



Partner in Packaging

Sustainable thinking and acting in the Wipak Group

The Wipak Group

The Wipak Group develops and produces complex packaging solutions for food and medical products. As part of the Finnish Wihuri group of companies, Wipak has a leading position in Europe in terms of multilayer and barrier films. Our strength is our combination of research and development competence with the global production and sales capacity of the group. This results in synergies at every level.



“Sustainability for us means using innovative packaging solutions to provide optimum protection for food and medical devices and instruments and thus to preserve precious resources”.

Antti Aarnio-Wihuri, Chairman of the Board, Wihuri Oy, Finland



Social compatibility, environment and economy

Our pillars for sustainable thinking and acting in the Wipak Group

Social responsibility

Wipak is committed to employees and society

The employees are of special importance to the Wipak Group. Clear objectives and employee suggestion systems are just as firmly rooted as safety at work, health care, the education of young people and the professional qualifications of specialists and managers. Wipak is also committed to society; examples include the Wihuri Foundation which supports the Arts and Science.

1

Environment

Wipak increases environmental protection activities

The commitment to environmental protection is an integral part of Wipak's corporate policy. All of our activities are organised to meet both EC requirements and the requirements of the products to be packed. The Wipak Group develops packaging films which use recyclable polymers allowing for a combination of different properties and also meeting the challenging ecological and economical demands.

2

Economy

Wipak develops and produces innovative and sustainable products

Productivity is of key importance for the production of our films. This is achieved by investing in state of the art technologies and optimising our processes ensuring high efficiencies. Due to the low weight of our films, the protection and preservation properties and advanced product development, we have been able to significantly reduce the amount of waste throughout the entire supply chain resulting in reduction of material used and the energy required.

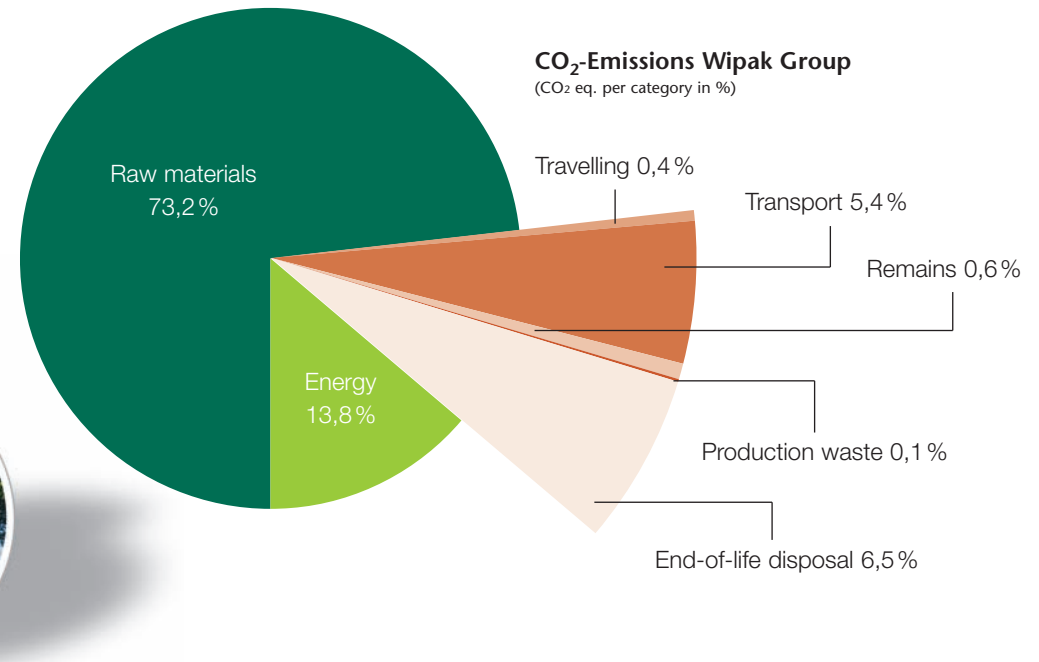
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The way to sustainable packaging

Carbon Footprint: Focus on raw materials

The majority of our carbon emissions are caused by raw materials. It is therefore one of the most important tasks of the Wipak Group to use these raw materials efficiently. In addition, carbon emissions of our films can be reduced by means of

- Optimized film formulations and material combinations
- Reduced film thicknesses
- Use of renewable resources
- A higher percentage of recycled raw materials
- Intelligent package design
- Process optimisations
- Efficient use of energy in production



Small share – large effect: what is the function of the packaging?

From raw materials to production, transportation, consumption and disposal, greenhouse gases are produced at every stage of the value chain. Packaging material, on average, make up approximately 10% of the total carbon footprint of a product. Whilst a relatively small amount, packaging still has a large impact on the total product related carbon values. Why? Packaging provides a vital function in the protection and preservation of the product. For example, packaging allows our customers

to extend the shelf life of foodstuffs and prevent premature spoiling. This helps to preserve precious resources. We focus our expertise on the development of innovative packaging, calculating carbon optimised concepts in cooperation with our customers. Packaging processes, package design and logistics are a primary focus for the entire group. These are the items that we can influence to optimise our films and reduce the carbon footprint of the packaged product.

Waste management

In order to reduce the total amount of waste created during production, we are continually optimising our production techniques. For all sites with extrusion processes it is our target to reduce start up and process waste.

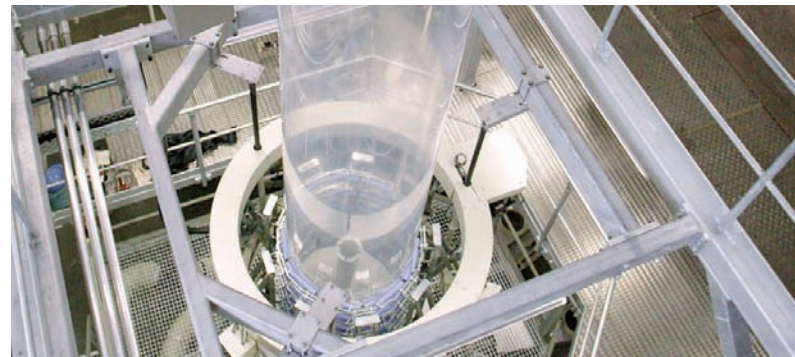
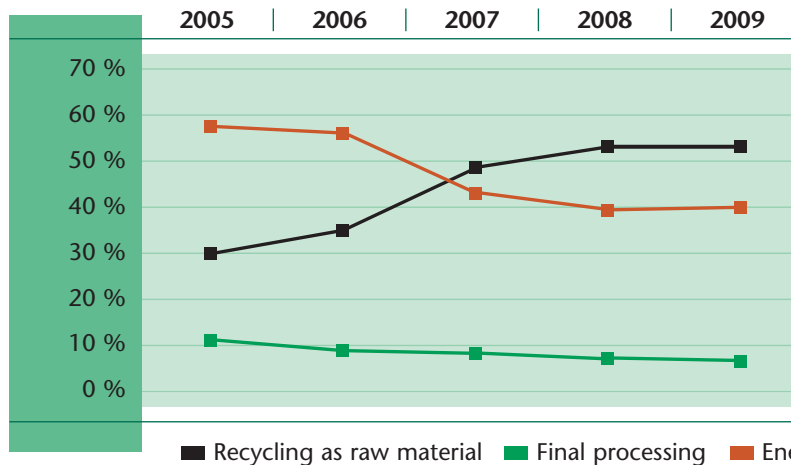
High quality multilayer films help to preserve resources, to reduce waste and lower carbon emissions. The quality of films and the required technical attributes are key criteria for us to decide whether or not we can use recycled materials. Where it is technically possible we recycle process waste back into our processes. Due to the success of this the recycling quota of the group has grown to almost 55 percent (2009). The remaining waste is disposed of in the most environmentally friendly way possible.



Energy

The production of high quality packaging films is still energy consuming. Therefore, we concentrate on developing low energy concepts for our production facilities. We invest in new technologies and continually develop our processes. An example of this is for energy supply; Wipak Walsrode uses a highly efficient gas power plant based on combined heat and power. Additional energy saving programs are part of our investment planning for all our sites. For instance, we are able to further optimise our productivity reducing the consumption of gas, energy and steam which in turn reduces the emission of greenhouse gases.

Recycling and waste streams Wipak Group



Raw materials

The formulation counts. The extremely high quality and special characteristic of our films are the result of the correct selection and processing of all raw materials used, as well as the strict and consistent quality control. New raw materials are continuously tested and classified in our laboratories – these standards also apply for recycled material. In close cooperation with our certified partners we are developing new processing methods and quality assurance concepts.



Recycling material

For the production of multi layer films, polymers have traditionally been used which however could only be recycled to a limited extent. In order to combine various properties and to be able to meet the stringent ecological and economical requirements, Wipak develops packaging films based on polymers which are similar in terms of their structure and composition.

To grow our basis of raw materials, we are continuously working on alternatives to materials based on crude oil. These include renewable materials which we integrate in our development of innovative film solutions. The key question is which combination of materials and which packaging concepts will provide optimum protection for the packaged food product. The same applies to medical products. Patient safety is the top priority in the choice of medical and healthcare packaging. Only recycled materials from a trusted source, where the production history can be traced fully used for film manufacturing.



Our expertise for sustainable packaging

The Wipak Group helps their customers to develop economically efficient and ecologically sustainable packages and to successfully launch them in the market. However, it is the product which ultimately determines the film choice. Using renewable resources for packing mould cheese makes sense

because it does not require any oxygen barrier. However when it comes to migration protection or high barrier requirements, a change of the film structure may be the correct strategy to positively influence the environmental balance of product and packaging. Three examples:

Finland Innovative Coextrusion Technology



up to
30%
reduction
of material

up to
30%
reduction
of material

Thinner films with a higher protective effect as well as enhanced optical and mechanical properties – these are the attributes of Super-clear films. This state of the art technology allows for the economical and careful use of raw materials. And the film thickness can be reduced by up to 30%.

France Intelligent combination of materials



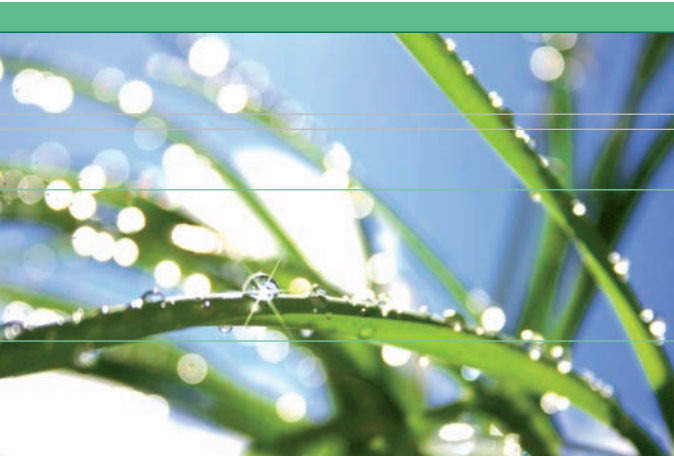
For soy steaks Wipak has developed a tray/lid solution where polyethylene has been replaced by polypropylene. As a result, the film thickness has been reduced by almost 30% compared to the previously used PA/PE combination. And furthermore: the packaging is more transparent, temperature-resistant and can be sterilised.

Germany use of renewable materials



more than
95%
renewable
resources

Mould cheese continues to mature in the package. This process requires oxygen. Here, films made of renewable resources can play to their strength. They are breathable which helps to support the maturing process. For a bio cheese, Wipak has developed a stable package consisting of more than 95% renewable materials.



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