

# South Korea has high recovery rates but relative low can-to-can recycling for a country with established can recycling infrastructure and capacities

Fully implemented

Partially implemented

Not implemented

## Source separation



Up to 7 separate waste streams in cities

Single stream in some commercial buildings &amp; row houses

## Extended producer responsibility



Well established EPR, with focus on quantity not quality

## Deposit return scheme



Aluminium beverage cans not covered by DRS

Local consumption amounts to **92 kilotonnes** of cans

**~100%**  
Collection rate

**0%**  
Deposit

**97%**  
Separate<sup>1)</sup>

**3%**  
Residual

**2%**  
Landfilling<sup>3)</sup>

**96%**  
Recovery rate<sup>2)</sup>

**0%**  
Littering

~**34 kilotonnes** of can scrap is locally recycled into cans, additionally ~**275 kilotonnes** of can scrap is imported

Can-to-can recycling rate

**37%**

**59%**

Not can-to-can rate

Locally

**31%**

Locally

**51%**

1) Separate coll. includes recovered after MRF & transfer station, and all UBCs picked by informal sector

2) Recovery rate as reported by KORA is 79% in 2021. This number refers to the reported recycling amount compared to the total shipments of all can-producing companies. This means that the recycling rate of the collected cans is 99%, with only 1% going to landfills. The remaining 20% is not accounted for in the statistics as it comes from companies not registered with KORA

3) Sorting losses from separate collection amount to ~c. 3.300 k tonnes, of which ~c. 50% is incinerated

## STRONG AREAS

- South Korea boasts very high collection rates with up to 7 fractions
- Well functioning EPR with detailed reporting

## MAIN IMPROVEMENT AREAS

- Source separation is not implemented in row houses & some businesses
- Lack of mechanizing UBC sorting/cleaning process resulting in lower scrap qualities
- Only 1/3 can-to-can recovery ratio