



Återvinnings industrierna

SRI's view on the Circular Economy

The Swedish Recycling Industries' Association (SRI) welcomes the ambition to change from a linear economy to a circular economy. It will create a more resource efficient society, reduce greenhouse gases, lead to new innovative business and recycling solutions, new jobs and new companies. The recycling sector in Sweden has so far grown by 60 % since year 2000. The material recycling contributes to a reduction of greenhouse gases of more than 6 Mtons, equal to approximately 10 % of the emissions in Sweden.

The recycling companies play a key role in a circular economy and in cooperating with actors across the whole value chain to make recycling more competitive and cost efficient.

In order to successively achieve a circular economy with well-functioning markets across all parts of the product value chain, all actors must be incentivized to taking responsibility and supportive economic instruments must be introduced. EU has an important role in setting the Framework for the Circular Economy.



SRI calls for developing the market for recycled raw materials via

- Stimulating the demand side by introducing incentives for manufacturers to use recycled materials, e.g. reduced VAT, energy tax
- Developing the supply side by setting quality standards on the recycled raw materials, such as end of waste criteria or similar criteria
- Ensuring that the recycling companies have access to the waste flows and can influence the collection to secure production of high quality recycling
- Ensuring that the public sector has a key role in demanding recycled raw materials in their public procurement

SRI calls for significant improvements of design for efficient recycling via

- Introducing requirements on products to be designed to facilitate recycling, e.g. product design certification schemes
- Stimulating cooperation between recyclers and designers and product manufacturers
- Introducing design for recycling and use of recycled raw materials in the product labelling schemes
- Ensuring that the public sector has also a key role in demanding products designed for recycling

SRI calls for ambitious, clear defined recycling targets and economic instruments via

- Setting separate recycling targets for waste from households and the same waste fractions from the commercial sector, and thereby stimulating all actors to reach the targets and find innovative solutions. If EU prefers a common goal a collector neutral term should be used.
- Introducing incentives and economic instruments to ensure that recyclable materials are not incinerated, also for the commercial and industrial sector, e.g. require that the waste must be sorted and introduce a ban on incineration of unsorted waste
- Investigating targets to be set for recycling of critical raw materials within the WEEE directive
- Defining general rules and definitions for EPR schemes on EU level, while ensuring that the Member States set the detailed regulations, giving possibilities also for voluntary systems

SRI calls for open up the waste markets and ensure competition neutrality

- Giving commercial actors, like SME's, the responsibility for all their waste, to enable them to buy the waste management services they need. This means that the municipalities should not have monopoly on waste similar to household waste. The term municipal waste should be avoided as it is a barrier to an open market
- Ensuring that municipalities handle all market players in a competitively neutral way and that the municipalities on the market are subject to the same regulations as private companies in order to ensure a level playing field
- Distinguishing between the municipalities' different roles by separating the roles of the municipal government and authorities from the role as market player role performing services for the municipality
- Ensuring that cross subsidisation is not taking place between the municipalities' monopoly and commercial services, e.g. introduce requirements on separate accounting and ensure that municipality activities are not in conflict with the public procurement and competition laws.
- Require mandatory tendering of public procurement of all the municipal waste management services.