

## EUROSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing

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# Waste management in Switzerland

## Auditing prepaid recycling fees



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# Plan of the presentation

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## 1. Waste management in Switzerland

- Five principles
- State intervention model
- Public-Private-Partnership
- Many separate collections
- High recycling rates

## 2. Scope and methodology

## 3. Preliminary results

- Controlling effectiveness
- Controlling efficiency

# Waste management in Switzerland

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## Five principles

1. The production of waste must be reduced as far as possible
2. The waste must be recycled as far as possible
3. All combustible waste that is not recycled must be incinerated
4. Polluter-pays (no financing through tax revenues)
5. The recycling system must be efficient

# State intervention model

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## The Federal Council (Government) can

- fix a recycling quote for specific wastes and, if not achieved,
- force manufacturers and importers to pay a recycling fee
- threaten to force them, when they don't take the initiative themselves...

## The fee is used to finance the recycling process

- containers,
- transport,
- sorting process
- prevention campaigns (public information)
- etc.



# Public Private Partnership (PPP)

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The perception of the fee and its distribution for recycling purpose are delegated to private organizations.

- ❑ In five sectors, the branch organization decided to convince its members to pay a recycling fee
- ❑ In two sectors, the State forced it and attributed a mandate to private organization for this purpose.

Supervision: Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL)



# Many separate collections...

Glass containers

Batteries

Pet-beverage containers

Electrical and electronics

Tin cans

Aluminium packagings

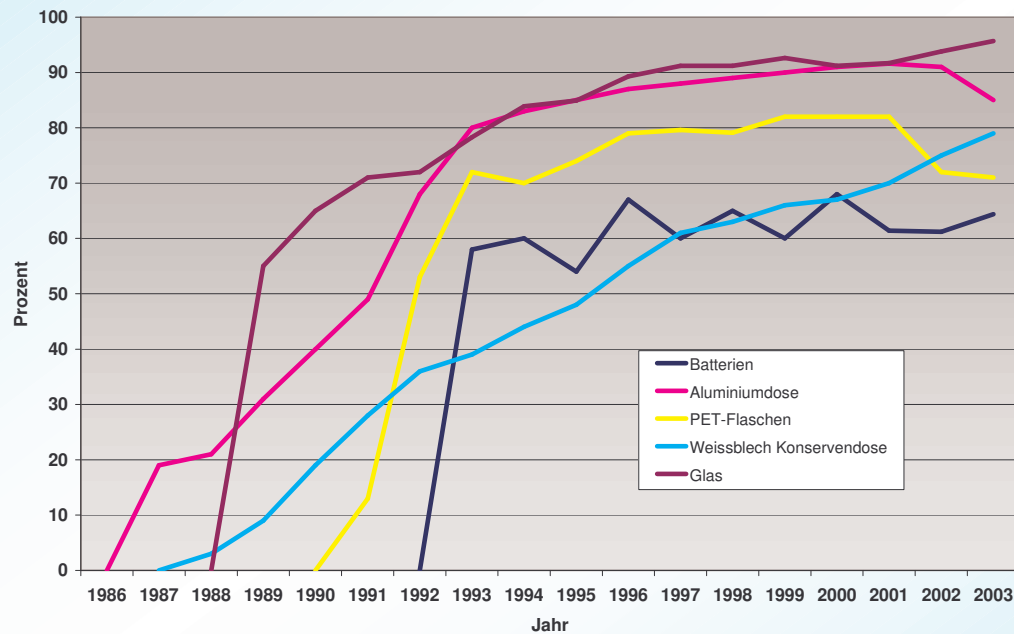
Cars

Etc.

Amount of the fee?	Who is responsible for the financing?	Who collects and transports?	Where can it be disposed of?
Fr. 0.02 to 0.06 per bottle	VetroSwiss	Municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal collection points</li> <li>• Municipal waste collections</li> </ul>
Fr. 3.20 per kg of batteries	INOBAT	Retailers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sales outlets (Obligation to take back)</li> <li>• In some cases at municipal recycling centres</li> </ul>
Fr. 0.04 per bottle	PET-Recycling Schweiz	PET-Recycling Schweiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Containers at sales outlets and in some cases at municipal recycling centres</li> </ul>
Varies according to appliance type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWICO (office, and IT equipment, consumer electronics)</li> <li>• S.E.N.S (household appliances)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWICO</li> <li>• S.E.N.S</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sales outlets (Obligation to take back)</li> <li>• In some cases at municipal collection points</li> </ul>
Fr. 0.01 per can	Ferro Recycling	Municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal recycling centres</li> </ul>
Fr. 0.01 to 0.04 per packaging	IGORA	Municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal recycling centres</li> </ul>
Fr. 30 per car	Autorecycling Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retailers</li> <li>• Scrap metal dealers</li> </ul>

# Recycling rates

## Evolution of the Recycling rates pro produced items



Origin: adapted from SAEFL data

Switzerland is regularly at the top of the international rankings...  
... but what about the costs?

# Scope and methodology

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## Scope: role of the Confederation and control mechanisms

### Four main questions

1. Which goals and indicators are to apply to appreciate effectiveness and efficiency of separate collections with prepaid recycling fee?
2. How effectiveness and efficiency are measured by the private waste management organizations?
3. How effectiveness and efficiency are controlled by the State?
4. How have consumers been made aware of the different disposal options?

Preliminary questionnaire to ensure the access to information from private organizations (PPP) : 7 over 8 organizations OK

# Preliminary results

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## **Effectiveness: really good results**

- ❑ Switzerland is regularly at the top of the international rankings...
- ❑ Each private waste management organization developed pioneer solutions for its branch
- ❑ High acceptance by Swiss people despite of the number of different networks of recycling

## **Quite reliable indicators and collected data**

- ❑ Produced / recycled items (private branches and custom administration)
- ❑ Household Waste Composition Survey (~ every 10 years / 16 tonnes of rubbish from 33 municipalities)
- ❑ Etc.

# Preliminary results

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## Efficiency

- ❑ Very few cost for the Confederation (PPP)...
- ❑ € 130 Million total raised fee...
- ❑ Almost all the prepaid fees have been reduced these last years (market mechanisms)

## But...

- ❑ Polluter-pays principle not strictly respected
- ❑ Every private waste management organization has its own system...
- ❑ Free riders by the private solutions
- ❑ Less flexibility by the two public solution (forced fees)

# Efficiency less controlled

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No independent assessment, which considers simultaneously

- ❑ all the ecological aspects (pollution, transport, energy, etc.) and
- ❑ the different costs of the solution

Would be necessary for fixing adapted recycling quotes

No standards

- ❑ Cost-performance accounting for the private organizations (transparency, benchmarking)
- ❑ Rates for adequate reserves and depreciations

Publication of the report: Winter 2005-2006



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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

