

Establishment of a recycling system from liquid paper packages to corrugated paper board

Initiating steps towards achieving a circular economy for paper resources A joint initiative between Oji Holdings and Nihon Tetra Pak K.K.

Oji Holdings Corporation (President and CEO: Hiroyuki Isono; Head Office: Tokyo) is constructing a system to recycle paper packages and paper cups laminated with polyethylene for chilled products into corrugated board. We are pleased to announce that, in collaboration with Nihon Tetra Pak K.K. (President and CEO: Alejandro Cabal; Head Office: Tokyo; hereinafter referred to as Tetra Pak), we have established the first domestic recycling system to collect and recycle aseptic carton packages, which has been a challenge, into corrugated board. With this initiative, we are now actively working towards achieving a circular economy.

Currently, the majority of aseptic carton packages in Japan are disposed of through incineration (thermal recycling) as combustible waste, with only 3.4% (※1) being recycled into paper products (material recycling). This is a very low recycling rate and there are various challenges persist in this regard. By separating the paper fiber and polyethylene-aluminum layer of used aseptic carton packages, we have established a system to recycle the paper fiber into corrugated board through material recycling, marking the first such system in Japan.

We have already been conducting demonstration tests in some areas since July 2023, and we will gradually expand the areas and intensify our initiatives towards establishing the system on a nationwide scale.

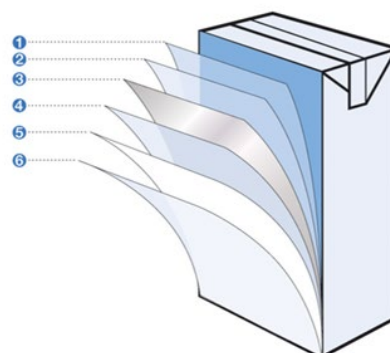
※1)"Recycling Flow Investigation Report on Aluminum-laminated Beverage Carton Packages [Fiscal Year 2021 Actual Situation]"

(Printing Industry Association Liquid Carton Division / Dynax Urban Environmental Research Institute Co., Ltd.)



[Layer structure of aseptic carton packages]

- ① Polyethylene: Seals when molding packages
- ② Polyethylene: Adhesion of aluminum and polyethylene
- ③ Aluminum: Prevention of light and oxygen penetration and protection of product contents
- ④ Polyethylene: Adhesion of paper and aluminum
- ⑤ Paper: Printing and protection of product contents
- ⑥ Polyethylene: Moisture barrier



[About the recycling system]

The newly constructed recycling system collects aseptic carton packages from retail collection, municipal collection and waste paper generated from packaging factories. These materials are collected and recycled into corrugated board raw materials at Oji Group's factories through material recycling. The recycled corrugated board will be used not only as collection boxes for carton packages but also aims to be utilized in the food and beverage industry. This initiative supports the realization of a circular economy and aids in achieving zero emissions at food and beverage company factories.

[Background of this initiative]

Our Group aims to achieve a paper recycling rate of over 70% as part of our "Environmental Vision 2050," which centers around net-zero carbon, and its milestone, the "Environmental Action Goals 2030." We are establishing a recycling system for chilled carton packages and aseptic carton packages, which previously had low paper recycling rates, and are actively promoting the utilization of recycled paper.

Tetra Pak has also set a goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions throughout its value chain by 2050. Aiming to ensure that all used carton packages are not thrown away but recycled, it is actively working to collect and recycle carton packages around the world. By recycling into corrugated board, we contribute to the realization of a circular economy.

[Aim of this initiative]

"Oji Group actively engages in addressing environmental issues based on one of our management principles, 'Harmony with the Environment and Society.' As part of this commitment, we are proactively establishing systems to recycle various carton packages, including carton packages for beverage. We aim to further expand paper recycling, including aseptic carton packages, in collaboration with Tetra Pak. Through this initiative, we strive to promote the realization of a sustainable society."

(Yamamoto Manabu, Deputy General Manager of Group Business Development Department, Oji Management Office)

"Tetra Pak aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the recycling of carton packages. Although aseptic carton packages have been recycled into cardboard overseas, this is the first attempt to do so in Japan. We hope that the new end-product will expand access to recycling of aseptic carton packages. In addition, the use of such cardboard in the food and beverage industry will enable the realization of an even more low-carbon and recycling-oriented society. We will further promote collection and recycling through in-store and government collections, as well as the collection of mill waste paper."

(Yuko Ohmori, Sustainability Director, Nihon Tetra Pak K.K.)



Tetra Pak is a world leading food processing and packaging solutions company. Working closely with our customers and suppliers, we provide safe, innovative, and environmentally sound products that each day meet the needs of hundreds of millions of people in more than 160 countries. With more than 25,000 employees around the world, we believe in responsible industry leadership and a sustainable approach to business. Our promise, "PROTECTS WHAT'S GOOD™," reflects our vision to commit to making food safe and available, everywhere. Tetra Pak is a trademark belonging to the Tetra Pak Group. For more information, please visit the site below.

Website: <https://www.tetrapak.com/>

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