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RECYCLIA ANNUAL REPORT 2024



RECYCLIA ANNUAL REPORT | **2024**



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Luis Pérez Bermejo
CHAIR OF RECYCLIA

Sustainability cannot wait

Dear friends, 2024 was undoubtedly a year in which we had to keep a very close eye on the events taking place around us, not only in terms of the major global challenges we continue to face — including economic uncertainty, international tensions, and the impact of increasingly stringent regulations — but also because of specific events which remind us that sustainability cannot wait. One such event occurred last year right on our very doorstep: the severe flooding that devastated the Valencian Community and other regions. Recyclia would like to express its solidarity and support for all those affected.

In this context, our mission takes on even greater meaning, and it is satisfying to see that we were once again able to respond with action and our future-facing vision. We can say this because, in 2024, Recyclia took several key steps to continue growing and strengthening its



Letter from the Chair

role as a leader in the sustainable management of waste electric and electronic devices, batteries, and accumulators.

For example, last year we joined CEOE (the Spanish Confederation of Business Organizations), strong in our belief that the recycling sector for this type of waste is not only key from an environmental point of view, but also as a driver of innovation, employment, and competitiveness. We also launched a new, more agile and efficient digital management platform for our member producers.

One of the most important milestones during this financial year was undoubtedly the official authorisation received by Recyclia Envases, a feat that is the culmination of months of intense work and represents a strategic step forward for our organisation's future. Recyclia Envases is the fourth collective system managed by Recyclia and expands our service capacity while also consolidating our comprehensive waste management model in Spain.

These milestones strengthen our model and are also evident in our results: in 2024, we managed more than 76,840 tonnes of electronic waste as well as more than 11,114 tonnes of batteries and accumulators.

This volume was made possible by the coordinated work of our three collective systems — Ecoasimelec, Ecofímica, and Copilas — which continue to expand throughout the country, optimising logistics and traceability processes and adapting to the new needs of producers, distributors, and citizens. Thanks to this joint effort, Recyclia has consolidated its position as the managing organisation with the greatest service capacity and coverage in Spain and is also one of the most important at the European level.

But beyond these figures and milestones, what truly defines this project are the people who make it possible. Our rigorous and enthusiastic team that works hard every day, the government bodies that place their trust in our work, the companies that choose us as their partner, and the citizens who recycle on a daily basis. I would like to express my thanks to all of them.

Traveling along the path to a fairer, more circular and resilient model is no mean feat. Nonetheless, I am convinced that together we will continue to move forward. Because when it comes to the future, we need to do much more than just imagine it, we have to build it. That is why, once again this year, I would like to thank you for helping us build the future that, together, we are making possible.



José Pérez García
CEO OF RECYCLIA

Thank you for being part of the same journey.

Dear friends,

I would like to begin my annual address with an apology. This is because, although it is not like me to do so, I inevitably have to start off by talking about myself, as 2024 was my last year as CEO of Recyclia. This marks the end of a stage that has been much more than just a job thanks to the satisfying and unforgettable moments I have had here. I am closing an intense cycle that, although I say so myself, has somewhat contributed to the development of recycling in our country. For all of this, I would like to express my sincere thanks.

I would also like you to allow me to diverge somewhat from the usual content of these lines and not focus on merely reviewing the results of the last financial year — which were extraordinary, by the way — but rather to reflect on what this journey has meant for me. I hope you will excuse me on both accounts.



Letter from the CEO

I got involved in this sector long before Recyclia was created with the launch of the Ecoasimelec, Ecofímica, and Ecopilas foundations, the backbone of what would eventually become the first collective system managing organisation in our country. Today, that model continues to grow with the incorporation of Recyclia Envases, a new collective system that reinforces our commitment to service.

Looking back over such a long career is no easy task, but if I had to sum up my experience since Recyclia was first created in just three words, they would be development, commitment, and trust. The development of a pioneering model that has proven to be effective and robust, and can be adapted to new regulatory and market challenges. A commitment to recycling as the cornerstone of a more circular, innovative, and resilient economy. And trust, both in the professionals who have been and continue to be part of this project, and in the more than 3,500 producers who rely on us to help them fulfil their environmental obligations.

Together, we have managed more than 597,000 tonnes of electronic waste and more than 81,000 tonnes of batteries and accumulators, created a network of more than 105,000 collection points located throughout the country, and been on the cutting-edge in the management of emerging waste such as solar panels and electric vehicle batteries. We have also sparked dialogue and generated knowledge through our EcoEncuentro event, Environment Awards, and annual report on sector trends, and brought the culture of recycling closer to the public through educational initiatives, social campaigns, and our constant presence in the world of sport.

All this has been made possible by the combined efforts of an exceptional team, our foundations' boards of trustees, the more than 3,500 companies that place their trust in us, government bodies and collaborating entities, and, of course, a society that is increasingly aware of the importance of recycling, not just as an environmental responsibility but also as an opportunity for economic and social transformation.

From now on, Gabriel García Aguado, whom many of you know well, will take the reins at Recyclia. His experience, commitment, and knowledge of the sector are undoubtedly the best guarantee for the future. I know that he will lead this new phase with the same rigour and dedication as in his role as Director General, which he has held since 2019.

As for me, I will continue to be linked to the company as the Chair of Ecopilas, with the same commitment as always and the satisfaction of having been part of a project that has helped transform the way we understand sustainability in our country.

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude for having been part of this journey that we will undoubtedly continue.



Gabriel García Aguado
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RECYCLIA

Facing a new stage with great enthusiasm

It is a great honour for me to address you in the pages of this report as I embark on this new stage in my career, which I am taking on with great enthusiasm and will be the focus of all my efforts. Recyclia has a solid reputation in the field of environmental management both in Spain and further afield, and taking the reins of the organisation means living up to a legacy built on vision, commitment, and results, which I will talk about later on.

The year of 2024 was full of activity and challenges for Recyclia. Over the course of these months, we continued to develop new solutions, expanding our collection network to 105,090 points and reinforcing the commitment held by Recyclia and our more than 3,500 member companies to sustainability and the circular economy.

We were able to adapt to the needs of the

Letter from the Director General



market and other requirements resulting from regulations, which our members also have to fulfil. That is why we have incorporated new areas of work such as commercial and industrial packaging management, which enable us to continue operating effectively in an increasingly demanding regulatory environment, heavily influenced by social responsibility. Our new Recyclia Envases system makes it easier for companies to comply with regulations regarding this type of waste and strengthens our commitment to offering effective, flexible services that are adapted to each specific need.

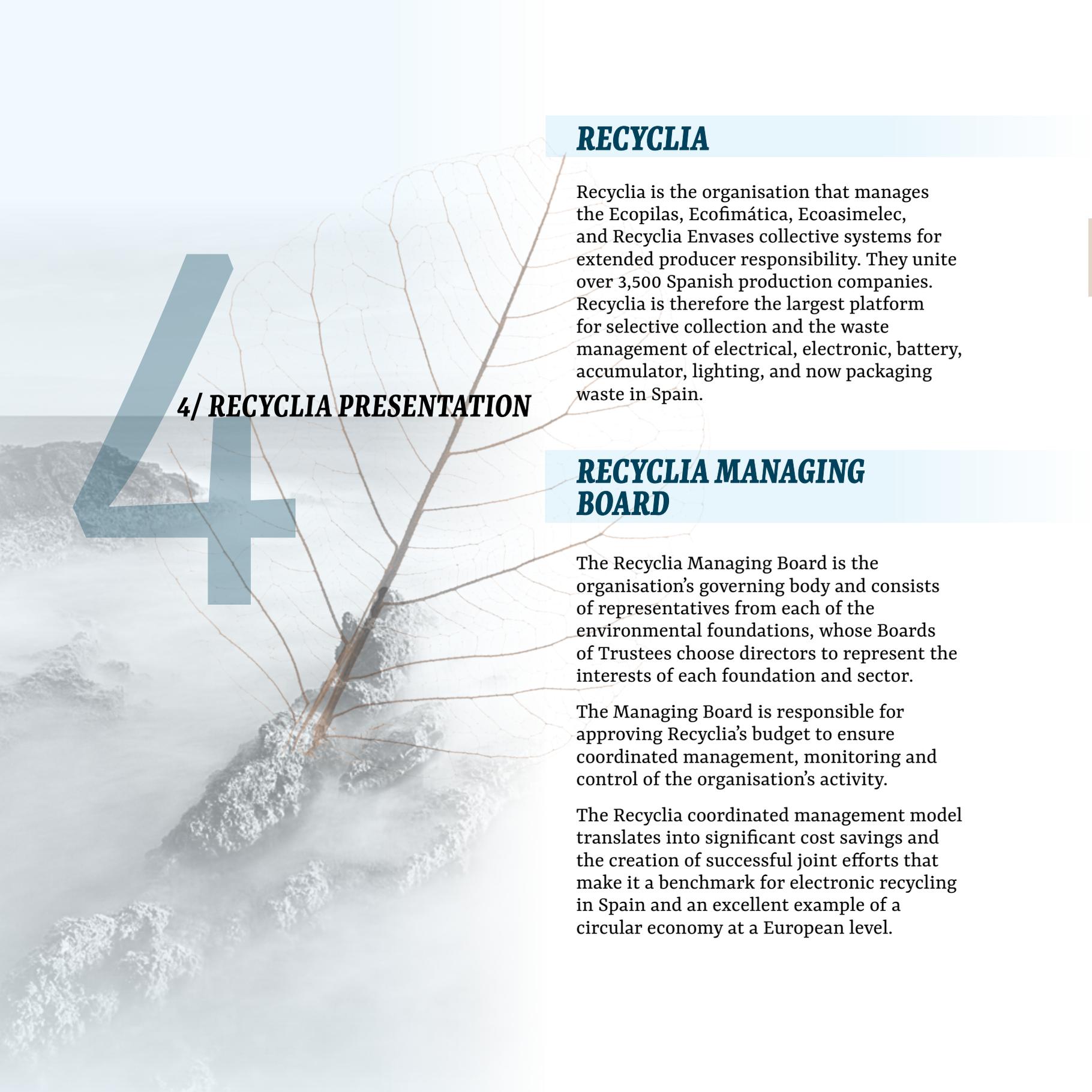
I would also like to mention our EcoEncuentro event, which has become an important forum for government bodies, companies, and experts alike. As in previous years, in 2024 it once again highlighted the importance of collaboration to move towards a more efficient and transparent circular economy model. At the same time, we have also further improved our *Annual Report on Trends in the WEEE and Battery Recycling Industry in Spain* to include more information. As we set out to do when we first launched this publication, it has become a leading tool that provides an understanding of the economic, social, and environmental impact of our sector.

Likewise, 2024 also saw our 9th Environment Awards. I believe this is an important point as the quality and diversity of the award winners grows year in year out, and this confirms civil society's, government bodies', the business world's, and the media's commitment to a culture of sustainability.

I would like to conclude by looking ahead to 2025, a year that will mark a new stage for Recyclia and also for me in particular. Taking on full executive management responsibilities for the organisation and following in the footsteps of José Pérez, who has played a key role in the development of recycling in Spain for over two decades, is a major professional challenge. Under his watch, Recyclia became the leading collective waste management system managing organisation in Spain, and his strategic vision and capacity for dialogue made a decisive contribution to the professionalisation of the sector. Continuing that legacy is undoubtedly one of the major commitments I will undertake in this new era.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the trust of our member companies and partners, or without the commitment of our professional team that works every day to bring recycling closer to more citizens, companies, and locations. I would like to send my sincerest thanks to them all.

We will continue to work with enthusiasm, responsibility, and a future-facing vision so we are able to maintain our position at the forefront of sustainable waste management in Spain.



4/ RECYCLIA PRESENTATION

RECYCLIA

Recyclia is the organisation that manages the Ecopilas, Ecofimática, Ecoasimelec, and Recyclia Envases collective systems for extended producer responsibility. They unite over 3,500 Spanish production companies. Recyclia is therefore the largest platform for selective collection and the waste management of electrical, electronic, battery, accumulator, lighting, and now packaging waste in Spain.

RECYCLIA MANAGING BOARD

The Recyclia Managing Board is the organisation's governing body and consists of representatives from each of the environmental foundations, whose Boards of Trustees choose directors to represent the interests of each foundation and sector.

The Managing Board is responsible for approving Recyclia's budget to ensure coordinated management, monitoring and control of the organisation's activity.

The Recyclia coordinated management model translates into significant cost savings and the creation of successful joint efforts that make it a benchmark for electronic recycling in Spain and an excellent example of a circular economy at a European level.



RECYCLIA

MANAGING BOARD

CHAIR

Luis Pérez Bermejo

Ecoasimelec

CEO

José Pérez García

Ecopilas

DIRECTORS

Agustín Alarcón

Ecoasimelec

Carmen Aláez

Ecoasimelec

Benigno Martínez

Ecopilas

Ramón Campos

Ecopilas

Vidal Vicente

Ecofimática

Javier Pérez Yela

Ecofimática



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5/ ABOUT US

The three environmental foundations, Ecopilas, Ecofímica, and Ecoasimelec, which have now been joined by the Recyclia Envases (Recyenvases) association, were created as collective systems for extended producer responsibility (SCRAP) in accordance with current environmental legislation in Spain.

These organisations provide the tools and guarantees needed by member producers to ensure that they correctly comply with their environmental obligations. The four foundations are governed by Recyclia, the managing organisation.

It has a similar number of pacts and collaboration agreements with sector associations to offer specific solutions to different sectors.



*'Give
your batteries
new life'*



www.ecopilas.es

MEMBER
COMPANIES

2,745

TONNES
COLLECTED

*Since start
of activity*

81,761

COLLECTION
POINTS

51,110

The Ecopilas Foundation was founded in 2000 and since then has been a benchmark in Spain and abroad for the collection and correct management of waste batteries and accumulators.

Ecopilas has been a pioneer in creating and implementing its recycling processes in Spain. Ecopilas has 2,745 member companies, making it the leader in this sector in Spain with constantly growing business across the country.

Its extensive collection network, consisting of 51,110 containers at the end of 2024, has been set up to make it easier for the general public to properly dispose of their used batteries and accumulators, thereby making collection more accessible to end users. The intense activity undertaken by Ecopilas over the years has allowed it to properly manage more than 81,761 tonnes of used batteries and accumulators since the 2008 regulation came into force.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

*Ecopilas has established the widest collection network for waste batteries in Spain with **51,110 collection points** at the end of 2024.*



*'Make an
Impression
on the
Environment'*

www.ecofimatica.es

Ecofimática is an environmental foundation that provides coverage across Spain for the collection and recycling of domestic and professional waste from photocopiers and printers.

Furthermore, since the scope of the WEEE directive was expanded to include consumables as electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), this type of waste is now subject to the same obligations detailed in Royal Decree 110/2015 for machines. To respond to these new demands, the Ecofimática foundation has launched a specific management system for printing consumables called Tragatóner/Tragatinta that helps the different agents in the sector (producers, distributors and users) comply with the legally established requirements set out in the current WEEE directive.

Ecofimática represents 90% of the sector and is comprised of the leading manufacturers and importers of office IT equipment in Spain, many of whom sit on the Board of Trustees.

MEMBER
COMPANIES

17

TONNES
COLLECTED

Since start
of activity

83,263

COLLECTION
POINTS

35,406

Ecofimática has set up a major network of **collection points** that offers nationwide coverage, with **35,406 collection points** at the end of 2024.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

14



'United by responsible recycling'



www.tragamovil.es

MEMBER COMPANIES

1,742

TONNES COLLECTED

Since start of activity

508,177

COLLECTION POINTS

20,437

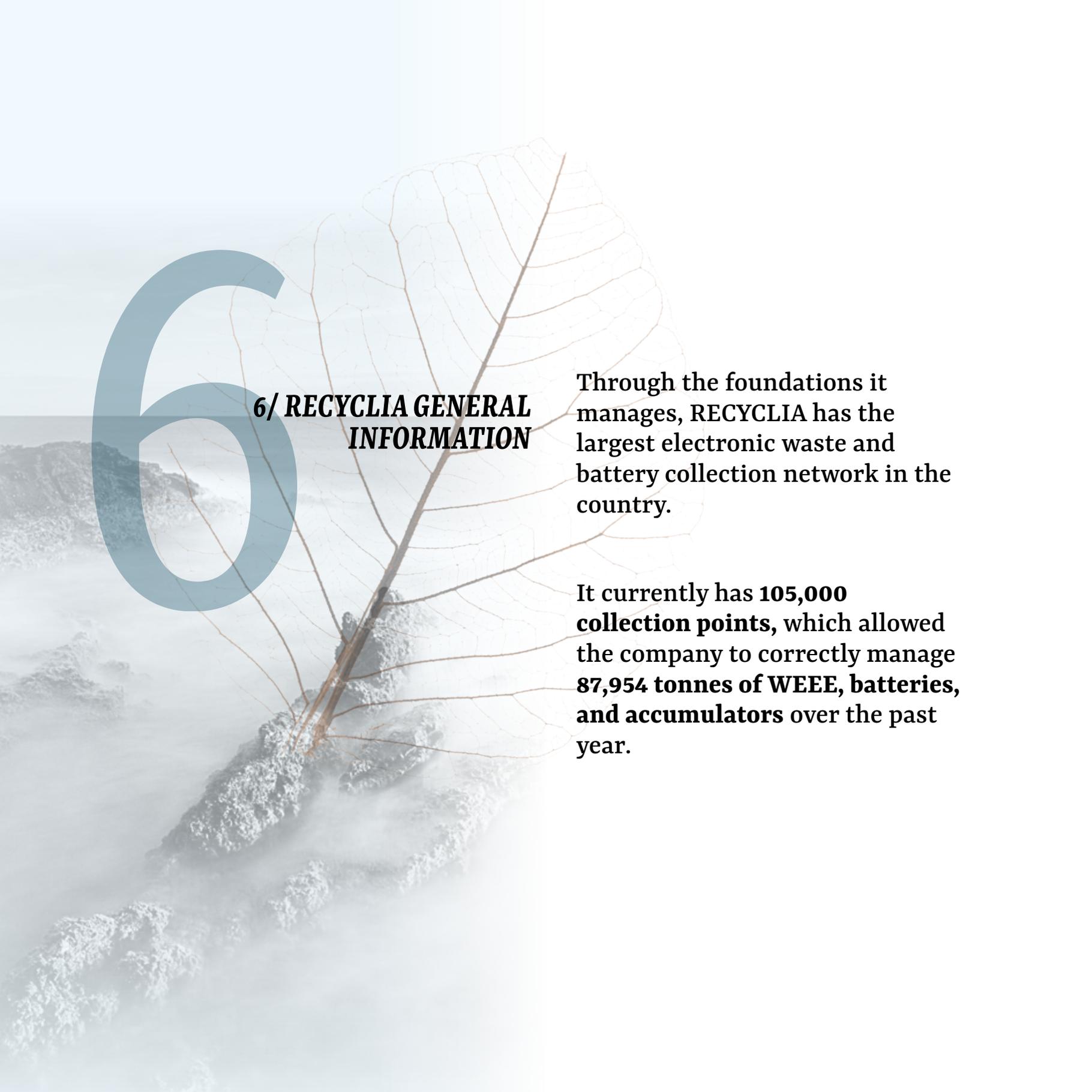
Ecoasimelec was set up in 2005 with the aim of assisting companies that manufacture and import electrical and electronic equipment to comply with the environmental obligations related to the publication of Royal Decree 208/2005. Ever since it was founded, Ecoasimelec has been a benchmark in Spain for the management of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), and it enjoys the trust of 1,742 member companies and notable representation across the sector in major segments such as IT and telecommunications, medical equipment, recreational machines and surveillance equipment, photovoltaic panels, and machines and tools, among other fields.

In 2014, Tragamóvil, the foundation created for the collection and correct processing of mobile telephone equipment, fused with Ecoasimelec and they became a single organisation. From this point on, the foundations joined forces on a shared project, optimising processes and generating synergies with other operations implemented by Ecoasimelec.

Since they first began operations, Ecoasimelec and Tragamóvil have managed more than 508,177 tonnes of waste electrical and electronic equipment, achieving a reuse and recycling ratio of over 85.5%.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ecoasimelec stands out for having a large number of member companies, with **1,742 members at the end of 2024.**



6/ RECYCLIA GENERAL INFORMATION

Through the foundations it manages, RECYCLIA has the largest electronic waste and battery collection network in the country.

It currently has **105,000 collection points**, which allowed the company to correctly manage **87,954 tonnes of WEEE, batteries, and accumulators** over the past year.



SUMMARY OF KEY FIGURES FOR 2024

76,840,380^{kg}

**QUANTITY OF
WEEE
MANAGED**

11,114,014^{kg}

**QUANTITY OF
BATTERIES
AND ACCUMULATORS
MANAGED**

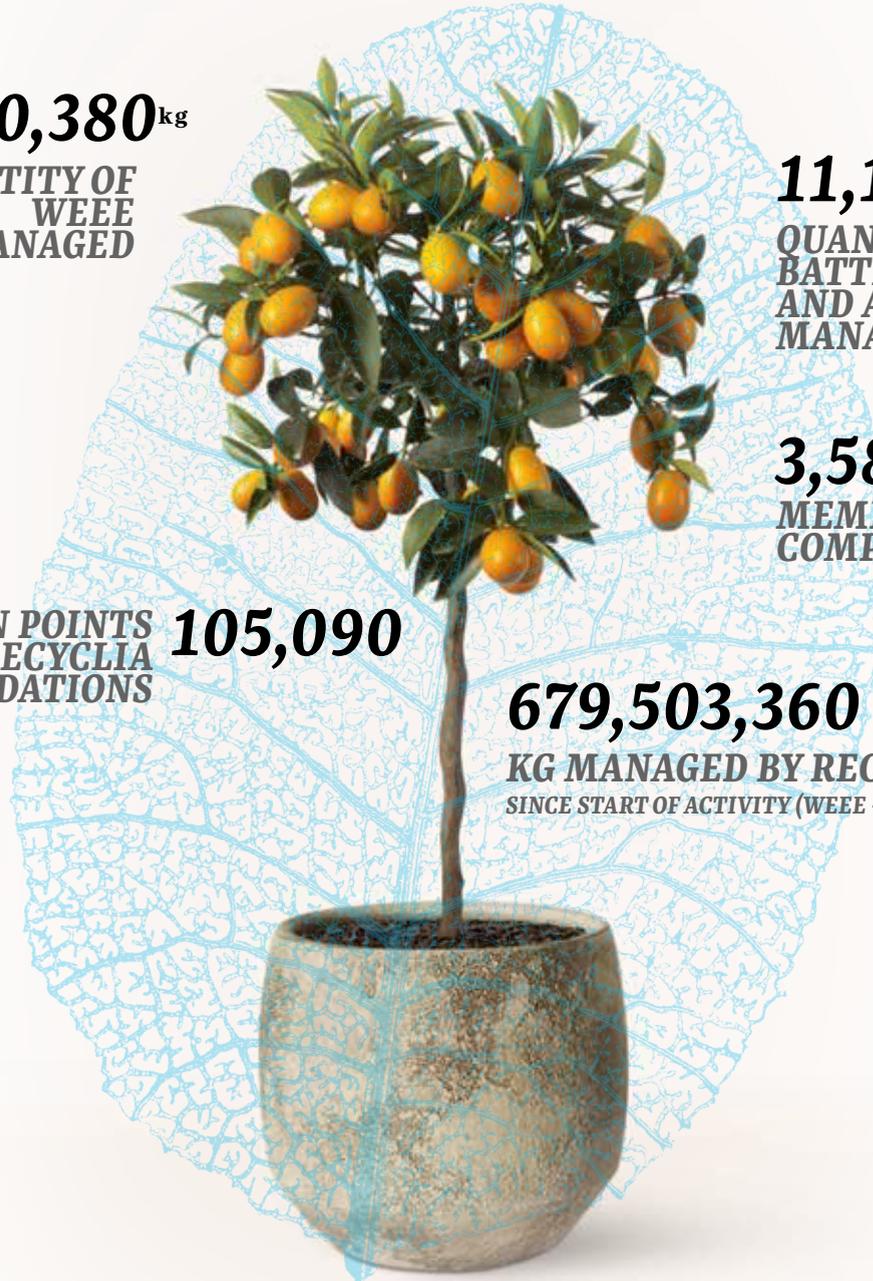
3,583

**MEMBER
COMPANIES**

**COLLECTION POINTS
OF RECYCLIA
FOUNDATIONS** **105,090**

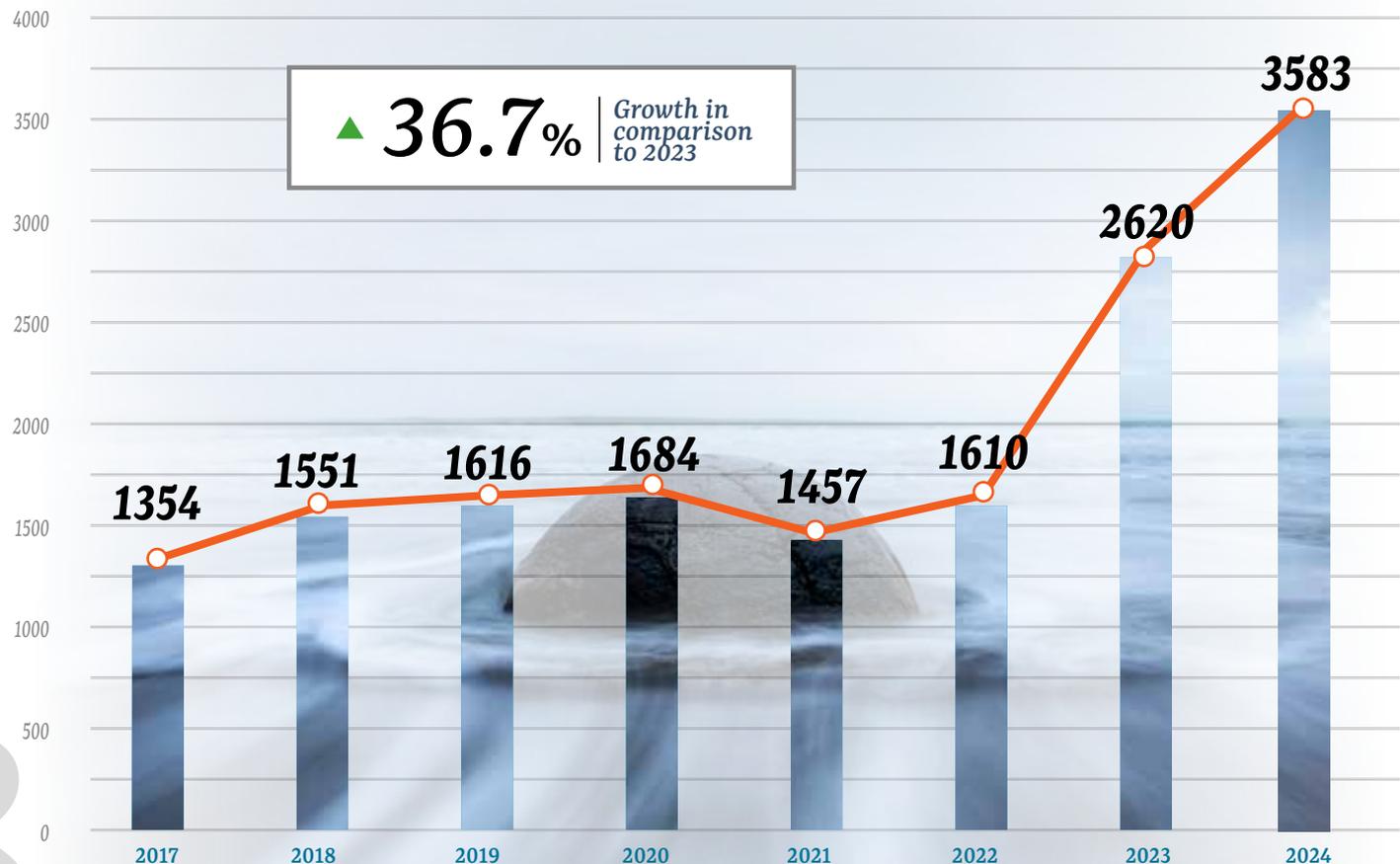
679,503,360^{kg}

**KG MANAGED BY RECYCLIA FOUNDATIONS
SINCE START OF ACTIVITY (WEEE + BATTERIES)**



MEMBER COMPANIES OF RECYCLIA FOUNDATIONS

We continue to work hard to attract member companies, then guarantee that they comply with regulations and avoid unfair competition.





COLLECTION POINTS OF RECYCLIA FOUNDATIONS

105,090
COLLECTION POINTS OF
RECYCLIA FOUNDATIONS

7.8%
Growth in the number
of collection points in
2024 compared to 2023



NEW COLLECTION
POINTS
IN 2024

7,611

19

QUANTITY MANAGED BY RECYCLIA FOUNDATIONS

Kg managed by Recyclia foundations 2024

QUANTITY OF WEEE
MANAGED IN 2024

76,840,380^{kg}

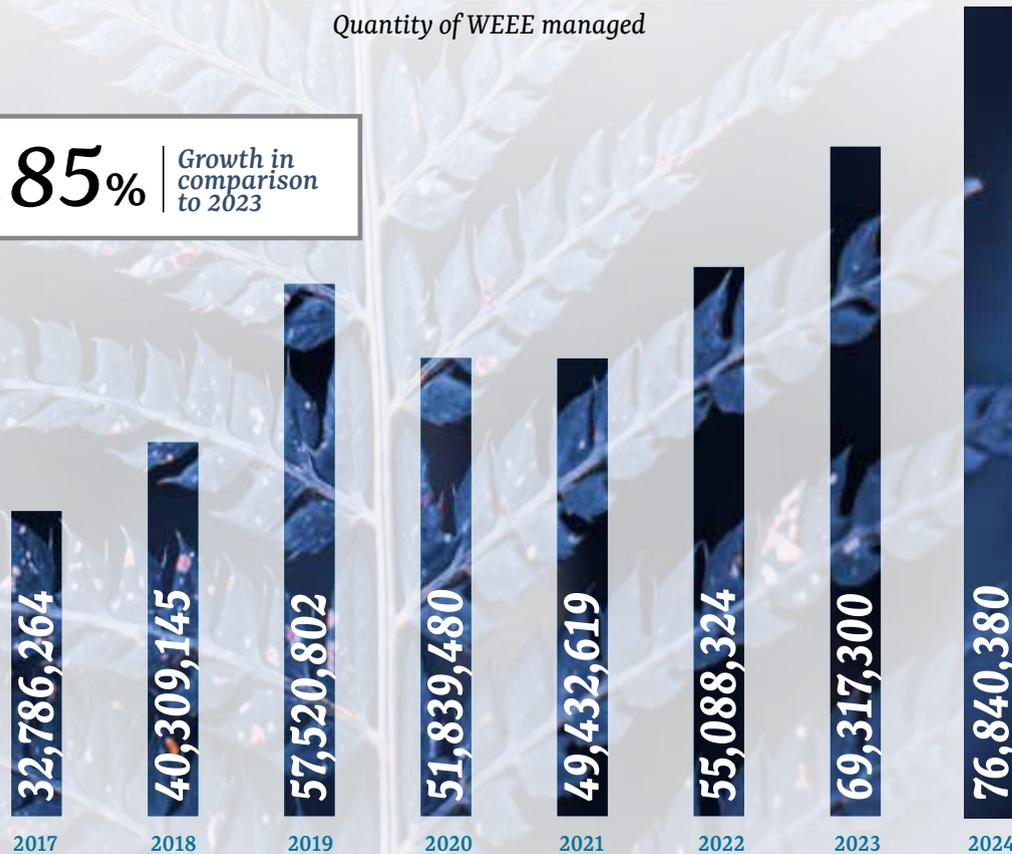
QUANTITY OF BATTERIES AND
ACCUMULATORS MANAGED IN 2024

11,114,014^{kg}

Evolution of Kg managed by Recyclia foundations 2017-2024

Quantity of WEEE managed

▲ **10.85%** | Growth in comparison to 2023

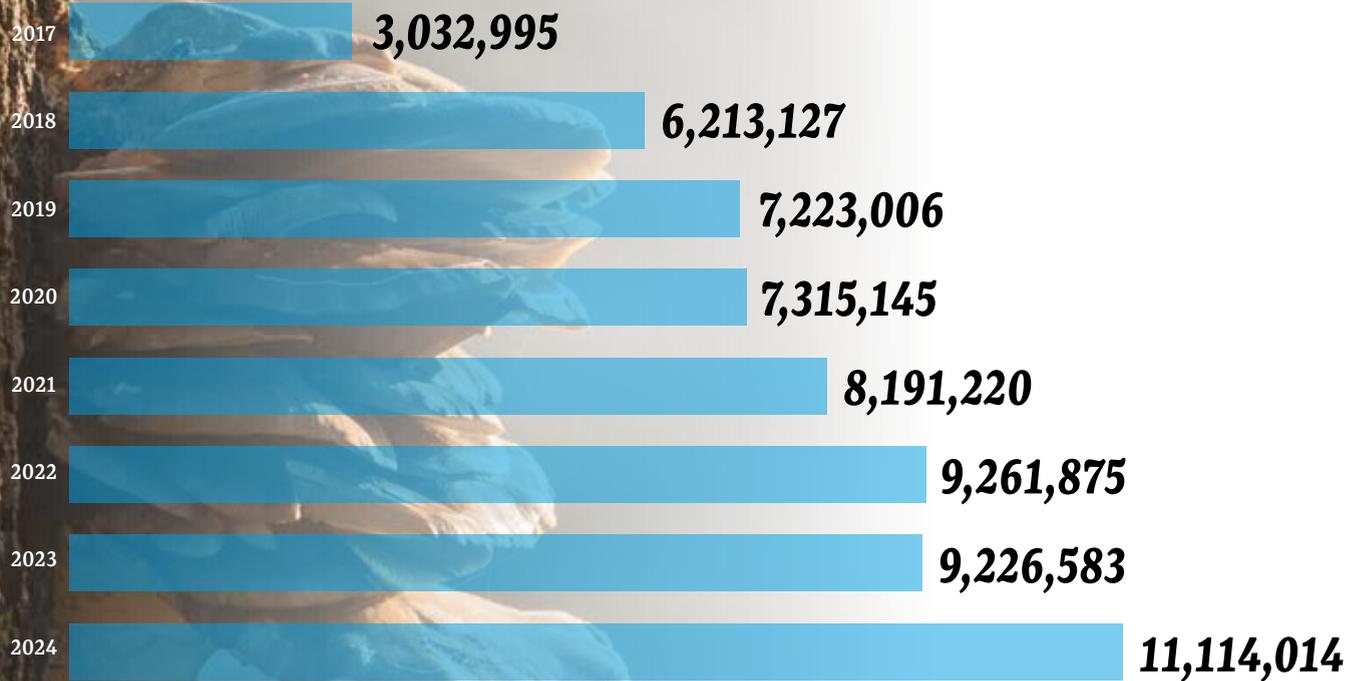




Recyclia General Information

**Evolution of Kg managed
by Recyclia foundations 2017-2024**

Quantity of Batteries and Accumulators managed (kg)



▲ **20.5%** | Growth in comparison to 2023



**NUMBER OF COLLECTION
REQUESTS MADE TO
RECYCLIA
FOUNDATIONS IN 2024**

No. of daily requests managed by Recyclia foundations:

646 requests/day,
(365 days).

**TOTAL
REQUESTS
MANAGED
BY RECYCLIA
FOUNDATIONS**

235,806

146,073 (ecoasimelec)

(ecofimática) **49,798**

39,935 (ecopilas)

7

7 / COMMUNICATION AND EVENTS

Communication plays an essential role in helping society as a whole reach the turning point of embracing a sustainable, decarbonised, and efficient future as a shared goal.

Recyclia and the foundations it manages still believe that communication is a key strategic tool in its work to raise public awareness.

COMMUNICATION RESULTS

Yet again in 2024, communication was both a strategic tool and a way for Recyclia to connect with society more directly and effectively. All our actions have the purpose of informing, inspiring, and mobilising the public, reinforcing our role as a leading voice in the transition towards a more sustainable future.

The media interest generated this year confirms the impact of our work. The fifth edition of the *Annual Report on Trends in the WEEE and Battery Recycling Industry in Spain* is now considered an essential source of analysis by the media

and professionals. Additionally, the 9th **Environment Awards** once again brought together leading professionals committed to providing information on sustainability, consolidating this annual event's position as a milestone in our awareness-raising agenda.

Furthermore, initiatives such as **Recyclia Envases** and the management of electric vehicle batteries and photovoltaic panels continue to open up new areas for social dialogue, strengthening our presence in key areas for sustainable change.





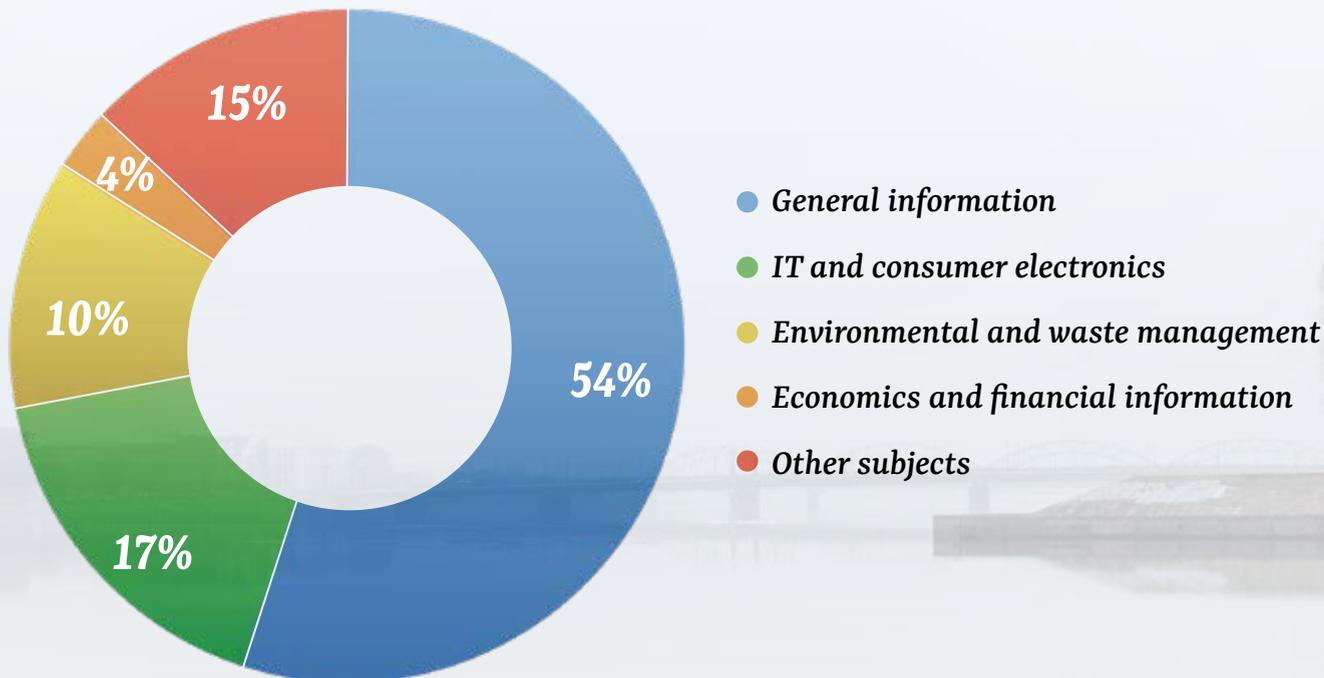
Communication and events

In figures: more than **1,700 mentions** in the media. Most of these appear in general media (58%), but we also had a strong presence in the press specialised in ICT and consumer electronics (12%) and in sectors such as CSR, industry, logistics, sports, education, distribution, food, and tourism (20%). Environment and waste management (7%) and economics and business (3%) also played a prominent role in our media coverage in 2024.

Some of the media outlets that covered our activities were the newspapers *La Razón* and *Expansión*, the EFE news agency, Cadena SER, Onda Cero, Capital Radio, and Trece TV, to name but a few. A year of growth, new stories, and greater shared awareness.

We continue to believe that every piece of information, every news item, and every story counts, and information ultimately leads to transformation.

MEDIA IMPACT



RECYCLIA SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE IN 2024

Figures related to the website and social media management continued to follow the trends seen in previous years, with significant increases on the platforms used by younger generations, such as Instagram (where the number of followers has doubled), TikTok (the Ecopilas Foundation's platform of choice), YouTube, and also LinkedIn, which is aimed at a more professional audience.

Of particular note is the coverage provided on X, previously Twitter, of events such as the Ecoencuentro 2024 and other conferences featuring round table sessions and presentations, such as the Spanish National Conference on WEEE management.

More than 40,000 visits/events were registered on the RECYCLIA website from a total of 19,986 users.

Driven by regulatory changes regarding ex-

ported electrical and electronic equipment and interest in the new **Recyclia Envases** packaging management system, enquiries via the website almost doubled to around 500 throughout the year and were redirected to the Operations department. (at least 10 per week).

NEWS ITEMS UPLOADED TO WEBSITE IN 2024: 22

NEWSLETTER ISSUES: 3

Two new websites — www.recyenvases.es and www.recycliainternacional.com — were launched in 2024.

Recyclia's social media profiles had a grand total of **36,295 followers** at the end of the reporting period, not including the foundations' profiles. The Recyclia universe as a whole had around **50,000 followers**.





 **6,972**
followers

 **21,300**
followers

 **3,512**
followers

 **2,600**
followers

 **2,110**
subscribers

WEBSITE
VISITS
RECYCLIA

40,000

by
19,986
users

22 news items uploaded
to website in 2024



events

9th RECYCLIA ENVIRONMENT AWARDS for commitment and public awareness-raising efforts



The ninth Recyclia Environment Awards ceremony, which took place on 11 December in Madrid, recognised the work of the Fundación del Cádiz Club de Fútbol and the director and presenter of TVE's *Aquí la Tierra* programme, Jacob Petrus, to raise the public's awareness of environmental protection. Recyclia also delivered awards to the sustainable economy supplement of the newspaper *Expansión* and to the journalist Miguel Ángel Medina from the newspaper *El País* for their reporting and contribution to disseminating good practices related to recycling and sustainability. The CEO of Recyclia, José Pérez, was also honoured with a special award in



recognition of his professional career and contribution to the world of associations and the circular economy over the last 20 years.

The Recyclia Environment Awards jury, made up of the organisation's Managing Board and chaired by Luis Pérez Bermejo, gave special praise to the Fundación del Cádiz Club de Fútbol's 'Yellow and Blue Beaches' beach clean-up programme and, in particular, the 'Pilamanía Amarilla' initiative for its remarkable ability to mobilise citizens and promote the recycling of waste such as batteries and plastics through information campaigns and the installation of collection points along the coast of Cadiz during the summer season. Pepe Mata, manager of the Fundación del Cádiz Club de Fútbol, collected the award in the 'Best Work to Promote Recycling by a Public or Private Organisation' category.

The award for 'Best Work to Promote Recycling by a Public Figure' was presented to Jacob Petrus, climatologist, environmental educator, and presenter of the show *Aquí la Tierra* on the TV channel La 1 for the past decade. With this award, Recyclia recognised



Communication and events

his more than 25 years of awareness-raising efforts, which has led him to become one of Spain's leading communicators in the field of sustainability and environmental preservation.

Media Recognition

Yet another year, Recyclia put the spotlight on the work carried out by the media to inform citizens and disseminate information. As a result, the award from the 'Best Work by a Media Outlet to Raise Awareness of Recycling' category went to the sustainable economy supplement of the newspaper *Expansión*. The organisation applauded the outlet's high level of socio-economic specialisation in its news coverage of the main trends in sustainability, such as the circular economy, energy transition, and sustainable transport. The sustainable economy supplement focuses on the impact of business initiatives, technological innovations, and public policies on responsible waste management.

The award was collected by Pedro Biurrun, deputy director of *Expansión* and director of the sustainable economy supplement.

Similarly, Miguel Ángel Medina from the newspaper *El País* received the 'Best Work by a Journalist to Raise Awareness of Recycling' award 'for his ability to tackle complex and emerging issues in the field of recycling, such as the management of textile waste and waste from the renewable energy sector like photovoltaic panels, with rigorous and in depth coverage', in the words of the jury.

Lastly, the CEO of Recyclia, José Pérez, was also honoured with a special award in recognition of his professional career and contribution to the world of associations and the circular economy over the last 20 years.

At the end of the ceremony, which was organised in collaboration with the Asociación Argadini, a drinks reception was held in the Real Casino de Madrid.





EcoEncuentro 2024: Comprehensive solutions for new challenges



Luis Pérez Bermejo, Chair of Recyclia, officially opened the EcoEncuentro 2024 event, held on 6 November in Madrid, which brought together more than 150 leading players from the field of recycling and the circular economy at a 'crucial moment, when the collective waste management model is once again coming to the rescue of companies in our country'.

This year, the EcoEncuentro event delved deeper into developments in the recycling of Recyclia's activity streams, electronic waste and batteries, which have now been joined by the new commercial and industrial packaging system, and paid special attention to the strategic role of this activity in the supply of

critical raw materials.

In this regard, Marta Gómez Palenque, Director General of Quality and Environmental Assessment at the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, kicked off the event with a speech focusing on the European Commission's new Critical Raw Materials Act.

Next, José Manuel Amor Alameda, Managing Partner of economic and Market Analysis at Analistas Financieros Internacionales, gave a keynote speech on the impact of the international financial and geopolitical situation on the Spanish economy.

José Pérez, CEO of Recyclia, took stock of the organisation's results over the last year, as well as its main communication and public awareness campaigns and R&D&I projects.

As part of the round table discussion entitled 'Unpacking EPR', participants analysed the challenges posed by EPR as applied to the management of commercial and industrial packaging, its impact on businesses, and possible solutions to facilitate its implementation. The Director General of Recyclia, Gabriel García, referred to these solutions and gave the example of Recyclia Envases, the collective waste management system that became operational on 1 January 2025.

Teresa Sebastiá, circular economy strategies expert from Valenver, explained that companies have to register in a system and submit detailed declarations, 'and this has represented a considerable effort for producers'. She also criticised the initial lack of coordination in information dissemination efforts by government bodies.



Communication and events

Concha Toribio, Analysis and Studies Coordinator at the Spanish Federation of Healthcare Technology Companies (Fenin), pointed out that the regulations do not consider harmonised European regulations, which increases the administrative and bureaucratic burden on companies.

Along the same lines, Idoia Marquiegui, Director of Environment and Quality at the National Association of Large Distribution Companies (ANGED), highlighted the 'regulatory avalanche' facing the sector with EPR and insisted that collaboration with collective systems must be strengthened so that they can effectively record and manage companies' obligations.

The conference also featured a second round table session on collaboration between the business and academic worlds in the field of the circular economy, with the participation of Macarena Gasalla, Head of Sustainability and Transversal Projects at the CEU San Pablo University; Al-

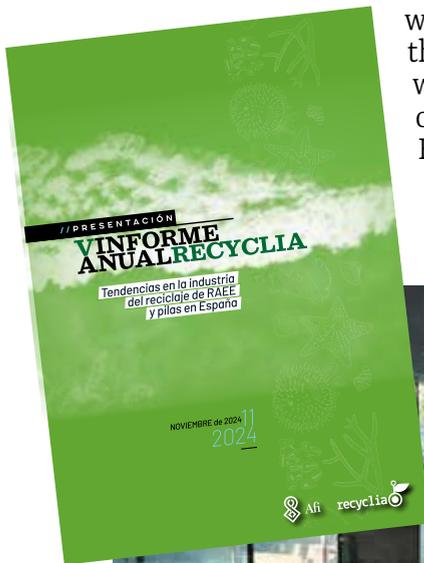
berto García-Peñas, Director of the Master's Degree in Circular Engineering at the Carlos III University of Madrid; and Álvaro Noriega, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Oviedo.

Industry trends

Within the framework of the EcoEncuentro 2024 event, as is customary every year, Recyclia presented its *Annual Report on Trends in the WEEE and Battery Recycling Industry in Spain*. In this fifth publication, the document focused on the strategic role that this activity plays in critical raw material supplies.

It was presented by Ana María Domínguez, a consultant at Analistas Financieros Internacionales (AFI), who highlighted the importance of secondary raw materials in reducing Spain's dependence on foreign supplies and diversifying current sources.

According to the report, by 2030, 84.5% and 60.2% of the volume of lithium and cobalt, respectively, needed to manufacture new sustainable vehicle batteries will come from recycled batteries.



RECYCLIA's active role in the 6th NATIONAL CONGRESS ON WEEE MANAGEMENT in Cordoba



All players involved in the WEEE environmental management chain must strengthen their collaboration, with a special focus on raising public awareness of this issue, to achieve the mandatory recycling targets set by the European Union. This was the common call to action issued by representatives of the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITERD), the Andalusian Regional Government, local city authorities, and collective systems for managing this type of waste during the inauguration of the 6th National WEEE Management Congress, which was held in Cordoba on 3 and 4 October.

In her speech, Margarita Ruiz Saiz-Aja, Deputy Director General for Waste at MITERD, added another series of factors — in addition to the necessary collaboration between producers and marketers of equipment, waste managers, government bodies, and consumers — that would play an important role in facing up to what she called ‘a new paradigm that seeks to convert WEEE into a strategic source of essential raw materials’.

In particular, Ruiz Saiz-Aja mentioned the need to increase investments, such as Spain’s Strategic Project for Economic Recovery and Transformation (known as PERTE in Spanish) related to the circular economy, which she described as ‘a historic opportunity to modernise the management of waste such as photovoltaic panels or electric vehicle batteries’, as well as optimise the traceability and registration of waste and strengthen controls to combat free riders, manufacturers or importers who fail to meet their obligation to pay for and collect the equipment they sell at the end of its useful life for recycling.

María Rincón Liévana, policy officer at the European Commission, and José Pérez, CEO of Recyclia and rotating chair of OfiRaee, the organisation behind the Congress, also spoke along the same lines. Pérez pointed out that compliance is the main purpose of collective systems, which is why he called for legal certainty and flexibility in regulations to reduce the excessive administrative burden. According to Pérez, ‘we have never questioned the control mechanisms, but we believe that bureaucratic excess must be removed or at least reduced, in line with the recommendation of the recently published Draghi Report to improve the EU’s competitiveness’.



Institutional activities

*RECYCLIA plays a leading role in the **solar panel recycling** debate in Congress*



Recyclia kicked off the first quarter of 2024 by participating in two important forums for the national photovoltaic energy sector.

Firstly, on 30 January, the company was represented by its Commercial and Institutional Relations Director, Gonzalo Torralbo, at the 2nd Conference on Sustainability and

Photovoltaic Plants organised by the Spanish Photovoltaic Union (UNEF). Held in the Spanish Congress of Deputies, it was attended by Francina Armengol, Speaker of the Congress of Deputies, and Hugo Morán, Secretary of State for the Environment, as well as more than 200 other people.

Torralbo participated in one of the three round table sessions entitled ‘Solar energy, an opportunity for biodiversity’.

Likewise, Torralbo once again represented Recyclia at the International Fair of Energy and the Environment GENERA 2024, held from 6 to 8 February in Madrid. Recyclia's Commercial and Institutional Relations Director took part in two expert panels on the environmental management of photovoltaic modules.



Strengthening links with CEOE to put the spotlight on the recycling sector



In February, the CEO of Recyclia, José Pérez, met with the Chair of CEOE (the Spanish Confederation of Employers' Organisations, Antonio Garamendi, to ratify the managing organisation's incorporation into the Spanish employers' association. This relaxed meeting took place in the office of the Chair Garamendi and both participants had the chance to discuss recent economic progress and Spain's current situation, as well as the opportunities that the circular economy and the joint concern shared by all sectors for recycling, recovery of raw materials, and sustainability is creating for companies.

For the Chair of CEOE, Antonio Garamendi, the incorporation of Recyclia 'is very good news for Spanish companies, as it is an ex-

ample of how the ecological transition is at the heart of business transformation and is a fundamental springboard for the development and growth of businesses in our country'.

The CEO of Recyclia, José Pérez, stressed that 'the representation and resources resulting from Recyclia's incorporation into CEOE are an excellent opportunity to strengthen the sector's capacity to generate wealth and employment, as yet without an established limit'.

Likewise, on 8 May, CEOE brought together representatives of the main collective packaging management systems in Spain at the 'Business challenges related to the circular economy of packaging' conference. Gonzalo Torralbo, Recyclia's Commercial and Institutional Relations Director, represented Recyclia Envases at this meeting attended by the Spanish Ministries of Finance, of Industry and Tourism, and of Economy, Trade, and Enterprise, in which three round table sessions addressed the challenges and solutions related to packaging waste management in Spain.

Sustainable digitalisation

Also in May, the results of the third 'Sustainable Digitalisation' campaign were presented. Promoted by the CEOE Foundation together with Ecoasimelec, Ecofímica, and all other collective WEEE management systems in our country, the campaign managed to recover a total of 11,674 computers and computer parts, which were then reconditioned and handed over to social entities that work with groups at risk of exclusion.



In October, Recyclia Envases was authorised to start operating as a collective system for extended producer responsibility (SCRAP)



On Thursday 24 October, Recyclia Envases received approval from the Community of Madrid to operate as a new, national-level SCRAP, a collective packaging management system to help its member companies meet their extended producer responsibility obligations.

Throughout the year, technical seminars and webinars were organised and the company participated in various events to raise awareness of the new system, which began operations on 1 January 2025.

One of these was the Business Meeting with commercial and industrial packaging SCRAPs held at the beginning of the year in Alicante, organised by the Packaging Innovation Cluster in collaboration with the Business Confederation of the Valencia Region and the newspaper *Información*.

Throughout the year, webinars were held with



entrepreneurs and professionals from all over Spain to present Recyclia's extended producer responsibility solutions. A special live debate entitled 'Compliance with the Royal Decree on packaging and packaging waste' was also carried out with smartlighting.

The new website www.recyenvases.es was launched to provide relevant, clear, and accessible information on EPR in terms of the environmental management of packaging.

In addition, all producers who are members of Recyclia Envases have access to the new Management Platform, which allows them to collect and manage information on packaging placed on the market in advance, guaranteeing swift processing and ensuring they meet the relevant regulations within the legal deadline.





Recyclia is a Sustainability Action 24 award winner

Recyclia won a Sustainability Action 24 awards, which are presented in recognition of outstanding actions carried out by companies and organisations in the path towards a more sustainable and fairer society. The awards ceremony was part of the fourth Sustainability Day 24, organised by the publication Compromiso RSE. Our CEO, José Pérez, collected the award and spoke about the practices and strategies that Recyclia and its environmental foundations apply on a daily basis to do their bit for the circular economy. More than 830 people attended the event held at the Reina Sofía Museum.



Collaboration on the first Master's Degree in Circular Engineering available in Spain

Recyclia has begun collaborating on the first Master's Degree in Circular Engineering to be taught in our country. This professional specialisation is expected to be in high demand in coming years. The study programme offered by the Carlos III University of Madrid (UC3M) aims to train a new generation of engineers specialised in the application of circular economy principles to the design, implementation, and management of environmentally sustainable industrial processes.

Professionals from Recyclia give classes on key areas of study such as advanced waste management, product life cycle analysis, and ecodesign. Students will also be able to complete internships at Recyclia.

In addition to the participation of Recyclia, the master's degree is also supported by many other leading companies from our country.





Strong presence at Conama 2024

A large delegation from Recyclia attended the inauguration of the National Environmental Congress Conama2024, which kicked off with a speech from Sara Aagesen, Spain's new Third Vice-President and Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge.

Recyclia had its own stand at Conama, where it displayed the managing organisation's management capacity and all the details of the new packaging management and recycling system, Recyclia Envases. María Jesús Veleiro also took part in one of the round table sessions.

The 17th National Environmental Congress, CONAMA 2024, took place in Madrid in IFE-MA's North Convention Centre. This forum, which has secured its place as the leading space for dialogue and environmental action in Spain, brought together top institutional representatives, experts, and professionals from the sector to address the major challenges posed by the ecological transition.



Sara Aagesen Muñoz, Spain's Third Vice-President and Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, opened the Congress with a call to action: 'We cannot afford the luxury of not taking action'.

She was joined at the event by the Community of Madrid's Regional Minister for the Environment, Agriculture, and the Interior of the Community of Madrid, Carlos Novillo Piris; Madrid City Council's Second Deputy Mayor and Delegate for Urban Planning, Environment, and Mobility, Borja Carabante; and the director of the Conama Foundation, Alicia Torrejo. All of them expressed their solidarity with the victims of the recent episodes of severe flooding that affected several regions of the country and stressed how important it is to heed the warnings of the scientific community, stating the need to urgently prioritise measures to adapt to climate change with the aim of preventing costs that are difficult for society to bear.



Agreement with FAEL and ECOTIC regarding the management of packaging in Andalusian shops



In November, the Andalusian Federation and Association of Household Appliances and Equipment (FAEL/AAEL) and the managing organisations of ECOTIC ENVASES and RECYCLIA ENVASES, two collective system for extended producer responsibility related to packaging, reached an agreement that aims to promote and encourage the correct management of packaging waste from horizontal-distribution establishments in Andalusia.

FAEL/AAEL will make it easier for their member sales outlets and platforms to comply with the regulations on packaging waste generated by their activity and provide them with an optimal and efficient management model.

All parties will be responsible for training and advising FAEL/AAEL members on the new packaging regulations, as well as analysing and assessing their packaging waste management needs.

CIRMAT congress in Tenerife and other relevant events



Recyclia representatives took part in the CIRMAT congress held in Tenerife in October. They got the chance to share their opinions with the MEP Juan Fernando López Aguilar, who closed the first day of the congress and visited Recyclia's stand at the event. In the photo, with José Pérez and Gonzalo Torralbo.

Additionally, our Director General, Gabriel García, participated in numerous events focused on the environment: Energyyear MOBILITY 2024 Congress and 2nd EPR Forum.



Joint campaigns

ECOFIMÁTICA AND ECOASIMELEC together with other SCRAP

WEEE agreement in Andalusia with FAEL, Scraps, and Recilec, **Publicity Campaign, Networks, and Science Fair.**



'RAEE-CLM' and 'You are the key' WEEE Collection campaigns in Castile-La Mancha

Fifth 'GIVE LIFE TO THE PLANET' campaign



ECOPILAS with other SCRAP

Sixth **PILABOT** in Galicia.

Ninth **APILO XII** in Catalonia.

Seventh **BERTO ZAMPAPILAS** in Valencia.

'A battery of reasons' campaign, en Andalucía.

'Madrid has its good points... and they're very close by....' campaign in Madrid

'We are waste management' in the Balearic Islands.



Our own campaigns

WITH ECOPILAS

The Mallorca Cycling Challenge, Formentera 1/2 Marathon, Maó 10-mile and 5-mile races and Formentera Triathlon.



Sponsorship of the **Extremadura-Ecopilas MTB** cycling team.

Sponsorship of the **National Rugby Schools Festival and Autumn Tournament** in Pozuelo.

Support for **Escalona Running** in Toledo.



Sponsorship of the **Copa del Rey wheelchair basketball team** in Burgos.

79th **TOUR OF SPAIN CYCLE RACE**, where Ecopilas installed more than 400 collection bins at the start and finish of the 21 stages. Carrying out the Gesture for Recycling at many ribbon cuttings and celebrating European Battery Recycling Week in Madrid.





Communication and events



86th International Descent of the Sella and Ecopilas Values of the Sella award.

Collaboration with **Fundación Ecomar** and **Fundación del Cádiz Club de Fútbol** to clean the sea and beaches with the 'Yellow and Blue Beaches' initiative.



Collaboration with the **SOCIAL-SPORTS SCHOOLS OF REAL MADRID** in Segovia, Seville and Mazarrón (Murcia), and with the Valdedebas Tournament.

Sponsorship of the **Wolfast Uniovi team**, the team behind the development of the first racing electric motorbike in Asturias.

With ECOFIMATICA and ECOASIMELEC

Participation in **Festelko 2024** with Abitel Bizkaia and the **Fenitel General Meeting**.

Collaboration campaigns with **ADEN, FECE** (organiser of a forum in which we participated earlier this year), and **FAEL**, in addition to other sector associations.

Support for **Fundación FUNVIBA** at national museums and shopping centres. Throughout the year, we continued to collaborate with other humanitarian and social organisations such as **Amiab, Caritas, and Fundación Argandini**.



8

8/ INTERNATIONAL

Recyclia ended 2024 by expanding its international relations and consolidating its leading position in the field of electric and electric waste and used battery management within Spain and further afield.

Its active involvement in multiple international forums to share experiences related to collection and recycling in different countries, numerous meetings with the EUCOBAT and WEEE Forum organisations, and closer participation in European projects once again confirmed its extensive track record and good work this year.



www.recycliainternacional.com



International

RECYCLIA at the Eucobat and WEEE Forum general meetings



EUCOBAT and WEEE Forum — two European organisations that include Ecopilas and Recyclia, respectively — held their general meetings in Luxembourg from 27 to 29 May 2024.

The technical working groups and operations committee also met.

On behalf of our foundations, Patricia



Sánchez, Gabriel García, and José Pérez attended these events and the ceremony to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Ecotrel and the 15th anniversary of Ecobatterien, two management systems from Luxembourg and hosts of the meetings.

The Chair of Ecopilas was also present at the event held in Paris to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the constitution of CorePile, a French battery recycling system. This very special event took place at the Science Museum, and the Chair had the opportunity to share experiences with the then director of CorePile, Frederic Hedouin, and the operations manager.

The second Eucobat general meeting was attended by José Pérez and Gabriel García in September in Basel.

Eucobat, an association that brings together the most important collective systems for battery and accumulator recycling in Europe, appointed the Spanish system Ecopilas to lead a working group that will analyse European regulations on this activity.

WEEE Forum is an international association of producer responsibility organisations for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).





Prominent role in the European projects **BATRAW, REBELION, FREE4LIB, and CircularTwAIn**

Hardly a month went by in 2024 without some activity related to the various R&D&I projects involving Recyclia, such as the general assemblies and meetings of the Rebellion and Free4Lib initiatives. The Italian city of Verona hosted the meeting of the Rebellion project, which aims to develop an innovative technical process for recovering the materials present in electric vehicle lithium-ion batteries and reusing suitable cells.

The Rebellion project progress meeting took place at the Volkswagen Group's headquarters in Italy where, in addition to reviewing the progress made by all partners in the various tasks and activities related to the project, Volkswagen provided a workshop on electric car batteries, including a training session that used virtual reality to address the safety issues present when handling these types of batteries.

On 23 February, Free4Lib held its virtual general assembly to assess the progress made in the development of six sustainable and efficient processes for recycling this same type of batteries, using technology readiness levels (TRL). The progress and latest developments of the various partners was assessed, and there was also a specific workshop on the Digital Battery Passport.

Recyclia also took part in the Circular TwAIn project review meeting with the European Commission in Brussels, marking the first 18 months of the project (on 31 December 2023).

In November, Recyclia representatives attended the Circular TwAIn European project meeting held in Limassol, Cyprus. Around ten other partners also took part in this project which, from a Mediterranean perspective, aims to incorporate artificial intelligence into recycling processes, facilitating sustainable, human-centred manufacturing that promotes the transition towards Industry 5.0.

On 9 May, with the collaboration of the Valdemoro Fire Brigade, Ecopilas and the waste manager Ecoquímica organised an event as part of the BATRAW R&D project, an international consortium involving the





International



environmental foundation managed by Recyclia.

At the end of the year, Recyclia participated in the Congress on Sustainability and Applied Circular Economy, organised by the CSIC and the Fundación Forum Ambiental.



Our colleague Evaristo García García gave a presentation on the innovation projects being carried out at Recyclia/Ecopilas and moderated a plenary session on emerging technologies, where several issues were discussed, including the state of green hydrogen, biomethane, and the application of organic components to photovoltaic cells.

Although national in scope, Recyclia also participates in the Baterurgia research project financed by the CDTI and supported by the Spain's Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Universities.





Forging closer ties with the East at the China-EU Ecommerce Summit

More than 200 entrepreneurs and professionals gathered at the China-EU Ecommerce Summit, a key event on e-commerce and a bridge between East and West, which was held in Madrid in December.

José Pérez García, Chair of Ecopilas, was responsible for one of these talks, 'a powerful reminder of how the correct management of batteries and accumulators can be a key pillar in the transition towards a circular economy'.

Gonzalo Torralbo, the Sales and Commercial Relations Director of Ecopilas, also participated in one of the round table sessions: 'Sustainable transformation of e-commerce: global challenges and opportunities', from SUMMIT 2024.



Collaboration with the Este de la Plata University in Argentina

Our CEO, José Pérez García, participated in the 'Environment Conference Series: Towards a Sustainable Future', organised by the law faculty of the Isabel I University, in collaboration with the Este de La Plata University, Argentina,

It was the third session of the series focused on the transformative power of the 3Rs: recycle, reuse, and reduce. Under the title of #CircularEconomy, the talk took place on Monday 15 April and Recyclia's CEO, Professor José Pérez García, invited attendees to explore practices from the company's perspective. Alongside Marina Martín Moro, lecturer of the Bachelor's Degree in Law at the Isabel I University, the guest speaker highlighted some successful strategies for encouraging the recycling and reuse of resources to promote a sustainable business model.





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