

# CLOSING THE LOOP

**OF THERMOFORMED PET PACKAGING**

in Europe · RETRAY information dossier



**ECOSENSE  
FOUNDATION**  
RECYCLED & RECYCLABLE PET PACKAGING

[www.ecosensefoundation.org](http://www.ecosensefoundation.org)

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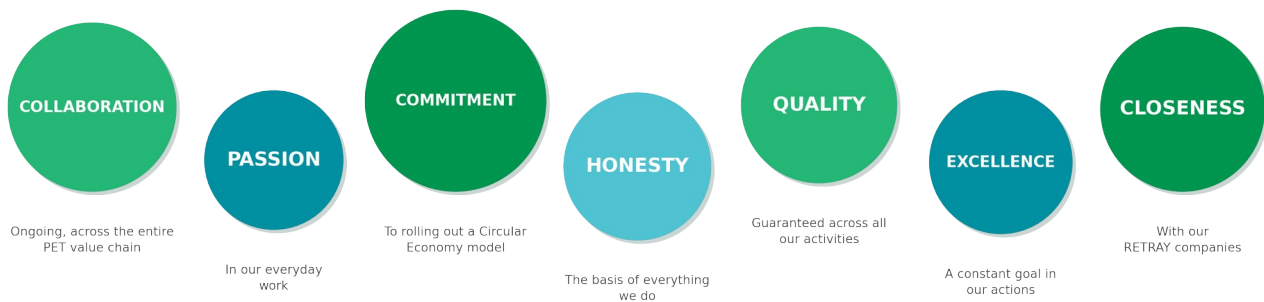
DISCOVER OUR STORY

## Who we are

Ecosense Foundation was created in 2017, driven by companies from the sector and the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Environment, with a clear objective: to bring transparency and traceability to the work of the entire thermoformed PET packaging value chain in the field of the Circular Economy.

We are a team with extensive professional experience in the PET field. We own the RETRAY certification scheme, are partners of POLYCERT Europe and members of the Circular Plastics Alliance, PETCORE Europe and PACKNET. Our board of trustees and executive team are made up of representatives from the leading companies in the value chain, including Sulayr Recycling PET Trays.

### Our values



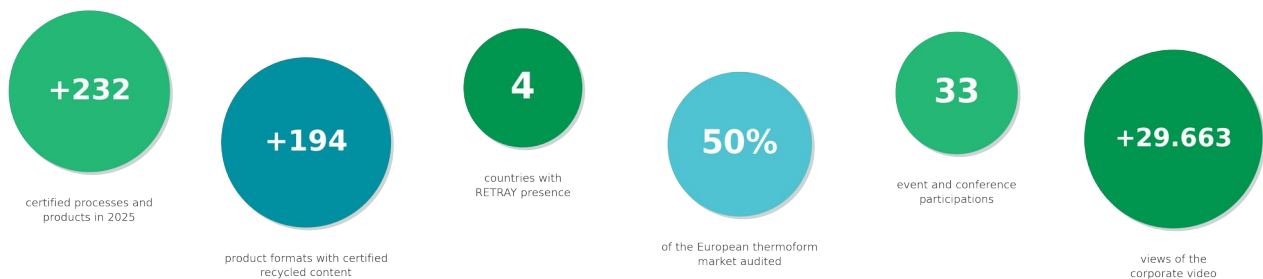
### Our three lines of activity

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>INFORMATION &amp; KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER</b> | We generate knowledge on recyclability and eco-design for the whole thermoformed PET sector.                                                                                                                |
| <b>CERTIFICATION</b>                        | We grant RETRAY, with ENAC accreditation, to sheet producers, thermoformers and food packers; we approve processes and certify products for recyclers, recovery operators, waste managers and distributors. |
| <b>COLLABORATION</b>                        | We represent the sector in European forums, conferences and working groups alongside associations and public and private entities.                                                                          |

2025, THE FOUNDATION IN FIGURES

## A year of growth for RETRAY

The network of companies certified and approved by Ecosense Foundation keeps growing across Europe. These figures summarise the Foundation's activity over the last financial year:



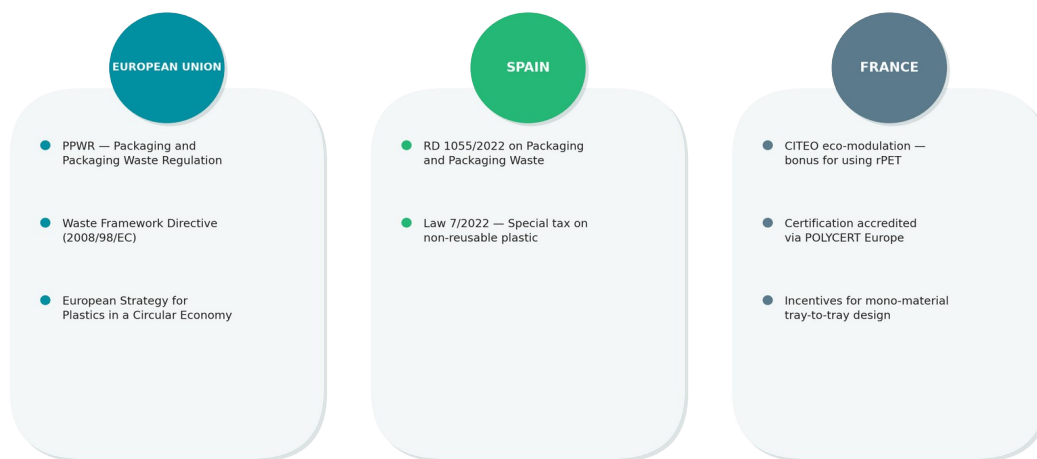
*In 2025 new companies joined the scheme, including Servioplast Manufacturas and Filmpack Aragón (RETRAY Process), while Formaspack and Evertis Ibérica in Portugal brought their in-house recycling processes into the approval circuit.*

*Source: 2025 Activity Report, Ecosense Foundation.*

REGULATORY CONTEXT

## Updated regulatory framework

The regulatory context is pushing hard towards rPET and real recyclability. Three levels coexist today, and RETRAY responds to all three at once:



### EUROPEAN UNION

- PPWR: recyclability requirements, minimum recycled content and eco-design obligations for plastic packaging, including thermoformed PET.
- Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC): waste hierarchy and extended producer responsibility (EPR).
- European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy: drives the use of rPET and effective tray recyclability.

### SPAIN

- RD 1055/2022: regulates EPR, waste traceability and the obligation to include recycled content in plastic packaging.
- Law 7/2022 (special tax on non-reusable plastic): rewards the use of rPET and penalises non-recyclable materials.

### France — CITEO eco-modulation

- Bonuses for using rPET and for highly recyclable packaging.
- Audit under CITEO's own criteria; certification approved via POLYCERT Europe.
- Specific rules for thermoformed trays: incentives for mono-material design and tray-to-tray recycled content.

*To access these bonuses for thermoformed PET trays, CITEO requires accredited certifications such as RETRAY.*

THE CERTIFICATION SCHEME

## RETRAY: Process and Product

RETRAY consolidates a circular economy model across the thermoformed PET value chain through two verifications: quantifying recycled material content (under the EN 15343 standard) and verifying the actual recyclability of the packaging, aligned with PPWR, RD 1055/2022, PetCore Europe's recyclability guidelines and the EN 18120 series of standards.

|                          | RETRAY PROCESS                                                                                                      | RETRAY PRODUCT                                                             |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>What it certifies</b> | The manufacturing process for sheet, thermoforming and packaging, and the total recycled content over a fiscal year | A specific product: sheet, thermoformed base/lid or packaging              |
| <b>Verifies</b>          | Traceability of rPET input and of waste output for recycling                                                        | % of declared recycled material (EN 15343) + compliance with recyclability |
| <b>Aimed at</b>          | Sheet producers, thermoformers, food packers                                                                        | Companies that already hold the certified process                          |
| <b>Note</b>              | Replaces the former ECOSENSE certification                                                                          | Sheet producers are required to hold the RETRAY Process certificate        |

*"The RETRAY certification scheme implicitly has the mission of promoting the development of the tray-to-tray recycling infrastructure necessary for all thermoformed PET packaging to be recycled and recyclable by 2030 in Europe."*

OFFICIAL ECOSENSE FOUNDATION DOCUMENT

## Purpose of the RETRAY certification

Below is a visual summary of the main purposes of the RETRAY certification, taken from the Foundation's official guide:

### PURPOSE OF THE RETRAY CERTIFICATION



#### 1 ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS

Mandatory certification for environmental claims in accordance with the new European Directive on "Greenwashing": recycled content and recyclability.



#### 2 CIRCULAR ECONOMY CERTIFICATION

Certification bodies authorized by Ecosense. Certificates issued under ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation and compliance with EN 15343 requirements.



#### 3 GLOBAL REACH

Certificates issued and recognized internationally in all countries whose accreditation bodies are members of EA (European Cooperation for Accreditation) or IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and have signed mutual recognition agreements.



#### 4 PLASTIC TAX

Certification of recycled content under EN 15343 requirements to comply with plastic tax regulations, as in Spain (Law 7/2022) or the United Kingdom (Regulation 2022 No.117).



#### 5 CERTIFICATION OF POST-CONSUMER CONTENT

RETRAY TAKES A STEP FURTHER: certification of recycled content from any origin + post-consumer content from any origin + post-consumer content from the TRAY to TRAY circuit. ECOMODULATION: Content of post-consumer material.



#### 6 RECOGNITION

Use of a proprietary logo identifying the approved certification scheme in products and advertisements, recognized by the accreditation bodies that are members of EA and IAF: RETRAY Brand.



## PURPOSE OF THE RETRAY CERTIFICATION



### 7 TRAINING AND INFORMATION

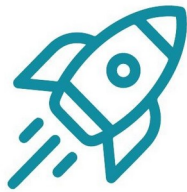
ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE MATTERS CEN / CENELEC: European standardization working group **PETCORE EUROPE**: TCEP: Circularity Assessment Platform for Trays.



### 8 COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

DEVELOPMENT OF CONSORTIA FOR COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS.

## RETRAY SCHEME



### MISSION

The **RETRAY certification** scheme implicitly has the MISSION of promoting the development of the tray-to-tray recycling infrastructure necessary for all thermoformed PET packaging to be recycled and recyclable by 2030 in Europe.



### RETRAY CERTIFICATION SCHEME

#### GENERAL REGULATIONS





### CLOSING THE LOOP

Participation of companies and entities that wish to be involved and are part of the entire value chain of the manufacturing, use, and recycling of thermoformed PET packaging.



### TRANSPARENCY

Resolution of the European Parliament dated September 13, 2018: both the independent certification activity by third parties and the promotion of plastic material certification are endorsed by the European Commission.

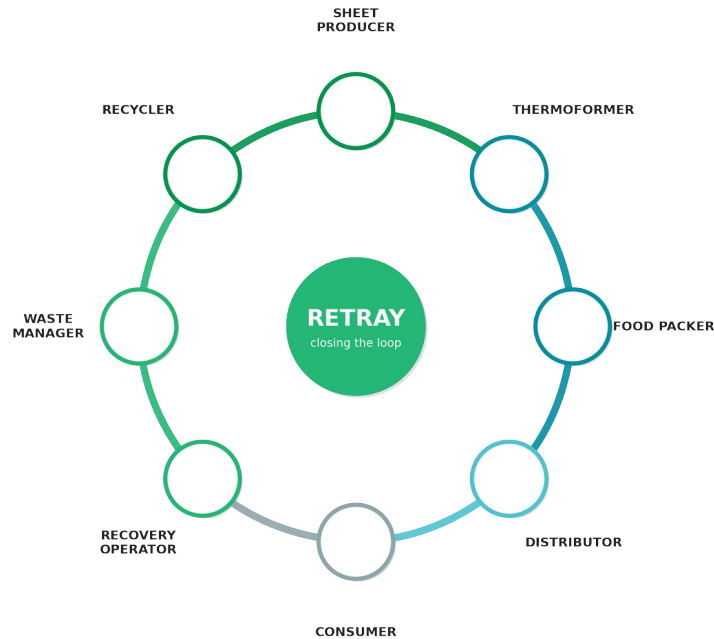
RETRAY



CLOSING THE LOOP

## The PET thermoform value chain

RETRAY accompanies the whole life cycle of the packaging, end to end. Each link can be certified or approved according to its role, closing the loop with verified traceability at every step.



### Sheet producer

Converts PET resin (virgin and recycled) into sheet for thermoforming.

### Food packer

Packs the food product into the thermoformed packaging.

### Consumer

Uses the packaging and disposes of it in the correct recycling bin.

### Waste manager

Manages the treatment of recovered waste.

### Thermoformer

Shapes the sheet into rigid trays and packaging.

### Distributor / Retailer

Makes the packaged product available to the end consumer.

### Recovery operator

Collects and sorts thermoformed packaging waste.

### Recycler

Transforms waste into rPET flake or pellet, closing the tray-to-tray loop.

WANT TO BECOME PART OF ECOSENSE?

## How to get certified — 5 steps



Verification work must be carried out by a Certification Body accredited under ISO/IEC 17065 within the RETRAY scheme, by an Accreditation Body that is a member of EA or IAF and has signed the mutual recognition agreements. Bodies currently operating under the scheme include Externa Soluciones (Spain, ENAC-accredited) and IFC Global (Turkey, in the process of TurKak accreditation).

### RETRAY scheme documents

- General Regulation of the RETRAY certification scheme
- Specific procedures for sheet producers, thermoformers and food packers
- Process approval and product certification procedures for waste managers, recovery operators, recyclers and distributors
- RETRAY brand use regulation

HOW CAN IT BE USED?

## Benefits of certifying with RETRAY

The loop is already closed. Certifying with RETRAY gives you access to:



*The new European “Greenwashing” Directive requires mandatory certification for any environmental claim related to recycled content and recyclability. RETRAY responds directly to this requirement, with certificates issued and internationally recognised in every country whose accreditation bodies are members of EA or IAF.*

PRESENCE AND COLLABORATION

## Collaboration with European associations

Ecosense Foundation is an active participant in the leading standardisation forums and sector associations shaping the future of thermoformed PET packaging in Europe.



- CEN/CENELEC — working groups CEN/TC 261/SC4/WG10 and CEN/TC 249/WG11, dedicated to reviewing standards for recycled content, eco-design and recyclability of plastic packaging.
- PETCORE Europe — active members of the Thermoforming Working Group since 2019 and of the Tray Circularity Evaluation Platform (TCEP), to improve the recyclability and circularity of thermoformed trays.
- Circular Plastics Alliance — European Commission initiative to accelerate the use of recycled plastic in Europe.
- PACKNET — Spanish network for the circular economy of packaging.

ALREADY PART OF US

## Certified and approved companies

Sheet producers, thermoformers, food packers, recyclers, recovery operators, distributors and waste managers across Europe already trust RETRAY: 27 companies certified with RETRAY Process and/or Product, and more than 10 approved recyclers, recovery operators and distributors.



Source: Official list of certified and approved companies, Ecosense Foundation (updated 01/10/2025).

ANY QUESTIONS?

**Contact**

### **Ecosense Foundation**

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### **Members of**

Circular Plastics Alliance · PETCORE Europe · PACKNET · POLYCERT Europe