

# The Importance of Recycling for the Benefit of Future Generations

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

## **Recycling** – a crucial element of the circular economy

## The big challenges:

- *nine billion people by 2050*
- *eradicating poverty*
- *maintaining biodiversity*
- *halting climate change*

## Recycling – **as old as mankind!**

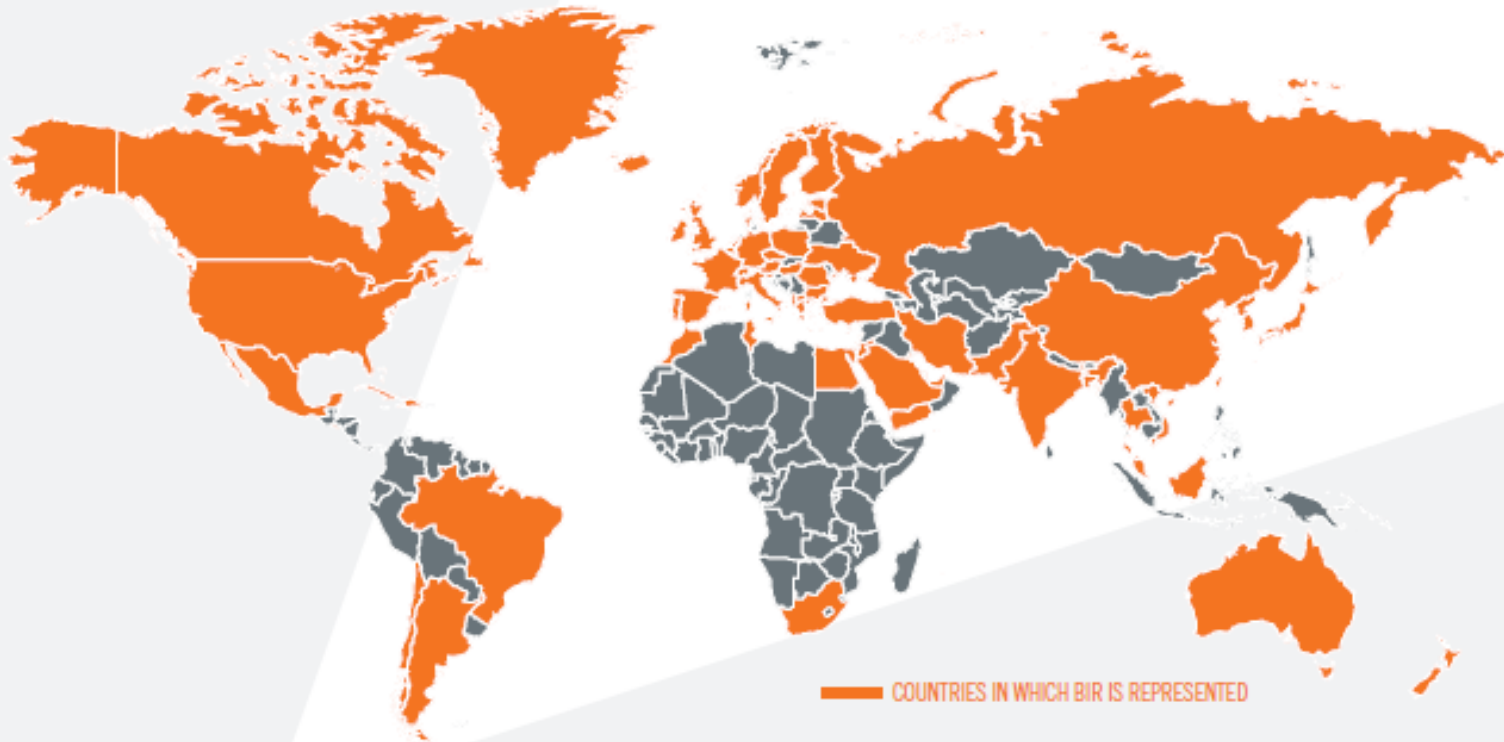
# **BIR – the world federation of recycling industries**

**created in 1948**

**BIR – 900 companies and national associations  
in 72 countries**



## Membership Spread 2012



**BIR – REPRESENTING THE FUTURE LEADING RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIERS**

# SUSTAINABILITY

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- a society in **ecological balance**
- **wise consumption** of resources

# KEY FIGURES OF THE WORLD RECYCLING INDUSTRY



ENERGY SAVINGS THROUGH RECYCLING	
Aluminium	95%
Copper	85%
Lead	65%
Zinc	60%
Paper	65%
Plastics	80%
Steel	74%



# KEY FIGURES OF THE WORLD RECYCLING INDUSTRY



Recycling **saves**  
at least **500 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>** emissions !  
*(study by Imperial College London)*

# KEY FIGURES OF THE WORLD RECYCLING INDUSTRY



- **1,686 million litres of water saved** if everyone in the UK (60 million people) bought **one reclaimed woolen garment**
- Recycling **1 tonne of paper** saves up to **31 trees** and **26,000 litres of water**
- **Steel recycling** uses **40% less water** and **90% less virgin material**, and produces **76% fewer water pollutants**, **86% fewer air pollutants** and **97% less mining waste**

# BEST AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES

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BIR Implementation Guides ( with ISO elements)

**“Tools  
for Environmentally Sound Management”**

**“Tools  
for Quality Management”**

**“Tools  
for Occupational Health & Safety Management”**

# BEST AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES

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## BIR Implementation Guides (with ISO elements)

- Tools freely available on [www.bir.org](http://www.bir.org)
- Help companies
  - to be properly licensed
  - to incorporate **OECD core performance elements for environmentally sound management**
  - to incorporate **EU End of Waste Procedures**
  - to meet **UN-EP Basel convention requirements on Safety and Health**

# BIR SPONSORS PROJECT KAISEI

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- Determine volume of **plastic scrap** in North Pacific Gyre
- Assess its **impact**
- Find **solutions**



**PROJECT KAISEI**  
CAPTURING THE PLASTIC VORTEX



# BIR'S MAIN OBJECTIVES

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- Raise **public awareness** about benefits of recycling
- Promote **sustainability**
- Facilitation of **free and fair trade** in recyclables and secondary raw materials

The international recycling industry -  
an essential part of the **sustainable society  
of the future**

## A priority for governments and society:

- *ensure efficient use of natural resources*
- *ensure security of supply*
- *address environmental, economic and social challenges*



# RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

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- ❑ **innovation** to improve efficiency of recycling and recovery rates
- ❑ **closed-loop designs** of products and service systems
- ❑ **life-cycle analysis**

# RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

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A need for :

- clear, coherent and shared **resource efficiency indicators**
- Sound **regulatory framework**

**Thank you for your attention!**

**[www.bir.org](http://www.bir.org)**