

Recycling, Reusing and Reducing packaging in a French company :



E.Leclerc is a supermarket chain.

Three types of packaging are recycled :



cardboard



plastic



wood

When they replenish shelves, employees put packaging (cardboard and plastic) into yellow and red wheelie bins.



Recycling cardboard

Cardboard goes into a cubic baling press. Cardboard boxes are flattened to reduce their volume. This cardboard is bought €3000 per metric ton by a company who is going to recycle it. When they sell this cardboard, E.Leclerc earns between €50.000 and €60.000 every year.



Recycling plastic

Transparent plastic from packs of water or the plastic used around pallets goes into a press.

SOCAMIL, a French central purchasing body, buys this plastic to recycle it.

Plastic is washed, sorted and cut into shavings to be recycled.



It is forbidden to recycle plastic which has been in contact with food like meat.

Black plastic cannot be recycled : it goes into a bin for ordinary industrial waste. This plastic is buried or incinerated.

Recycling wood

Pallets with a « Europe » stamp on them are sent back to SOCAMIL and they are reused.

If they are damaged, they are repaired and they are reused.



Wooden colored pallets are sent back to suppliers and recycled.



Vegetable crates are given to customers or market gardeners to be reused or they are recycled.

What happens when packaging is damaged?

Food products whose primary packaging has been opened / damaged are given to a local food bank: Banque Alimentaire du Tarn. Out-of-date products cannot be given due to food risks.



A van from the Banque Alimentaire du Tarn collecting food.

Recycling Food

Rotten or damaged vegetables are given to a zoo : the *Zoo des trois vallées*.



A rendering company collects waste like meat or fish to make food for animals.

The cooking oil from the rotisserie is sold (€ 100 per metric ton) to a company to be recycled.

