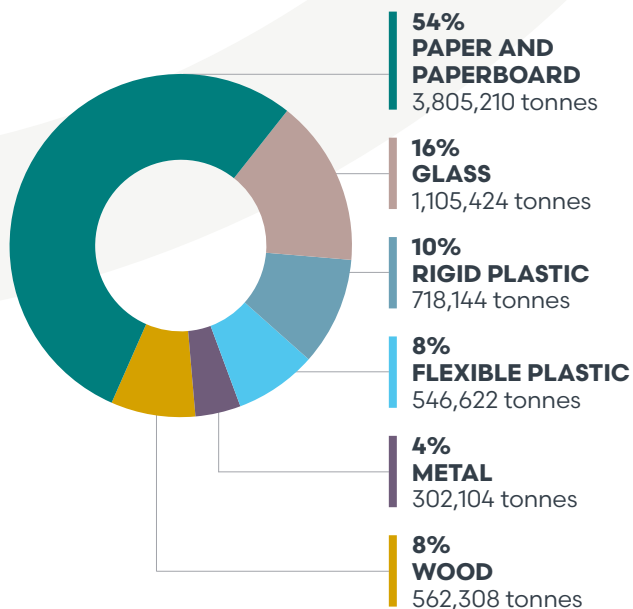
The federal government are consulting on packaging regulation reform. Regulatory reforms are expected to enhance packaging design for recyclability, improve recyclability labelling and increasing recycled content in packaging.

APCO has released its [2030 Strategic Plan](#). The Strategic Plan aims to create economic incentives for material circularity and establish mechanisms to achieve national packaging targets. This plan introduces a new membership fee model based on eco-modulation, which provides an economic incentive for APCO members to reduce and improve their packaging.

Summary

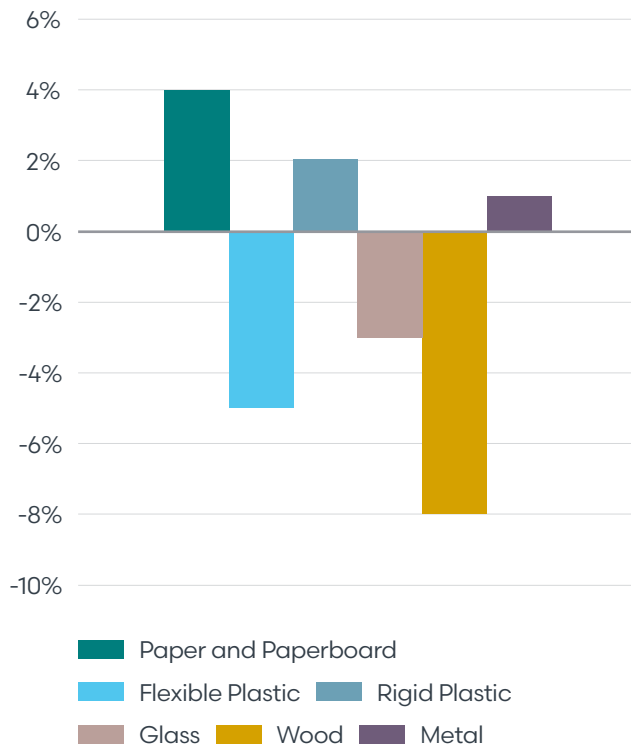
ALL MATERIALS

Packaging POM
2022-23

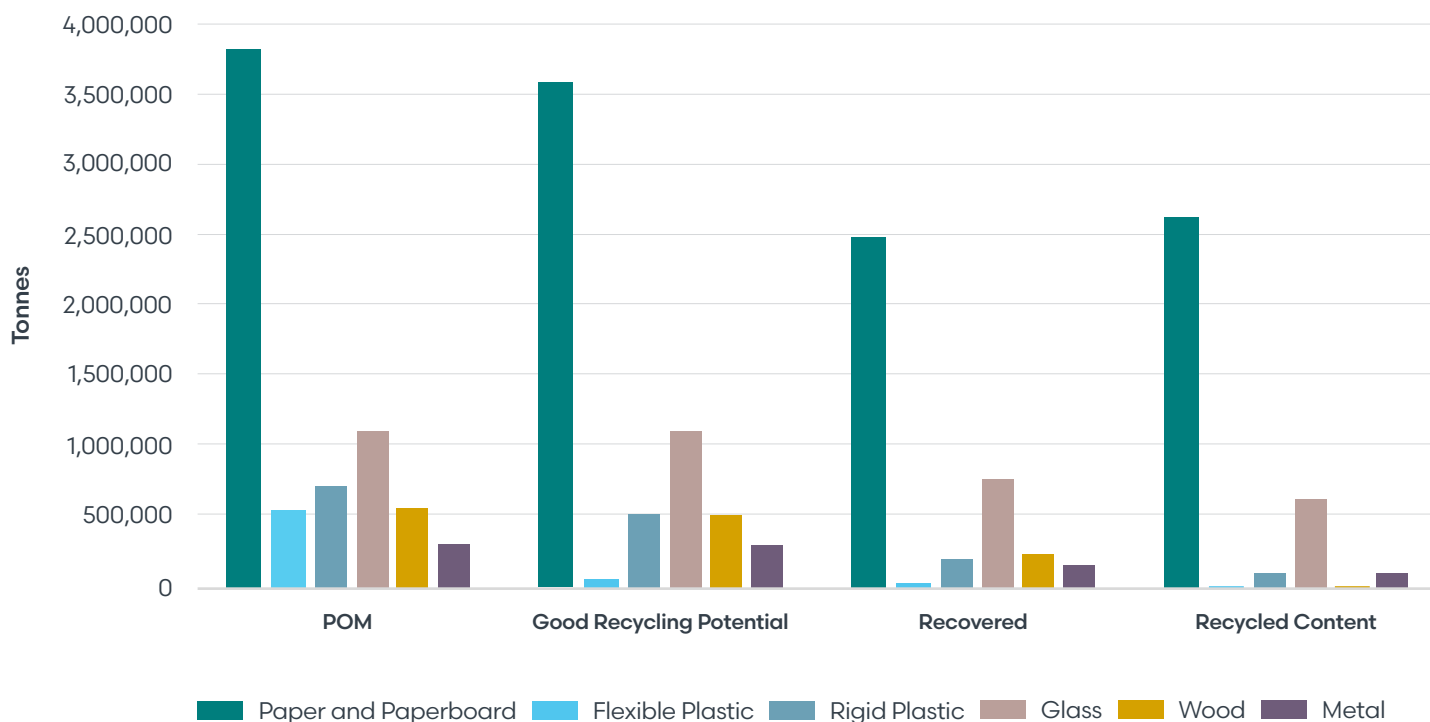


7,039,812 Tonnes of packaging POM in 2022-23

Change in material POM year on year
2021-22 – 2022-23



TONNES FLOW






Packaging POM vs. intensity per capita

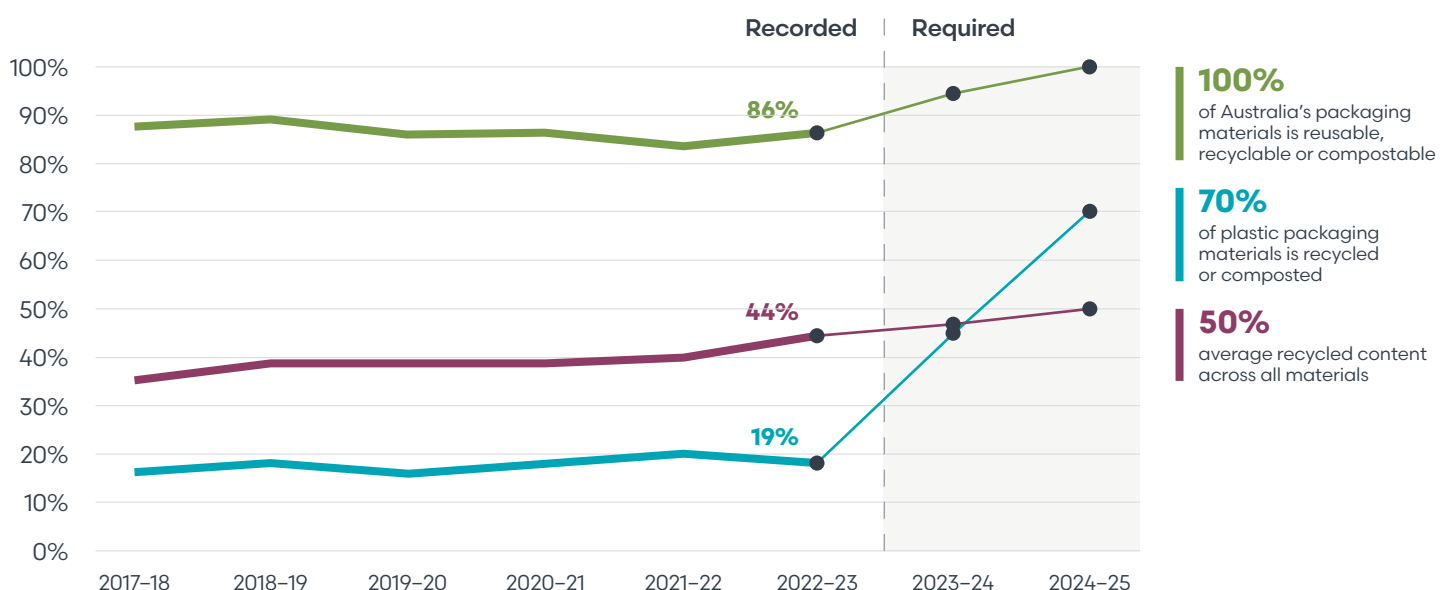


National Packaging Targets

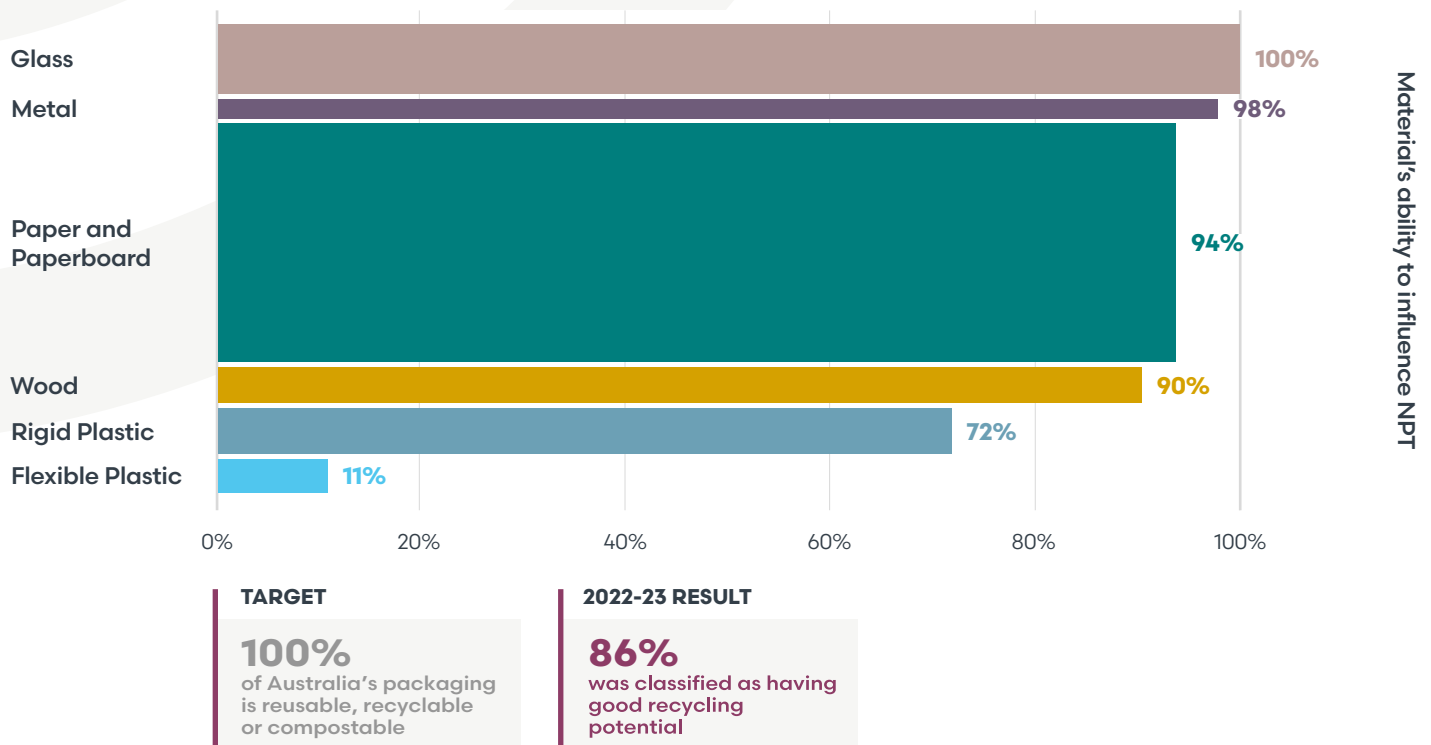
PROGRESS

OUTCOME	TARGET	PROGRESS
 Packaging designed for circularity and sustainability	100% of Australia's packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable	86% was classified as having good recycling potential
	Problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging will be phased out	~40% reduction from the 2017-18 baseline
 Harmonised and expanded reuse and recovery systems are in place	70% of plastic packaging is recycled or composted	19% of plastic packaging is recycled or composted
 Deep and resilient markets exist for recycled materials	50% average recycled content across all materials	44% of materials was made with post-consumer recycled material <small>*Excludes Wood</small>

Progress versus targets over time



Percentage of material with 'good recycling potential'



Reduction of problematic and unnecessary single-use packaging

Priority item	2019-20 (tonnes)	2020-21 (tonnes)	2021-22 (tonnes)	2022-23 (tonnes)	2021-22 to 2022-23 change
Single-use HDPE shopping bags	159	81	100	–	-100%
Rigid PS	17,074	17,169	16,694	13,904	-17%
EPS	22,709	29,048	29,778	27,686	-7%
PVC	16,873	14,768	10,813	9,706	-10%
Oxo-degradable plastics	2,133	758	8	8	0%
Plastic tableware	25,225	13,224	18,694	19,323	3%

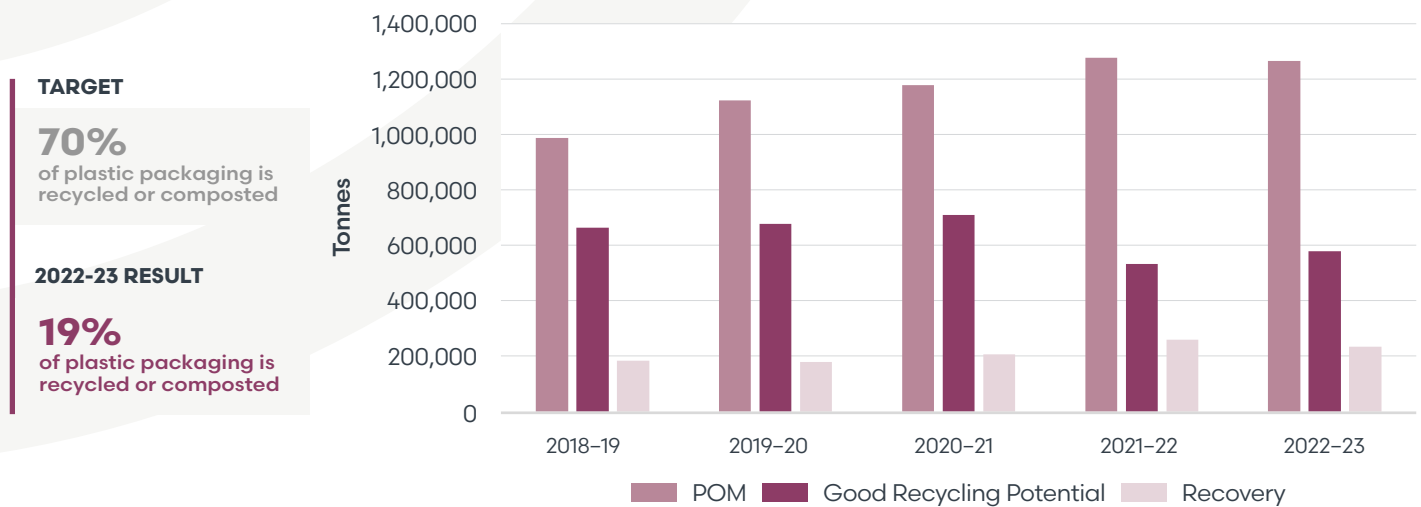
TARGET

Problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging will be phased out

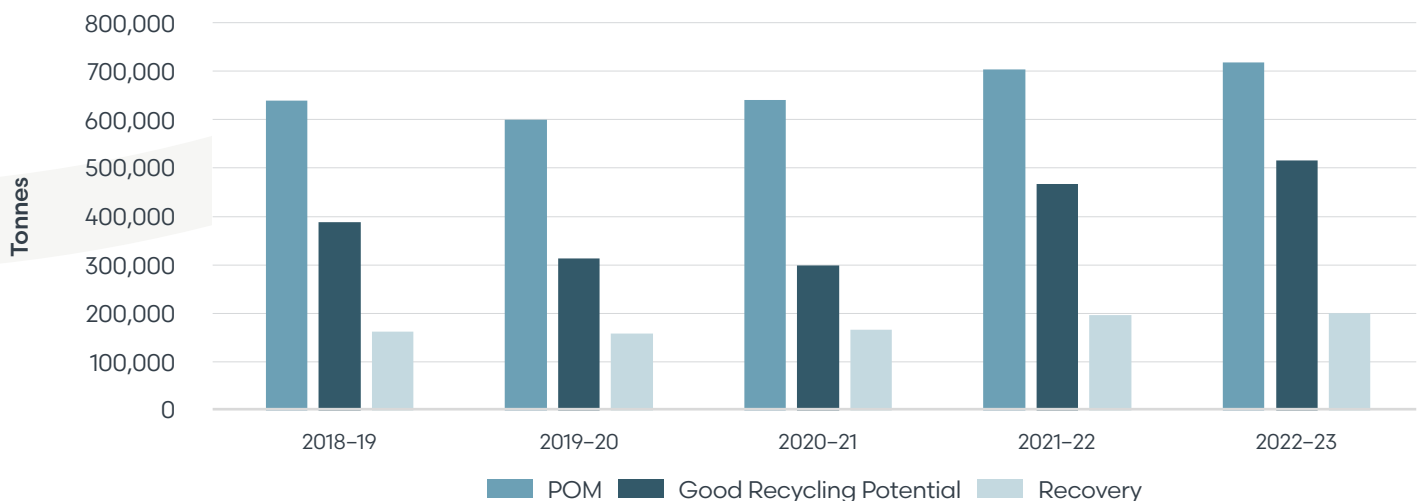
2022-23 RESULT

~40% reduction from the 2017-18 baseline

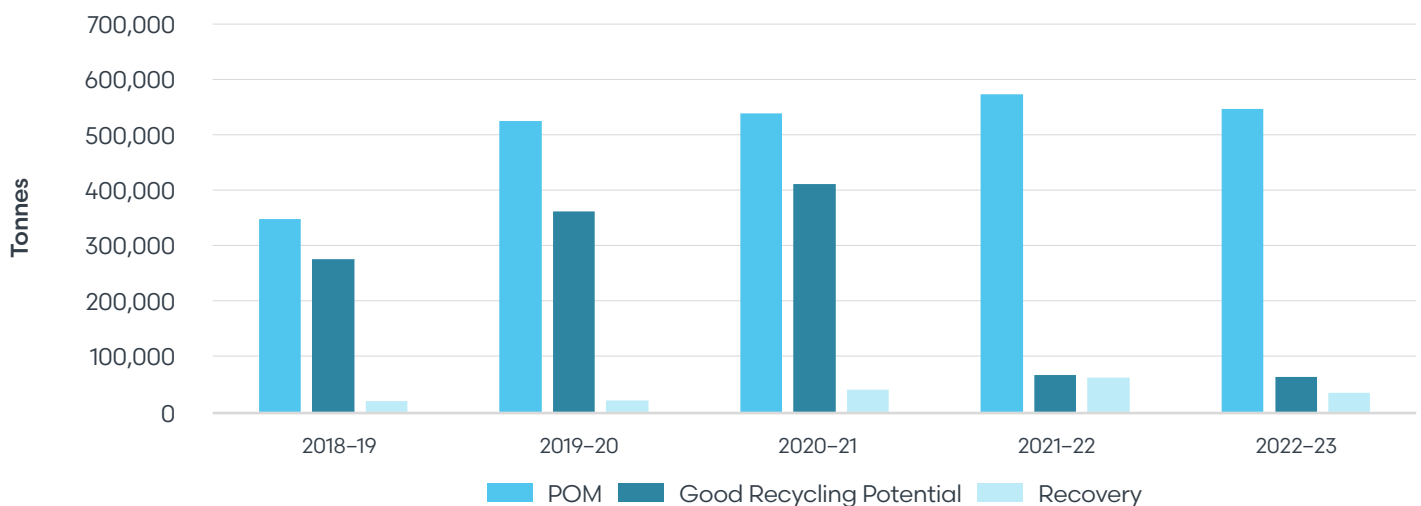
TOTAL PLASTIC POM, recycling potential and recovery by year



RIGID PLASTIC POM, recycling potential and recovery by year

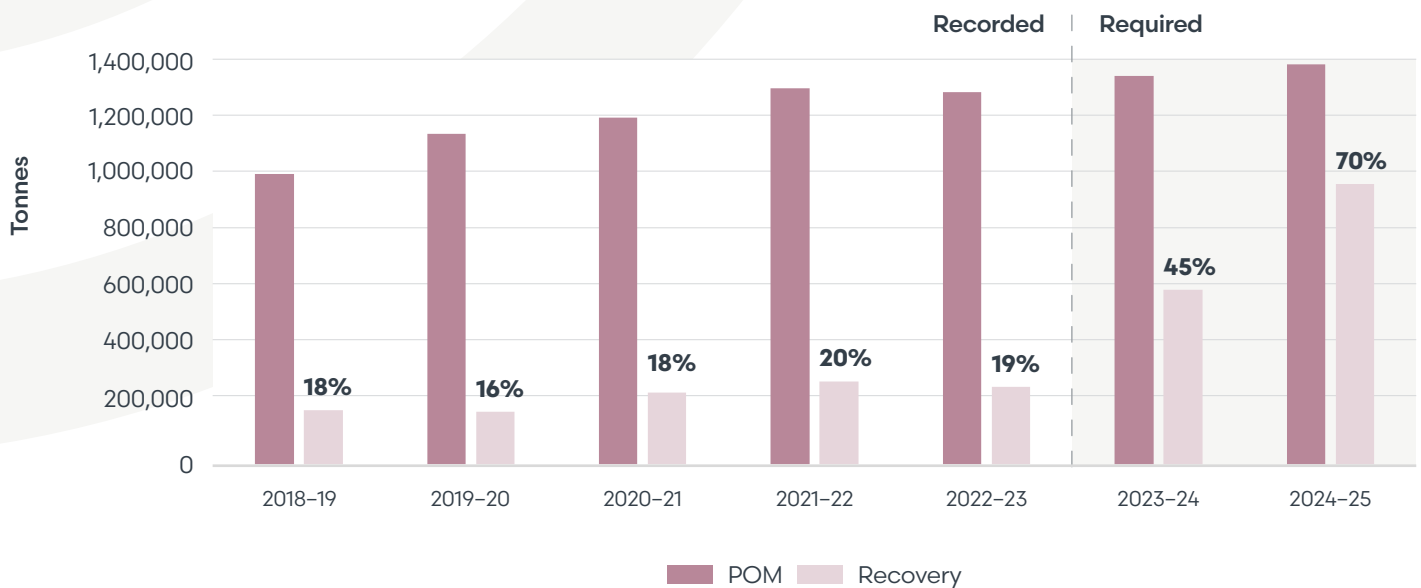


FLEXIBLE PLASTIC POM, recycling potential and recovery by year

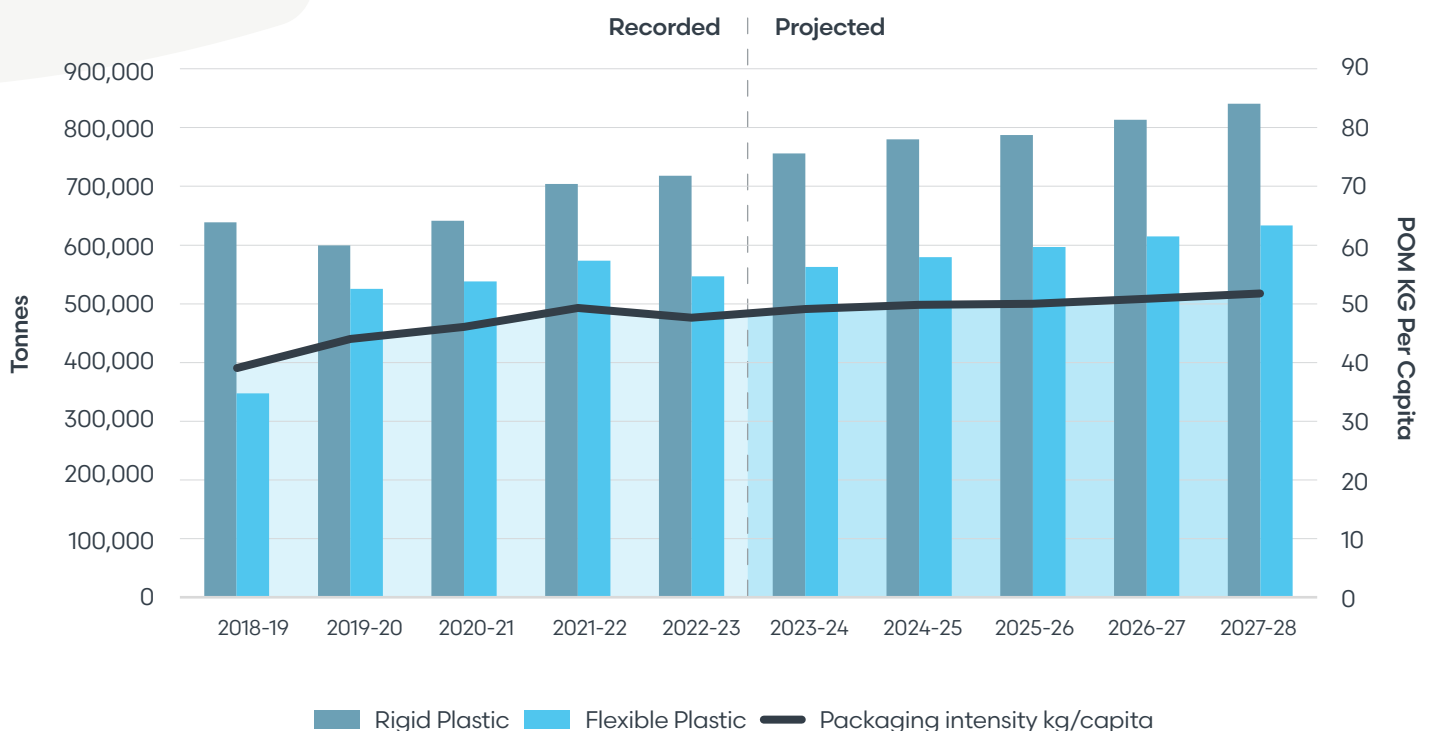


TOTAL PLASTIC

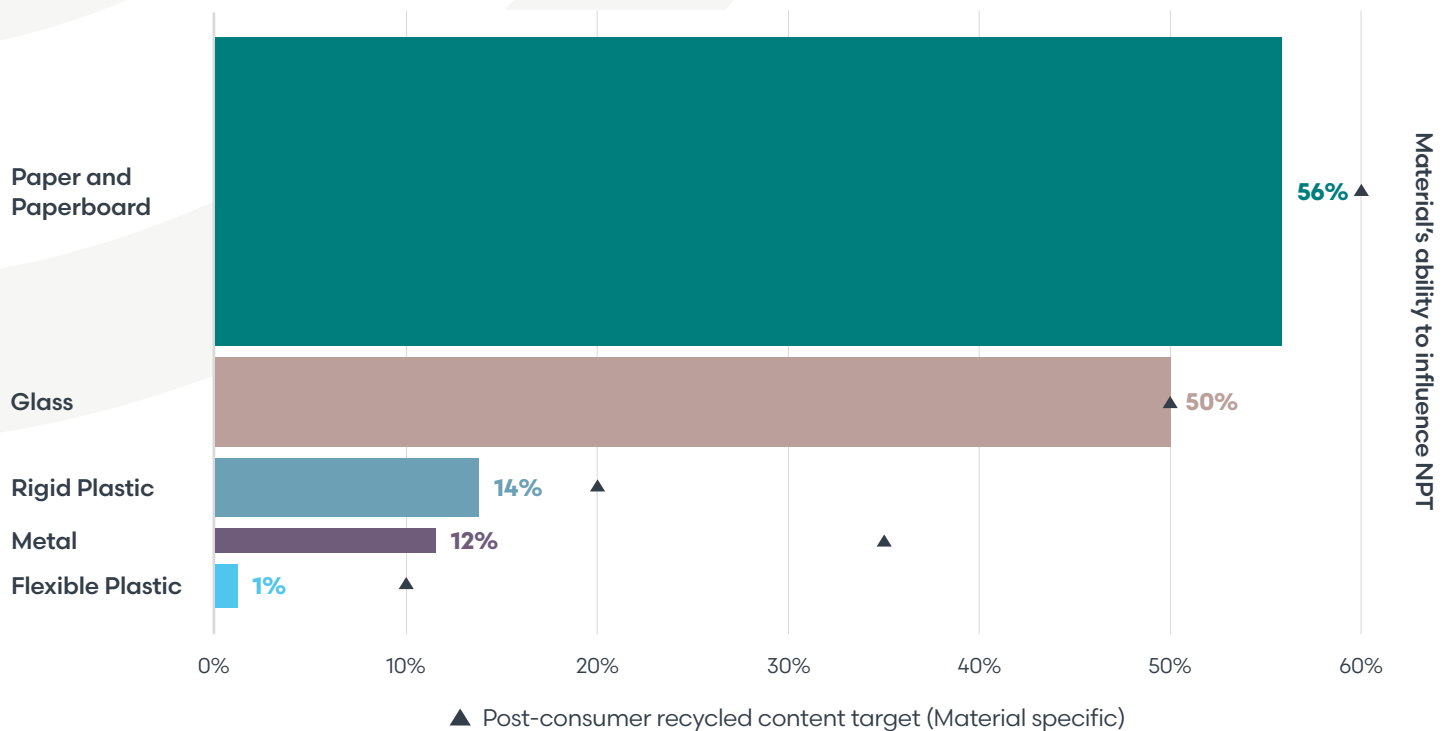
Recovery required to meet targets



Plastic packaging POM versus plastic intensity per capita



Percentage of material with post-consumer recycled content



TARGET

50%

of average recycled content across all materials

2022-23 RESULT

44%

of materials was made with post-consumer recycled material

*Excludes Wood

Progress versus recycled content percentage target by material over time

