

THE PIONEERS OF PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

Tyre Recycling in Finland, Sweden and Norway

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FINNISH TYRE RECYCLING LTD SVENSK DÄCKÅTERVINNING AB NORSK DEKKRETUR AS

1. INTRODUCTION TO TYRE RECYCLING

1.1 Sharing best practices

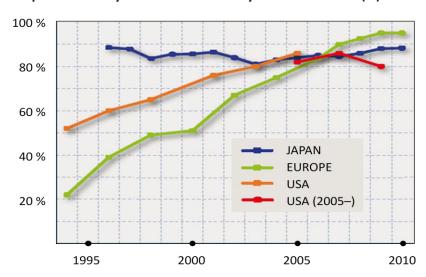
The Nordic countries are pioneers of developing tyre recycling based on collective producer responsibility. The key actors in tyre industry of Finland, Sweden and Norway set up a non-profit ELT management company in each country already in the mid-1990s. The other European countries were following with similar kind of systems in the 2000s.

Finnish Tyre Recycling Ltd, Svensk Däckåtervinning AB and Norsk Dekkretur AS have built their own recycling systems, which have a lot in common. Representatives of the companies tend to share experiences with each other on a regular basis and within the framework of international industry organisations. Co-operation in Sweden and Norway has intensified in recent years with the same recycling operator.

This publication describes the development of systems and solutions that have enabled us to recycle more efficiently. In the last section we will have a look at future challenges and opportunities. Hopefully, this will promote a producer responsibility scheme for other industries and encourage the open sharing of best practices internationally.

1.2 ELT recovery trends

By the turn of the millennium, the recovery rate of end-of-life tyres in Finland, Sweden and Norway had already been established at above 90 percent, whereas in Europe it was only 50 percent on average. Since then the development has accelerated further after the implementation of EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) and due to the proactive industry initiative of establishing national producer responsibility schemes.



Graph 1. Recovery rates of end-of-life tyres in 1994–2010 (%)

Sources: ETRMA, RMA, JATMA

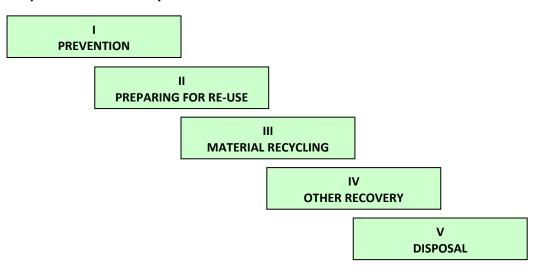
The recovery rate of end-of-life tyres has increased dramatically in the last two decades. In 2011, as much as 95 percent of used tyres were recovered in the EU countries, Norway and Switzerland on average (incl. retreading, re-use and exports). Other industries have had to settle for clearly lower levels, for example the paper recycling rate was about 70 percent.

Producer responsibility obliges producers to collect and treat end-of-life tyres and to cover the related costs. So far (by February 2013), the tyre producers have set up an ELT management company in 14 European countries to ensure compliance with the ordinance on behalf of all contracted tyre suppliers.

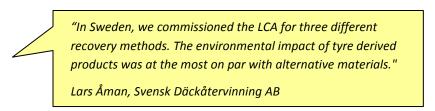
1.3 Towards a recycling society

The EU Waste Directive (2008/98/EC) directs member countries to move closer to a "recycling society", seeking to avoid waste and to use it as a resource. The directive defines a five-step waste hierarchy which shall apply as a priority order in waste prevention and management legislation and policy.

Graph 2. Waste hierarchy



Finland's new Waste Act requires keeping to the order of priority so as to achieve the best overall environmental outcome. The assessment takes into account, among other things, the environmental impact of different options, as well as the technical feasibility and economic viability. For example, according to a life-cycle analysis (LCA) made in France, the material recycling of tyres is not always preferable to the energy recovery.



Tyre producers are committed to reduce environmental impact during the entire life cycle of tyres. Tyre consumers are encouraged to drive economically and to take care of their tyres to lengthen the safe service life. Environmentally speaking, the best option would be using tyres down to their minimum tread depth, but with safety in mind the recommendation is to replace them much earlier.

2 SYSTEM EVOLUTION

2.1 Based on producer responsibility

Tyre recycling in Finland, Sweden and Norway is based on national legislation set in 1993–95 which order tyre producers to organise the collecting and treating of end-of-life tyres. The key actors in tyre industry were driven by a common interest to meet their responsibilities with a collective producer responsibility scheme, which has since been adopted elsewhere in Europe.

The tyre manufacturers, importers, retreaders and distributors (or their representative associations) set up in each country a non-profit ELT management company to build and manage a comprehensive tyre recycling system. The companies work on behalf of the cooperating producers, tending to the recycling obligations in the most cost-effective manner.

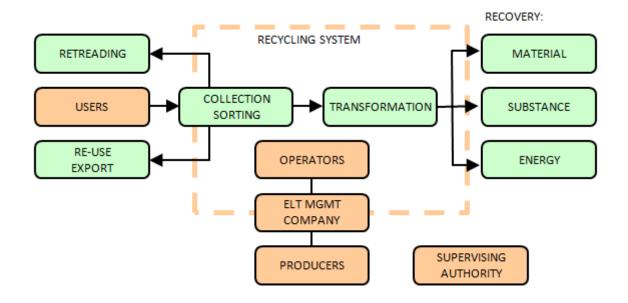
"The creation of a recycling system was driven by a strong common interest. For engagement, it was important that the distribution channel was involved as an owner and a developer."

Hanna Maja, Autorengasliitto ry

Tyre recycling is made easy for the tyre producers and consumers alike. The consumer has the right to dispose of old tyres, free of charge at any tyre outlet. The operator picks up the tyres from the contracted collecting points and sees to the further processing and recovery.

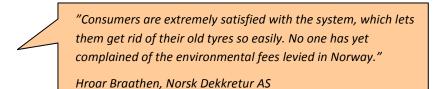
The implementation of producer responsibility is overseen by the responsible authority in each country. The ELT management company provides the supervising authority annual reports on tonnage of new and retreaded tyres on the market, as well as collected and recovered tyres.

Graph 3. Tyre flow from user to recovery

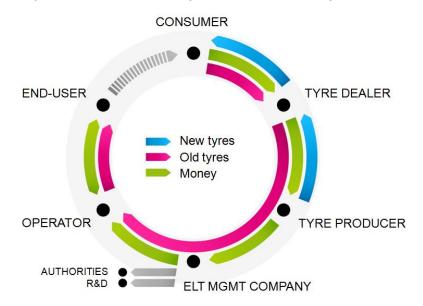


2.2 Reasonable recycling fees

Recycling systems are funded with recycling fees placed on the purchases of new tyres. The efficient design of the collective producer responsibility scheme has kept the recycling fees quite reasonable. Passenger car tyres at the moment have a recycling fee of 1,75 €/tyre in Finland, 16 SEK (about 1,85 €) in Sweden and 12 NOK (about 1,65 €) in Norway, plus VAT (24–25 % added). Recycling fees are determined nationally according to the tyre size.



ELT management companies select their recycling operators for a fixed period through bidding. The operator charge the company based on either the amounts collected or delivered for recovery. In addition, they may receive compensation from end-users for processing the material. Prices vary greatly between different applications and may turn even negative due to supply and demand.



Graph 4. Material and money flow of new and old tyres

2.3 Characteristics by country

In Finland the collection of all kind of tyres started in June 1996. Tyre distributors are fully committed to the Finnish Tyre Recycling Ltd's system, even though initially many had to deliver the received tyres to the collection point at their own expense. The level of service was improved in 2007 with an operator change that made the pick-up service available to all.

In addition to the tyre industry the car importers, distributors and dismantlers have been extensively integrated in the system. Legislation governing producer responsibility in Finland is stricter than in the neighboring countries and also offers authorities stronger means of addressing failures. In 2011, research and development of recovery methods was boosted by a new manager, after the retirement of Harry Sjöberg, the real pioneer of tyre recycling.

PIONEERS OF PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

In Sweden, the systematic collection of tyres was launched in January 1995. At the time tyre producers already had Nordic organisations, but there was a desire for independent and national recycling systems. This demanding undertaking owed its success to a clear, shared objective on behalf of the tyre producers. Also the dialogue between the waste and recycling industry professionals was constructive from the start.

The automotive sector is not involved in Svensk Däckåtervinning AB's recycling system, because original equipments are mostly treated when dismantling end-of-life vehicles (ELV). The system made the overall switch to a tyre pick-up service in 2004. For the long-term, the company has been developing tyre derived products and possible applications in co-operation with the operator and various research institutes.

In Norway, tyre collection was launched in March 1995. Norsk Dekkretur AS is co-owned by tyre producers and car importers, which contributed to the commitment by the automobile industry. Tyre distributors do not have their own association, but the industry is committed to the system, led by six large chains. In Norway an overall pick-up service was started in 1998. The next year saw even the heaviest tyres were included in the recycling system.

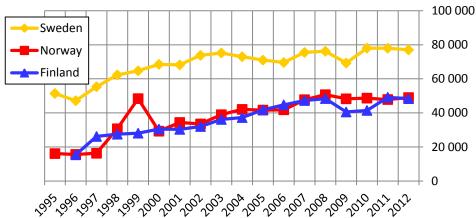
In the Norwegian and Swedish recycling systems the distributors are free to trade the received tyres. In the Finnish model however, tyres collected by the recycling points are defined as the system's possessions. The granulation plant in Trollhättan, Sweden, opened in the summer of 2012, will in the future make use of tyres collected also in Norway.

COMPANY FACTS: FINLAND		SWEDEN	NORWAY	
ELT management	Finnish Tyre Recycling Ltd	Svensk Däckåtervinning AB	Norsk Dekkretur AS	
company:	(Suomen Rengaskierrätys Oy)	(SDAB)	(NDR)	
Address:	Teknobulevardi 3-5	Box 90131	Stasjonsveien 59	
	01530 Vantaa, Finland	120 21 Stockholm, Sweden	1940 Bjørkelangen, Norway	
Telephone:	+358 9 612 6880	+46 8 5060 1055	+47 6385 5560	
Mobile:	+358 40 717 7200		+47 9077 1714	
email:	palaute@rengaskierratys.com	info@sdab.se	post@dekkretur.no	
www:	www.rengaskierratys.com	www.sdab.se	www.dekkretur.no	
Managing Director:	Risto	Lars Åman	Hroar	
	Tuominen	1994–	Braathen	
	2011–		1994–	
	Harry Sjöberg			
	1995–2011			
Company established:	1995	1994	1994	
Collection started:	6/1996	1/1995	3/1995	
Stakeholders:	Autonrengasliitto ry	Däck-, Fälg- & Tillbehör-	 Dekkimportørenes 	
	Bridgestone Finland Oy	leverantörernas Förening	Forening (75 %)	
	Continental Rengas Oy	DFTF (80 %)	Bilimportørenes	
	 Goodyear Dunlop Tires 	 Däckspecialisternas 	Landsforening (25 %)	
	Finland Oy	Riksförbund DRF (20 %)		
	 Nokian Renkaat Oyj 			
	Oy Suomen Michelin Ab			
Operator:	Kuusakoski Oy 2007–	• Ragn-Sells AB 1995–	• Ragn-Sells AS 2000–	
	• Säkkiväline Oy/L&T 1996–		Opal Dekkinnsamling AS	
	2006		1995–2000	
Main R&D partners:	Apila Group Oy Ab	• IVL Svenska Miljöinstitutet	Consultancies in Norway	
	 Laatuinsinöörit Oy 	• Ecoloop	and abroad	
		 Luleå Tekniska Universitet 		

3 RECYCLING DEVELOPMENT

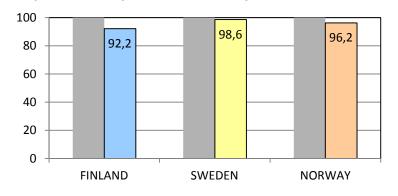
3.1 Arisings and recovery rates

The collection rate of used tyres in Finland, Sweden and Norway is 100 percent, since practically all the new or retreaded tyres on the market will return at some point for recycling. The differences in accumulation are mainly explained by differences in the vehicle fleet, average mileage and driving conditions. Summer and winter tyres take somewhat over six years from being manufactured to end up collected in Finland.



Graph 5. Used tyre arisings by country (tons)

Used tyre arisings indicate also the tyre market development, when taking into account tyre wearing in the overall weight of the collected tyres. It is estimated that the ELT management companies collect and treat clearly more tyres than the contracted tyre producers supply on the market. This is due to free-riders who take advantage of the recycling system without participating in the costs.



Graph 6. Recovery rates of collected tyres in 1995–2012 (%)

This follows ETRMA's statistical practice, where the recovery rate is composed of the ratio of recovery to collected tyres (including tyres for retreading and re-use/exports). For example, the Finnish legislation requires the recovery of at least 90 percent of the end-of-life tyres, which slightly differs from this presentation.

N.B. The Finnish statistics include only figures from the recycling system of Finnish Tyre Recycling Ltd. There is also another ELT management company, but it represents just less than 10 percent of the total volume.

3.2 Application opportunities

Collected tyres are sorted and further processed for different recovery routes. The tyres may be used in whole or processed as cuts, shreds, chips, granulate or powder. Tyre material is lightweight and elastic and has insulation and filtering properties, which provide countless application opportunities and clear benefits compared to alternative materials.

The best tyre casings are intended for retreading, according to the waste hierarchy. In the Nordic countries the majority of retreading concerns truck tyres that may be retreaded several times. Truck tyre retreading is usually done on customers' own tyres and therefore are not included in the statistics.

Tyre shreds are an excellent material for such applications as sound barriers, frost insulation, as well as for new and closing landfills. Granulate in turn makes perfect elastic layers for riding arenas and surfacing for sports fields. Blasting mats are being used also as temporary coating for forest roads. Tyre shred use for rail and road vibration protection is looking very promising, as well.

End-of-life tyres are also recovered to produce energy. They have a very competitive thermal value and cost compared to alternative fossil fuels. Rising oil prices and the need to conserve non-renewable resources provide additional impetus to develop the energy use of tyres.

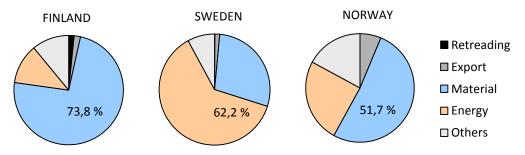


"Our new granulation plant produces granulate for artificial turf and silent asphalt in Sweden and Norway. Previously, the material had to be imported from Central Europe."

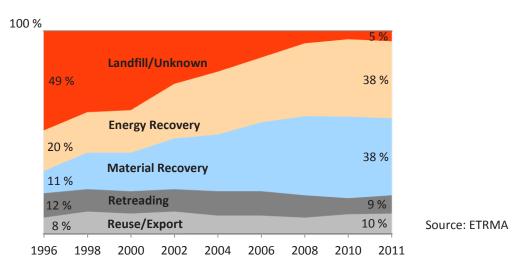
Anders Lindblom, Ragn-Sells AB

Recovery routes of used tyres have varied over the years. According to the 2012 recycling statistics, Finland and Norway recovered most of the tyres as material, mainly for civil engineering. In Sweden, most of them were used for energy recovery. Detailed amounts and percentages are found in Annex 2.2.

Graph 7. Recovery routes by country in 2012 (%)



The distribution of recovery routes in Europe has changed significantly in the last 15 years. Material and energy recovery has grown from 31 to 76 percent, while the amount of tyres ending up in landfills has dropped to 5 percent. The share of tyre retreading, re-use and exports has remained more or less unchanged. In 2011 there were nearly 3,2 million tons of used tyres recovered in Europe.



Graph 8. Evolution of recovery routes in Europe in 1996–2011 (%)

3.3 Innovations and experiments

There has been an EU funded project of developing tyre pyrolysis process coordinated by Norsk Dekkretur AS. The process involves a thermal decomposition of end-of-life tyres into intermediate substances such as carbon black, gas and oil. Clean carbon black could be used in producing new tyres or different rubber-based products. It will be challenging to get the substance clean enough with reasonable costs.

In Finland we have encouraging experiences in waste water cleaning with shredded tyres. According to preliminary results, a process of nutrient removal can be activated by tyres. The two-year experiment project started at Heinola purification plant in April 2012. It will be examined if the procedure works at an industrial scale and could be accepted by the authorities and implemented in an economically sustainable way.



"We have managed to fulfill the claim of 90 percent recovery rate. The legislation seems to be tightening which makes development of tyre derived products more complicated."

Risto Tuominen, Suomen Rengaskierrätys Oy

Trafikverket (The Swedish Transport Administration) has intensively researched and developed a rubber-modified asphalt since 2007. The application takes advantage of the elasticity and noise-absorbing characteristics of rubber. The project is going on in testing durability of a road surface. There is an international congress held every third year focusing on rubber asphalt opportunities.

The development of ELT derived products seems to require the long-term commitment of project participants. In the late 1990s plenty of projects were started with enthusiasm, but most of them flopped if they did not generate money right away. Nowadays the expectations are based in more realistic visions. At the same time many key players have recognized that breakthroughs can happen by sharing best practices all together.

4 FUTURE CHALLENGES

The main challenges of tyre recycling concern the development of end-of-waste criteria, appreciation for tyre derived products and getting free-riders onboard. These are worthwhile subjects to get involved with individually and collectively, in order to continue finding optimal applications for this versatile material and to keep recycling fees at a low level.

4.1 End-of-waste status

End-of-life tyres are classified as waste, which causes needless bureaucracy and additional costs to the recycling process. However, the waste legislation offers an opportunity to cease the waste status, if the material meets certain criteria concerning use and demand, technical requirements and standards, as well as the environmental and health impact. More detailed criteria will be provided through EU-wide or national legislation.

To get rid of the waste status, ETRMA and ETRA have been developing since 2000 a European standardization for ELT derived products. In 2010, a material standard (CEN/TC 366) was created, which defines parameters and test methods for ELT cuts, shreds, chips, granulate and powders as well as for impurities. Also a more comprehensive standardization for other properties of the materials is under way.

4.2 Branding ELT derived products

Material standards increase the appreciation of ELT derived products and will bring new application opportunities. They form a basis for clear branding of different recovery routes. Recycled materials certainly continue to be an affordable solution for end-users, and furthermore, they can be even better than alternative materials containing the values of sustainable development.

The appreciation of ELT derived products would be likely to increase the interest of different actors and long-term investments in research and development. For larger development projects, it is beneficial to inform foreign colleagues at the start. Proven recovery opportunities and applications should be made widely known among potential end-users, as well.

4.3 Getting free-riders onboard

It has been estimated, that 5–20 percent of used tyres treated by the Nordic recycling systems come from producers, which have not financially contributed the recycling, but take advantage of the existing systems. Free-riding is particularly rampant in nowadays common online shopping, which reduces the coverage of statistical analysis and increases the pressure to raise recycling fees.

In Finland, implementation of producer responsibility is controlled by one authority, while in Sweden, supervision is carried out fairly inefficiently by local authorities, so far. The subject can also be influenced by encouraging consumers to pay attention to corporate responsibility in environmental issues. Tyre suppliers and dealers would benefit from emphasizing their accountability in environmental matters.

5 SUMMARY

PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY WORKS IN TYRE RECYCLING

The pioneers came from the Nordic countries

The Nordic countries are forerunners in developing tyre recycling based on collective producer responsibility. By the turn of the millennium, the recovery rate of end-of-life tyres in Finland, Sweden and Norway had already been established at above 90 percent, whereas in Europe it was only 50 percent on average. In 2011, as much as 95 percent of used tyres were recovered in Europe (including EU27, Norway and Switzerland).

Tyre recycling in Finland, Sweden and Norway is based on national legislation set in 1993–95 which order tyre producers to organise the collection and treatment of end-of-life tyres (ELT). The key actors in the tyre industry set up a non-profit ELT management company in each country to meet the recycling obligation in the most cost-effective way.

Commitment and continuous improvement

The creation of recycling systems were driven by a strong common interest between the tyre producers. Tyre distributors were right away committed to the system, even though initially many of them had to deliver the received tyres to the collection point at their own expense. Since then the grade of service has improved in every system by making the pick-up service available to all.

The recovery routes have varied over the years. The 2011 recycling statistics tell us that in Finland and Norway, most of the tyres were recovered as material, mainly for civil engineering. In Sweden, most of them were used for energy recovery, but in the future there will be also a lot of sports field construction following the introduction of a new granulation plant.

Appreciation for tyre derived products

The main challenges of tyre recycling concern the development of end-of-waste criteria, appreciation for tyre derived products and to get free-riders onboard. These are worthwhile subjects to get involved with individually and collectively, in order to continue finding optimal applications for this versatile material and to keep recycling fees at a low level.

End-of-life tyres are classified as waste, which causes needless bureaucracy and additional costs to the recycling process. However, the waste legislation offers an opportunity to cease the waste status, if the material meets certain criteria concerning use and demand, technical requirements and standards, as well as the environmental and health impact.

It has been estimated, that 5–20 percent of tyres treated by the recycling systems come from producers, which have not financially contributed the systems. Authorities supervising the producer responsibility have already adopted a stricter stance on free-riders. The Nordic ELT management companies encourage consumers to pay more attention to corporate responsibility in environmental issues.

Further information:

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ANNEXES

Annex 1. Information sources

KEY TERMINOLOGY

Used and end-of-life tyres

New tyres become used after the first drive. Consumers are likely to discard used tyres even before the end of their useful life. End-of-life tyres (ELT) are defined by no longer returning to their original use.

Collection and recovery rate

The collection rate of used tyres in Finland, Sweden and Norway is 100 percent, since practically all the tyres on the market will return at some point for recycling. Also, the recovery rate of collected tyres is close to 100 percent annually.

Producer responsibility in waste management

Tyre producers are responsible for organising the appropriate recycling on end-of-life tyres. Producers are all professional manufacturers, importers and retreaders of tyres and of vehicles and equipment fitted with tyres.

PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Finland

Waste Act and its amendments 1072/1993, 452/2004 and 646/2011 Government Decision 1246/1995 and act 583/2004

Sweden

Förordning om producentansvar för däck 1994:1236

Norway

Forskrift av 25.3.1994 (Korr. 2.9.1994) Avfallsforskriften 2004:930

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications

Recycled tyres – material with great potential (SDAB, 2007) End of life tyres: A valuable resource with growing potential (ETRMA, 2012) Lifecycle analysis of 9 ELT recovery routes (Aliapur R&D, 2010) Livscykelanalys på återvinning av däck (IVL Svenska Miljöinstitutet, 2012)

Organisations and websites

Suomen Rengaskierrätys Oy: www.rengaskierratys.com

Svensk Däckåtervinning AB: www.sdab.se Norsk Dekkretur AS: www.dekkretur.no

ETRMA (European Tyre & Rubber Manufacturers' Association): www.etrma.org

ETRA (The European Tyre Recycling Association): www.etra-eu.org

Annex 2.1 Used tyre arisings and recovery in 1995–2012 (tons)

	FINLAND		SWEDEN		NORWAY		
	Arising	Recovery	Arising	Recovery	Arising	Recovery	
2012	48 343	46 774	80 000	77 500	49 000	48 665	
2011	49 138	52 043	78 000	71 000	47 849	50 156	
2010	41 435	40 562	78 000	77 000	48 663	49 935	
2009	40 523	40 997	69 300	75 000	48 275	41 862	
2008	48 394	43 352	76 200	71 900	50 695	41 884	
2007	47 259	35 796	75 500	76 200	47 748	41 107	
2006	44 698	32 278	69 600	73 000	41 832	41 318	
2005	41 774	44 379	71 000	67 500	41 642	45 892	
2004	37 240	36 406	73 000	74 000	42 055	40 526	
2003	36 156	30 578	75 200	76 700	38 943	53 737	
2002	31 986	37 713	73 800	90 500	33 503	16 741	
2001	30 301	41 222	68 200	62 300	34 367	21 463	
2000	30 474	25 804	68 500	70 000	29 258	27 336	
1999	28 064	24 973	64 700	75 000	48 375	45 921	
1998	27 457	18 128	62 300	59 200	30 670	32 572	
1997	26 140	20 055	55 350	49 050	16 278	21 728	
1996	15 372	4 985	47 150	55 550	15 605	19 288	
1995			51 400	18 000	16 100	14 563	
Total:	624 754	576 045	1 237 200	1 219 400	680 858	654 694	
Recove	ry rate:	92,2 %		98,6 %		96,2 %	

Annex 2.2 Recovery routes in 2012

	FINLAND		SWEDEN		NORWAY *	
	tons	%	tons	%	tons	%
Retreading	744	1,6	51	0,1		
Export	892	1,9	1 114	1,4	3 066	6,3
Material recovery	34 512	73,8	22 040	28,4	25 160	51,7
Energy recovery	5 497	11,8	48 174	62,2	12 118	24,9
Other recovery	5 129	11,0	6 118	7,9	8 321	17,1
Total:	46 774	100,0	77 497	100,0	48 665	100,0

^{*} According to distribution in 2011

Annex 3. Application cases

Case A:

LANDFILL DRAINAGE

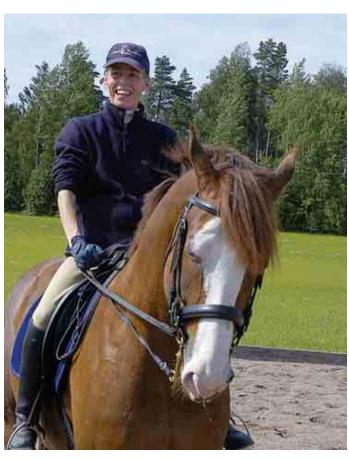
- To construct an efficient drainage layer when closing a landfill
- A 45 cm layer, covered by a geotextile, consuming about 5 000 tons of shredded tyres
- Implemented in Sweden (Stordalen, Timrå) in 2002–2004



Case B:

HORSE RACE TRACKS

- To get horse race tracks and paddocks more elastic for the horses
- The horse trainers appreciate the solution which decrease leg injuries in horses
- In Oslo 1 000 m track was constructed with a 50 cm layer of shredded tyres



Case C:

BLASTING MATS

- To ensure safe blasting in civil engineering plants
- The product can be used also as temporary coating for forest roads
- In Norway 1 650 tons of ELT's are yearly used for blasting mats (fulfilling a part of the demand)



Case D:

ROAD INSULATION

- To make a light insulation subgrade in road construction
- No harmful environmental impact has been found during 10-year follow-up in Finland
- There could be a need for thousands of bales in one project (100 tyres per bale)



Case E:

RUBBER ASPHALT

- To extend life of road surfaces by using rubber modified asphalt
- The ongoing development project started by Trafikverket in 2007
- In Sweden 1 500 tons of granulate has been used in 90 km long experimental projects



Case F:

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

- To reduce fuel expenses by preserving non-renewable natural sources
- New cement kilns are increasingly equipped to use end of life tyres
- In Sweden 62 % of used tyres were recovered for energy in 2012







