

General

What is PolyREC[®]?

PolyREC[®] is a non-profit industry association that monitors, verifies, and reports on European recycled plastics data. As an official **Circular Plastics Alliance (CPA)** data collector, it contributes towards tracking the progress on the uptake of 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics in new products by 2025. **PolyREC[®]** uses **RecoTrace[™]** - the first multi-polymer data collection tool recording recycling volumes and recycled plastics use in Europe. <https://www.polyrec.eu/> <https://recoTRACE.com/auth/login>

What is the CPA (Circular Plastics Alliance), and why does it need a monitoring tool?

The **Circular Plastics Alliance (CPA)** has been initiated by the European Commission's Directorates for Industry and Environment. The alliance covers the full plastics value chains and includes over 300 organizations representing industry, academia, and public authorities. New stakeholders can join the alliance by signing its declaration.

The **CPA** and its members have voluntarily committed to boosting the EU market for recycled plastics to 10 million tons by 2025. The **CPA** takes action to reach this target and regularly publishes its deliverables and the progress achieved.

The **CPA** is organized in various cross-industry work groups, one of these being the Monitoring Group, which committed to establishing a monitoring system for tracking the progress towards the 10 million tons target.

PolyREC[®] monitors the progress towards achieving the ambitious **CPA** recycling targets, by operating its collection and tracking system **RecoTrace[™]**.

More information on the **CPA** and its activities is available [here](#).

Who can become a PolyREC[®] member?

PolyREC[®] membership is open to any organization - including plastics raw material producers, converters, recyclers, waste operators, retailers, brand-owners, as well as Extended Producer Responsibility schemes and public authorities - that wishes to contribute to building reliable and accurate data on plastics recycling and recycled material use in Europe. The list of **PolyREC[®]** members is available [here](#).



What is RecoTrace™?

RecoTrace™ is a data collection system recording and monitoring data on plastics recycling tonnages and recycled material use (per polymer, sector, application and country) across the EU27, UK, NO and CH. Initially developed for PVC, **RecoTrace™** has now been extended to all polymers.

Building a robust overview of the recycled plastics market in Europe based on reliable and accurate data is highly needed and essential for achieving the **CPA** recycling targets. Having full confidence in recycled market figures can support investment decisions and act as a motivating force for the value chain to accelerate plastics' circularity.

More specifically, **RecoTrace™** allows to:

- Count companies' tonnage towards the **CPA** objectives
- Monitor the progress and fulfilment of plastics organizations' pledges
- Monitor the status towards the **CPA's** objective to reach 10 Mt of recycled plastics used into new products in Europe by 2025
- Fulfil traceability requirements (already in many legislations) thanks to audited/certified data.
- Foster trust of society and demonstrate the recycling achievement of the plastics value chain.

What is RecoTrace™'s uniqueness?

RecoTrace™ is the first comprehensive European data collection system recording both recycling and converting activity for all main polymers. This way, data is gathered at each step of the recycling value-chain - from origin of waste to the use of recycled plastic.

Building on the 20 years' data collection experience of Recovinyl, the data collection system of the PVC value chain, **RecoTrace™** offers companies a highly reliable EU-wide, multi-polymer and free-to-use data collection system to register their recycling tonnages and recycled plastics use.



What is RecoTrace™'s added value for recyclers and converters?

RecoTrace™:

- Enables companies to make their tonnage count towards the **CPA** goals
- Allows to register both the waste recycling volumes of (multiple) polymers and the converted recycled plastics volumes, via one single data collection system.
- Allows companies to follow-up their registered data and track their progress towards circularity
- Is free to use
- Ensures strict data confidentiality and EU Competition Law compliance

Companies will also be able to advertise their participation in **RecoTrace™**, thanks to communication tools that will be provided to them.

Who can use RecoTrace™?

All European based plastics recyclers and converters that want to report on their plastics recycling tonnage and their use of recycled plastics into new products.

Companies don't need to be a **PolyREC**[®] member to be able to use **RecoTrace™**.

What kind of waste streams/polymers does RecoTrace™ cover?

RecoTrace™ covers pre-consumer and post-consumer plastic waste recycling and the uptake of pre-consumer and post-consumer recycled plastics by European converters, for the following polymers: LDPE/LLDPE, HDPE, PP, Mixed PO, PET, PVC, PS, EPS, XPS, PA, ABS and PC.

Which steps should be followed to use RecoTrace™?

A [use guide](#) is available for the companies willing to use **RecoTrace™**.

In the case a company already recorded its data through another data collector, does it make sense to report the same data via RecoTrace™?

Recording the same volumes via different data collectors should be avoided. However, a company is interested in switching to **RecoTrace™**, it can do so while ensuring that its



data in the previous data collecting system is deleted/not taken into account for aggregation for the given year, to avoid double counting.

Is the data recorded in RecoTrace™ audited?

The **CPA** committed to provide audited data via its monitoring tool. **PolyREC**[®] therefore requires all the **RecoTrace**[™] users to audit their data.

Audited data contribute to accuracy and reliability, helping to build a robust overview of the circular plastics economy.

How can RecoTrace™ users get their data audited?

PolyREC[®] is providing all necessary information on auditing and will provide a list of recognized (and **CPA** compliant) auditors to the **RecoTrace**[™] users.

Can chemical recycling data be reported in RecoTrace™?

Not yet. **PolyREC**[®] will extend the current **RecoTrace**[™] tool to include chemical recycling soon.

How can a company active in both converting and recycling activities submit its data in RecoTrace™?

The **RecoTrace**[™] tool enables the recording and monitoring of plastic waste recycling, as well as the use of recycled plastics.

For converting companies also active in recycling, a dedicated area is available in **RecoTrace**[™] where they can enter the recycling and uptake volumes.

The [user guide](#) explains which steps to take to register data.



Using RecoTrace™

Can data be reported in RecoTrace™ for both post-consumer and pre-consumer recycling, and recycled plastics use?

Yes, **RecoTrace™** enables the reporting of pre-consumer and post-consumer plastic waste recycling and the uptake of pre-consumer and post-consumer recycled plastics.

RecoTrace™'s uniqueness is that it enables the data collection at each step of the recycling value-chain - from origin of waste to the use of recycled plastic.

Prior to entering data in **RecoTrace™**, companies are invited to consult the following definitions:

- (1) Post-consumer and pre-consumer waste ([see CPA methodology](#))
- (2) Recycling and converting/uptake of recycled plastics into new products ([see CPA methodology](#))

What are EuCertPlast and RecyClass?

EuCertPlast and **RecyClass** are recycling processes and recycled content certification schemes. More information on **EuCertPlast** and **RecyClass** is available on their respective webpages ([EuCertPlast](#) & [RecyClass](#)).

PolyREC® encourages **RecoTrace™** users to certify their volumes with **EuCertPlast** or **RecyClass**.

Nevertheless, **PolyREC®** is open to any other certification system that is recognized as **CPA** compliant.

Does all material re-used in a converting plant count as recycling?

No, only the processing of waste counts as recycling ([see CPA methodology](#)) and a waste permit is needed, unless you fall under an exemption category.

Further clarification can be found in the [CPA waste guidance](#).



How is the RecoTrace™ collected data aggregated and stored?

All data are stored and aggregated in strict confidentiality and in full compliance with EU Competition Law and GDPR rules. More information can be found in the [RecoTrace™'s terms and conditions](#).

RecoTrace™ users remain the owners of their data. Aggregated data will be used to report to the CPA, and to report on other industry pledges. Collected data will never be used for commercial purposes.

Data publication & communication

Will PolyREC® publish a report with the RecoTrace™ aggregated data?

Yes. This will be done in compliance with EU competition law.

How can RecoTrace™ users advertise their participation?

Once you companies have entered their data, they will get some promotional tools (Twitter & LinkedIn cards, and signature visual).

Reporting to the Circular Plastics Alliance (CPA)

Is RecoTrace™ compliant with CPA requirements for data collection and monitoring?

Yes. **RecoTrace™** is compliant with the Traceability Level 2 of the CPA requirements.

Is RecoTrace™ recognised by the CPA?

Yes, **PolyREC®** is recognized as an official **CPA** data collector. **RecoTrace™** is the first comprehensive European data collection system recording both recycling and converting activity for all main polymers endorsed by the **CPA**.

