

OUR PATH TO  
THE CERTIFIED  
CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY

# MAKING WINDOWS, DESTROYING WINDOWS

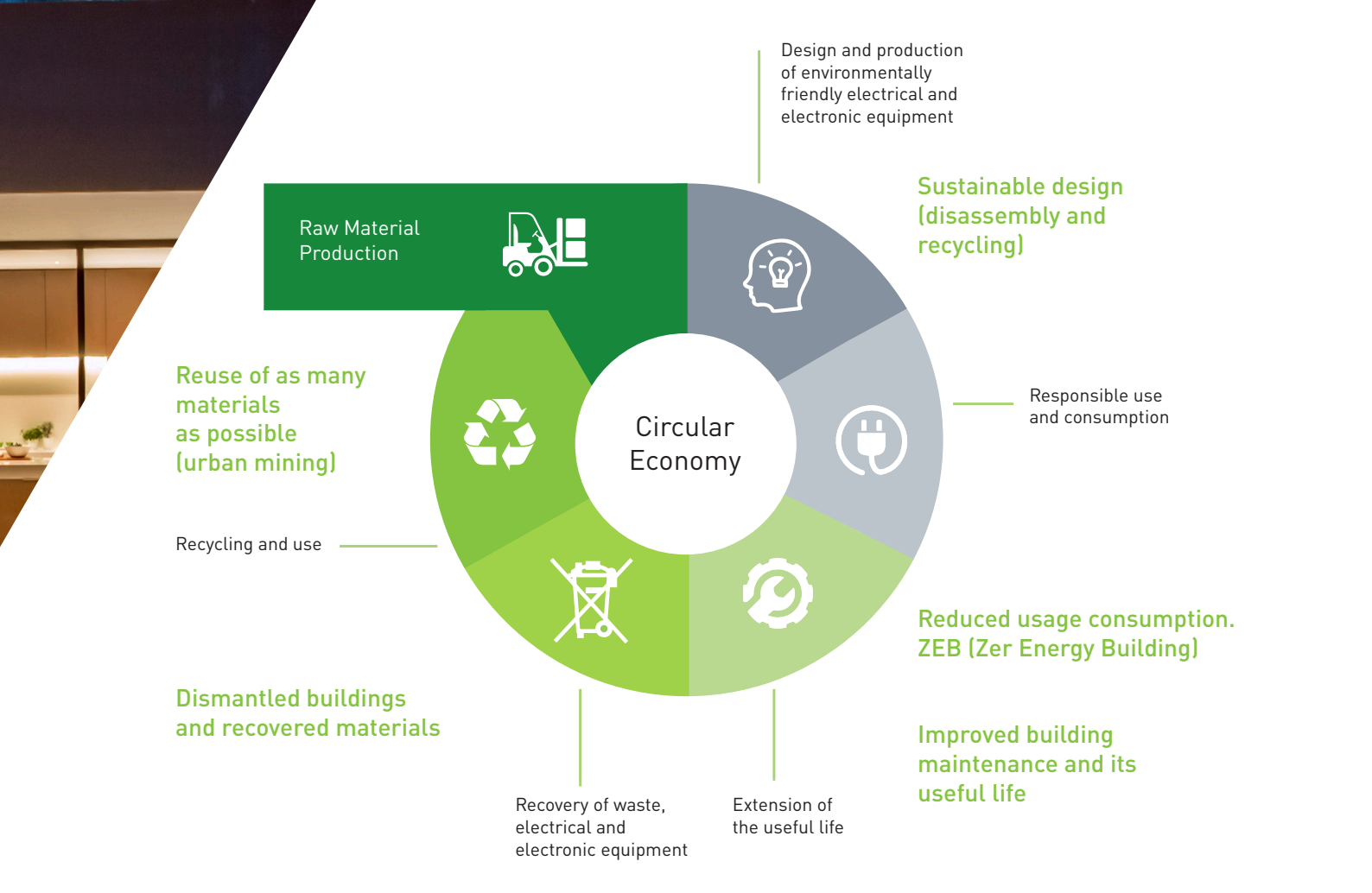


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By  Hydro

# WHAT ARE THE MAIN BUILDING CHALLENGES WITH RESPECT TO SUSTAINABILITY?





In today's world, we are highly aware of environmental issues and, increasingly, a product's life cycle. From manufacturing to obsolescence, this is now a priority factor when it comes to using certain products over others. The aim is to implement new industrial processes that meet these product recyclability needs. Many of the products manufactured in accordance with these principles are currently certified with the Cradle to Cradle and SAPA seal and, fully in line with this paradigm, there are aluminium carpentry systems that already have this distinction.

You can consult them at [www.c2ccertified.org](http://www.c2ccertified.org)



Photograph: Mariela Apollonio



# OUR PATH TOWARDS THE CERTIFIED CIRCULAR ECONOMY

## CERTIFY THE MATERIAL

We extract our profiles using low CO<sub>2</sub>-footprint aluminium. We achieve this by using renewable energy and recycling post-consumer aluminium. The entire recycling process is certified by DNV - GL, Det Norske Veritas, an independent certification company with headquarters in Oslo, Norway and 350 offices in over 100 countries around the world. The Hydro group, to which SAPA belongs, was the first company to achieve recognition from the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI), the most internationally recognised standard for assessing sustainability throughout the life cycle of aluminium, from its extraction and production to the use and recycling thereof.



## CERTIFY THE PRODUCT

From its design to the selection of materials and how it is manufactured, the product must offer the level of performance required by the market by reducing, to the greatest extent possible, environmental impacts such as energy consumption or greenhouse gas emissions.

We classify our range under the criteria of the Cradle to Cradle seal, an independent institute that certifies products and processes from a circular economy perspective. We have numerous Cradle to Cradle-certified series, including the manufacturing in our plants. In this way, we are able to ensure that the carbon footprint of transporting our products is as low as possible.

## OUR SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATIONS

### MATERIAL

- Certified low carbon aluminium: Hydro CIRCAL 75R (post-consumer recycled window aluminium) and Hydro Low-carbon aluminium.

### PROCESS

- The Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) certifies the sustainability of the responsible process of obtaining aluminium.

### MANAGEMENT

- ISO 9001:2015 quality management system.
- ISO 14001:2016 environmental management system.

### PRODUCT

- Certificates of product performance tests (air, water, wind, acoustic and thermal) carried out by notified bodies.
- Customised Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) for the use of low carbon footprint aluminium.
- Cradle to Cradle certifications of its products

## CERTIFY BUILDINGS

LEED, BREEAM, WELL, VERDE, LEVEL(s) are the most well-known certification systems for assessing the environmental impact of buildings. Among the most relevant requirements to be awarded their certifications are the credits given to the materials used. In addition to offering products with a reduced impact on the environment, we can provide all the certifications that contribute to achieving the different green seals that are currently on the market.

Environmental Product Declarations for construction (EPD), ISO certifications for quality systems and environmental management, official test certificates, Cradle to Cradle certifications and a lot of other relevant information that we have summarised in the table below.











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**CIRCAL**

*Recycled  
Aluminium*

# Hydro CIRCAL 75R, THE FIRST CERTIFIED RECYCLED ALUMINIUM

This aluminium is obtained by melting old windows at the end of their life cycle or other objects with an equivalent alloy. This process makes it possible to reduce damage at the extraction site, in addition to reducing the depletion of non-renewable raw materials, sludge from manufacturing, consumption of non-renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions. In short, it is a much more environmentally friendly product than primary aluminium and contributes to the development of the circular economy.



## HOW IS IT OBTAINED?

Its production process is characterised by a rigorous selection of the material to be recycled with the aim of achieving the optimum alloy to manufacture carpentry profiles. Aluminium is a material that can be found in dozens of different alloys (i.e. combinations with other elements such as magnesium, manganese, copper, zinc, silicon, titanium and chrome) depending on the industrial use for which it was produced. A Hydro plant in Dormagen (Germany) has developed a technology to effectively separate aluminium from other metals and to use each for correct recycling. This system allows only the recycled aluminium with the right alloy to be used to produce windows that are sent to Hydro's smelting plants.



## Hydro, SAPA SUPPLIER OF RECYCLED ALUMINIUM

The Norwegian multinational Hydro owns the SAPA brand and supplies all the aluminium used to manufacture the windows. With over 20,000 employees and production plants worldwide, Hydro is the world's largest producer of aluminium. Its material is used to make trains, cars, planes, computers, mobile phones, beverage cans and many other objects used in daily life. With the launch of Hydro CIRCAL 75R, Hydro has introduced the first certified post-consumer recycled aluminium onto the market.

Consult or download the Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) for construction products (DAPc), available at [www.epd-norge.no](http://www.epd-norge.no) entering the term **Hydro 75R**





Hydro

## LOW-CARBON ALUMINIUM

*Certified and  
transparent*

# Hydro LOW-CARBON ALUMINIUM PRODUCED USING RENEWABLE ENERGIES

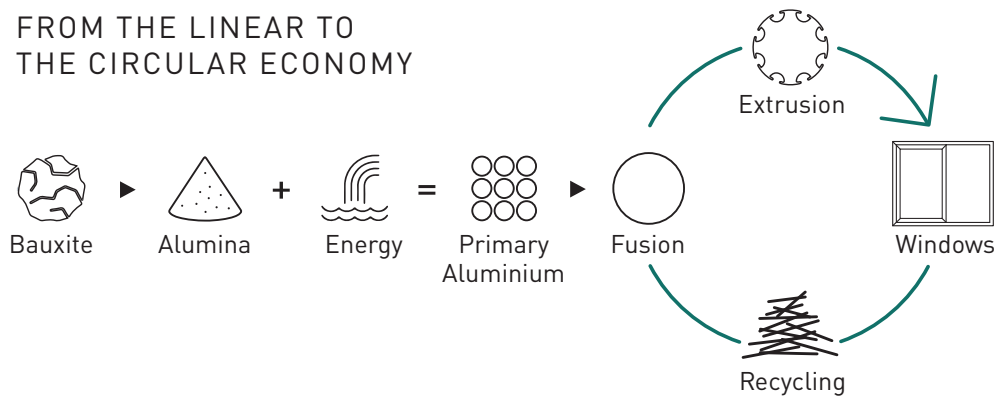
Together with urban mining, which involves the reintroduction of materials already in use into products in a new life cycle or manufacturing process, Hydro limits the environmental impact of its industrial processes by using renewable energies. Hydro Low-Carbon aluminium is a primary aluminium that generates a carbon footprint of 4 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per kg of aluminium, well below the European average of 6.7 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>. As with the Hydro CIRCAL 75R, the Hydro Low-Carbon aluminium production process is fully traceable and certified by the independent external body, DNV-GL, which guarantees its low carbon emissions.

Consult or download the Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) for construction products (DAPc) available at [www.epd-norge.no](http://www.epd-norge.no)

# Aluminium 100% infinite

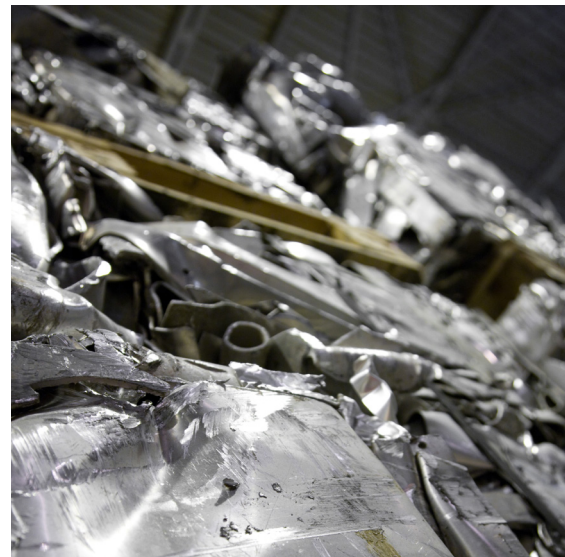
Unlike other materials, aluminium can be fully recycled without any loss in its quality or physical properties. It is estimated that, worldwide, there are 200,000,000 tonnes of aluminium objects that, when their life cycle comes to an end, can be 100% usable. Hydro uses this process to replace the extraction of bauxite (the ore from which aluminium is obtained) with the recycling of post-consumer material. The aim is to limit the exploitation of natural resources, even though aluminium is the third most abundant element on the planet. But, above all, to prevent objects from being discarded into the environment that may have another infinite life. This process is called urban mining and aims to turn cities into the main supply points of raw materials, thereby keeping the natural spaces that still remain on earth intact.

FROM THE LINEAR TO  
THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



# 75% of post-consumer recycled aluminium

Hydro CIRCAL 75R is the world's first certified recycled aluminium. 75R means that at least 75% of new aluminium comes from post-consumer material. The substantial difference with other more common industrial processes that use their own manufacturing waste is that Hydro CIRCAL finds a new life for windows that have already been used in a building. Far from being the final result, for Hydro CIRCAL, 75% is a minimum requirement for a continuous process that aims to progressively reach total recycling.



# -95%

## of energy consumed

With the current industrial processes, the production of primary aluminium (from the extraction of Bauxite) requires a large amount of energy, which results in abundant emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, the main greenhouse gas and direct cause of climate change. Post-consumer aluminium remelting saves up to 95% of this energy, obtaining a raw material of exactly the same quality.

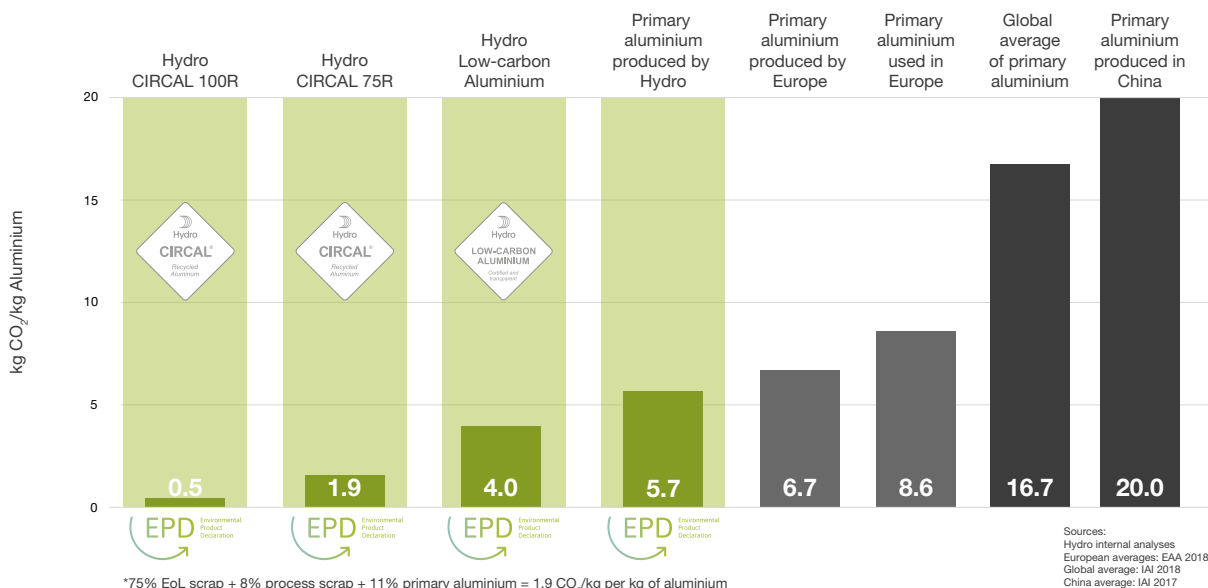


# -85%

## of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

The result of using Hydro CIRCAL 75R is a drastic reduction in emissions of more than 85%, if compared to the world average of primary aluminium production (18 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per kg of material). With its 1.9 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per kg of material, Hydro CIRCAL is currently the aluminium with the lowest emissions on the market. And the aim is to reduce them to total post-consumer recycling levels.

### CO<sub>2</sub> CARBON FOOTPRINT OF ALUMINIUM



# IMPACT OF SAPA WINDOWS IN A BLOCK OF FLATS

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN USING OUR WINDOWS MANUFACTURED WITH Hydro CIRCAL 75R ALUMINIUM AND WINDOWS MANUFACTURED WITH STANDARD PRIMARY ALUMINIUM?

The average carbon footprint of aluminium consumed in Europe is 8.6 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> for every kg of aluminium.  
With Hydro CIRCAL 75R, this impact drops to 1.9 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> for every kg of aluminium, which implies a savings of 6.27 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.  
A typical window has around 20 kg of aluminium, generating an average savings of 125.4 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per window.

### WINDOWS

1 flat = 5 windows  
1 building = 50 windows  
50 flats = 250 windows

### ALUMINIUM

1 window = 20 kg of aluminium  
250 windows = 5,000 kg of aluminium

### CARBON FOOTPRINT



5,000 kg of primary aluminium  
x 8.6 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> = 43,000 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>

5,000 kg of aluminium Hydro CIRCAL  
x 1.9 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> = 9,500 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>

Using SAPA windows made with Hydro CIRCAL in this building represents a reduction of 33,500 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.





- 
- 1 m<sup>2</sup> of construction with conventional materials = 750 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>
  - 1 m<sup>2</sup> of construction with low impact materials = 250 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, using windows with Hydro CIRCAL aluminium implies a saving equivalent to the construction of:

- 42 m<sup>2</sup> with conventional materials (one-bedroom flat)
- 125 m<sup>2</sup> with low impact materials (a 4-bedroom flat)





# THE IMPACT OF MATERIALS ON THE LIFE CYCLE OF A BUILDING

Energy consumption in the use phase of buildings has been drastically reduced over the last 30 years thanks to new policies, regulatory changes, updated training and the funding of R&D projects. Currently, by combining low demand, efficient installations, off-grid or on-grid renewable energy and the proper management thereof, it is possible to reach values close to zero in new builds or energy rehabilitation.

On the other hand, this energy reduction has not followed the same path in the material production phase. Furthermore, because the amount of materials used in an efficient building is greater, its energy content is decisive for the total resulting impact. Hydro CIRCAL 75R, with its low built-in energy level, takes a decisive step towards reducing the impact of materials on the life cycle of a building.

## ENERGY CONSUMPTION OF BUILDINGS



Before the 1993 Directive on the energy performance of buildings



After the 2002 Directive on the energy performance of buildings



Good Practices



After the 2020 Directive on the energy performance of buildings

● Operational energy consumption

○ Energy content of materials



14,600 m<sup>2</sup> of façade made using Hydro CIRCAL  
275 Tn CO<sub>2</sub> saved

This is equivalent to:

- 367 m<sup>2</sup> of construction with conventional materials, or three 4-bedroom flats.
- 1.100 m<sup>2</sup> of construction with low-impact materials, or a 10-storey, 3-bedroom multi-family building.

# A BIG RESPONSIBILITY AND A HUGE OPPORTUNITY





According to the Level(s) document drawn up by the European Commission, the construction market is responsible for:

- 40% of total energy consumption
- 35% of greenhouse gas emissions
- 1/3 of the total waste generated
- 1/3 of total water consumption

## WHAT DO THE REGULATIONS SAY?

### AT PRESENT...

#### **European Legislation - Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)**

- For each country, it sets minimum reviews of energy efficiency requirements every 5 years
- Implementation in 2020 of EECN (Nearly Zero Energy Buildings)
  - From December 31, 2018: Public authority buildings.
  - From December 31, 2020: All new buildings.

#### **Spanish Legislation - CTE: Modification of the DB HE (December 2019, currently in force).**

### IN THE NEAR FUTURE...

#### **European Legislation - Climate and Energy Framework Year 2030 (referring to 1990 levels)**

- 50% reduction in greenhouse gases
- Minimum 32% share of renewable energy
- Minimum 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency

#### **Year 2050 (in reference to 1990 levels)**

- 100% reduction in greenhouse gases
- Contribution of all sectors

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