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Aerosol Recycling Initiative Details Economic and Environmental Benefits of Recycling Aerosol Can Products

The Initiative Aims to Make Recycling Aerosols Easier by Achieving Two Quantitative Goals by 2030

Washington, DC – The [Aerosol Recycling Initiative](#), today, published the [Executive Summary](#) to a white paper that will be released in May 2024. The Executive Summary details the campaign’s initial-phase activities and data gathered to date to establish the aerosol can’s recycling story, as well as plans for the next phase.

The [Can Manufacturers Institute](#) (CMI) and the [Household & Commercial Products Association](#) (HCPA) [launched](#) an Aerosol Recycling Initiative in May 2022. The Initiative aims to make recycling aerosol cans easier for the end-user by achieving two quantitative goals by 2030:

- Reach at least an 85 percent recycling access rate for aerosol cans in the U.S. market
- Label at least 90 percent of aerosol cans as recyclable with messaging about how to properly recycle these products

Despite recent concerns regarding the recyclability of aerosol cans, the Initiative’s research has shown that these products can provide significant benefits to communities, the economy, and the environment when incorporated as part of a broader waste management system that includes reduce and reuse.

From an economic standpoint, a 50-percent recycling rate of aerosol cans generates more than \$39 million each year. Environmentally, recycling just one aerosol reduces greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of driving 0.5 miles in the average gasoline-powered passenger vehicle or charging 13 smartphones.

“Unfortunately, there are some misconceptions surrounding aerosol cans that make people question the safety of recycling these products,” said Scott Breen, CMI’s senior vice president of sustainability. “The purpose of this Initiative is to help clarify these misunderstandings and enhance the aerosol can’s recycling story. Aerosol cans are made from aluminum and steel, which can be infinitely recycled and have ready-end markets, making these

products extremely valuable in recycling streams. We thought it would be especially impactful to publish this research on Earth Day to showcase how recycling aerosols can help drive positive action for the planet.”

“While very important, explaining the aerosol can’s recycling story is only one piece of the puzzle,” said Nicholas Georges, HCPA’s senior vice president of scientific & international affairs. “There is still work to be done to increase recycling access rates for aerosols and to educate consumers about how to properly recycle these products. The second phase of this campaign will tackle this challenge by engaging material recovery facilities, municipalities, and retailers on aerosol recycling access and collaborating with companies that manufacture and sell aerosol products to make certain label changes that include language on recyclability and how to recycle.”

Click [here](#) to read the full Executive Summary.

Click [here](#) for the latest information about the Aerosol Recycling Initiative.

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About CMI

The Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) is the national trade association of the metal can manufacturing industry and its suppliers in the United States. The can industry accounts for the annual domestic production of approximately 130.7 billion food, beverage, and general line cans; employs more than 28,000 people with plants in 33 states, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa; and generates about \$15.7 billion in direct economic activity. CMI members are committed to providing safe, nutritious, and refreshing canned food and beverages to consumers in the most sustainable packaging.

About HCPA

The Household & Commercial Products Association (HCPA) is the premier trade association representing companies that manufacture and sell \$180 billion annually of trusted and familiar products used for cleaning, protecting, maintaining, and disinfecting homes and commercial environments. HCPA member companies employ 200,000 people in the U.S. whose work helps consumers and workers to create cleaner, healthier, and more productive lives.