

Press Release

ESRG-study “Carbon footprint of Recycled Solvents at the sectoral level compared to virgin solvents”

Illustrating the benefits of solvent recycling, the European Solvent Recycler Group (ESRG) in cooperation with ETHOS Research (UK) has released a study concerning the “Carbon Footprint of Recycled Solvents at the sectoral level compared with virgin solvents”. This comparative report illustrates the annual CO₂-footprint of organic solvents recycled in Europe by ESRG members in relation to the CO₂-footprint of virgin solvents. A Life Cycle Assessment following the ISO 14044 methodology was used as a tool to estimate the CO₂-footprint of both types. The findings suggest that recycling 309 kt of used solvents each year can save 618 kt CO₂ eq. per year. This is equivalent to annually avoiding the Greenhouse Gas emissions of 280,000 diesel cars.

This study follows on from an ESRG-analysis undertaken in 2014 illustrating the environmental impacts of typical recycled and virgin materials. This showed that the carbon footprint of recycled organic solvent substances can be 46-92% lower than that for the respective virgin material.

The new study as well as the analysis from 2014 can be found at www.esrg-online.eu together with a range of associated useful information.

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The ESRG was founded in 2004 under the aegis of the German Association for Chemical Distributors (VCH) joining professional members engaged in a wide range of solvent recovery activities. The group's aim is to promote the safe and economic management of post-use solvents.

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