

All systems "green"



**Sustainability at Vetropack.** *The Vetropack Group is committed to the “three-pillar model” of sustainability and fully recognises its economic, environmental and social responsibility. With this in mind, sustainability is more than just a strategic approach for the Vetropack Group; it is a fundamental attitude and thus forms an integral part of every management task.*

## Social responsibility

Putting corporate governance into practice, following a binding, transparent and clearly formulated code of conduct, taking comprehensive occupational health and safety measures, adopting a participative management style which involves staff in the decision-making process, and fulfilling employees' social requirements – regardless of which location they are based in – are the essential foundations for ensuring social sustainability at Vetropack.

## A sustainable approach to business

Sustainability and the long-term success of a business go hand in hand. Energy efficiency and the conservation of resources, for example, can lead to cost savings which are necessary, from an operational perspective, for enabling the business to hold its own in a competitive environment. Commercial success is essential for building up the financial resources needed to make investments – investments which, in turn, ensure quality, environmental protection and competitiveness for the Group.

## An unlimited and never-ending process

In the Vetropack Group, no geographical boundaries apply when it comes to thinking and acting in a sustainable way. Sustainability is regarded as a group-wide mission, a perpetual process of improvement, and it is always geared towards customer requirements. After all, sustainability in all its aspects also plays a key role in Vetropack's capacity as a business partner and supplier.

*Vetropack: every aspect of thinking and acting in a sustainable way forms an integral part of our corporate philosophy and responsibility.*

*Pioneering developments and technologies: glass batch preheaters, lightweight glass, thermal hardening and, of course, recycling.*

## Economy meets ecology

**A pioneer in glass recycling.** Vetropack began recycling used glass in Switzerland back in the 1970s. In the six countries where the Vetropack Group's glassworks are based, the company collects used glass, either independently or in collaboration with special-purpose associations, which is then fed into the recycling process. Conscientious handling of raw materials is an essential element of environmental sustainability, and the use of cullet also saves energy during the melting process: every 10 percent of used glass saves 3 percent in energy and reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 7 percent.

**Quicker melting.** Using the hot flue gases from the melter to preheat glass batches – made up of the raw materials quartz sand, sodium carbonate, lime, dolomite and feldspar – is an ideal way to save energy and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Material which is already warm does not need to be heated up again, which means it can be melted down more quickly. Vetropack has worked closely with the companies Zippe, Horn Glass Industries and TNO Science & Industry to develop a state-of-the-art glass batch preheater, which has been operating successfully as a pilot system at the plant in Straža, Croatia. During normal operation, up to 320 tonnes of melted glass can be preheated per day.

**What's new?** Previous glass batch preheaters required the use of at least 60 percent cullet, while the new process offers considerably more flexibility in terms of formulating the quantity of cullet to be included in the batch. This makes it possible to use this technology on a group-wide basis, as there is not always enough cullet available in any one location to consistently make up at least 60 percent of the raw material used. The amount of cullet which can be used also varies depending on the colour of the glass.



**Lightweight glass – an impressive achievement.** Lightweight glass technology guarantees thin-walled glass containers, which compare favourably with conventional glass packaging in terms of stability and strength while retaining all the environmental benefits offered by glass. Lightweight glass is completely recyclable and does not impact on the contents of the containers. The lighter weight also saves on transport costs.

**Hard glass – simply strong.** Vetropack has been working with the glass machinery manufacturer Emhart Glass to commercialise a new kind of technology for producing thermally hardened packaging glass. With the new hardening process, it is possible either to significantly increase breaking resistance or to reduce the weight of the glass. In practice, any desired combination of these two qualities can be produced. Hardened glass containers can also be recycled just like normal packaging glass. Industrial production is being tested at the Vetropack plant in Pöchlarn, Austria.

**For the good of the environment.** Reducing the weight of glass by means of lightweight glass technology or thermal hardening generates multiple savings, which helps protect the environment. Fewer raw materials are required and resources are conserved, while the significant reduction in material consumption and the high proportion of used glass as a secondary raw material cut CO<sub>2</sub> emission considerably.

## Vetropack: top-quality products preserving value for you

The Vetropack Group is one of Europe's leading manufacturers of glass for packaging. It operates seven plants in Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovakia and Ukraine, and employs 3,000 staff. The glass factories are certified under ISO 9001 and have a total of 16 melting furnaces with a daily production capacity of 4,000 tonnes of glass for packaging.

**Glass meets the highest specifications.** The Vetropack Group supplies its customers in the food and drink industry with glass containers that meet the highest specifications. They provide complete protection for the product and also embody product image and marketing strategies. Vetropack's services range from packaging design, production and logistics through to technical consultancy.

**Leading the way in environmental protection.** As long ago as the 1970s, Vetropack introduced a system in Switzerland for recycling used glass, making the group a pioneer in glass recycling. With its commitment to recycling and continuous investment in the latest production facilities, in recent decades Vetropack has succeeded in substantially reducing its consumption of raw materials and energy and its emissions of harmful substances.

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