

Press release 2023-05-09

Modern plastic recycling lowers Sweden's EU fee

Sweden's EU fee increases for every kilogram of plastic packaging waste that is generated and not recycled. The reason for this increase is based on the decision¹ made by the European Council in 2020 regarding EU funding. From 2021, for every kilogram of plastic packaging waste that is not materially recycled by a member state, in a member state, the EU charges 0.8 euros—approximately SEK 9—per kilo as an additional fee.

Sweden's fee to the EU for non-materially recycled plastic was SEK 1027 million in 2021² and SEK 982 million in 2022³. This means that Sweden saves 9 kronor for every kilo of plastic packaging put on the Swedish market that is recycled instead of being incinerated.

By reducing the amount of plastic packaging that is placed on the market and by increasing the amount of plastic packaging waste that is recycled, Sweden's EU fee can be reduced.

A new plastic recycling plant in Ängelholm, Omni Polymers, started in 2022 and will recycle approx. 5 000-15 000 tonnes of plastic packaging per year, which was previously incinerated. It will save Sweden's taxpayers between SEK 45-135 million in EU fees per year.

- It is gratifying to know that our operations both contribute to a lower climate impact and a lower EU fee. Swedish taxpayers have made a very profitable deal. We received SEK 31 million in support from the Environmental Protection Agency's Klimatklivet initiative. We invested SEK 50 million of private capital. Now we can state that Sweden's contribution to the EU is reduced annually by between SEK 45 and 135 million, says Josef Tapper, CEO of Omni Polymers.

Incineration of plastic in Sweden causes approximately 2.9 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year, corresponding to six percent of Sweden's total emissions. Demand for the recycled plastic granulate at Omni Polymers has been high and the 2023 production volume has sold out. According to Omni Polymers' preliminary studies, plastic manufacturing saves 1410 kg of CO₂ per ton of plastic produced, compared to manufacturing with virgin raw materials. The goal is to reduce the customers' CO₂ emissions by at least 50 percent.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SV/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020D2053>

²Expenditure area 27 The charge to the European Union, <https://www.regeringen.se/contentassets/b70926d3627a48d7b5109a77474a54bf/arsredojning-for-staten-2021-skr.-202122101.pdf>

³Expenditure area 27 The charge to the European Union, <https://www.regeringen.se/contentassets/04da6723015e4c8f84033d22021aed7a/arsredojning-for-staten-2022-skr.-202223101.pdf>

- We are proud that the plastic recycling factory in Ängelholm, which is unique to Sweden, contributes to the reduction of our producer responsibility customers' climate footprint, and that the taxpayers' costs to the EU falls and that new technology is developed to further increase material recycling, says Peter Mellgren, founder of TMR.

Contact:

Josef Tapper, CEO Omni Polymers

+46 (0)70 761 73 46

josef@omnipolymers.com

Sandreen Shaul, Marketing & Communications Manager TMR

+46 (0)73 769 76 67

sandreen.shaul@tmr.se

Peter Mellgren, founder TMR

+46 (0)737 633 902

peter.mellgren@tmr.se

About TMR and Omni Polymers

Tailor-Made Responsibility (TMR) is a producer responsibility organization that was founded in 2005, during a time when there was only one national collection system for packaging in Sweden. TMR contributes to a circular economy by being the obvious partner in the Nordics for all companies with producer responsibility. TMR takes care of everything related to producer responsibility with tailor-made terms and smart innovations. We work together with our customers to prevent the occurrence of packaging waste and counteract littering through smart packaging design. www.tmr.se

Omni Polymers offers the plastics industry a sustainable and competitive alternative to virgin plastics using innovative technology, as well as high commercial and environmental requirements. Omni Polymers is independent and not tied to any industry interests. www.omnipolymers.com