



Press release  
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## **Recyclable household waste : €20 million investment for the Trivalo 33 plant in Illats**

After a year's work and an investment of €20 million, the Trivalo 33 sorting centre in Illats went into operation this week. The plant has an annual capacity of 40,000 tonnes and is the first plant in the Gironde area adapted to the new extended sorting instructions. The technologies implemented ensure optimal recycling of all household waste for its public authority customers.

No more hesitation. From the end of December, the 700,000 inhabitants of the dozen districts covered by the Illats sorting centre will be able to use their yellow recyclable waste bins for all plastic packaging (pots and trays), not just plastic bottles. The population of southern Gironde and bordering departments will obviously continue to use the same bin for their paper, cardboard, drinks cans and tin cans too.

Illats sorting centre is the first in the Gironde department to recycle all plastics and other household waste under the new "extended sorting instructions". Half of France's population currently apply this system, and all of France should be covered by the end of 2023. With 50 employees, Trivalo 33 has an annual capacity of 40,000 tonnes.

Waste from the yellow bins arrives unsorted at the plant. The site's latest generation equipment manages around ten different recyclable materials (clear and dark PET, PE/PP, PEHD, paper, cardboard, steel, iron, etc.). These are transformed into new raw materials. The plastics passing through the Paprec regeneration plants become recycled raw materials.

*"The plant's state-of-the-art technologies enable us to process 95% of the incoming recyclable waste,"* declared François Pouliquen, Director of the Nouvelle Aquitaine area.

To achieve this figure, the plant, which was created in the 2000s, has been completely demolished and rebuilt, increasing its capacity. The construction project lasted for a year, which turned out to be a chaotic period. "During the first lockdown, we were the only site in Gironde to continue to sort and recycle household waste," recalled François Pouliquen. "The raw materials produced by our sites enabled the manufacture of essential packaging for the food and pharmaceutical industries. We never stopped working, even during the construction phases of the project."

The Paprec Group manages some thirty sorting plants in France, processing the household waste of one in five French people. As a leader in its sector, the group has invested €400 million in its sorting plants, putting €20 million into the complete overhaul of its Gironde

site, implementing cutting edge processes. The site separates the raw materials according to their physical properties: Ten optical sorting machines have been installed to enable high-speed sorting of incoming waste. The sorting agents at the end of the line are responsible for checking the quality of the process and correcting any sorting errors.

### **About Paprec Group**

*The group was founded and has been headed since its creation by Jean-Luc Petithuguenin. With the acquisition of Coved on 5 April 2017, the recycling specialist has become a specialist in the full waste management chain. Over 25 years, it has grown from 45 to 12,500 employees working at over 220 sites in France and Switzerland. It has a turnover of €2bn.*

*Active in all existing recycling sub-sectors, the group is number one in plastic, paper, cardboard, and building waste recycling, as well as selective household collections. It is number two for the recycling of electrical and electronic equipment, and number three for organic waste, wood, biomass and routine industrial waste. Following the acquisition of Coved, the group is now the third-largest player in the French waste treatment sector and the largest recycling industry player.*

*From the outset, Paprec Group has been known and acknowledged for its commitment to promoting diversity, secularism and the fight against all forms of discrimination within the company. In October 2016, the Paprec Group received the Trophée Global Axa des Entreprises Responsables (Overall trophy of responsible companies, presented by Axa). And in November 2016, Jean-Luc Petithuguenin won the Entrepreneur of the Year award at the BFM Business Awards.*

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