

We're extending the life cycle of our packaging!

Get to know the process of circularity and how it's helping us help the environment.



We're back with another installment of our **Sustainability Strides series!** Tune in to learn about an important topic known as **circularity** from Sustainability Associates Lulu Croissant and Amy Hettinger and Sustainability Managers Jaclyn Bukas and Kristy Meyer.



What is circularity?

It's a production model where we reduce, reuse and recycle products to extend their lifespan.

What's our favorite part about circularity?

It recaptures waste as a resource! Recyclable material that includes recycled content is one of the most sustainable materials we can use for packaging, so we're committed to promoting a system of circularity. Here's the impact:

- Generates little waste as a product's next use is already planned
- Combats biodiversity loss (reduction or loss of species) through the creation of more materials with long life spans
- Reduces pollution levels due to limited economic activity (the result of creating products with long life spans)

In a true **circular economy** (when goods and services are reused for as long as possible), "materials never become waste and nature is regenerated." Check out circularity in action.

Circularity Life Cycle

Follow the path of packaging in a system of circularity to find out what's involved and what we're working toward as a company.



Q Did you know?

A deposit-return scheme is a system in which shoppers pay a deposit for a product that they'll get back once the product is returned empty.

Waste at Work

We put waste to good use! Here are some other ways we're doing that:

- We're actively pursuing our plastics & packaging goal of using 20% post-consumer recycled (PCR) content (material that's already been tossed into the recycling bin) in our plastic packaging by 2025.
- We maintain a forestry packaging requirement. All relevant fiber-based primary packaging in our core range ALDI products must consist of **FSC**-, **PEFC**- or **SFI-certified** material or greater than 70% recycled content.
- We've got a single-stream recycling project in the works. Single-stream recycling or SSR refers to recycling products in a single bin rather than multiple, simplifying the recycling process.

The work we're doing today supports our plastics & packaging and operations & food waste sustainability charter initiatives within our **2030 Vision**, the ALDI International National Sustainability strategy.

Q Did you know?

Many packaging materials like paper, plastic, glass and aluminum can include recycled content!

How can you get involved?

- Get to know some of our industry partners: [The Association of Plastic Recyclers](#), [U.S. Plastics Pact](#), [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#), [Organix](#), [Trex](#) and [Vanguard](#). Check out the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) and [The Recycling Partnership](#) for additional resources.
- Follow company recycling bin signage to maximize the material collected for future packaging and other uses.
- Whenever you shop, look for products that contain recycled content. Here's some of ours:
 - **Paper:** Various boxes used for baking mixes, cereals, nutritional snack bars, pasta and rice
 - **Plastic:** Certain laundry detergent and fabric softener bottles and beverage bottles like water
- Get out there and recycle on [America Recycles Day](#) this Nov. 15. According to the [EPA](#), recycling and composting has increased from 6% to 32.1% between 1960 and 2018. We've come a long way, but there's still more recycling to be done. That's why we encourage you to get to know your local guidelines and [recycle right!](#)
- Keep doing your research. Check out how your waste is sorted to see why it's so important to look at the labels before opening the recycling bin.





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