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Fost Plus accelerates the transition to **sustainable management of household packaging materials**.

This non-profit organisation was founded in 1994 by companies marketing packaged products that wanted to live up to their Extended Producer Responsibility (the take-back obligation). Soon after it was set up, selective collection of household packaging materials began in Belgium with the introduction of the blue bag. The citizen is at the centre in this approach that is intended to prevent packaging from becoming waste.

Fost Plus:

- organises and finances the **selective collection, sorting and recycling of household packaging**.
- works with its 5,000 members towards **sustainable management of packaging** by encouraging better packaging designs, facilitating the transition to alternative packaging systems such as reusable packaging and providing innovative solutions to reduce the presence of packaging in litter.
- **works on innovation in the packaging (recycling) chain**. As a central actor interacting with government, citizens, the recycling chain and industry, we are able to offer advice, knowledge and solutions that help to complete the recycling chains for materials.



97%

Today, **Fost Plus recycles 97% of the household packaging** put on the market by its members. Every day our 70 dedicated people work hard to make a positive impact on our planet. Through collaboration, communication and innovation, we help everyone to become a link in the circular economy. This is our way of building sustainable material chains to create a cleaner environment and a better world. Fost Plus has embarked on a journey to add to that societal role during the coming years.

Our key activities



1. Encouraging sorting at home

Fost Plus aims to make the right behaviour easy through uniform sorting rules and practical door-to-door collections. The first blue bag appeared on the streets of Belgium 30 years ago. Today, we collect **24.4 kg of PMD per person** via this route (2023). That means Belgium is at the top in Europe when it comes to recycling household packaging.

2. Promoting collection out of home

Sort PMD anytime, anywhere! We are working with organisations in the sector, our members, waste operators and partners to find solutions to increase selective collection everywhere. In 2023, for instance, **26,000 tonnes of PMD** were collected from businesses.

3. Recycling locally

We process packaging close to home into high-quality recycled material. Fost Plus is expanding its local recycling and sorting capacity in Belgium with **six new sorting centres** and **six new recycling centres**. **78%** of the materials collected are already recycled **in Belgium**. In 2025, we expand the post-sorting of residual PMD waste to keep even more packaging materials in the circular economy.



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4. Tackling litter

Everyone wants a clean environment. Belgians rank litter as their number one annoyance: that is true for citizens, businesses and local authorities. However, there are no easy solutions. Only lasting changes in behaviour and systematic approaches on the ground can create a cleaner public space. As their Extended Producer Responsibility increases in scope, companies want to play an even more active role in this process.

5. Sustainable packaging

It all starts with sustainable thinking about packaging, right from the design stage. Through innovation in the packaging recycling chain and cooperation with packaging companies, the share of **non-recyclable packaging** has fallen from **20,000 tonnes** in 2020 to **9,000 tonnes** in 2023. Fost Plus also supports companies through a hands-on approach based on reuse, prevention and recyclability.

