



# PACKALL

PackAlliance:  
European alliance for innovation training  
& collaboration towards future packaging

## Linking **Academy** to **Industry**.

### Training program: modules

- **Eco-design & novel manufacturing processing**
  - New materials and biomaterials
  - Citizen and Consumer Engagement
  - Residue management and valorisation



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## 1.4. Design for minimization

- 1.4.1. *The correct balance between under-packaging and over-packaging: decrease material usage maintain the right performance*
- 1.4.2. *Primary, secondary and tertiary packaging - the trade-offs*
- 1.4.3. *Complying with the essential requirements*

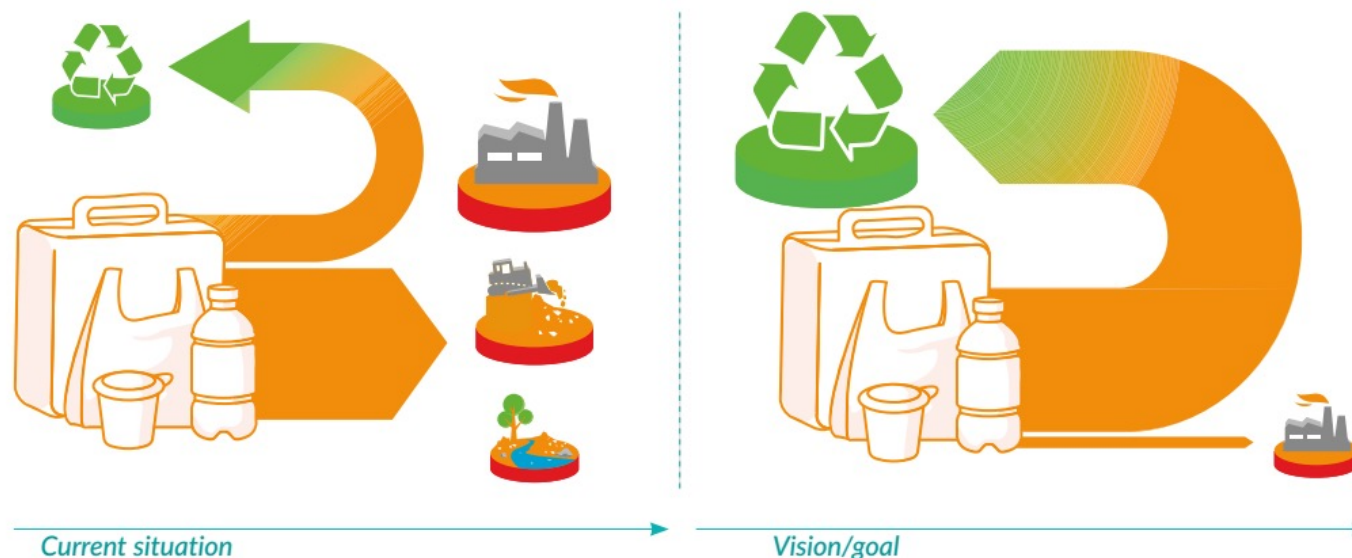
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## WHAT IS ECODESIGN?

It is a way of doing things. It is an attitude.

An attempt to address all efforts in industrial product development toward reducing the product environmental impact through all its lifetime.



EcoDesign requires a global vision. It's a choice.

**Reduce**  
*Our  
Impact*



**Reuse**  
*Our  
Energy*



**Renew**  
*Our  
World*



**Resolve**  
*Our  
Lives*



**Save**  
*Our  
Planet*



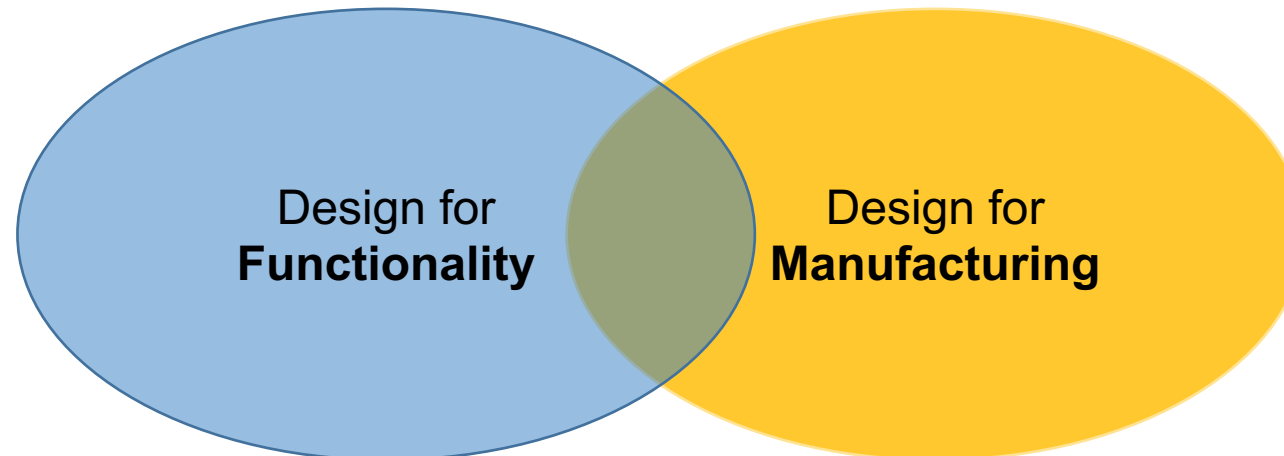
Traditionally, product development must move within a large set of requirements/prescriptions.

**Functionality** means the product must comply its function, avoiding failure.

*No way to sell something that does not work*

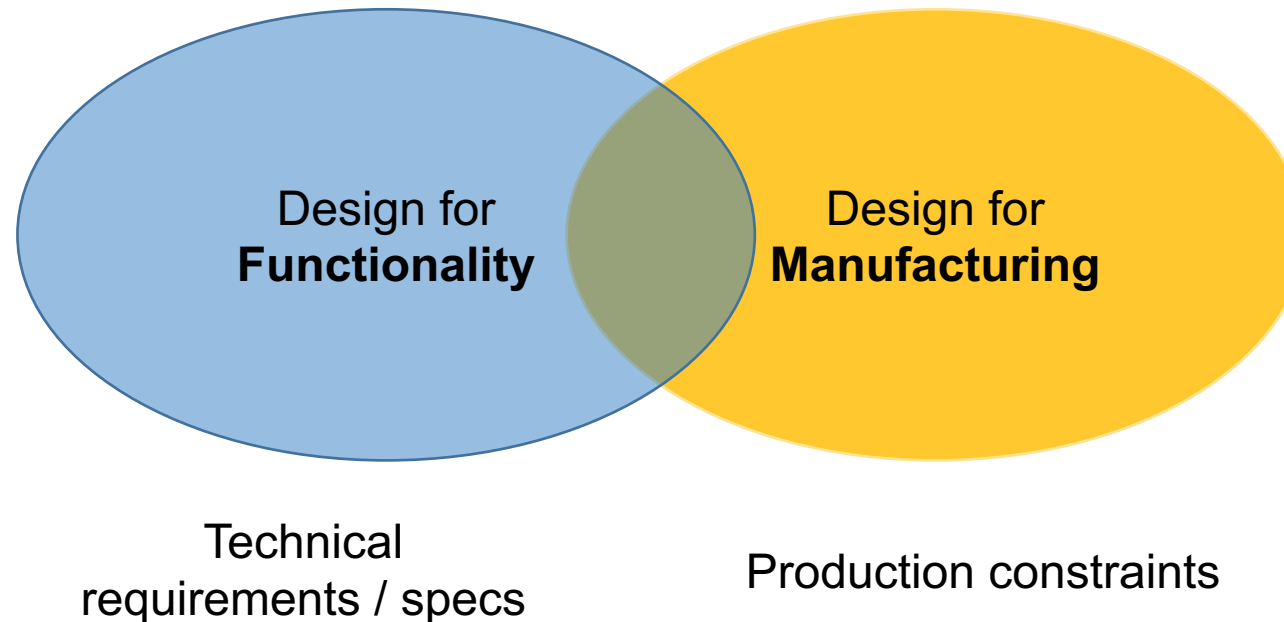
**Manufacturing** stands to put designer against the “principle of reality”.

*Not everything that comes to mind can be technologically realised*

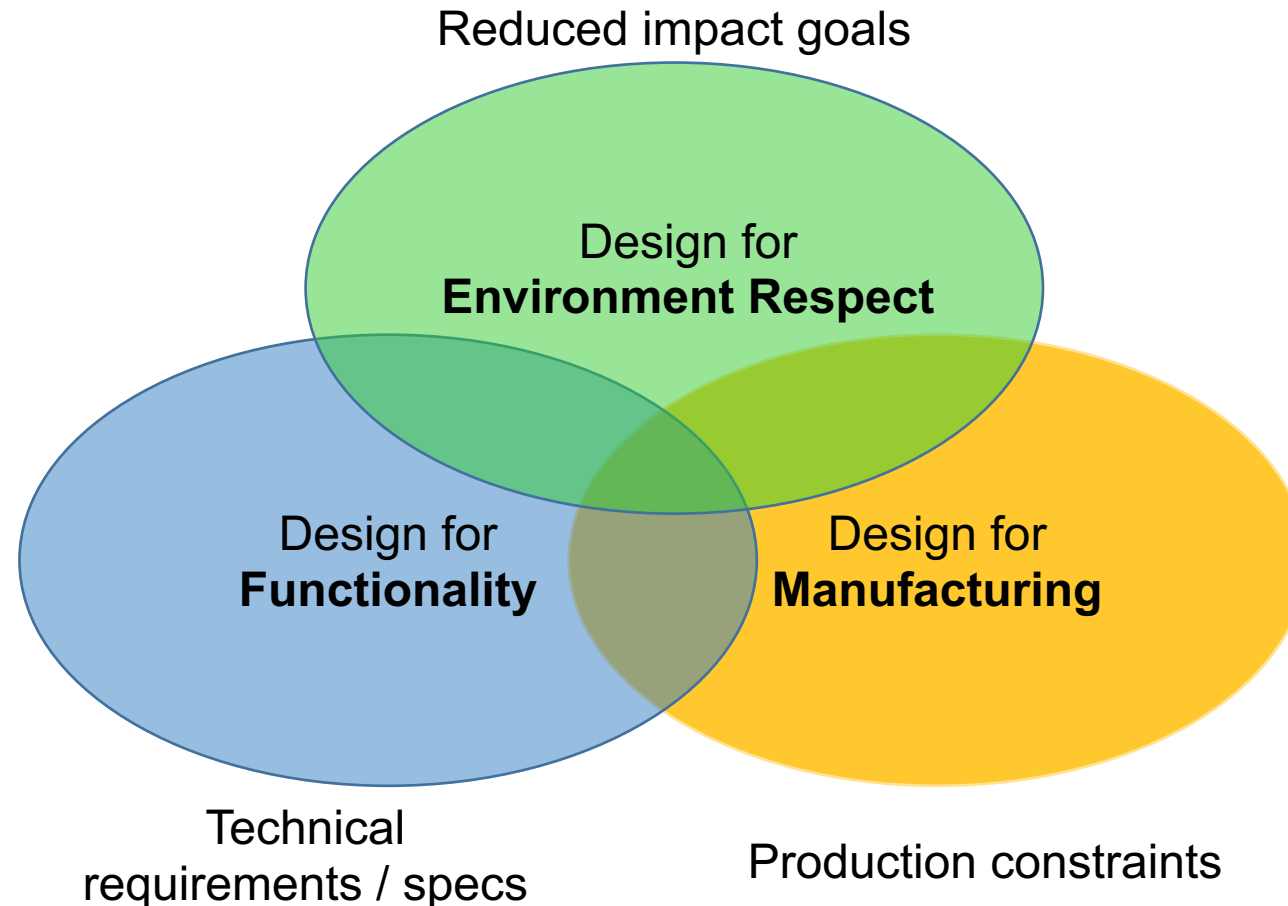


**EcoDesign** way of developing products must be carried out together with many other requirements.

During product development, those requirements –technical, economical, marketing– stay strong and cannot be forgotten or neglected, at any extent.



**EcoDesign** way of developing products must be carried out together with many other requirements.





Responsibility

There's no stronger or weaker requirement to prioritize.

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*They all are a designer's duties*





It has never been a designer's concern what is the product's ending.  
**Unfortunately.**

WASTES TO

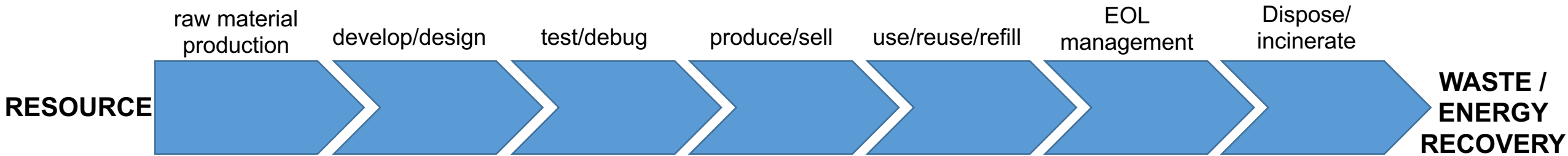


**ENVIRONMENT.**  
That's a shame



**LANDFILL.**  
It's a pity

In the last years, a **broader approach** integrates some more factor into traditional product development.



*value transferred*

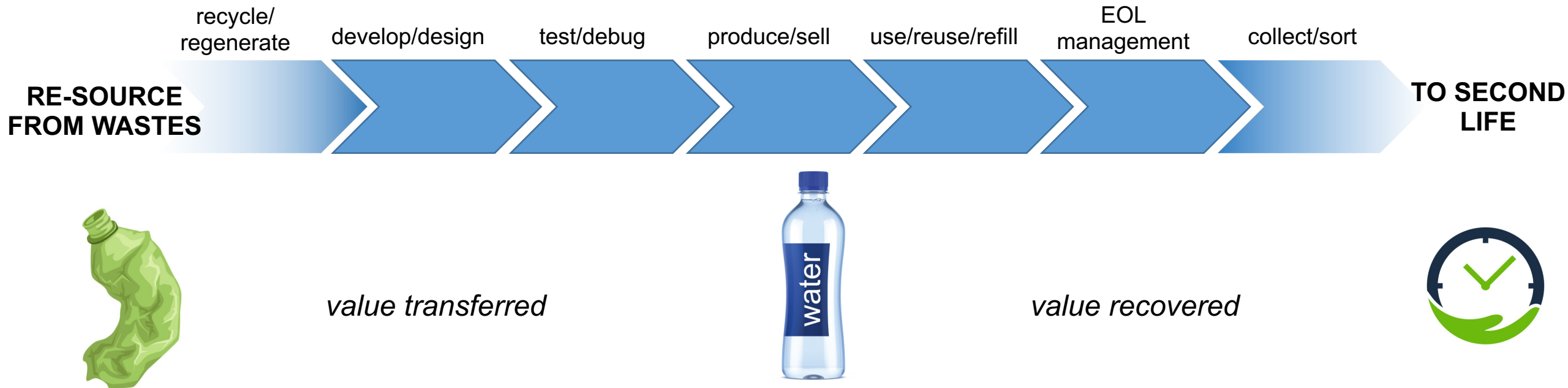


*value wasted*  
*value recovered*



**THAT'S NOT ENOUGH**

Nowadays, a newer way of thinking has showed up: the vision to ***turn wastes into resources again.***



**THAT'S THE WAY**

Changing our way of thinking. Changing our way of living. Changing our way to design.



## LINEAR ECONOMY



## CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Maintaining the value of products and materials.

Innovate products and create value.

Reduce waste, pollution, emission.

Moderate environmental impacts

Lost value of materials and products.

Scarcity of resources.

Waste generation

Environmental degradation and pollution

Climate change

The first step to EcoDesign is setting goals and define strategies.

Goals can be tightly focused or very general:

- reduce littering
- avoid realising materials and substances harmful for animals or plants
- stop the loss of biodiversity
- save energy and resources
- contrast climate exchange



In addition, priorities between goals are to be set in a strategical company green policy

Finally, goals must be made clear and communicable to make them shares and, thus, achievable.



Communicate your goal clearly to internal people (decision-makers, managers, workers) and to the outside (investors, share holders, customers).

**Make it part of your brand.**

Companies define corporate strategies as a global guiding light for their people and to persuade customers. Persuasion toward *Environmental Respect* is worthy.

Designers choose their strategies **each time** they approach a project.

EcoDesign strategies can be conjugate to the product, to its function, to its manufacturing route.







## APPROACHES

# STRATEGY ELEMENTS

## APPROACHES





EcoDesign for  
packaging

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*First of all,  
packaging is  
protection*

The priority function of packaging is **to protect the value** of the goods contained.

During transportation, delivery, stocking and so on, packaging takes care of its content.

Might this function fail, the value is lost.

Many different and demanding solicitations may occur before the goods reaches the customer.

Mechanical, thermal, environmental aggressions have to be faced.

Several kind of materials are used for packaging.

Any provide force-points and limitations.



**PAPER AND  
CARDBOARD**



**PLASTICS**



**GLASS**



**WOOD**



**METAL**



### PAPER AND CARDBOARD

*Kraft paper; bleached paper; parched paper; wax paper; paraffin paper; paper bags* (for packaging of bakery products, fast food, flour, cornmeal, etc.);

*Cardboard boxes* (for packaging of pizza, pastries, cakes, cereals, etc.);

*Cardboard laminated with polyethylene and aluminum boxes* (for packaging of liquid food products that requires hermetically sealing and sterilization);

*Cardboard crates* (for packaging of fruit and vegetables during transport).



### PLASTICS

*Bags* (for packaging of cereals, seeds, sugar, bakery products, etc.);

*Bottles and flasks* (for packaging of pasteurized milk, mustard, mayonnaise, tomatoes paste, etc.);

*Small capacity containers* (for packaging of dairy products: yogurt, cream, fresh cheese, ice cream, etc.);

*Drums and barrels* (for packaging of milk and dairy products during transportation).



**GLASS**

*Glass bottles* (for packaging of juices, soft drinks, mineral water, milk, alcoholic beverages, oil etc.);

*Glass jars* (for packaging of food products preserved by sterilization, honey, yogurt, candy, etc.).



**WOOD**

*Wooden crates* (for packaging of fruits and vegetables during transport);

*Wood barrels* (for production/processing, transport and storage of wine and other alcoholic beverages, etc.).





### METAL

*Aluminium sheets* (for packing of butter, chocolate, candies, etc.);

*Metallic cans* (for packaging of meat products, stewed fruit, mushrooms, beans, peas, etc.);

*Aluminium cans* (for packaging of beer, soft drinks, juices, some alcoholic beverages);

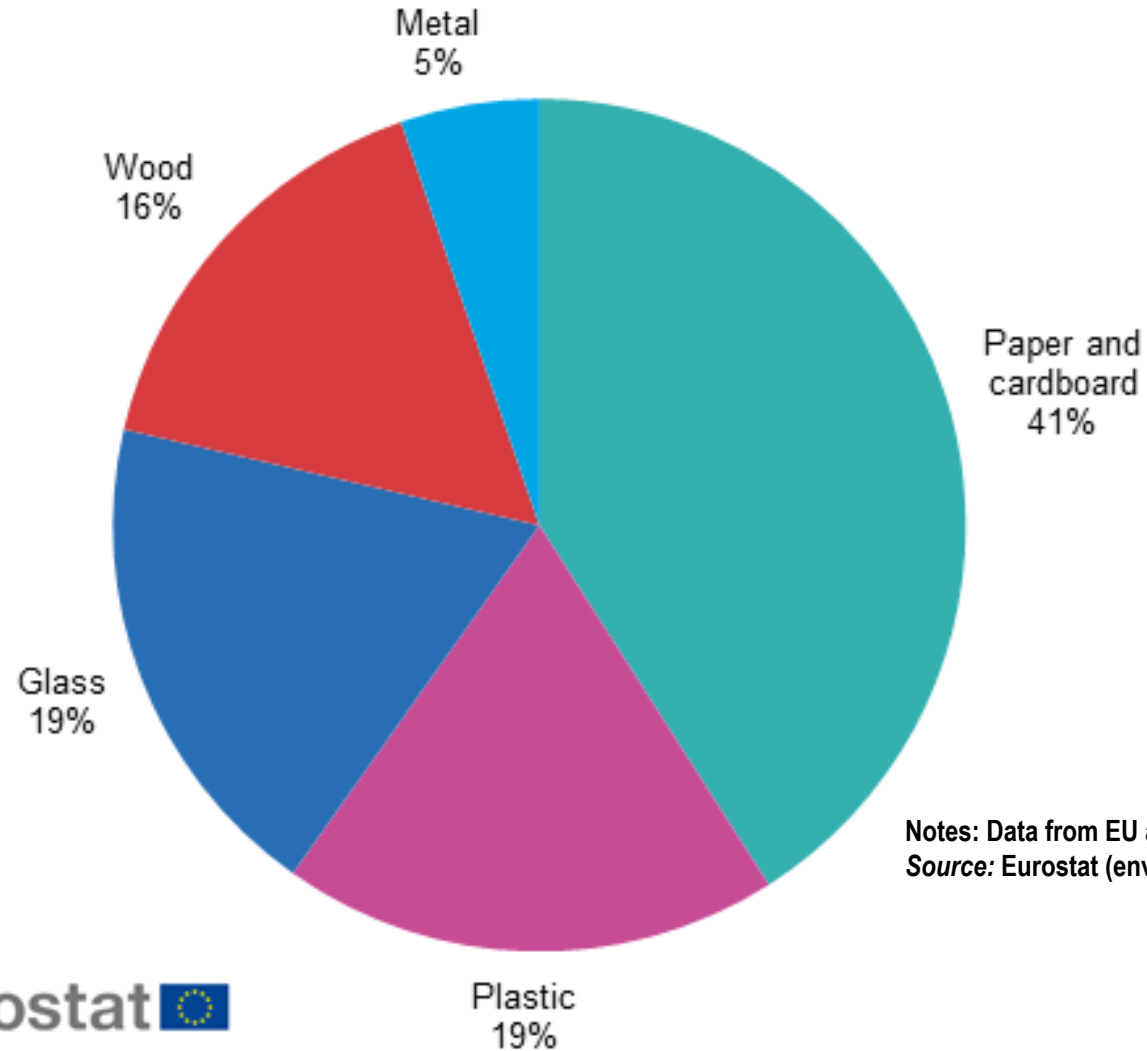
*Tubes* (for packaging of pasty products, mayonnaise, mustard, spicy pasta);

*Barrels* (for packaging and transport of beer and wine);

*Aerosol packages (sprays)* (for packaging of flavouring substances, creams, whipped cream, sauces, etc.).

## PACKAGING WASTE GENERATED BY PACKAGING MATERIAL, EU, 2016

(%)



Notes: Data from EU aggregates have been estimated by EUROSTAT  
Source: Eurostat (env\_waspac)

According to their scope, packaging can be distinguished in:



**PRIMARY  
PACKAGING**



**SECONDARY  
PACKAGING**



**TERTIARY  
PACKAGING**



## PRIMARY PACKAGING (sale packaging)

It is designed to contain, support or preserve the product throughout its lifetime.

Examples are: septic packages for dairy products, trays for fish or meat, bags for potato chips, cans for vegetables, containers for juices, flexible packaging, etc.



## SECONDARY PACKAGING (group packaging)

Packaging designed to constitute, at the point of purchasing, a grouping of a number of sales units.

May be sold to the consumer as a group or serve just as a means of filling shelves in the point of sale.

Secondary packaging can be separated from the product without affecting the product's characteristics.



### **TERTIARY PACKAGING** (transport packaging)

It is the packaging designed to facilitate the handling and transport of a number of sales units or grouped packages.

It is also intended to prevent damage of the products during transport from one economic operator to another.

Guidelines can be followed by designers to approach an **eco-sustainable project**.

Intent must be clear, sharp.

Five cutting-edge keypoints can be outlined.

*Design to  
Reduce*



*Design to  
Reuse*



*Design to  
Renew*



*Design to  
Resolve*



*Design to  
Save*





*Design to*  
**REDUCE**



EcoDesigner must think at the packaging design by optimising its shape, size and weight.

He should address efforts to:

Minimize the number of components/parts

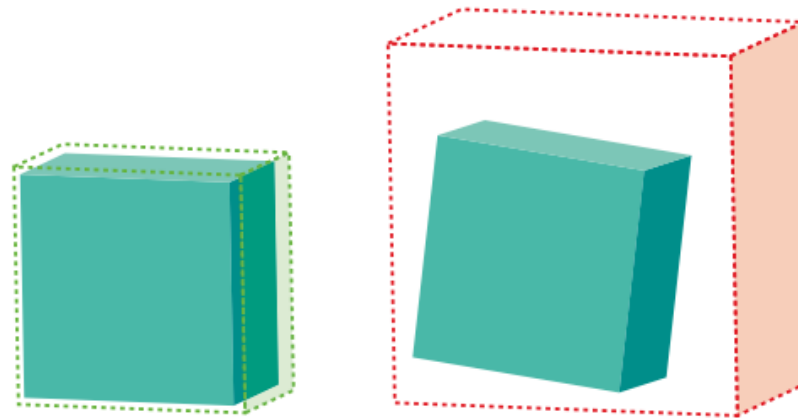
Remove from design all that is unnecessary

Integrate functions

Reduce to minimum the weight of single components optimizing performance and productivity

This packaging optimization is carried out by:

- Reducing the packaging wall thickness
- Use effective structures to reinforce the packaging without increasing its mass
- Removing the spaces, layers and components not necessary
- Increasing the bulk density of the product by concentration (for some products such as: coffe, juices, detergents etc.)



A balance between overpackaging and underpackaging needs to be found with regard to the protection of packed goods.

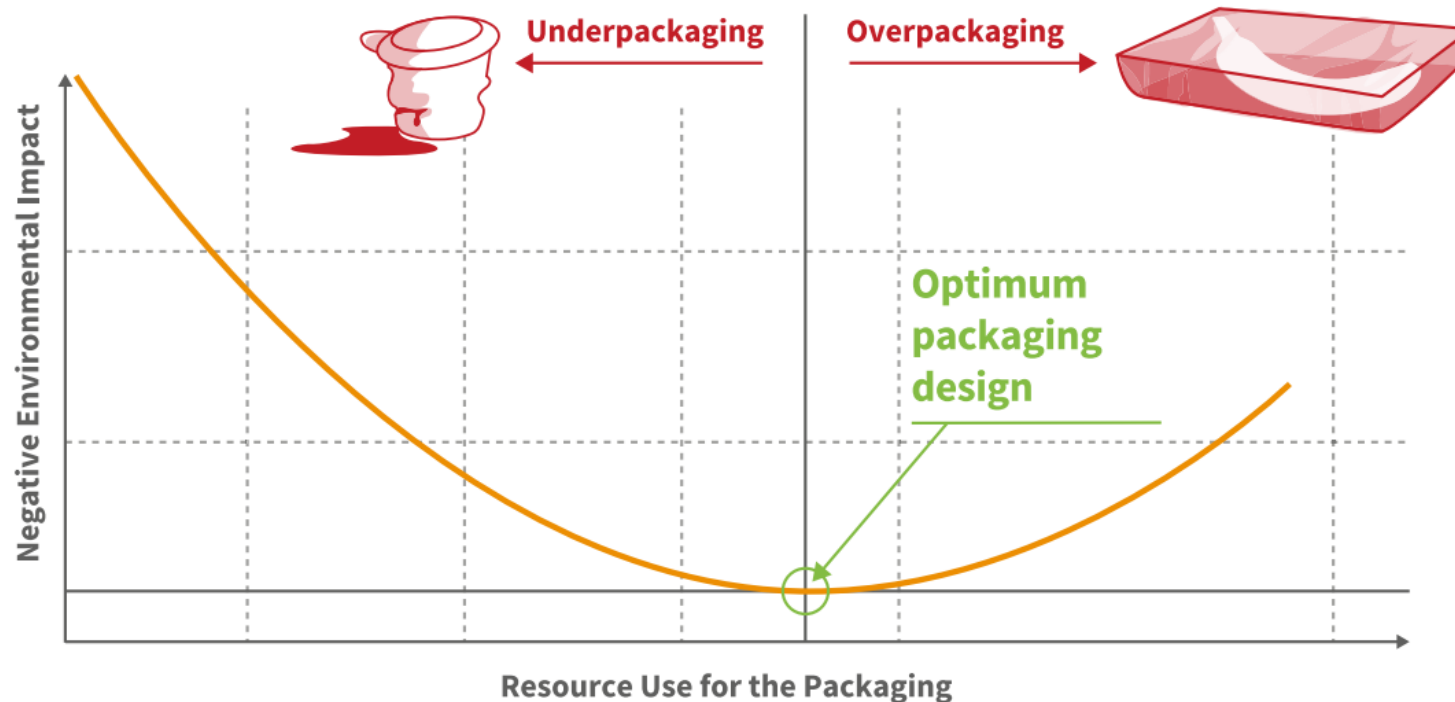
As packaging main function is to protect the goods, **under-packaging is usually far worse** for the environment than over packaging.

- Over-packaging by 10% means that 10% of the resources needed to produce the packaging are wasted, and extra fuel will be needed to distribute it.
- Under-packaging that results in the product being spoilt or damaged wastes 100% of the resources used to produce both the contents and its packaging, and all the fuel used to distribute it.

Ten times more energy and materials are locked up in household goods and food than in the packaging around them (Source: Dr J M Kooijman).

Under dimensioning and over dimensioning have a trade off.

A point of minimum impact can always be found. This is the task of the EcoDesigner by comparing different solutions.





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