



- This means that coffee packages waste can be used as a resource, says Madelene Breiling, Supply Chain Development Manager at Löfbergs.

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## Coffee packages in fully recyclable mono-material about to become reality at Löfbergs

By 2030, Swedish based coffee group Löfbergs strive to be 100 % circular, which includes only using packages that are recyclable and made from renewable or recycled materials. Hence, Löfbergs works intensively to find and develop sustainable alternatives together with different partners. In one of the most recent projects Löfbergs has reached revolutionary results – successful pilot tests of what likely is the world’s first high barrier soft plastic

## **PE mono-material prototype for coffee.**

- An important milestone representing a worldwide opportunity to close the loop as it enables used coffee packages to be sorted, recycled and reggranulated with the possibilities to be reprocessed into new products. This means that coffee packages waste can be used as a resource, says Madelene Breiling, Supply Chain Development Manager at Löffbergs.

Up to now, most multilayer flexible plastic laminates and pouches on the market have not been suitable for collection, sorting or recycling. The challenge for the coffee industry particularly has been to find a thin solution in a mono polyethylene polymer, that is suitable to run on a high-speed machine, that has the barrier properties to protect the products and remain the long shelf life – so aromas and freshness of coffee remains, and that also can be widely sorted, collected and recycled on all markets.

- We have been working on this ground-breaking innovation for a long time together with a material and machine supplier. Now we have developed a prototype with fully recyclable mono-PE material that is designed for the circular economy. The prototype has passed all the rigorous quality tests so far and as the first small batch is approved, we plan to scale up tests to work on different material properties and fine tuning of specifications, so that the new packages can hit the shelves later this year, says Madelene Breiling.

### **Reduce the overall carbon footprint**

The new package is likely the first in the world to be entirely eco-designed. Made only from polyethylene, a fully recyclable material, it contains 0% aluminium. Once sorted, collected, which will be possible everywhere where waste management and recycling systems is in place, it can be recycled and reused. And the recycled polymers can become granulates again to be used for new products. Next step is to run longer test runs and to continue to work on fine tuning machines and material properties.

- When everything runs smoothly the next step is to also make this mono-materials derive from renewable source. We already see potential to increase the renewable share in these recyclable packages. The same transition that we have done on a majority of the packages we use, which has allowed us to reduce the overall carbon footprint for our packaging, says Madelene Breiling.

**More information:**

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The Swedish based coffee group Löfbergs is a Family Business founded in 1906. We are 340 coffee lovers operating in ten core markets in Europe and Canada, sharing the passion for taste, trends and sustainability. We have a turnover of SEK 1.6 billion and is one of the world's largest purchasers of organic and Fairtrade-labeled coffee. The group includes the brands Löfbergs, Peter Larsen Kaffe, Percol, Green Cup, Kobbs and SuperBonobo.

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