

THE
FACTS
ABOUT



THE LEADER IN RESOURCE RECOVERY

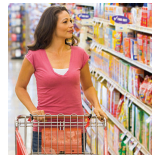
STEEL & ALUMINIUM

IN 2010, AUSTRALIANS RECYCLED ONLY **30.3% OF THEIR STEEL CANS AND 67.4% OF ALUMINIUM CANS**. MANY STEEL CANS ARE STILL BEING SENT TO LANDFILL, DESPITE **93% OF AUSTRALIANS** HAVING ACCESS TO KERBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICES THAT ACCEPT STEEL PACKAGING.

AUSTRALIANS SEND ENOUGH STEEL TO LANDFILL **EVERY YEAR** TO MAKE 40,000 FRIDGES!



Producing one aluminium can from raw materials requires the **same amount of energy** as producing 20 cans from recycled materials.



It takes only **60 days** for an aluminium can to be recycled and then put back on the shelf at the supermarket.



Every week in Australia, 17.5 million steel cans are recycled – enough steel to build **900 new cars**.

2b

More than **2 billion** aluminium cans are recycled by Australians each year.

Recycling one tonne of steel saves **1131kg** of iron ore, **54kg** of limestone and **633kg** of coal.

75

Using recycled steel cans to produce new steel (rather than raw materials), uses up to **75%** less energy.



The energy saved by recycling one aluminium can is enough to **run a TV for 3 hours**.



WHAT HAPPENS TO ALUMINIUM?

COLLECTION

Recycling is collected from homes, businesses and recycling sites and sent to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF).

MOLDING AND ROLLING

The liquid aluminium is poured into molds where it solidifies into blocks called 'ingots'. These are sent to rolling mills where they are flattened into sheets and made into new cans.

SEPARATION

At the MRF it is passed under a magnet to remove any steel (as aluminium is not magnetic, the aluminium cans will not be picked up).

MELTING

A 'decoater' blasts hot air (500°C) onto the aluminium pieces to remove any paint. They are then put into a furnace and heated to 700°C to form a liquid.

EDDY CURRENT

An 'eddy current' is used to induce a magnetic effect in the aluminium cans, which are then magnetically lifted from the other recycling.

BALING AND SHREDDING

The cans are squashed into blocks (called bales) and transported to an aluminium smelter, where they are shredded and passed under another magnet to remove any remaining steel.



Sources: Resource Smart, Can Smart, Planet Ark, Recycling Revolution and Australian Packaging Covenant