

VERSION 1: November 2025

AUSTRALIAN PACKAGING

PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND RECOVERY

2023–2024 FACTSHEET



Australian
Packaging Covenant
Organisation



Summary

2023-24



A total of **6,837,158 tonnes of packaging was placed on market (POM) in 2023-24**. Over half of the packaging POM was paper and paperboard (54%), with large contributions by glass (16%) and plastics (19%). Wood (8%) and metals (4%) were the smallest material groups.

For the second year since reporting began in 2018-19, packaging consumption per capita decreased year on year, down from 264kg/capita in 2022-23 to 251kg/capita in 2023-24.

Total recovery was 59% of all packaging POM, a slight increase from the recovery rate of 56% in 2022-23. **Recovery rates are highest across paper and paperboard (66%) and glass (80%), while rigid plastics (28%) and flexible plastics (9%) had the lowest recovery rates.**

Further incremental progress has been made across most of the National Packaging Target areas:

- **Target 1** – 100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable: **Stayed consistent at 86%** between 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- **Target 2** – 70% of plastic packaging is recycled or composted: **Improved slightly from 19% to 20%** between 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- **Target 3** – 50% average recycled content in packaging: **Stayed consistent at 44%** between 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- **Target 4** – Phase out of problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging: **Improved from -40% to -46% (against the baseline year)** between 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Total **reprocessing capacity for the system has continued to improve**, with total reprocessing capacity representing 52% of all packaging POM, up from 49% in 2022-23 and up from 31% in 2018-19.

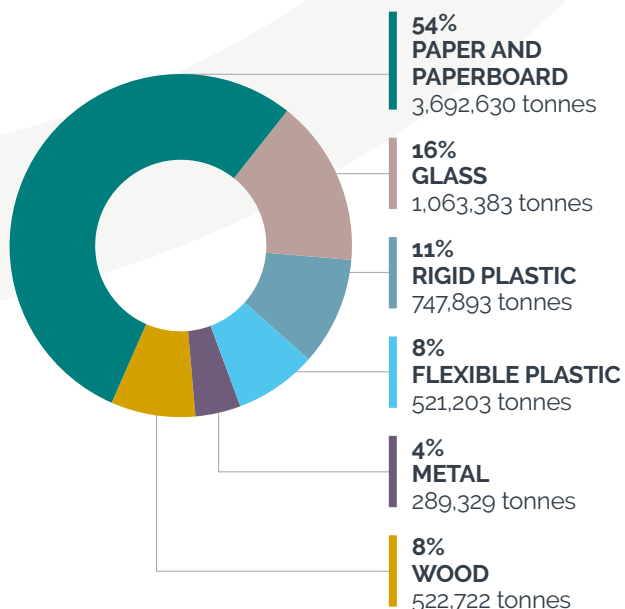
The federal government consulted on options for packaging regulation reform in 2024. Regulatory reforms are expected to enhance packaging design for recyclability, improve recyclability labelling and increase recycled content in packaging.

APCO has released its 2030 Strategic Plan, which sets out proposals to create economic incentives for material circularity and establish mechanisms to achieve National Packaging Targets. Following consultation with members and stakeholders in early 2025, APCO is working to ensure the proposed industry-led EPR approach for packaging is practical, fair and fit for future implementation.

Summary

ALL MATERIALS

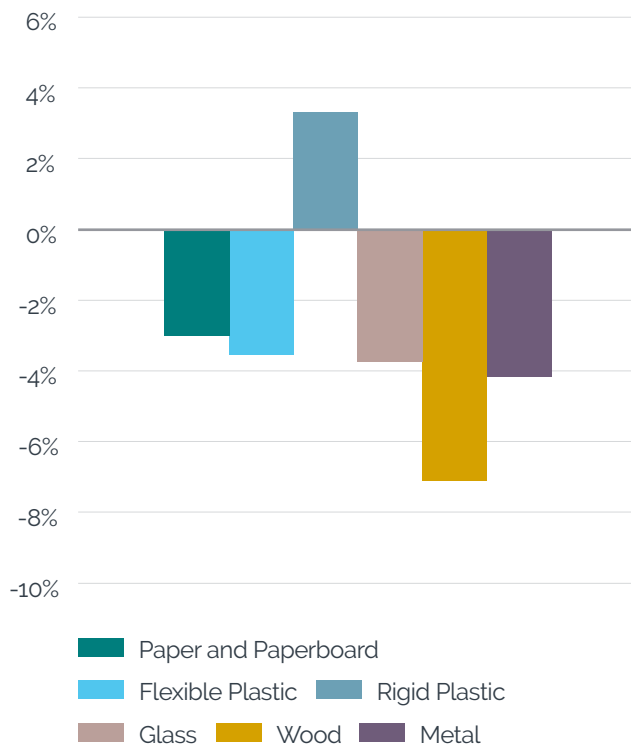
Packaging POM
2023-24



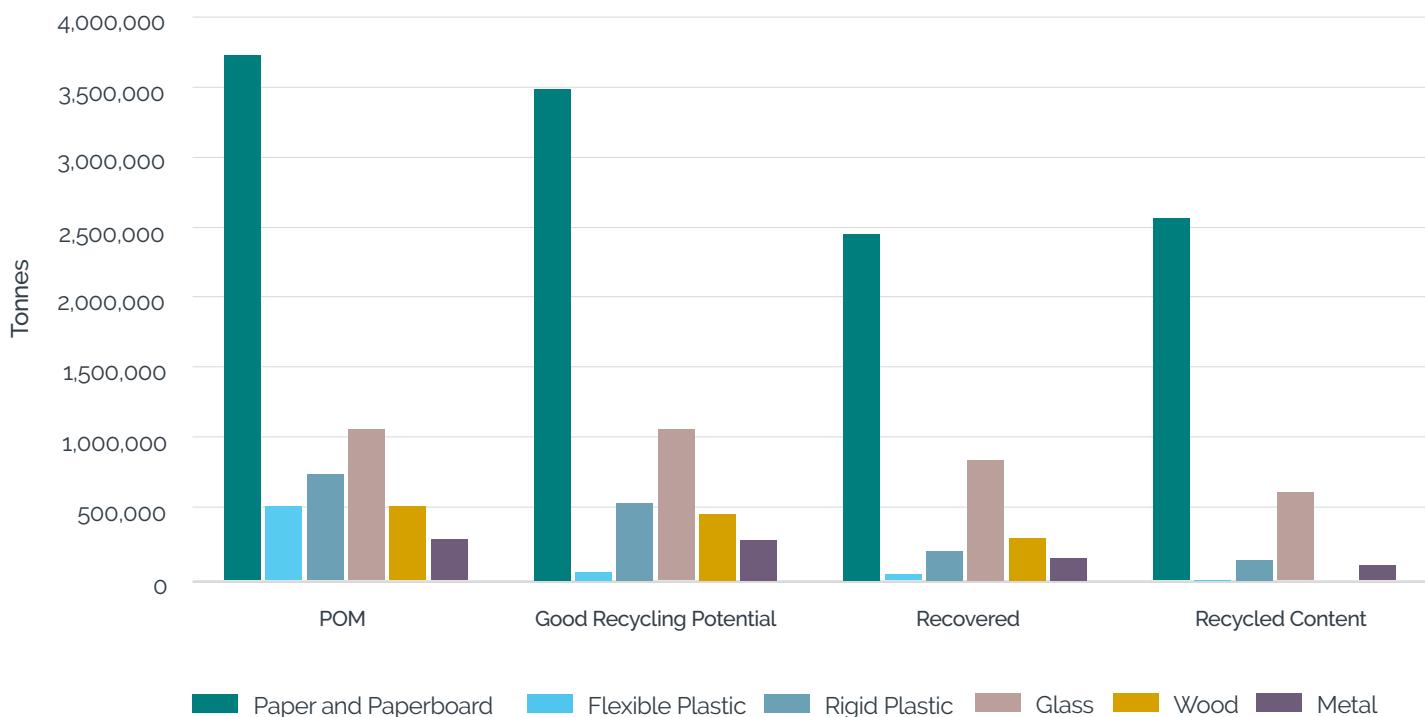
6,837,158

Tonnes of packaging
POM in 2023-24

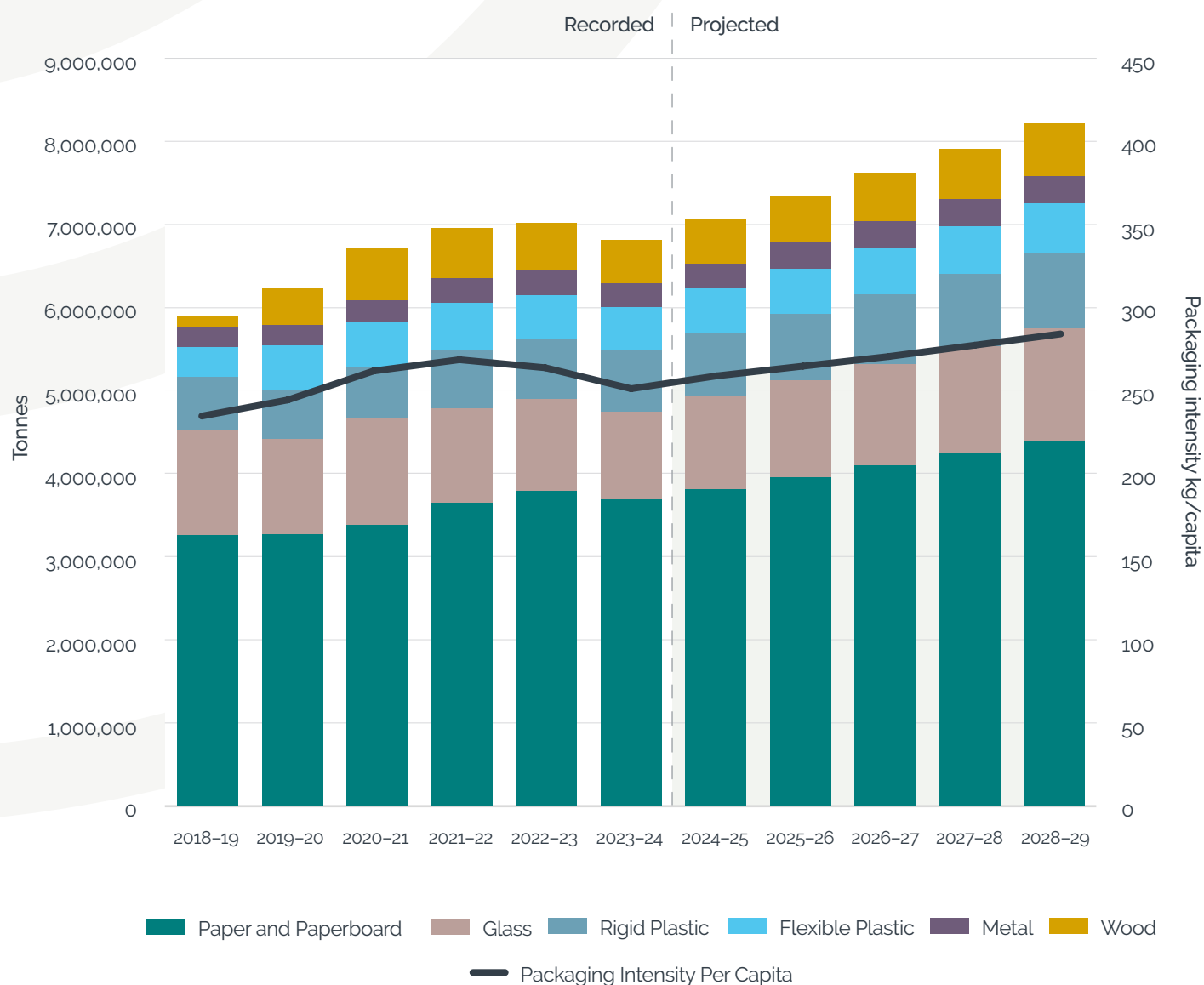
Change in material POM year on year
2022-23 – 2023-24



TONNES FLOW



Packaging POM vs. intensity per capita

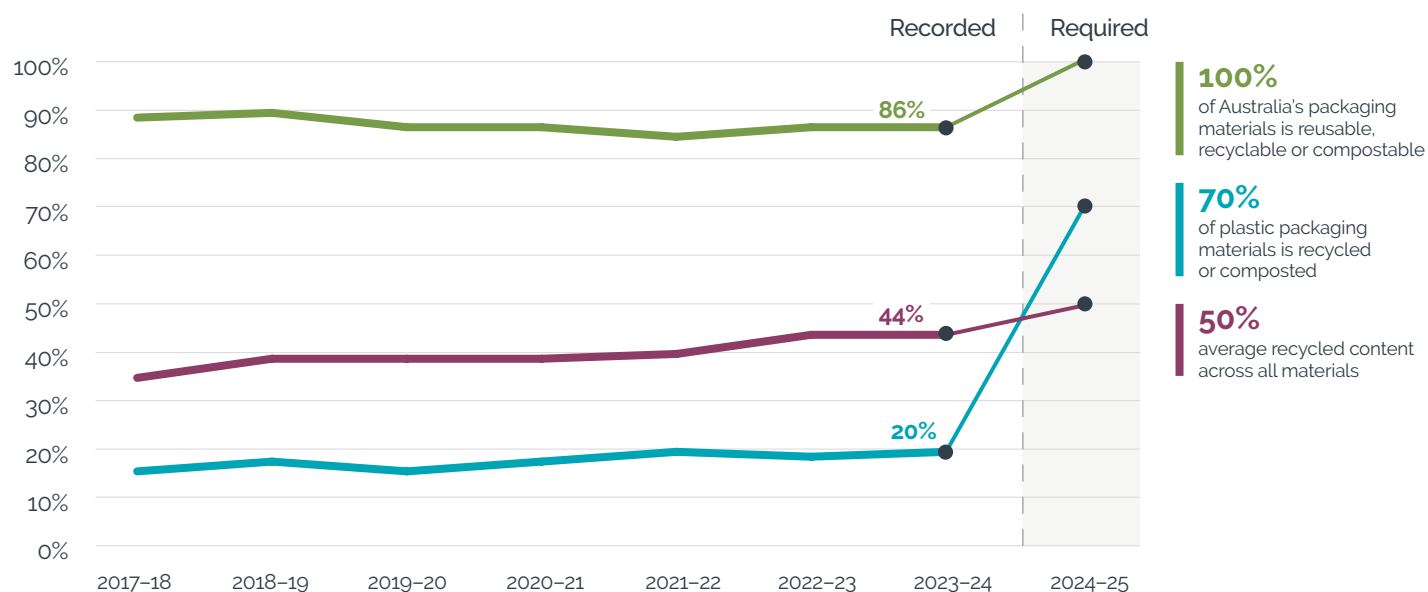


National Packaging Targets

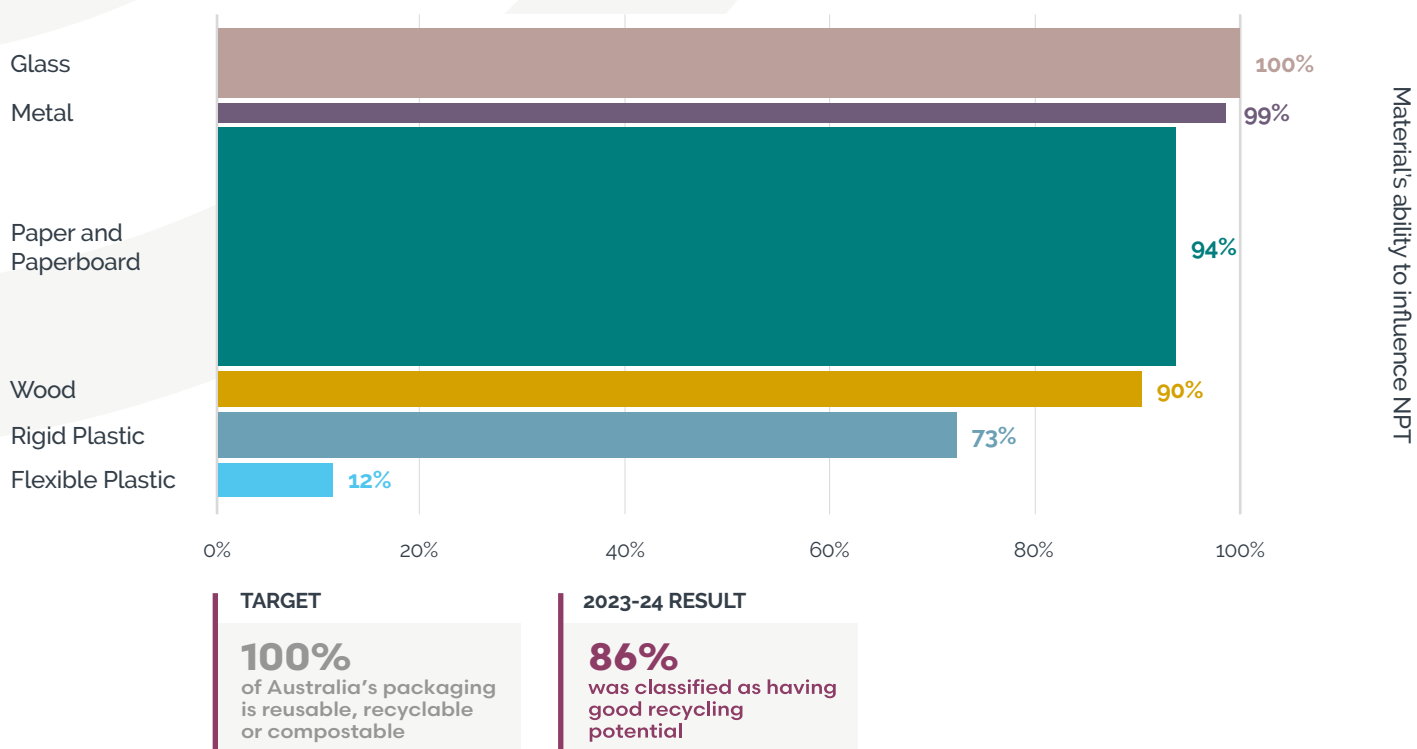
PROGRESS

OUTCOME	TARGET	PROGRESS
 Packaging designed for circularity and sustainability	100% of Australia's packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable	86% was classified as having good recycling potential
 Harmonised and expanded reuse and recovery systems are in place	70% of plastic packaging is recycled or composted	~46% reduction from the 2017-18 baseline
 Deep and resilient markets exist for recycled materials	50% average recycled content across all materials	44% of materials was made with post-consumer recycled material <i>*Excludes Wood</i>

Progress versus targets over time



Percentage of material with 'good recycling potential'



Reduction of problematic and unnecessary single-use packaging

Priority item	2019-20 (tonnes)	2020-21 (tonnes)	2021-22 (tonnes)	2022-23 (tonnes)	2023-24 (tonnes)	2022-23 to 2023-24 change
Single-use HDPE shopping bags	159	81	100	–	–	N/A
Rigid PS	17,074	17,169	16,694	13,904	11,335	-18%
EPS	22,709	29,048	29,778	27,686	26,149	-6%
PVC	16,873	14,768	10,813	9,706	8,552	-12%
Oxo-degradable plastics	2,133	758	8	8	8	0%
Plastic tableware	25,225	13,224	18,694	19,323	16,452	-15%

TARGET

Problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging will be phased out

2023-24 RESULT

~46%
reduction from the 2017-18 baseline

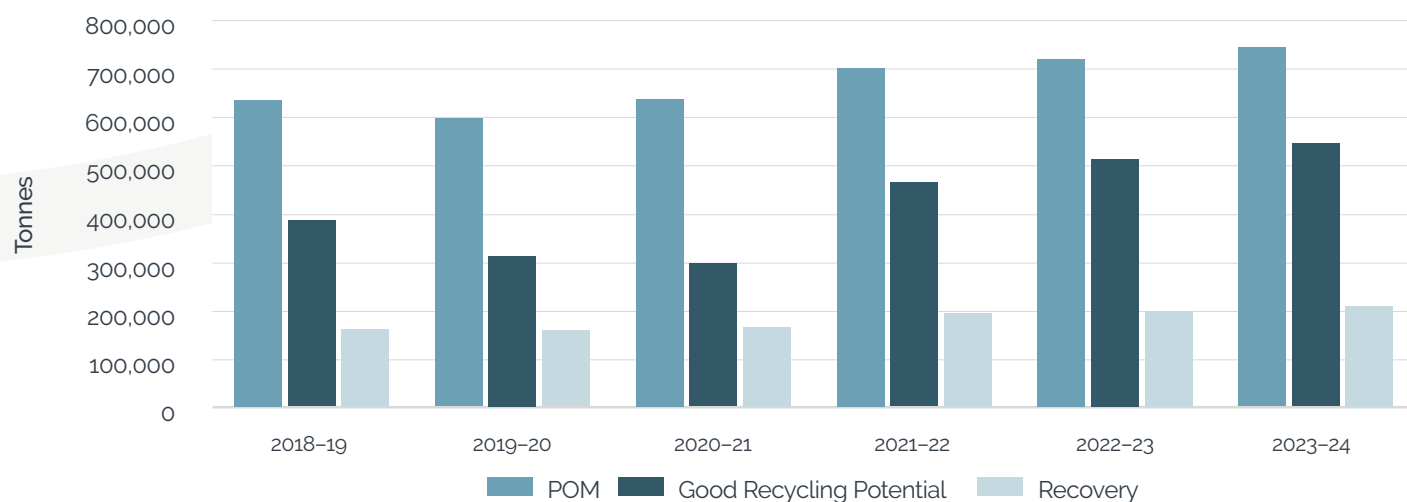
TOTAL PLASTIC

POM, recycling potential and recovery by year



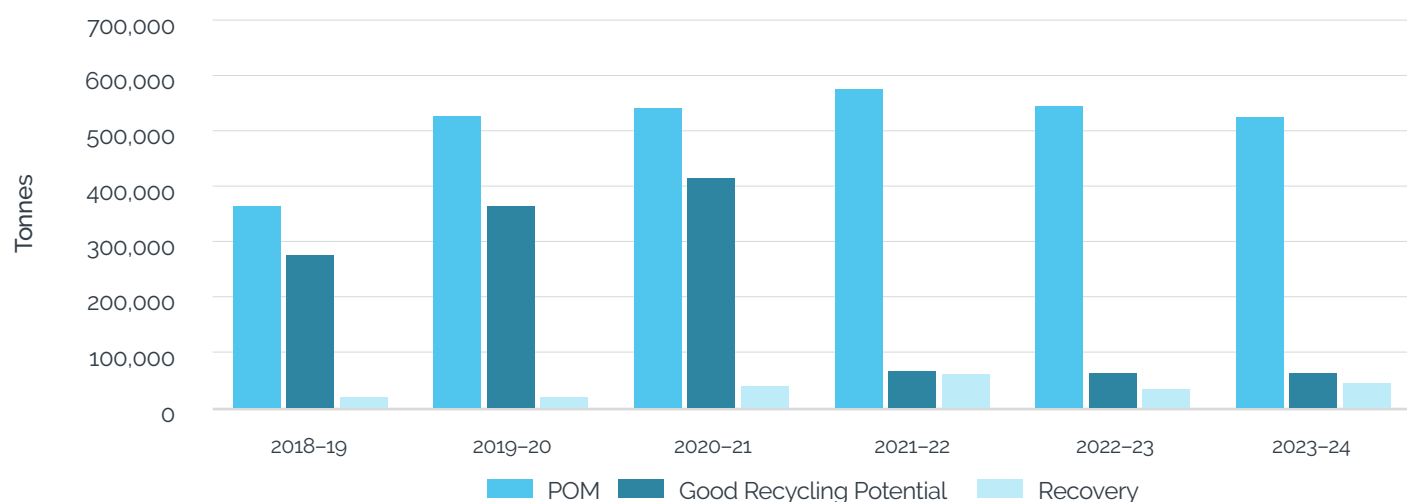
RIGID PLASTIC

POM, recycling potential and recovery by year



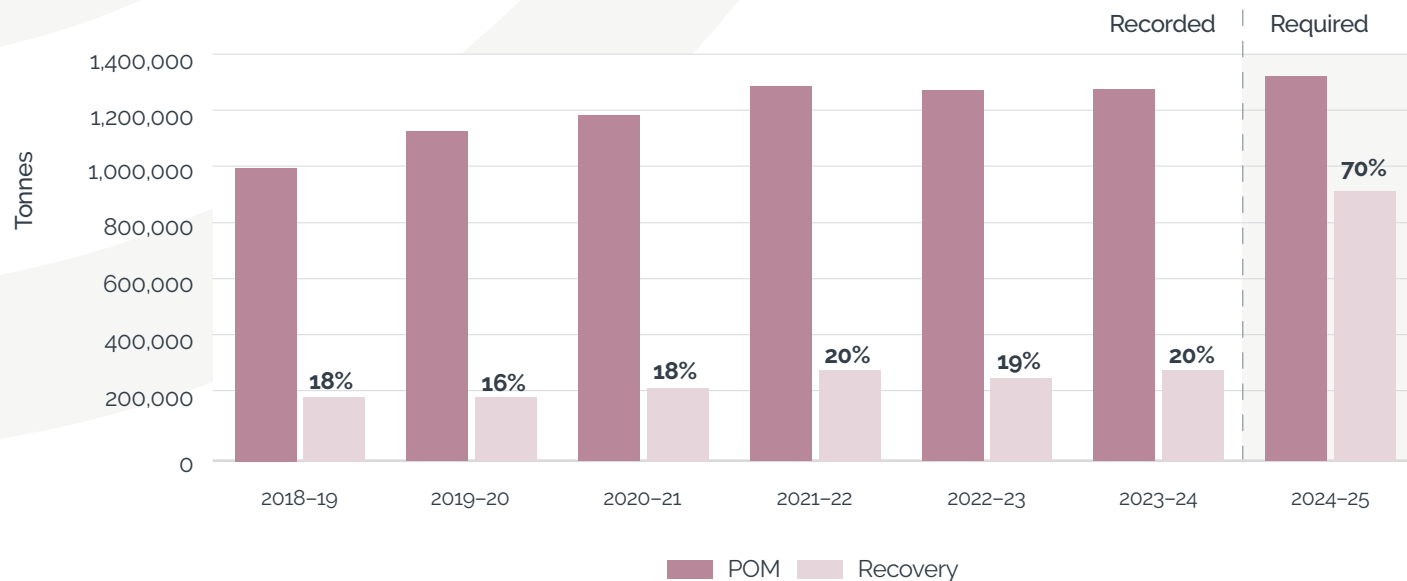
FLEXIBLE PLASTIC

POM, recycling potential and recovery by year

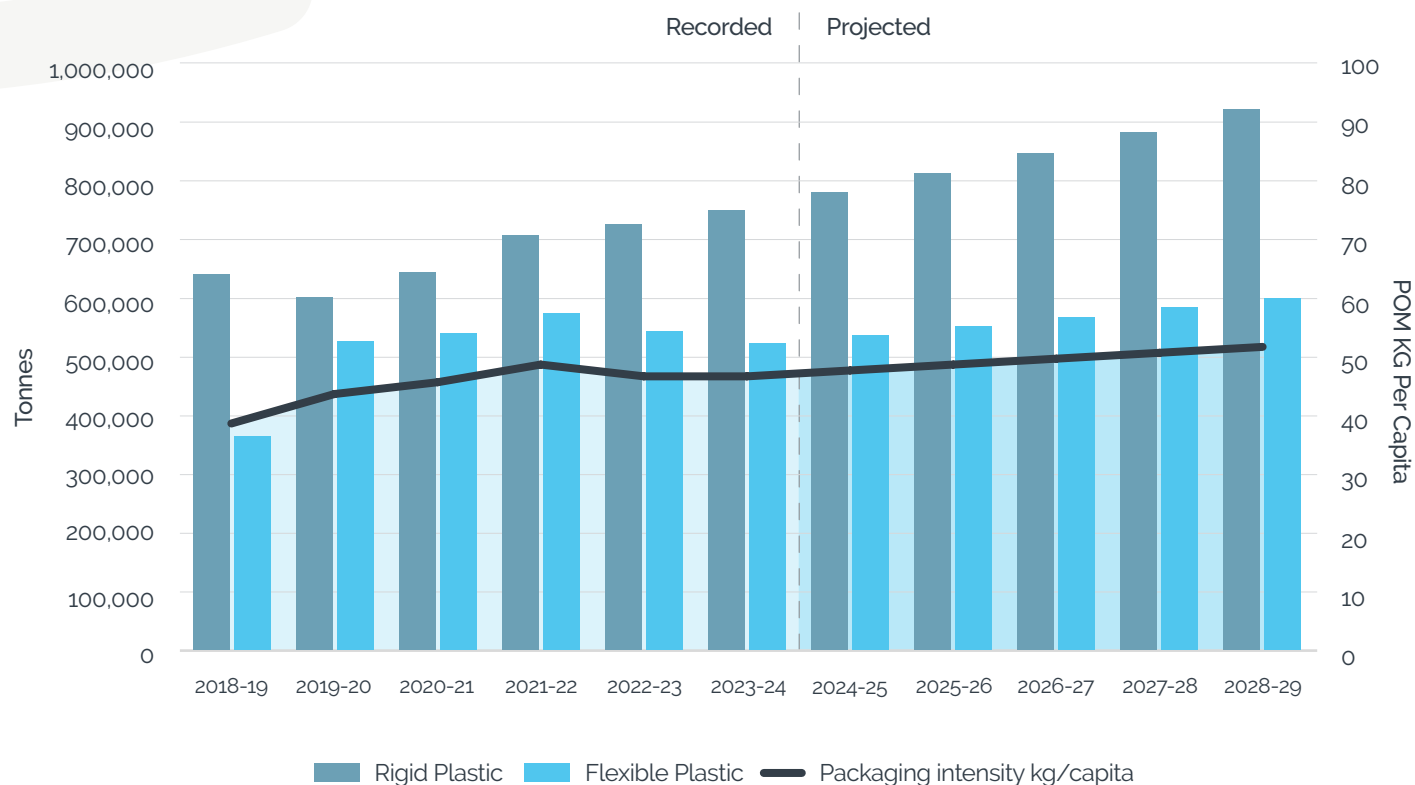


TOTAL PLASTIC

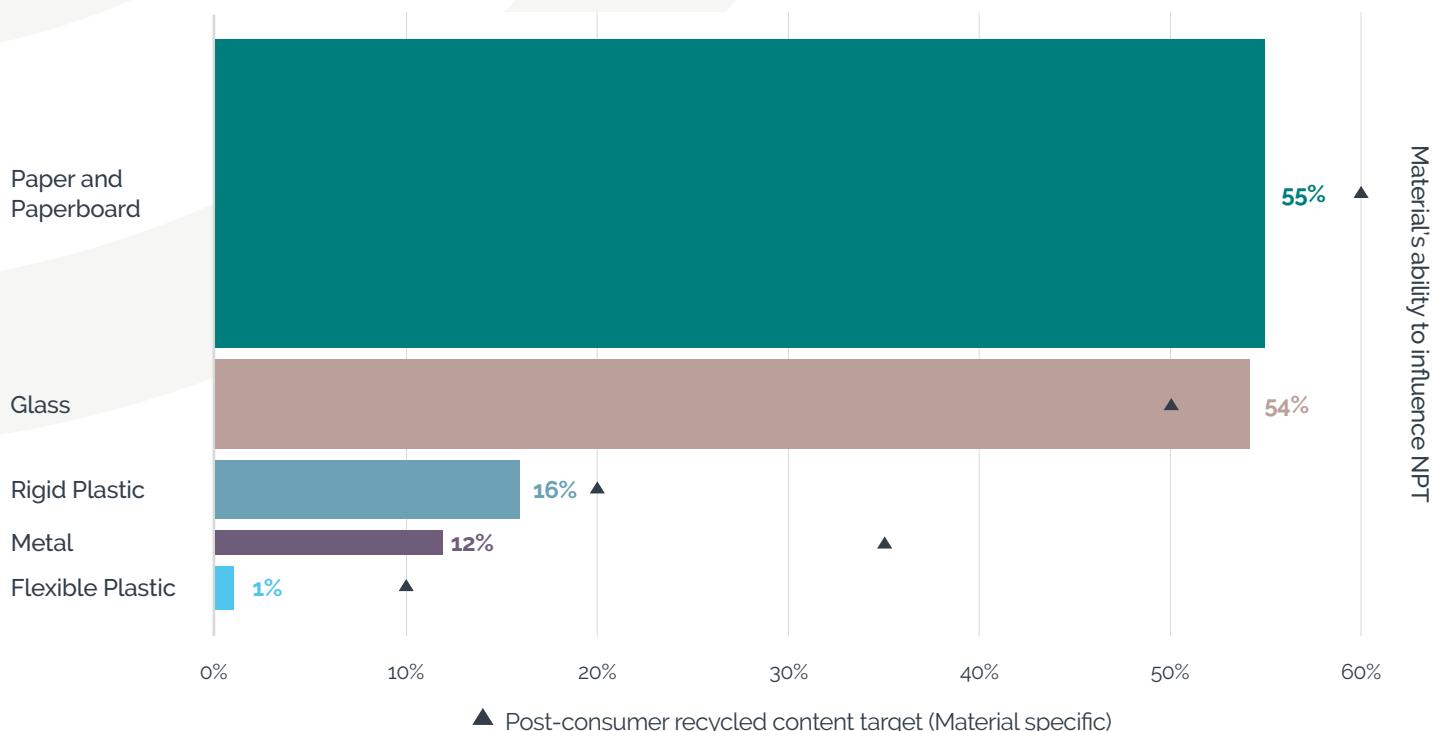
Recovery required to meet targets



Plastic packaging POM versus plastic intensity per capita



Percentage of material with post-consumer recycled content



TARGET

50%

of average recycled content across all materials

2023-24 RESULT

44%

of materials was made with post-consumer recycled material

*Excludes Wood

Progress versus recycled content percentage target by material over time

