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KIWIS RECYCLING THREE OUT OF FIVE GLASS CONTAINERS

Glass recovery is up to 62% from 53% last year, the Glass Packaging Forum reported last month.

"This represents a spectacular increase of an additional 28,955 tonnes of glass recovered and exceeds, a full year ahead of schedule, the 55% recycling rate which industry agreed as part of its five-year voluntary commitment under the Packaging Accord," said John Webber, general manager of the Glass Packaging Forum.

New Zealand's glass recovery rate puts it ahead of Europe, which is striving for a 60% recycling target by the end of 2008 and

Australia, which aims for 60% by 2010.

Webber said the huge increase reflects a major hike in the utilisation of surplus waste glass. Export markets have also almost doubled in the past year as the price for cullet (waste glass for melting down) increases.

"Whilst we continue to hear calls for container deposit legislation from some politicians and lobby groups, today's statistics are all the evidence needed to show that our existing kerbside collection system is delivering excellent returns." For more information see glassforum.org.nz.