



June 30, 2015

Department of Energy Report Releases Industrial Energy Efficiency Study

Last week, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released “Barriers to Industrial Energy Efficiency” as a report to Congress.

The report was prepared as directed by the *American Energy Manufacturing Technical Corrections Act* (Public Law 112-210) approved in December 2012. This legislation required the Department of Energy to issue a study outlining ways to reduce barriers to greater industrial energy efficiency, as well as recognized activities that support energy efficiency in the manufacturing sector. Energy savings from increased recycling is one of several components considered in the study.

The Glass Packaging Institute took the lead on behalf of the glass container industry during development of this study, submitting comments, data, and other information. We also acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of our member companies for their contributions. Outside of the EPA, this is the first detailed federal agency examination of recycling for energy-intensive industries, and more importantly, an evaluation of the collection, sorting and ultimate use of recycled materials in the manufacturing process.

“Barriers to Industrial Efficiency” identifies specific elements of the glass container recycling system that may be useful for GPI and member companies in our efforts to support effect, high-quality glass container recycling. These include:

- A detailed overview of the glass container manufacturing process, along with recognition that glass is a 100% and endlessly recyclable product.
- Acknowledgement that recycled glass used in roadbed aggregate or for landfill cover is not considered “primary recycling,” and does not assist in improved industrial energy efficiency.
- Specific energy reductions at glass container plants when recycled glass is used in the manufacturing process. *An average of 6% energy reduction, for every 10% of recycled glass melted in the furnace.*
- Recognition that bottle bill programs recover nearly 80% of covered glass containers, and containers recovered through these programs are ultimately used in the manufacture of new glass bottles and jars.
- Recognition that states using bottle bill programs, in conjunction with single stream (one-bin) programs, can increase the beverage container recycling rate by 11%, and the overall recycling rate by 162%.

To read the full “Barriers to Recycling Efficiency” study and Report to Congress, [please click here](#). To learn more about the benefits of glass packaging and recycling, please visit www.gpi.org.