MÅLBAR

Negative End of Life result

Aluminium at end of its life

When a product containing aluminium reaches the end of its life, the metal can be melted down and reused. This process saves both raw materials and emissions, as there is no need to produce new aluminium from scratch.

In the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) method, specifically under the Circular Footprint Formula (CFF), a product receives an environmental credit for the aluminium that is recycled. In practice, this means the product is rewarded for contributing positively to future material use.

When aluminium recycling works efficiently, it can even lead to negative emissions at the end-of-life stage for the aluminium component. However, the emissions linked to material production and processing can still be significant.

Why some materials receive environmental credits and others don't

In the CFF method, only materials that can be genuinely recycled and used in new products are granted an environmental credit.
It is not based on theory, but on reality ; how effectively a material is collected, sorted, and recycled in the country where the product's life ends.

Aluminium as a practical example

Across the EU, aluminium has a well-established and efficient recycling system from construction and automotive sectors to packaging.
Because it is a valuable material with strong economic incentives for recovery, a large share of aluminium is actually recycled into new products.
That is why aluminium receives an environmental credit in the CFF method.

Other materials such as certain plastics or composites do not yet benefit from the same recycling infrastructure.
In these cases, it is often difficult to document that the material truly re-enters the production cycle.
As a result, no environmental credit is granted.

In Short

The CFF method rewards materials that already function well in a circular system.
By doing so, it encourages design and material choices that make it easier to reuse resources again and again.

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