

Tetra Pak and Recoma scale up a circular solution for transport boxes

As part of developing more resource-efficient and sustainable transport solutions, Tetra Pak and Skåne-based Recoma – which produces circular building boards from recycled beverage cartons and industrial waste – are taking the next step in their collaboration. Together, they are scaling up a project that will replace traditional wooden boxes with transport boxes made from recycled materials.

An independent third-party validation showed at an early stage that the new transport boxes can significantly reduce carbon emissions, while also reducing the reliance on virgin wood materials. In this way, the solution contributes to both a more circular economy and a more efficient use of resources.

To test the concept in practice, selected products have been packaged and shipped in the new boxes. The test phase provided valuable feedback on function, sustainability and usability – insights that now form the basis for the next step. The project will thus move from pilot to scale-up, with the goal of the first shipments reaching Tetra Pak's customers on a larger scale in 2026.

"It feels great to see how our used packaging materials are given a new life in the value chain through a completely new area of use. Through the collaboration with Recoma, Tetra Pak's specification owner and Tetra Pak's purchasing manager, we have been able to develop a concrete solution that both meets practical needs and contributes to: Reduce resource use. This is a great example of how partnerships – both internally and externally – can create real change," says Melina Borreback, Production Sustainability Driver at Tetra Pak.

The boxes are designed to be used multiple times before they can be recycled, making them a more resource-efficient option than traditional wooden boxes. At the same time, manufacturing is more efficient, which means that the investment combines both sustainability and cost-effectiveness. In parallel, it is also being investigated how a possible return system could work to maximize the use of the boxes.

"Scaling up the use of our material to a completely new product category together with Tetra Pak is an important step to show how circular solutions can work in practice. This is a project that combines sustainability with cost-effectiveness – and we are proud to be part of that journey," says Max Rosenberg, CEO of Recoma.

The collaboration between Tetra Pak and Recoma started in 2023, and earlier this year Tetra Pak made an investment of €300,000 to help Recoma double its production capacity.