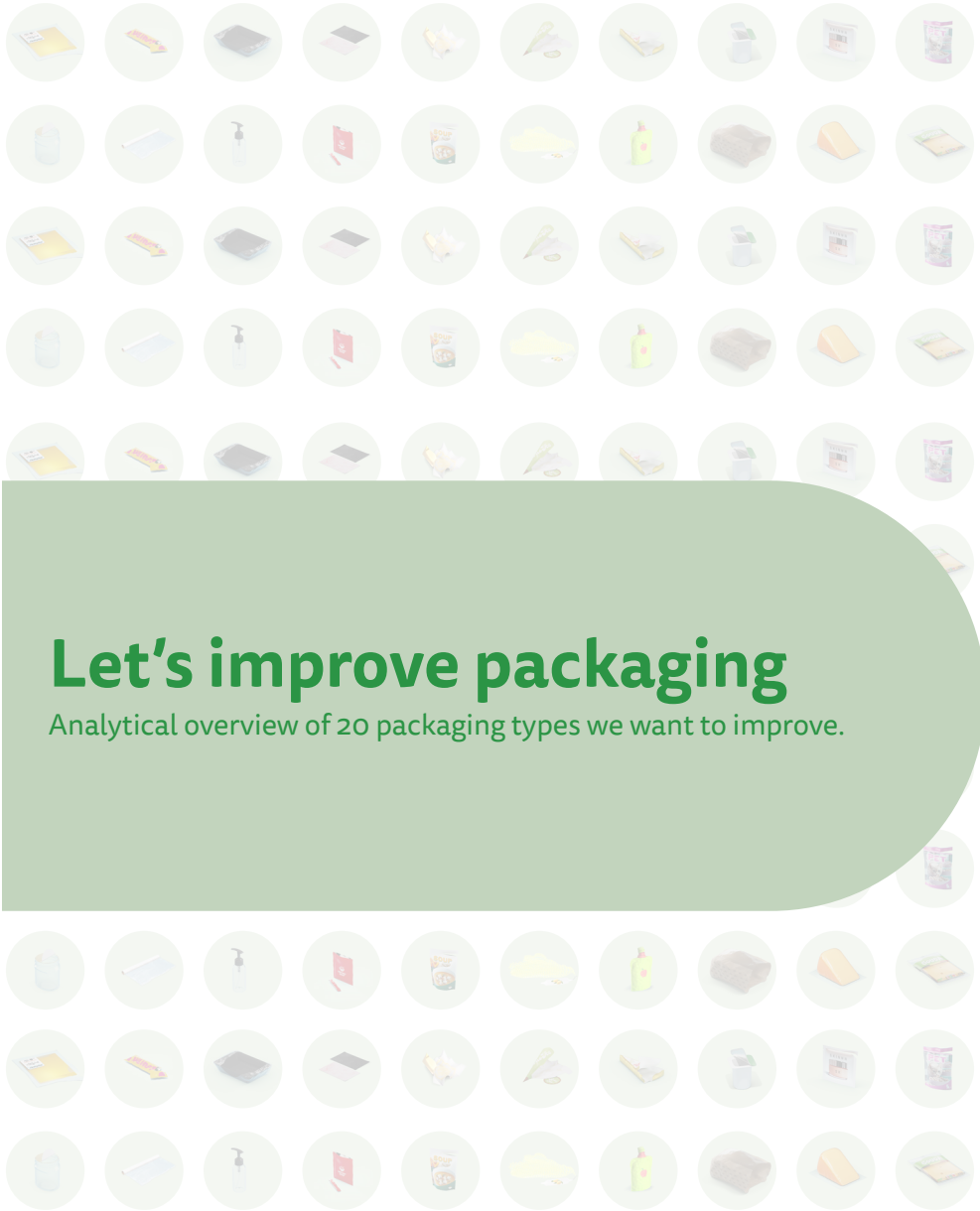

Let's improve packaging

Analytical overview of 20 packaging types we want to improve.

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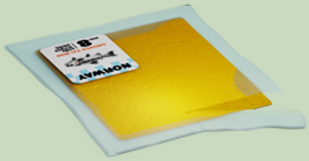
1

Cardboard tray for smoked salmon



Problem:

A double-sided coated cardboard tray is not suitable for recycling within the existing paper cardboard recycling infrastructure, as the sorting message is ‘clean and dry’ and the fat from the salmon contaminates the fibres in the tray and also in other packaging in the paper cardboard stream.

It also clashes with the sorting message to consumers which is ‘clean and dry’ for the paper cardboard stream. Consumers may sort the packaging without separating the parts, leading to contamination of either the plastic or the paper cardboard stream.

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2

Dried sausage packaging

Problem:

Aluminium laminates (plastic/aluminium/plastic) are often used. Laminates containing a layer of aluminium (>1µm) are not recyclable within the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure.

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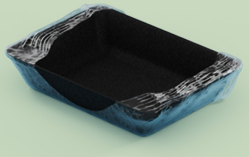
3

Carbon black packaging

for meat, ready meals, etc.



Problem:

Carbon black does not reflect NIR light so sorting installations are unable to recognise the plastic (incineration).

Packages containing carbon black are therefore sorted as residual waste which usually goes to incineration or may go to mixed plastics (thick wall injection moulding) (cf. Recycle Check for the Netherlands)

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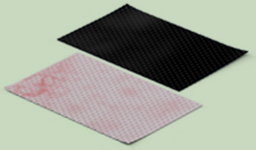
4

Absorbent pads for meat and fish



Problem:

Absorbent pads are usually made from different polymers and are not recyclable within the current sorting and recycling infrastructure. Absorbent pads contain food residues and are moist after use. Fibre-based versions are therefore not suitable for recycling in the paper cardboard stream.

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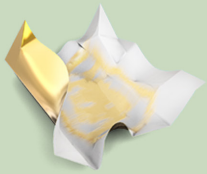
5

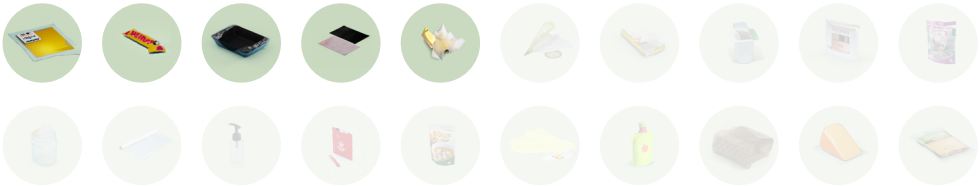
Dairy: butter packaging



Problem:

Paper/aluminium/plastic is often used, which is not recyclable within the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure.

It is not suitable for the paper cardboard stream because butter leaves a fat residue.



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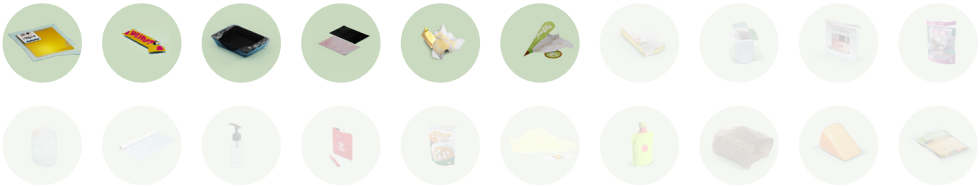
6

Dairy: ice cream cornets

Problem:

Paper/aluminium/plastic is often used, which is not recyclable within the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure and is not suitable for paper cardboard stream.

Alternatives using high-barrier paper are probably not suitable for the paper cardboard stream due to the presence of fatty food residues (oil, ice cream or chocolate).



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7

Dairy: soft cheeses

Problem:

Paper/aluminium/plastic is often used, which is not recyclable within the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure.

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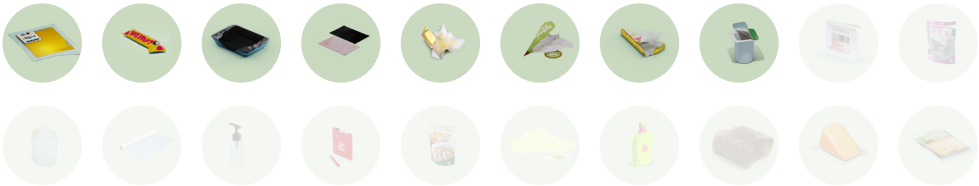
8

Dairy: yoghurt lidding materials

Problem:

These often contain ‘paper/metallised PET’, which is not recyclable within the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure.



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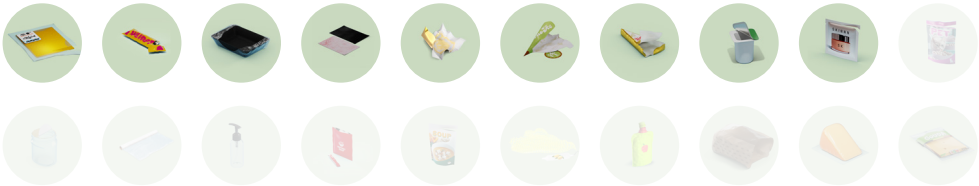
9

Cosmetic sachets

Problem:

Aluminium laminates (plastic/aluminium/plastic) are often used. Laminates containing a layer of aluminium (>1µm) are not recyclable within the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure.



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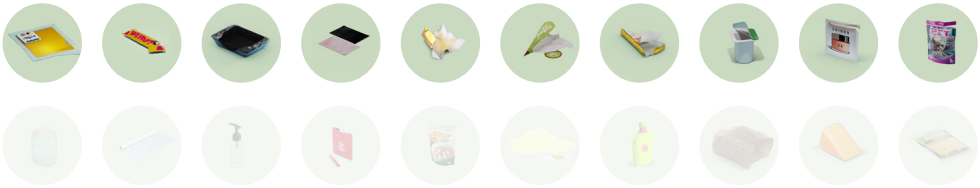
10

Wet pet food pouches

Problem:

Aluminium laminates (plastic/aluminium/plastic) are often used. Laminates containing a layer of aluminium (>1µm) are not recyclable within the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure.



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11

Lidding materials

for sauces, spices, chocolate pastes

Problem:

Paper/aluminium/plastic is often used, which is not recyclable within the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure.

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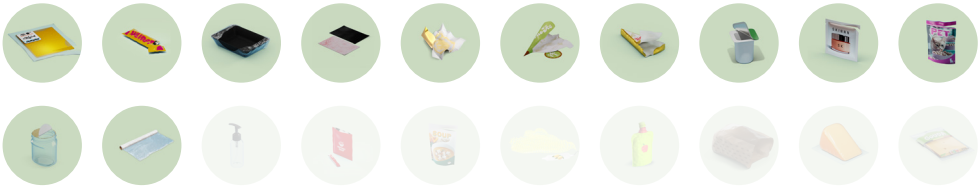
12

PVC cling film e.g. on XPS trays

Problem:

PVC cling film is not recyclable within the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure.

It may accidentally find its way into other streams where it interferes with recycling; if it goes to residual waste it corrodes process equipment due to the formation of HCl.



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13

Soap or cleaning product dispensers

Problem:

These often contain a combination of plastic and metal and may contain a silicone tube, glass particles and other polymers. The metal will disrupt the plastic stream, or the plastic will disrupt the metal stream.

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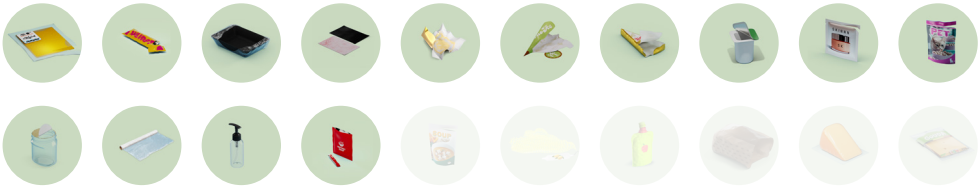
14

Sachets for dried soup and seasonings

Problem:

These often contain paper/aluminium/plastic, which is not recyclable within the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure.



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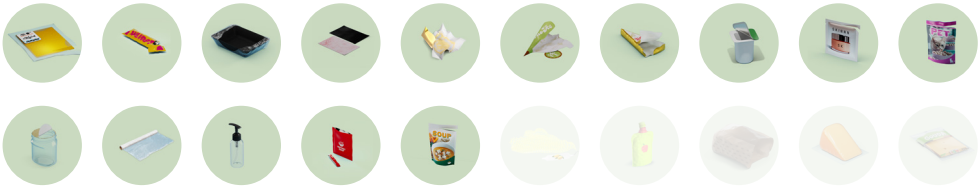
15

Stand-up pouch for soup

Problem:

Aluminium laminates (plastic/aluminium/plastic) are often used. Laminates containing a layer of aluminium (>1µm) are not recyclable within the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure.



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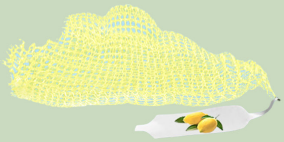
16

Nets for vegetables or fruit



Problem:

Sorting issues may occur depending on the infrastructure (contamination of ballistic separators)

Issues during recycling: a lot of metal clips, contamination due to other packaging caught in the net.

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17

Yoghurt pouch with spout

Problem:

Aluminium laminates (plastic/aluminium/plastic) are often used. Laminates containing a layer of aluminium (>1µm) are not recyclable within the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure.

May be sorted into rigids instead of flexibles due to the spout on the pouch (will be recycled with rigid fraction, e.g. rigid PP).

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18

Bakery and bread bags with plastic window

Problem:

Despite the sustainable appearance, when a paper bag has a plastic window, the plastic will not be recycled.

Consumers are confused about how to sort these, so they often end up in residual waste.

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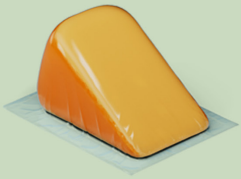
19

Vacuum pack for cheese blocks



Problem:

Vacuum packs for blocks of cheese are often made from multiple material, such as OPA/PE. These materials are currently still allowed in the Belgian other films stream, but they are not future proof.

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20

Flowpacks for cheese

Problem:

Flowpacks for slices of cheese are often made from multiple materials such as OPA/PE. These materials are currently still allowed in the Belgian other films stream, but they are not future proof.

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