

Citeo announces the launch of the first French closed-loop recycling activity for PET pots and trays.

- Thanks to innovative technologies combining mechanical, chemical and enzymatic recycling, the majority of pots and trays used in France from 2025, for example for the packaging of cold meats or pastries, will be recycled to allow reuse in contact with food. This is a first that marks the start of a true circular economy for this packaging!
- Two winning projects were selected by Citeo for this new sector of activity:
 - Paprec, which will rely on a commercial partnership with Eastman, at its future PET chemical recycling plant in Port-Jérôme-sur-Seine.
 - A consortium consisting of Carbios, Wellman and Valorplast, with the creation of the world's first PET biorecycling plant in addition to a mechanical recycling solution.

New recycling technologies and innovative partnerships serving the circular economy

For the first time in France, the recycling sector for PET pots and trays is bringing together historical recycling stakeholders with new players such as the manufacturers Carbios and Eastman.

The projects selected combine mechanical recycling with chemical or biological (using enzymes) recycling technologies to enable reuse of PET pots and trays in contact with food. Some pots and trays, with simpler compositions (clear, monolayer), can be recycled mechanically.

Two winning projects for handling at least 17,000 tonnes of packaging from 2025

Paprec, has been selected for 70% of the tonnages proposed by Citeo. To begin with, the mechanical recycling of single-layer trays will be developed, allowing reuse for contact with food. Then, thanks to a commercial partnership with Eastman, the pots and trays will be handled by the plant to be constructed in Port-Jérôme-sur-Seine (76) once it is in service. This packaging will be recycled using a technology that harnesses chemical recycling by depolymerization to allow reuse for contact with food. Paprec has signed a 9-year contract with Citeo.

The consortium consisting of Carbios, Wellman and Valorplast has been selected for 30% of the tonnages proposed by Citeo. This consortium will ensure the recycling of mono and multilayer trays from 2023. **Wellman** will initially operate the separation of monolayer trays, which will be recycled mechanically and reused for food packaging. The rest of the stream will be handled by **Carbios** starting from 2025 at its future plant in Longlaville (54). This plant will be the first in the world able to biorecycle all types of PET, in particular multilayer. Through this project, the French company Carbios will apply its unique technology on a large scale, using highly selective enzymes to transform PET pots and trays into PET suitable for contact with food. This is also a 9-year contract.

PET pots and trays: much-anticipated reuse for contact with food

The PET pots and trays marketed in France have until now been recycled mechanically and only in limited quantities in Europe.

Some PET pots and trays have complex structures that are necessary to ensure product safety and until now this has made their recycling difficult. This new sector of activity will be able to process them and in this sense constitutes a real revolution, a new brick in the ever-growing edifice of the circular economy for household packaging.

Reminder: The announcement of this new sector of activity is the final stage of a call for tenders launched by Citeo with a view to enabling the recycling of new materials in France and Europe from 2025. Further details [here](#) and [here](#).

Results of the Citeo call for tenders: key figures

- 4 sectors of activity for 5 different materials flows
- 108,000 tonnes of plastic packaging recycled in 2025
- 12 winning projects, including 9 located in France and 3 in neighbouring countries (Belgium, Spain)
- 4 new recycling units built in France, and 5 consolidated thanks to this call for tenders
- Contracts established over periods of 6 or 9 years for improved visibility

Press contacts:

Pauline Carde
pauline.carde@maarc.fr
06 32 03 22 55

Simon Dulucq
simon.dulucq@maarc.fr
06 10 98 55 64

About Citeo

Citeo's mission results from companies in the mass consumption and distribution sectors. Its objective is to reduce the environmental impact of the packaging produced by these companies by offering them reduction, reuse, sorting and recycling solutions. Citeo has set itself 5 undertakings in order to respond to the ecological emergency and speed up transition to the circular economy: i) to reduce the environmental impact of its customers' products by anchoring the circular economy and eco-design in their practices and strategies; ii) to create the conditions for building the solutions for today and tomorrow that combine environmental and economic performance; iii) to give consumers the keys to reduce the environmental impact of their consumption; iv) to co-construct and promote the company's solutions and stances, from the local to the international; v) to cultivate the commitment of its employees in the service of its mission. Since the creation of Citeo, consumer goods and distribution companies have invested more than 11 billion euros in the development of eco-design, in installing and financing selective collection and in creating recycling channels with their partners, local authorities, sectors and operators. Today, 72% of household packaging and 62% of paper are recycled thanks to the everyday action of sorting carried out by the French population, an activity which has become the primary eco-citizen action.