WIPAK

Involve. Inspire. Impress.

Sustainability in Focus

Content

Editorial

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Wipak Group

As part of the family-owned Wihuri Group, Wipak has a long history of sustainable growth. Producing premium-quality and innovative flexible packaging, we are committed to the efficient use of resources by protecting food, medical and health care products alike.

We are involved in both EU and collaborative projects (e.g. Ceflex) to make flexible packaging more relevant to a circular economy. By continually developing new products through material reduction, using renewable materials, designing mono-materials or recyclable solutions, and developing new innovative production technologies, we regard a full life-cycle approach along the value chain as essential.

From a waste perspective, we place great emphasis not only on waste reduction and prevention in our production process, but also on preventing food from being spoiled or wasted, as well as ensuring that medical and health care products are packaged in a most hygienic way for people's health.

At Wipak we are true advocates of flexible packaging supporting sustainable consumption and production. It is a material that plays a critical role in the prevention of food waste, which is high on the EU-Agenda, and its lightweight nature makes it more resource-efficient than alternative formats. Combined with new technologies and intelligent pack design, we strive to make our flexible packaging solutions fully recyclable by 2025 committing us to EU Plastics Strategy striving to reach 100% reusable or recyclable packaging by 2030.

We are highly committed to the three pillars of sustainability: economical, environmental and social responsibility. Read more about 'how we take our responsibility' as well as our engagement initiatives and our approach to sustainability in the pages of this brochure.

About the Wipak Group

The Wipak Group develops and manufactures premium-quality, sustainable and efficient packaging solutions for food products and medical devices. Wipak has gained a leading position among European suppliers of flexible packaging solutions, in particular within barrier films.

Joining forces with our North American sister company, Winpak, we can now offer all key markets our broad range of packaging products and services. Both Wipak and Winpak are part of the packaging division of the Finnish Wihuri Group, which employs around 5,200 people. In Europe and Asia, approximately 1,800 employees work for Wipak at eleven production sites and numerous sales offices.

Founded in
1966

Sites:
11 in Europe and Asia

WIPAK

Employees:
approx. 1,800 (2017)

Shareholder:
Wihuri Packaging Oy, Finland

Turnover:
approx. €450 million (2017)

Market Segments

Food

Around 78% of our turnover comes from food packaging. Wipak's traditional strength is in the fresh food category, focusing on barrier packaging for cheese, meat, sausages, and fish. With its innovative packaging solutions and additional investments in new technologies, Wipak is further expanding its business in the ready meals, pet food, confectionery, bread, poultry, and coffee markets.

Health

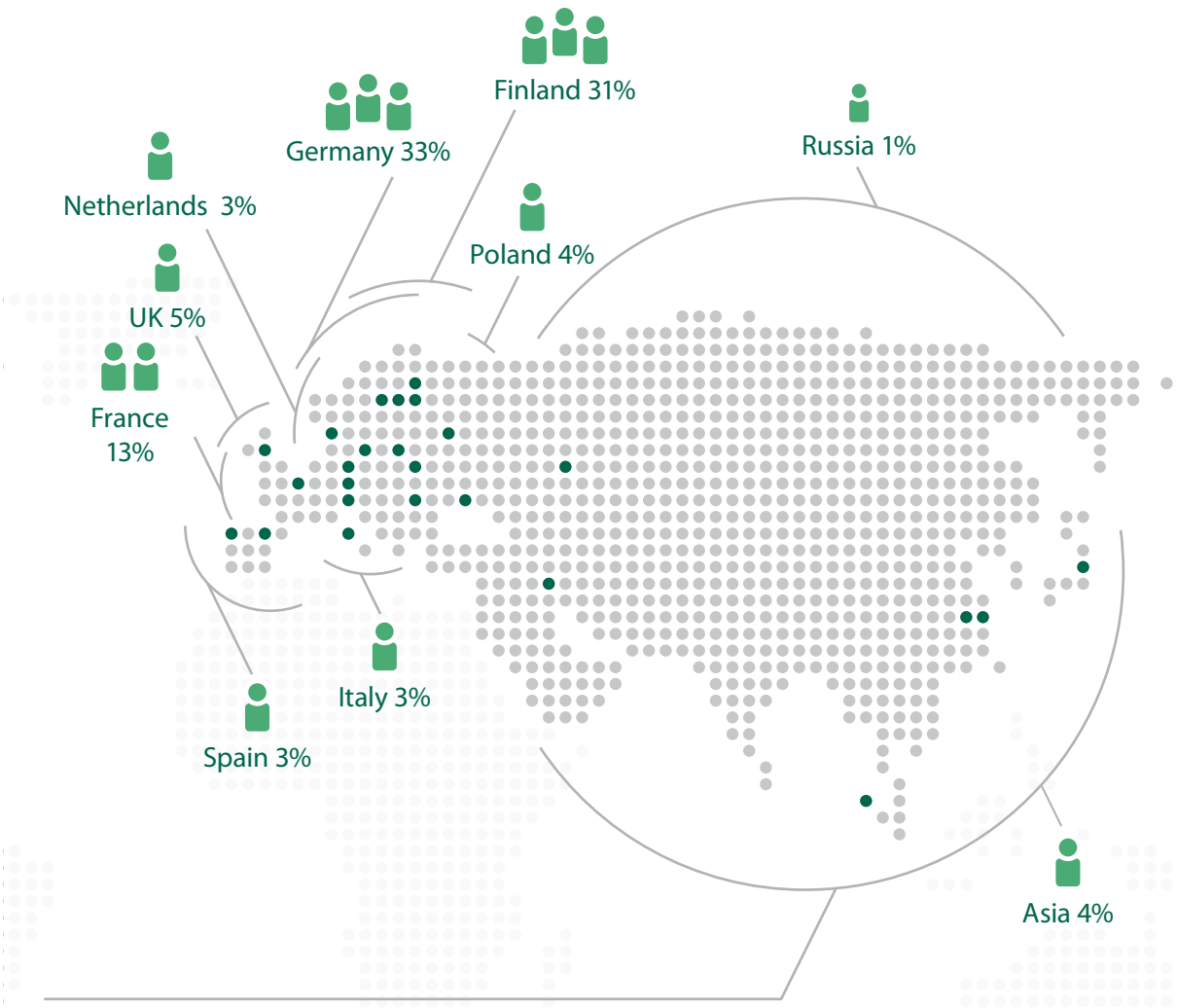
Wipak is a world-leading provider of premium-quality packaging solutions for medical devices. The Steriking® brand is renowned for its quality and reliability within health care facilities. This business segment is the second pillar of the Wipak Group, providing around 15% of turnover.

Non-food

Non-food applications and further processing of film composites for flowpacks, etc. account for around 7% of annual turnover.

Production and Sales Locations

The Wipak Group employs around 1,800 people at 23 locations (production sites and sales offices) in Europe and Asia. Our main presence is in Europe. Around 4% of our employees work in Asia.



Production sites

China
Finland (3)
France
Germany
Italy
Netherlands
Poland
Spain
United Kingdom

Sales offices

Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Japan
Norway
China
Russia (2)
Singapore
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey

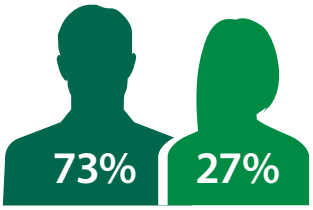
Wipak Employees

The Wipak Group believes in equal opportunities and rights for all, regardless of culture, nationality, gender, religion, sexual orientation or age. Our anti-discrimination guidelines and rules for respectful interaction and collaboration with each other are binding for all employees. We promote a good working environment in all business areas, ensuring all employees have the same opportunities.

As Wipak is an international and multicultural company, we not only place great emphasis on ensuring diversity in our business, but we actively seek to promote it too. In addition, we support our employees to develop, and encourage them to apply their experiences to everyday life, reinforcing our family-oriented corporate culture.

Gender distribution total for Wipak Group

Production site management teams



Average employee age at Wipak Group

Average period of employment

years

Status: September 2017

Involve. Inspire. Impress.

At Wipak, we involve our customers in the innovation process and in packaging development from the very beginning. Our aim? To inspire you with solutions and technical standards that are always one step ahead. We support our customers with packaging solutions that are set apart from the competition, impressing consumers.

Involve.

Wipak involves its customers in innovation and creative packaging ideas from a very early stage in the development process. This enables us to offer numerous points of inspiration in all phases of production, right through to technical services.

Inspire.

We inspire our customers with solutions that set new industry standards and design benchmarks. Our processes are tailored to our customers' specific needs. With this model, we meet exacting standards for innovative, cost-effective and sustainable solutions.

Impress.

Whether they are international brand owners, or commercial or family businesses, we put our customers in a position to impress their own customers through packaging solutions that stand out from the competition. We also offer a wide range of services and training opportunities to help our customers gain a competitive edge.

Code of Conduct

That's what we stand for

Our aim is to be a trusted and reliable partner for our customers, employees and suppliers – a partner that adds value for everybody involved. With this in mind, Wipak Group has a compulsory Code of Conduct.

Wipak takes care to comply with all regulations. Our ways of working are based on strong ethical principles, integrity and respect. A core value of course is to behave in a socially responsible and ethical way in all our business activities, staying true to our principles. In this regard, we seek to be a trustworthy employer and business partner, as well as a positive contributor to society with unquestionable integrity, demanding a similar approach from our business partners.

Customers

We strive for long-term customer relationships. We firmly believe that our customers will gain the greatest benefit from fair competition. We do not conduct any business practices that are prohibited by competition law. In addition, we do not engage in discussions with our competitors concerning prices, delivery conditions or customer-related matters that could be construed as unfair competition.

Employees

We strive to promote a respectful and open working environment at Wipak, with an atmosphere that fosters teamwork, active involvement and personal development. We welcome and reward initiative and innovation. Learning opportunities, personal safety and preventive health care and job security are given high priority within Wipak and are fundamental to the retention and development of our employees. We believe in sustainable, long-term profitable growth for the benefit of all stakeholders as our common target and involve our employees via shared goals and continuous improvement systems. A compliance program based on the code of conduct supported by policies and guidelines, communication and trainings constantly supports and reminds our employees of our Wipak principles and values.

Suppliers

By having a consistent supply of high-quality raw materials, purchased products and services, Wipak secures its reputation as a reliable manufacturer of premium-quality products. With this in mind, we strive to build long-term business relationships with our suppliers, who also have exacting quality standards. They have an excellent market reputation, are reliable and flexible, and deliver on schedule. Wipak applies the same conditions and levels of equality when selecting different suppliers. Our employees will not be influenced by gifts or other advantages conferred by suppliers.

Quality Demands Experience

For decades, Wipak has continued to represent cutting-edge technology, quality and reliability. That is why we continually invest in our production sites in the form of new facilities, improved processes, services and, above all, in training and development for its employees.

Our success is founded on the expertise and experience of our employees, their passion for innovation and their ambition to continually seek the best solutions.

These efforts are rewarded by customers and sector experts in equal measure. The prizes and awards our employees have received over the years reflect our quality standards and highlight our core focus on innovative and sustainable packaging solutions.

German Packaging Award

DuPont New Horizons Award

DuPont Packaging Awards Silver

EFIA Silver Award

ERA Packaging Gravure Award

Gold Flexostar

Bronze Flexostar

FlexoTech Print & Innovation Award

FlexoTech Surpreme Award

National ATEF Flexo Award

Oscar de L'Emballage

Pack The Future Award

Prestige Helio Printing

1er Trophées de l'Emballage Numérique

World Star Packaging Award

WPO President's Award

Sustainable Thinking and Practices within the Wipak Group

> Corporate responsibility is at the heart of everything we do. We have always acted with integrity, respecting others and the environment, and we will ensure we continue to do so moving forwards.

Antti Aarnio-Wihuri, Chair of Wihuri Packaging Oy, Finland

The Wipak Group on its way to Sustainability

Operational Excellence System

Safety, quality and efficiency are of the utmost priority at the Wipak Group and form the basis of our Operational Excellence System (OES), introduced in 2016.

Pillars of expertise:

The OES focuses on five areas for our excellence concept: technology, servicing/maintenance, supply chain, quality and safety. In terms of technology, for example, we strive to uphold our position as pioneers. We achieve this through continual investments and process improvements. The 5S method equips us with the tools to think and act with foresight, enabling us, for example, to optimise servicing and maintenance.

Wipak's Operational Excellence System (OES) is a comprehensive management system. The goal is to achieve world-class levels of safety, quality and efficiency. OES describes how the Wipak Group and all our sites work to achieve our targets and, ultimately, how we manage operations at our plants.

Safety

OES goals by 2020

Accidents with lost time injury

-80%

Quality

OES goals by 2020

Increase on-time, in-full (OTIF) delivery to over

95%

Efficiency

OES goals by 2020

Productivity increase

+30%

Qualified Lean Masters

>100 employees

Waste reduction

-20%

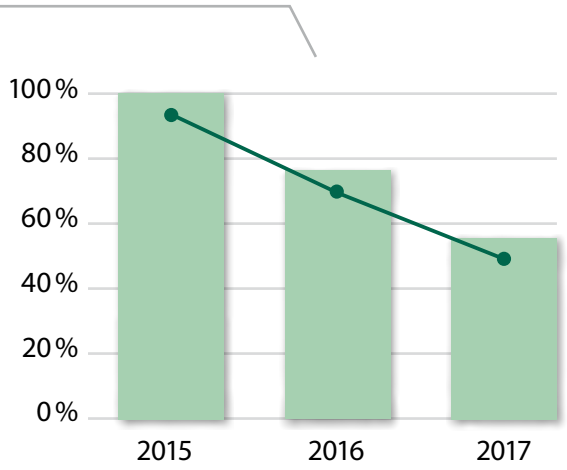
How do we put OES into practice?

Management/communication, organization, transparency, qualifications/training and continual improvements constitute the five dimensions for implementing OES. For example, through further training and actively involving all employees in the OES process, we want to help them to embody the OES way of thinking. By means of whiteboards at the facilities, employees can see whether targets are being achieved. This visual representation is designed to help detect problems early on and jointly develop solutions.

Occupational Health and Safety

Protecting people and the environment is critical in all our actions and decisions. Every single employee is responsible for ensuring not only that our products and services comply with regulatory requirements, but also meet Wipak's standards. Our goal is to prevent accidents and negative impacts on the environment and health, to reduce waste and emissions, and to promote the preservation of resources in all phases of the production process.

Accidents with lost time injury (LTIFR)
Wipak Goup 2015–2017



Safety	OES goals by 2020
WOES	Accidents with lost time injury **-80%**

Case study of occupational safety
Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements are harmonized across the Group and continually reviewed. A PPE Matrix clearly indicates what type of PPE is mandatory in which area and for which specific process. Employees are trained regularly on the use of PPE. A knife guideline together with PPE clearly follows our safety mission "Zero Harm" is achievable. Furthermore Wipak has a safety software for safety audits, risk assessments and incident reporting in use.

WIPAK

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

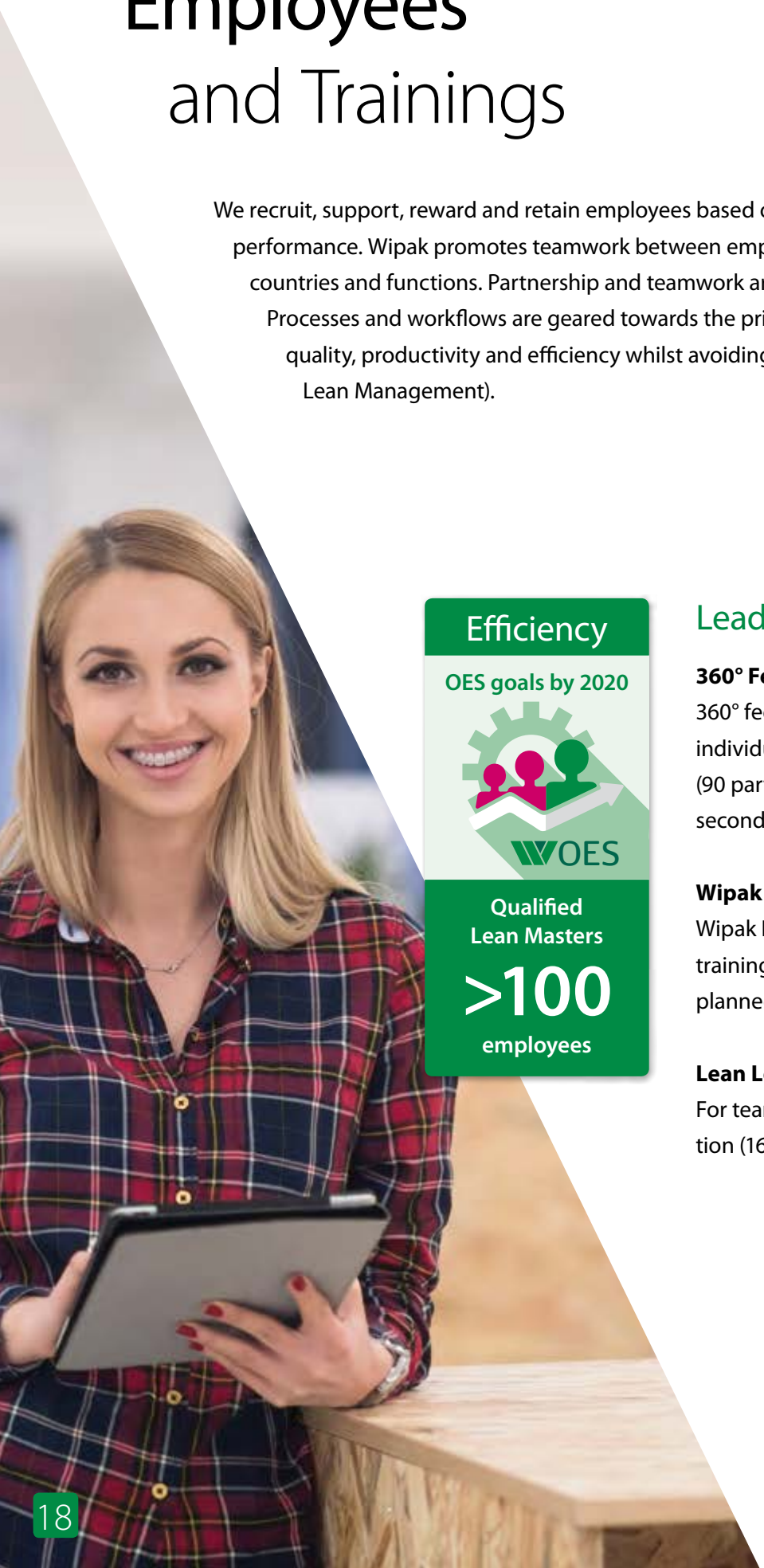
Jogging can play an important part in preventive occupational health issues, which is why many Wipak sites have running groups who train together and take part in competitions or company runs. Wipak also offers other activities and programmes geared towards promoting employee health and well-being. These include talks to help people stop smoking, workplace ergonomics assessments, vaccinations and training on back health.

Case study Wipak Nastola
Keeping fit – strengthening the team spirit

Wipak offers health and prevention programmes for employees at the Nastola (Finland) site, which include physiotherapy and preventive treatment courses. Sport also plays a key role in managing health. Activities on offer include angling, squash, tennis, football, ice hockey and golf. Wipak Nastola also supports trips to swimming pools and gyms.

Employees and Trainings

We recruit, support, reward and retain employees based on their skills, merits and performance. Wipak promotes teamwork between employees and executives across countries and functions. Partnership and teamwork are of prime importance here. Processes and workflows are geared towards the principles of increased safety, quality, productivity and efficiency whilst avoiding waste (also known as Lean Management).



Efficiency

OES goals by 2020

Qualified Lean Masters

>100

employees

Leadership Development

360° Feedback

360° feedback for managers, including individual feedback discussions (90 participants in 2016, continuing every second year)

Wipak Leadership Academy

Wipak Leadership Academy with ongoing trainings (around 60 hours of further training planned for each participant)

Lean Leadership

For team leaders and shift leaders in production (16 hours of training per participant)

“Wipak works closely with colleges and universities, and encourages students through initiatives such as design competitions. That’s how I came to work for Wipak. I wrote my bachelor thesis in Walsrode (Germany) and, after completing my studies, I was able to start my career in the PackDesign department. I was interested in the links between packaging technology and product design. Wipak offers young employees a lot of freedom to develop. You are given the opportunity to try many things, gradually taking on responsibility for projects and supporting international customers.”

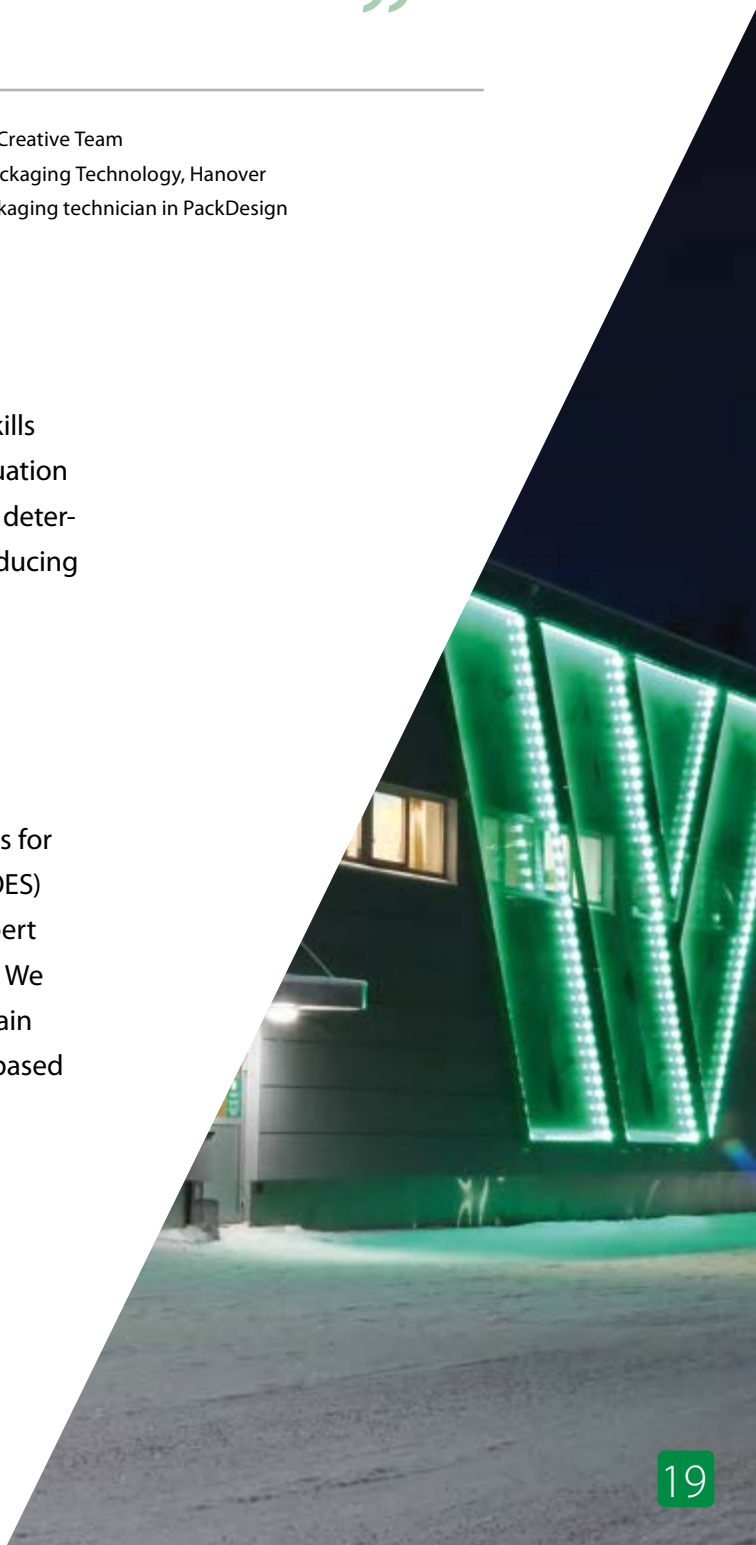
Maik Dworczyk, 30, Manager/Creative Team
Education: Bachelor of Food Packaging Technology, Hanover
2011 started his career as a packaging technician in PackDesign at Wipak’s site in Walsrode

Cross-Skilling

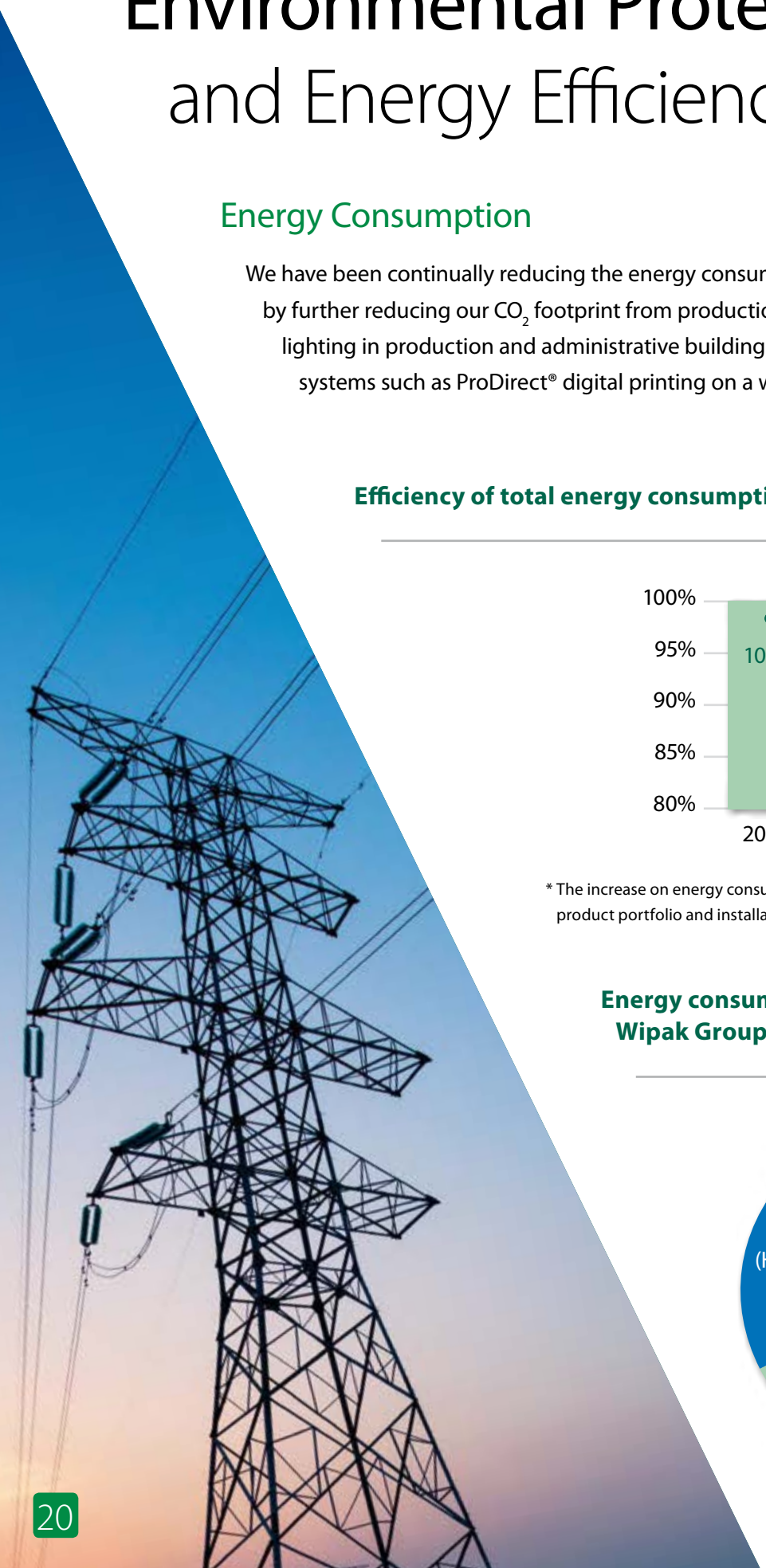
Cross-training is a focus area at the production sites. A skills matrix is used as an initial step to analyse the current situation at each site and department. This is used as the basis for determining individual training needs and, ultimately, for producing training plans for all employees.

Role-Based Training

We launched comprehensive internal 5S training sessions for all employees with the Operational Excellence System (OES) in mind. We awarded over 250 employees with Lean Expert qualifications in 2016/2017 as part of Lean Management. We also held additional trainings on areas such as supply chain and plant sales. Further functional trainings are offered based on individual needs.



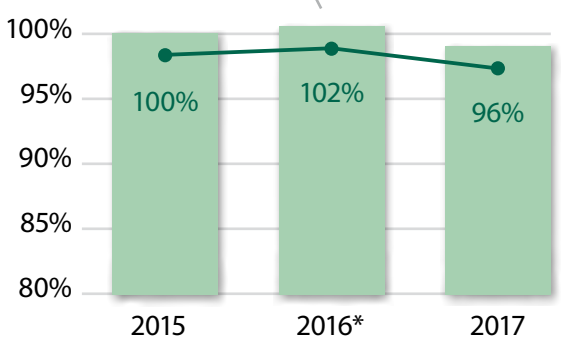
Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency



Energy Consumption

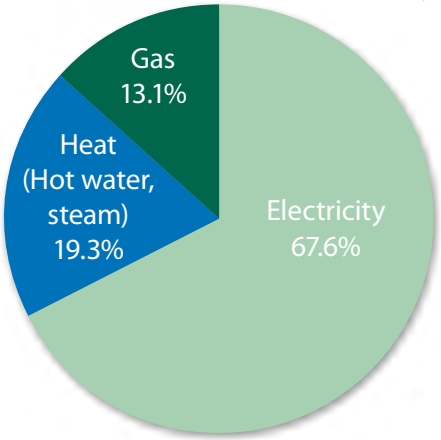
We have been continually reducing the energy consumption of our production sites, thereby further reducing our CO_2 footprint from production. Changes include switching to LED lighting in production and administrative buildings, as well as investing in energy-efficient systems such as ProDirect® digital printing on a wide web (more information on page 31).

Efficiency of total energy consumption (kWh/t) at Wipak Group



* The increase on energy consumption from 2015 to 2016 is due to changing product portfolio and installation and ramp up of new lines.

Energy consumption at Wipak Group in 2017 (in %)

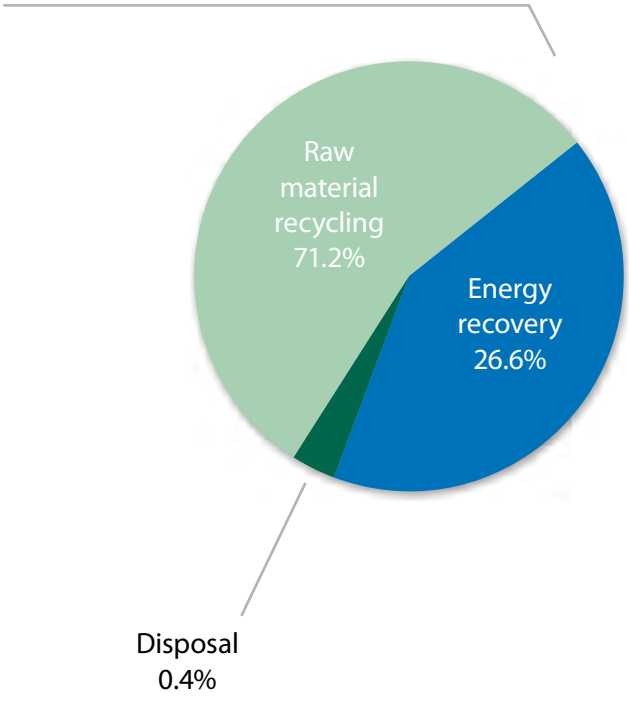


Waste Material Management

As a way of reducing the total quantity of production-related waste, we continually optimise our production technologies and processes. We keep waste from machine start-up as small as possible and reduce edge trim. Production waste from the Wipak Group is fully recycled by certified disposal companies. Approximately 71% of this waste is then processed for material recycling. In 2017, around 100 waste reduction projects were initiated and implemented across the Group, covering all areas of production.

Through these actions, we are following EU regulations, focussing our efforts on efficient use of resources and minimizing waste (principles of Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive).

Total waste management in the Wipak Group in 2017 (in %)



Raw Materials Meet the Highest Quality Standards

As a manufacturer of multi-layer films we use/incorporate polymers that meet the highest standards for quality, as well as food and health legislations. They are also largely recyclable. As a way of satisfying environmental and economic requirements, Wipak is developing packaging films choosing the best combination and mixture of raw materials. Ideally, films should be suitable for material recycling.

In order to sustainably expand our raw material base, we constantly strive to introduce alternatives to crude oil-based materials. In the development of our innovative film solutions, we focus on renewable resources that do not compete with food applications.

The key question is always which material combinations and packaging concepts can be used to provide ideal protection for food products. The same is true for medical technology and pharmaceutical products: patient safety must always be given top priority when selecting packaging.

Renewable Raw Materials
For Example: Paper/Plastic Composite Solutions

Wipak develops packages implementing raw materials from renewable resources. Paper, for example, can be used both in lidding film and in tray film. It can account for more than 85% of the film's composition, with the same high levels of functionality.

FSC®-certified paper

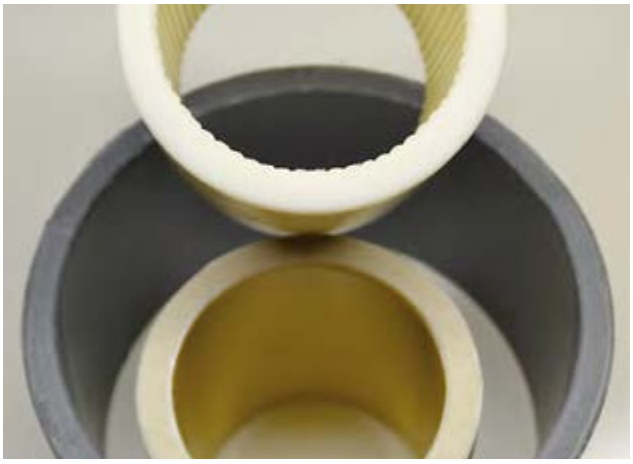
Wipak only processes FSC®-certified paper for food packaging. All our paper fibers come from responsible managed forests. It consists of 100% virgin fibres and is thus free from mineral oils. The Wipak plants in Germany (Walsrode) and Poland have been FSC® COC-certified (FSC® licence code C130525), meaning a closed and certified supply chain is guaranteed.

Production Waste

All production waste of our plastic films is recycled as far as possible by use of common recycling processes. In addition, Wipak is testing the recyclability of PA/PE films. New technologies, such as chemical recycling, will make it possible to separate these composites and recycle them according to material type.

Recycling

Production waste from the plant in Nastola (Finland) is recycled and plastic cores with different diameters and surfaces are made from the recycled material. In addition, other plastic products such as core plugs for 3-inch and 6-inch plastic cores and core sleeves are manufactured.



Corporate Carbon Footprint (CCF)

In partnership with ClimatePartner®, Wipak determined the greenhouse gas emissions for the Walsrode (Germany) production site for the years 2015 to 2017 and designed a CO_2 calculator, which can be used to calculate product-related CO_2-equivalent emissions. It takes into account all the factors that are relevant to the carbon footprint of the packing material (including raw material use, energy consumption, and emissions from production and transport).

Offsetting through recognised and certified climate protection projects

In addition, all product related direct CO_2-eq. emissions of 2015 and 2016 are offset by the company's support of a forest conservation project in Papua New Guinea. Thanks to external funding and the active participation of local municipalities, this climate protection project preserves about 600,000 hectares of existing primary rainforest. This investment also supports the local infrastructure, including educational institutions and transportation.

Scan me!
Find out more about the climate protection project

Quality Management

Our quality management, environmental protection and hygiene practices have been developed to meet the strict demands of international standards and customer requirements.

Stringent criteria also apply for selecting and processing raw materials and additives, as well as for recycled materials. These materials are continually tested and categorised in our laboratories. We work with our certified partners to develop new processing methods and concepts in quality assurance.

The Wipak Group Standards

Management systems
- ISO 9001

Food Safety Management
- ISO 22000
- BRC

Environmental management
- ISO 14001

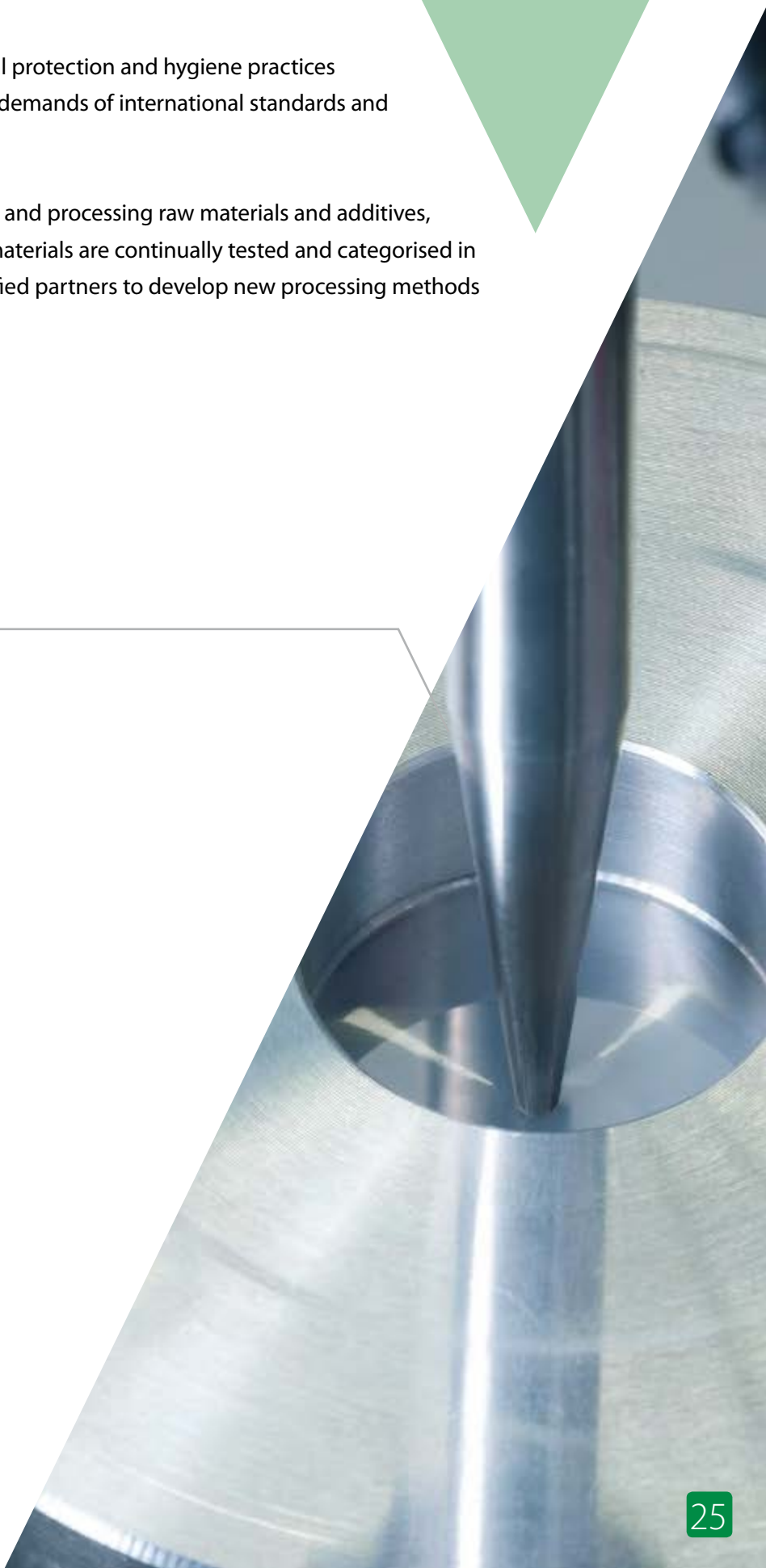
Medical devices – Quality management system
- ISO 13485

Occupational safety
- OHSAS 18001
- Smeta 4 Pillars

Energy management
- ISO 50001

Supply chain security
- AEO – Authorized Economic Operator

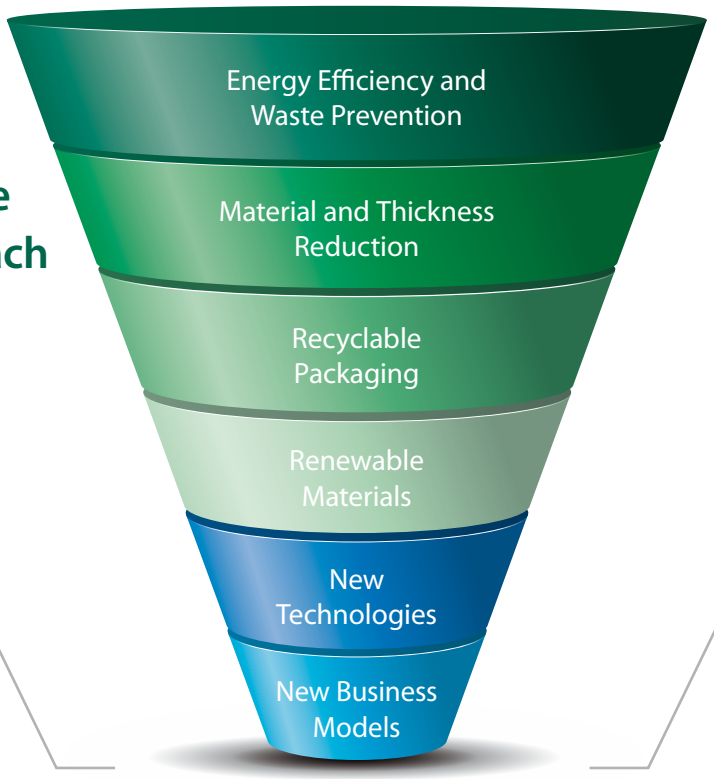
Supply chain management
- FSC® Chain of Custody



The Road to Sustainable Packaging

The better products are protected, or in the case of food, the longer it can be stored before it spoils, the more effectively resources can be preserved. It is one of the reasons we focus our expertise on developing innovative packaging, working with our customers to create sustainable overall concepts.

Life Cycle Approach



On our "Road to Sustainable Packaging" we are aligned with the Circular Economy Package, embracing the philosophy of prevention and resource efficiency throughout our production. Using building blocks such as reduced material consumption, recyclable solutions, renewable based materials, and new technologies and business models we are developing sustainable packaging concepts and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. At Wipak we believe that implementing a life-cycle approach is essential to being a reliable partner.

Energy Efficiency and Waste Prevention

WIIMA
Stand Up Pouches

WIIMA is a turnkey system solution for the production of spouted pouches. It encompasses the machine, films and spouts, as well as refinement/printing and service. The WIIMA package also includes the assembly, maintenance and servicing of the machines or of the entire packing line.

With efficient use of material, less waste and transport costs for empty/pre-made pouches, WIIMA is cost-effective and conserves resources. There is no need to invest in new machines and customers can trust that all components are compatible.

Reduced Material Consumption

Reduced Storage Costs

Reduced Waste

Material and Thickness Reduction

Fitform

Sustainable Packaging for Medical Instruments

The new generation of thermoformable, PA/PE-based Fitform films were specially developed as sterile barrier material for medical devices.

A special feature is the film structure, which is up to 20% thinner than the market standard, but provides higher mechanical strength. Fitform is also comparable to thicker composites in terms of its technical properties. The films are suitable for ethylene oxide and irradiation sterilization, and provide a safe barrier against microbial contamination. This prevents damage to and contamination of medical devices during their transport and storage.

Using thinner film also has a positive impact on logistics and processing. It results in more linear metres per roll, optimises pallet and storage space capacity, and reduces roll changes. These in turn all lead to increased productivity and lower energy consumption at our customers' site.

Reduced Material Consumption

Reduced Waste

Human Health

Recyclable Packaging

Quadro Seal Bag

Recyclable Polyolefin

The Quadro Seal bag is based on recyclable polyolefin. The composite of BOPP and PE (with integrated barrier and peel) can be sorted by state-to-the-art sorting systems and recycled with the polyolefin fraction. The base material belongs to the Wipak product family Biaxop, which has been synonymous for recyclable composite solutions for many years.

Another feature: Due to special sealing properties, the quadro seal bag has a high stability. The quadro seal bag has no longitudinal seam. This provides four smooth presentation surfaces. It can be printed on high quality and finished with various varnishes, as the example of the cheese snack 'Tolle Rolle' shows. The sides are printed with matt lacquer and thus create a semi-transparent, milky window.

Recyclable

Reduced Waste

Renewable Materials

Colruyt

Paper Composite for Meat and Sausage Products

Paper BTM® is a thermoformable composite made with 300 grammage paper and a 25 µm sealing layer. Aroma protection, increased storage life and oxygen barrier are provided by extremely thin plastic layers. The lightweight nature of the paper tray also helps to reduce storage and transportation costs. Based on the life cycle of the paper tray, its contribution to climate change can be reduced by around 55% compared to the previous concept. For the 12.5 million trays, which are annually used, around 130 tonnes of plastic is saved. The Colruyt tray consists of over 85% paper and in many countries can be disposed of in paper recycling. The paper is FSC®-certified thus sourced from responsible managed forest.

Reduced Carbon Emissions

Reduced Storage Costs

Recyclable

Renewable Raw Materials

New Technologies

ProDirect®

The first Industrial Inkjet Digital Printing Solution

ProDirect® is a unique digital printing concept in today's market. By combining a fully automated pre-press and solvent-free paper composites, it allows CO_2 emissions from production and packaging to be reduced.

Reduced Material Consumption

Solvent-free Laminates

Water-based Inks

Reduced Storage Costs

Lower Energy Consumption

Renewable Raw Materials

GERMAN PACKAGING AWARD
PACKAGING MACHINES
WINNER 2017

The first industrial digital printing system for flexible packaging solutions. Wipak has developed ProDirect® in collaboration with its partners. The Walsrode site is home to a prototype tailor-made to industrial needs. The system is globally unparalleled.

New Business Models

Wipak continuously explores new business models in-order to maximize cooperation along the value chain. Integrated processes and increased collaboration are essential in maintaining a sustainable future whilst addressing the needs of both our customer and the final consumer alike.

The Climate-Neutral Stand Up Pouch

Example of a New Business Model

GERMAN PACKAGING AWARD SUSTAINABILITY WINNER 2017

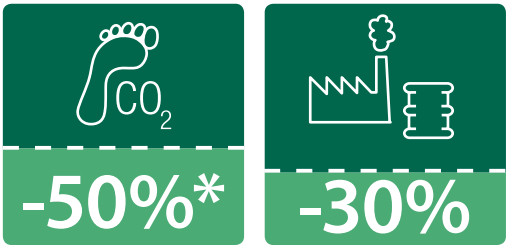
GERMAN PACKAGING AWARD PACKAGING MACHINES WINNER 2017

WPO WORLD PACKAGING ORGANISATION WORLDSTAR WINNER 2018

Wipak analyzed several packaging concepts for meat product manufacturer Mar-Ko, aiming to compare their environmental impacts. All the essential life cycle phases of the packaging films were assessed, from raw materials to production and disposal. A new paper composite developed especially for Mar-Ko reduces the greenhouse gas potential of the packaging by almost 40% compared to the former plastic solution. In addition, the composite solution requires approximately one third less energy from fossil fuels.

The result

In 2016, Mar-Ko replaced its metalised plastic packaging with the sustainable paper composite. In a second phase, product-related CO_2-eq. emissions were further reduced in 2017 thanks to Wipak's award-winning ProDirect® technology – printing onto the paper composite using the digital inkjet process. The remaining CO_2-eq. emissions are offset through a local climate protection project, "Waldschutz im Harz" (forest conservation in the Harz region).



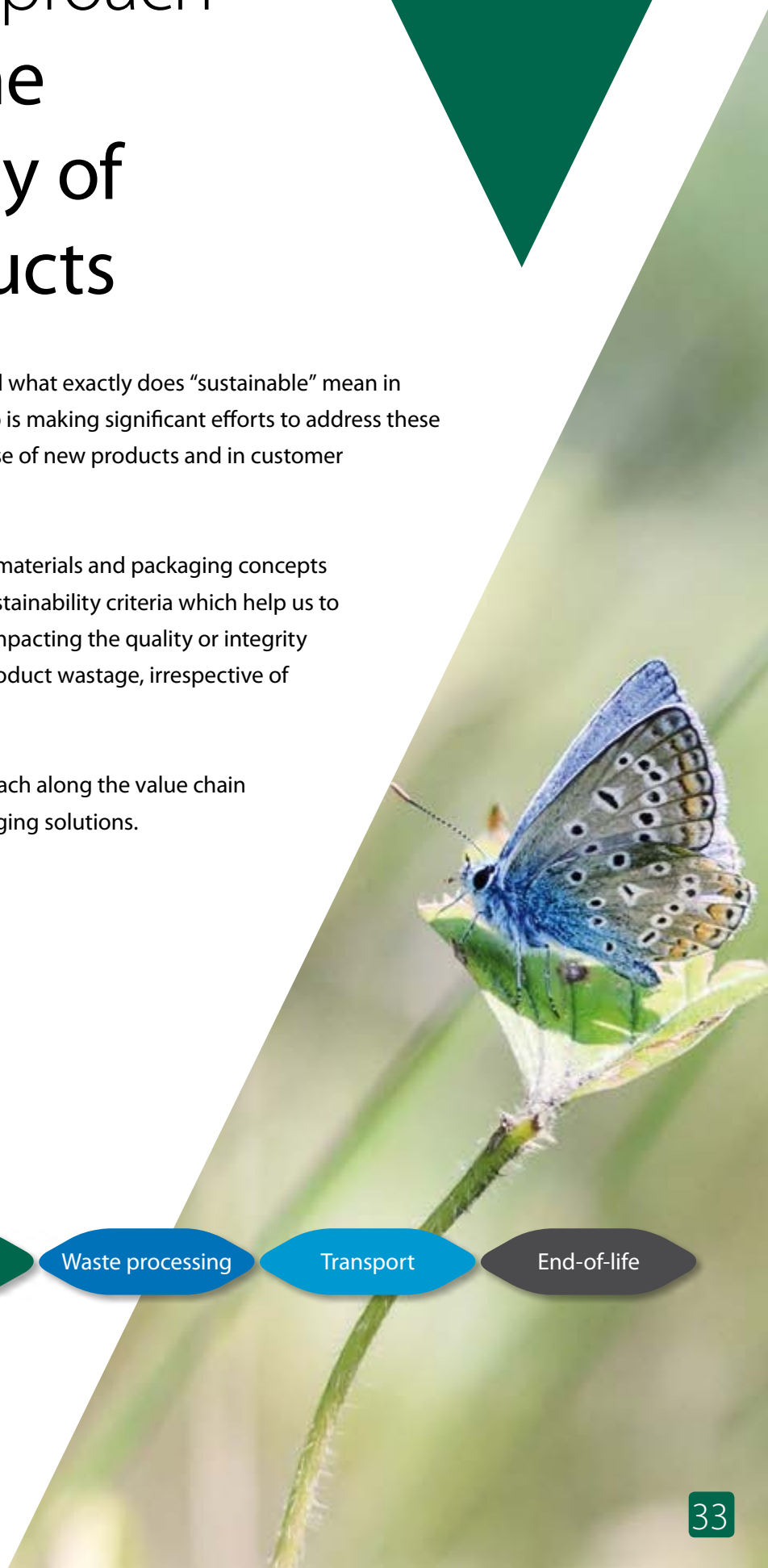
* after the second step

Life Cycle Approach
Assessing the Sustainability of Wipak Products

How sustainable can packaging be? And what exactly does “sustainable” mean in relation to packaging? The Wipak Group is making significant efforts to address these questions during the development phase of new products and in customer projects.

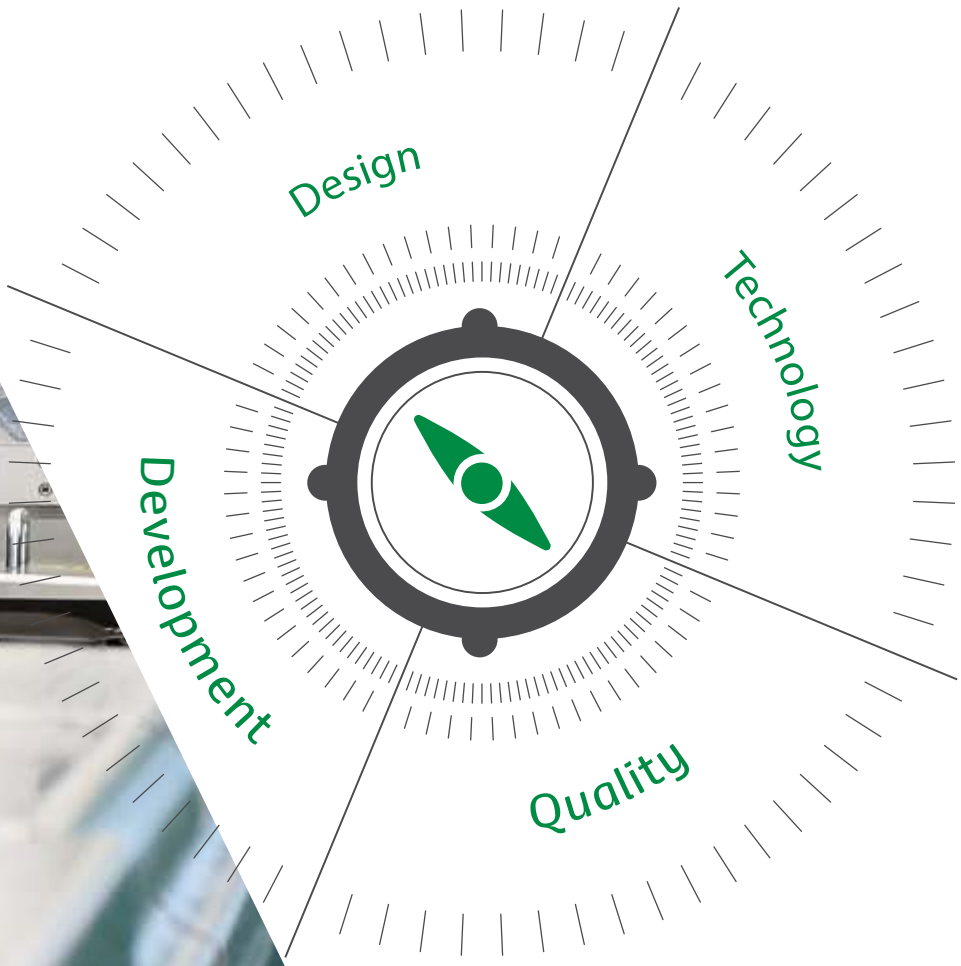
Assessing the environmental impact of materials and packaging concepts through the consideration of various sustainability criteria which help us to optimize the use of resources without impacting the quality or integrity of the packaged product. Preventing product wastage, irrespective of the packaging is our top priority.

Therefore we consider a life cycle approach along the value chain as essential to design sustainable packaging solutions.



Added Value Services

Sustainable packaging solutions are often the result of collaborative efforts with our customers and industry partners. Specialists in packaging design, packaging technology, sustainability, film development and application technology are the heart of the Wipak Group Innovation Centre.

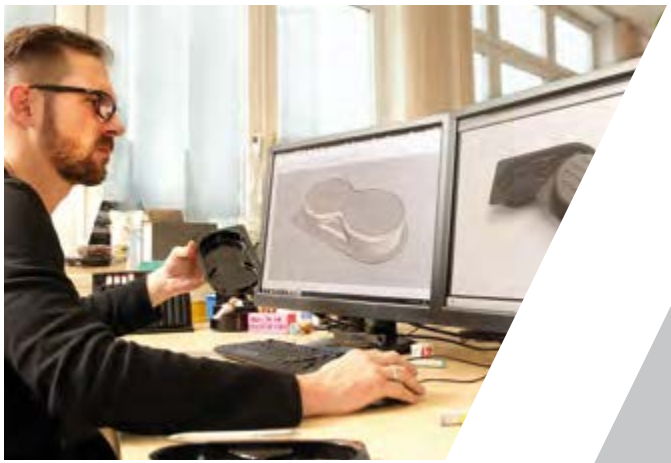


Development

Wipak provides a consultancy service to its customers across Europe, accompanying them from the initial idea, all the way through to the market-ready packaging solution. Wipak's approach is to get on board of a project from the very first stage, when new products and ideas begin to emerge. The Innovation Centre goes beyond pure packaging development by combining its expertise in design, consulting, training, sustainability and market intelligence.

Creative Center

Cost-effective and environmentally friendly packaging designs can considerably reduce waste quantities, the amount of material used and energy consumption throughout the entire supply chain. The Creative Center covers everything from printing technology support, to developing sample packaging and producing printing samples.



Case Study

Malbuner Pocket Sandwich

Liechtenstein-based Ospelt Group has started to distribute its salami cuts outside of Switzerland using the new brand name, 'Malbuner® Pocket Sandwich'. This internationalization has seen the package modified with a partial haptic lacquer, which provides a premium-quality look to the black and red flowpack.

Wipak specialists from: development department, creative center, technical field service as well as printing department and quality control had been working hand-in-hand on this project. The Wipak Creative Team has managed this challenging design relaunch. Wipak supported Ospelt with a whole range of services, including print technology consultation, pack design, sample production and printing.

Wipak-Services

- Pack design and 3D-Rendering
- Production of dummy's from original film material
- High quality film printing, incl. digital proofs
- Film production (sample reels or pre-made pouches)
- Packaging tests at the Wipak Packaging Test Center
- Technical advice and support

The Packaging Test Centre in Walsrode (Germany) represents virtually every conceivable packaging type found in the food industry. It is used for both customer and employee training, as well as film and packaging development testing. All established applications can be simulated at the Packaging Test Centre under field conditions.

Technical Field Service

Wipak's technical field service provides a link between development and production, and to marketing and distribution. In Europe and Asia, more than 20 application engineers are on hand to answer technical queries from Wipak customers. Our services extend from process consultancy to packaging trials and further processing of our films at our customers' plants.

Analyse workflows, optimise processing

Wipak's technical services also include analysing the customer's packaging processes and simulating further processing of our films at the Wipak Packaging Test Centre. Our process-oriented approach and collaboration with leading machine builders enables us to systematically improve processing conditions, as well as adjust systems and films to ensure that they are optimally compatible. This means we can find solutions quickly and keep failures and downtimes to a minimum.

Training and Seminars

Practical expertise covering everything what is to know about packaging films and processes – that is what the Wipak Group Academy is all about. Wipak offers training, seminars, innovation workshops and e-learning modules to customers and employees throughout Europe.

From packaging technology and film manufacturing to protecting the environment and disposal, and even new packaging concepts and packaging designs, Wipak seminars cover the complete supply chain of the packaging process. Alongside the basic seminars focused on film technology and food packaging, which are held in Walsrode (Germany), Wipak regularly offers Steriking® seminars and innovation workshops across its European sites or at the customer's own site.

Quality Assurance

Round-the-clock production control, measurements carried out at the plants, integrated inspection systems, fast-track laboratory tests – these are the ways in which we ensure consistently high film quality, optimum packaging machine productivity and minimal production downtime.

Laboratory Services

Wipak operates modern film testing laboratories across Europe. In order to continue delivering our premium-quality films that meet all food and medical device requirements, we measure the layer thicknesses, as well as oxygen and water permeation, and we conduct migration tests, UV spectroscopy and other mechanical, microbiological and sensory tests.

Engagement with the Community

Wipak's parent company, Wihuri, continues to be a family-run organisation 110 years after it was founded, embodying values such as social responsibility and community engagement.

EU Projects

EU Projects with Wipak Involvement

Bio-based high gas and vapor barrier polymers for packaging (GASP)

CellPod – The next generation of Food

Bio-based smart packaging for enhanced preservation of food quality (BIOSMART)

Best markets for the exploitation of innovative sustainable food packaging solutions (MYPACK)

Selection from 2017

Two of the EU projects Wipak is involved with (BIOSMART and MYPACK, projects from Horizon 2020 programme) are part of the EU's Circular Economy Package, which strives to implement changes towards a largely circular economy by using resources in a more responsible way. Horizon 2020 is an EU-funded research and innovation programme that invests in circular economies at a national level.

Life+ Project – PVC-free Blood Bags

Producing safer and PVC-free blood bags is a reality, as the 2017 Life+ project at Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm has shown. Working alongside three European companies, Wipak played its part in the project. Wipak's role was to produce the required film, based on materials from MELITEK. Karolinska University Hospital ran user tests and assessed the bags in terms of their suitability for storing erythrocytes. It has now been demonstrated that a safer blood bag is possible from PVC-free materials, which can also meet the required specifications.

Collaborative Work with Universities

Design Projects with Students

Collaborative work with universities and students is a long-standing tradition at Wipak. With partners such as the 'Deutsches Verpackungsinstitut' (German Packaging Institute), German specialist journal 'creativ verpacken' and the Finnish Design Institute at Lahti (University of Applied Sciences), Wipak has regularly launched design projects and design competitions for students since 2008. The results of these practice-oriented projects have been regularly exhibited at public events, including Interpack in Düsseldorf, as well as having received multiple awards. In 2017, three students at Berliner Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft (University of Applied Sciences in Berlin) each received a German Packaging Award for their packaging concepts. 'Safe Food' was the theme for the 2017 project, with students having to investigate how packaging could help reduce food waste.

Wipak Design Project

Three Designs Winning German Packaging Award 2017

Safe Food – following this motto students of Berlin University of Applied Science (HTW) have designed packaging, participating in a design challenge Wipak has initiated. Three of them had been recognized at the 2017 German Packaging Award.

GERMAN PACKAGING AWARD

YOUNG TALENT

WINNER 2017

Tast(e) Food

Proof of quality or 'best before' information is often printed in design as numbers or as a mark using colour-changing ink. Tast(e) Food offers visual and tactile information by changing the surface, indicating the current quality of the food. Advantage: This pack enhances consumers' food awareness.

Design: Anne Bansen, HTW Berlin

Klip Klap

This film package has an adapted opening mechanism for stand-up pouches, resulting in significantly improved handling when dispensing loose products such as rice, muesli or nuts. Reduced material use, intuitive handling – that's how a pouch is transformed into an attracting packaging.

Design: Tobias Härdtlein, HTW Berlin

GoFresh

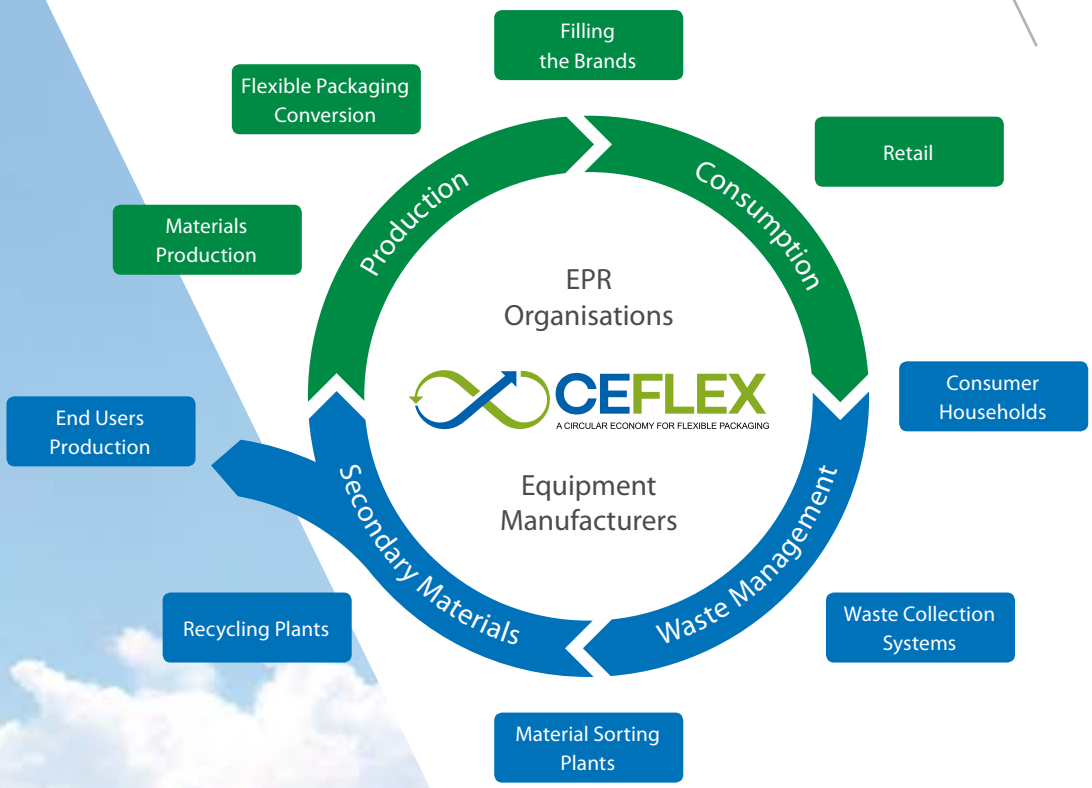
Cook once, enjoy again and again. The resealable bag comprises durable basic and fresh ingredients which are prepared according to the recipe on the packaging. Leftovers can be cooled, frozen and reheated in the microwave using the bag. The concept is made from recyclable materials.

Design: Aran Leptig, HTW Berlin

CEFLEX Initiative

CEFLEX is a collaborative project of about 60 European companies representing the entire value chain of flexible packaging. Wipak joined the project in early 2017 and is now working with these companies towards the common goal of increasing the collection and recycling of flexible packaging by 2025. This will take "end of life" technologies and processes, which deliver the best economic, technical and environmental outcome for a circular economy, into account.

On the Way to a Circular Economy – the Value Chain for the Market of Flexible Packaging



To achieve its goal, the Ceflex project intends to develop European-wide guidelines for flexible packaging and foster infrastructure development for post-consumer flexible packaging waste by 2025, which will enable used packs to be collected, sorted and recycled. These guidelines are intended to influence decisions during the early stages of package design e.g. which materials are recyclable and which materials could potentially be substituted. Ceflex will also identify technologies, infrastructure, business models and markets for recycled material.

The initiative is not only relevant to the packaging producer, but it encourages collaboration among all companies that are part of the supply chain to find common solutions – from raw material producers, to manufacturers of packaging and consumer products, retailer, as well as waste management and recycling companies.

CEFLEX is working towards finding solutions in these areas to make flexible packaging even more relevant to the circular economy.

Challenges

Collection

Flexible plastic is not (yet) widely collected for recycling in all countries. CEFLEX supports the consistent approach throughout the EU.

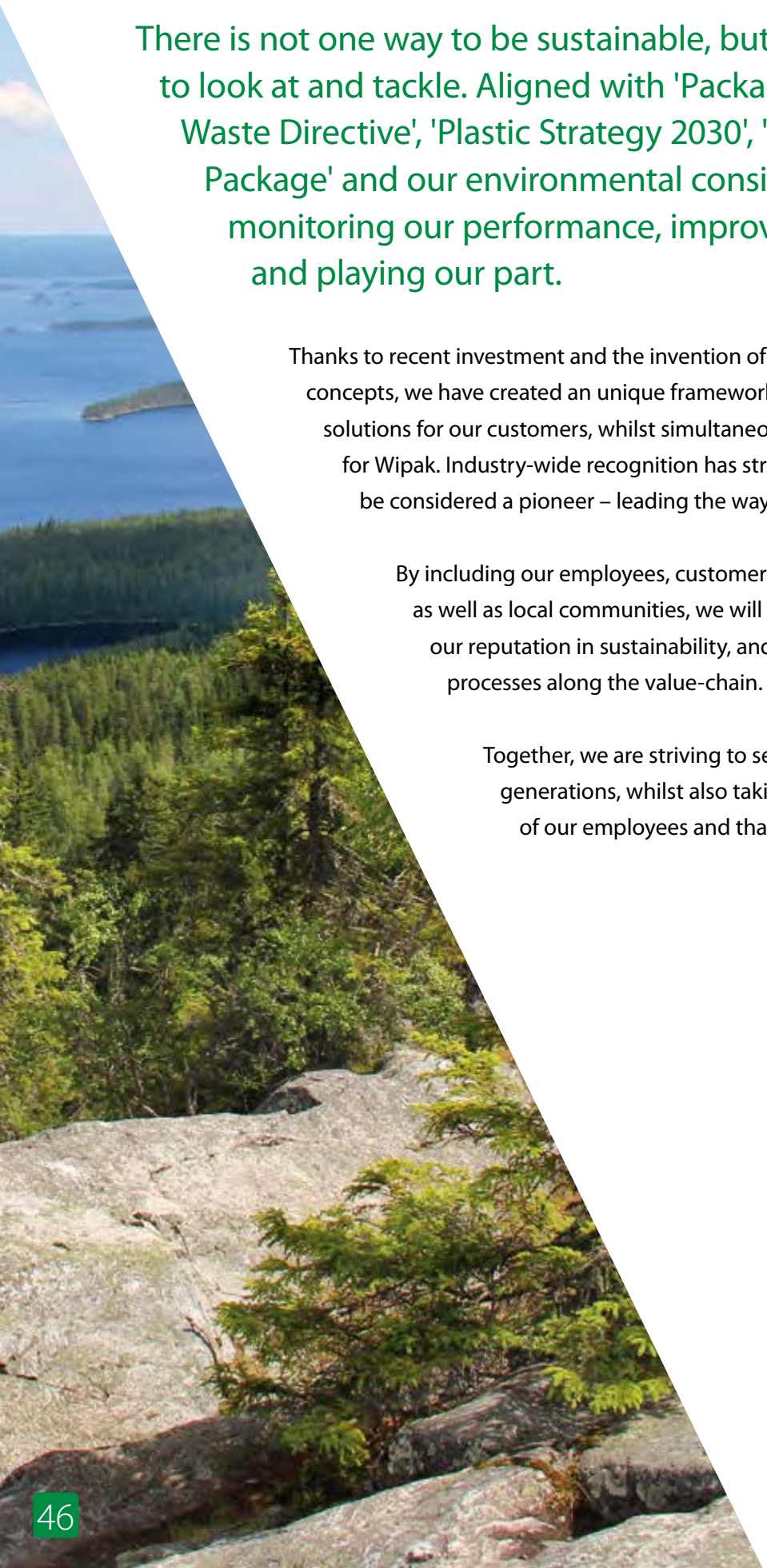
Technology

Whilst multilayer flexible packaging is efficient in terms of production and use of resources, it can be a challenge to recycling. Putting a focus on more economic solutions and concepts for sorting and recycling is therefore essential.

Infrastructure

The lightweight properties of flexible packaging mean a lot more packs need to be collected to meet weight-based recycling targets.

Future Perspective



There is not one way to be sustainable, but many different aspects to look at and tackle. Aligned with 'Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive', 'Plastic Strategy 2030', 'Circular Economy Package' and our environmental considerations, we are monitoring our performance, improving our capabilities and playing our part.

Thanks to recent investment and the invention of new technologies and packaging concepts, we have created an unique framework to offer best-in-class sustainable solutions for our customers, whilst simultaneously securing a sustainable future for Wipak. Industry-wide recognition has strengthened our belief that Wipak can be considered a pioneer – leading the way in sustainability.

By including our employees, customers and partners along the supply chain, as well as local communities, we will continue to develop and reinforce our reputation in sustainability, and integrate life-cycle thinking in all processes along the value-chain.

Together, we are striving to secure the environment for future generations, whilst also taking care of people's health – both that of our employees and that of consumers.

“Being Sustainable is a Journey.
Join Us on Our Way!”

WIPAK

Involve. Inspire. Impress.

China • Czech Republic • Estonia • Finland • France • Germany • Hungary • Italy • Japan • Netherlands
Norway • Poland • Russia • Singapore • Spain • Sweden • Switzerland • Turkey • United Kingdom

The Wipak Group develops and manufactures sophisticated packaging solutions for food products, as well as for medical instruments and devices. As part of the Finnish Wihuri Group, Wipak is a leading European supplier of multilayer films – especially high barrier films. Our extensive range of services delivered by our Innovation Center, combined with application support through training and workshops, ensure that with our products we can provide significant added value to our customers.

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