



interzero[®]
zero waste solutions

“resources SAVED by recycling” 2025

Closing loops together. Securing the future.

Evidence-based insights for a sustainable transformation

Measurable impact is key to a circular economy that is successful both environmentally and economically. The “resources SAVED by recycling” study by Fraunhofer UMSICHT clearly shows that keeping recyclable materials in the loop helps save significant quantities of primary raw materials and avoids greenhouse gas emissions.

A well-functioning circular economy is one of the most important drivers on the path to climate neutrality. Recycling also conserves natural resources and helps secure the availability of urgently needed raw materials for industry. What was once seen purely as a sustainability issue has long since become a strategic success factor: a circular economy is key to a sustainable and resilient future.

Reliable facts are needed to advance the sustainable transformation and unlock the full potential of recycling. With the “**resources SAVED by recycling**” study by Fraunhofer UMSICHT, Interzero provides full transparency. This systematic comparison of recycling and primary production makes it possible to quantify how many resources are saved and how many greenhouse gas emissions are avoided by keeping materials in the loop.

What we achieved in 2025

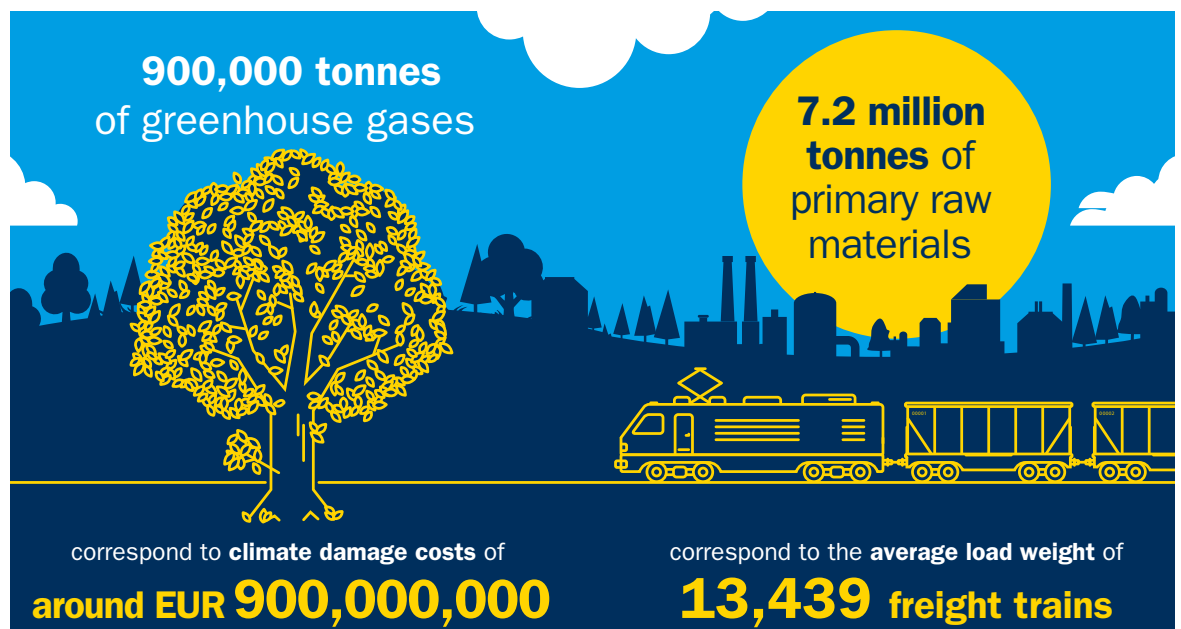
In 2025 alone, Interzero kept around 2 million tonnes of recyclable materials in the loop and saved more than 7.2 million tonnes of primary resources. This is equivalent to the average load weight of 13,439 freight trains.* At the same time, the recycling activities avoided more than 900,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. According to calculations by the German Environment Agency, these emissions represent around EUR 900 million in avoided climate damage costs.**

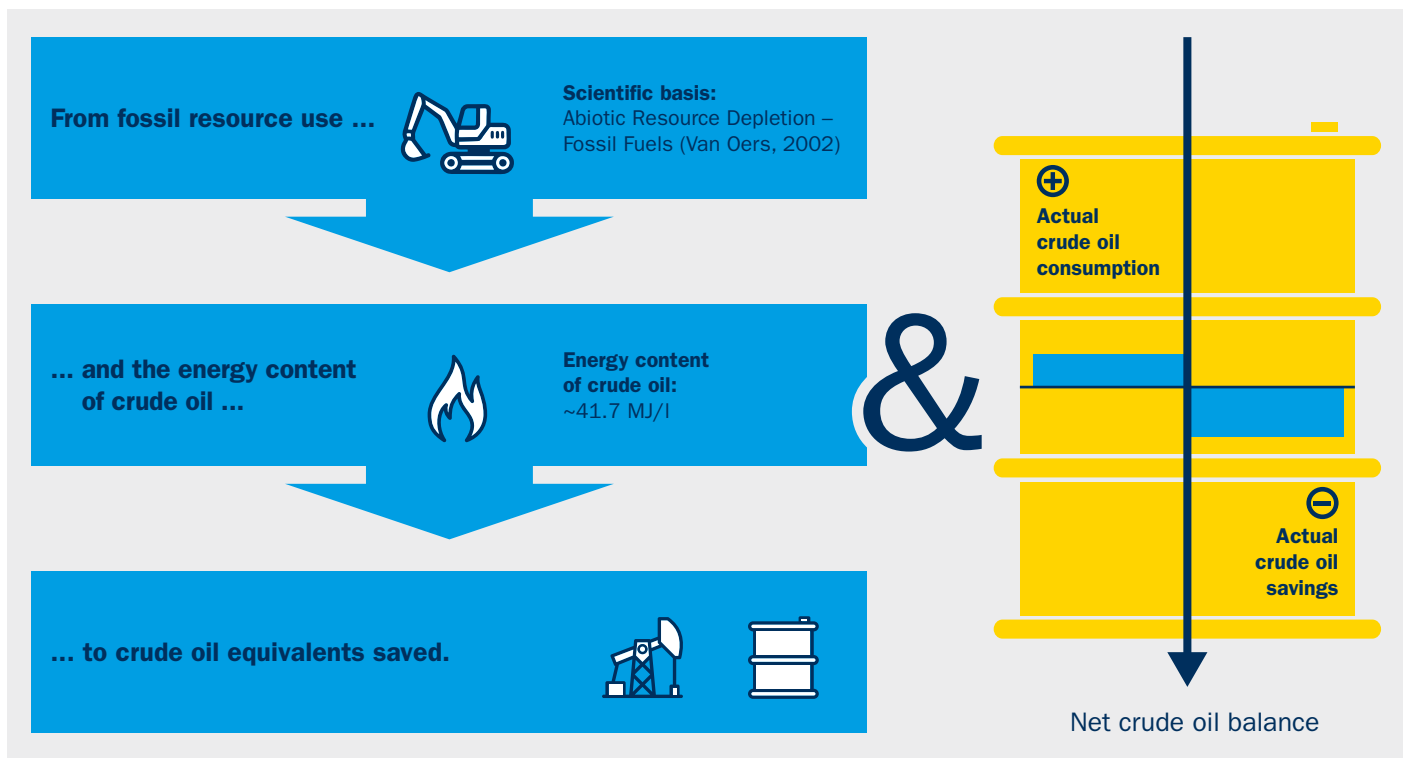
*Source: DB, Integrated Interim Report 2025

**Source: German Environment Agency, Environmental Cost Handbook – Methodological Convention 4.0

Our overall result for 2025

- 2 million tonnes of recyclable materials kept in the loop
- 7.2 million tonnes of primary resources saved
- 900,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided





From fossil resource use to crude oil equivalents

3 million barrels of **crude oil** saved through **plastics recycling**

Recycling turns waste back into valuable raw materials for industry. This not only protects the climate and conserves resources, but also reduces dependence on expensive imports and vulnerability to geopolitical crises and uncertain supply chains.

Crude oil example: According to the “SAVED by recycling” study, by keeping around one million tonnes of plastics in the loop in 2025, Interzero saved around 3 million barrels of crude oil. In terms of volume, this is equivalent to around 9.5 million car tankfuls of 50 litres each.

We deliberately use illustrative conversion examples to demonstrate the environmental and economic benefits of the circular economy. But how can scientific data be translated into an easy-to-understand metric? In this case, the starting point is an environmental indicator from the life cycle assessment: “Abiotic resource depletion – fossil fuels”. It measures the amount of fossil resources, including crude oil, natural gas and coal, consumed throughout a product’s entire life cycle.

Calculation based on energy content

The Fraunhofer UMSICHT team first analyses every stage of the process, from crude oil extraction and transportation through to processing, and compares the energy required to produce plastics from primary raw materials with the energy required for plastics recycling. The savings are first calculated in megajoules (MJ) and then converted into litres of crude oil. The conversion factor is approximately 41.7 MJ per litre of crude oil. For example, if recycling plastics saves 417 MJ of fossil energy, this is equivalent to 10 litres of crude oil.

At a time of increasingly scarce raw materials, growing sustainability reporting requirements and rising expectations from customers and investors, scientifically robust and transparent figures are crucial. They make the benefits of the circular economy visible and provide companies with a sound basis for strategic decisions.