# Standards support reuse systems to help reduce plastic pollution

## Reuse system – a sustainable alternative to single-use packaging

**85%**

**of single use plastic**

food and beverage containers end up in landfills or as mismanaged waste[1]

**Reusable packaging could reduce GHG emissions by up to**

**70%**

compared with single-use plastic products[2]

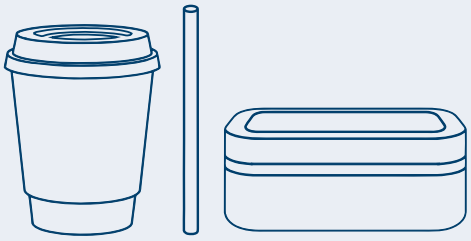
**USD 10 billion**

**opportunity**

presented by converting 20% of plastic packaging into reusable models[3]

## What is a reuse system?

In a reuse system, food, beverages, and other products are provided in reusable containers that can be returned through collection points, transported for professional cleaning and sanitizing, and delivered back for refilling and reuse.



## How can standards support reuse systems?

**By providing definitions, requirements, guidance, and best practices for products and processes, standards can help:**

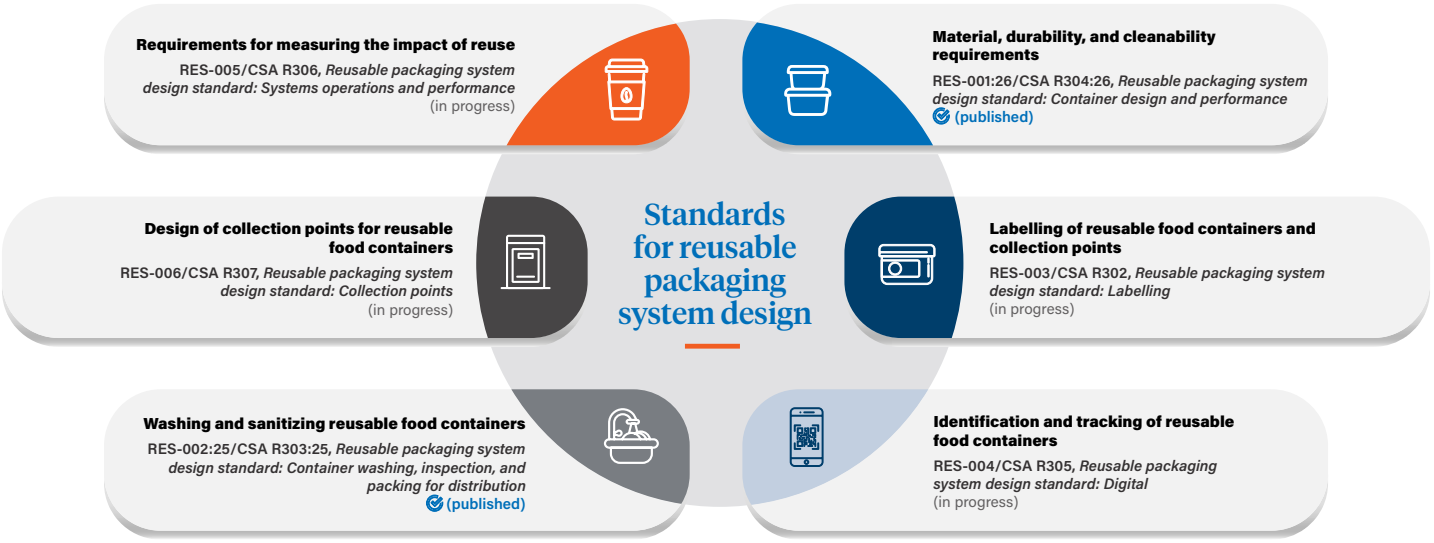
- Provide clarity on what is deemed to be reusable packaging and a reuse system
- Design containers that are safe and built to last
- Set consistent washing requirements for safety to enhance public trust
- Create simple systems for tracking to support interoperability and compatibility across reuse systems and providers
- Establish recognizable labels for reuse system identification to support adoption
- Provide reliable and transparent tools for program operators and regulators to measure performance and progress
- Grow pilot reuse programs to a larger community-wide scale

[1] Everything you need to know about plastic pollution, UN Environment Programme, accessed August 2025
[2] Scaling Returnable Packaging, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2023
[3] Reuse – rethinking packaging, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2019

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## Standards for reusable packaging systems

CSA Group and PR3 are developing a series of binational (Canada – U.S.) standards covering the entire reuse system value chain.




### RES-002:25/CSA R303:25, *Reusable packaging system design standard: Container washing, inspection, and packing for distribution*

This standard is intended for any company that washes reusable packaging, providing guidance for:

- Facility and employee requirements, including facility equipment and layout, employee safety and personal hygiene, and preventing cross-contamination
- Machine and manual cleaning, sanitizing, and drying of containers
- Inspection for defects and pathogens
- Container packaging for distribution
- Record-keeping protocols for washing facilities

Get view access to RES-002:25/CSA R303:25
www.csagroup.org/R303

### RES-001:26/CSA R304:26, *Reusable packaging system design standard: Container design and performance*

This standard provides guidance for designers and manufacturers of reusable containers for:

- Materials and chemicals that should not be used in container manufacturing
- Recycled content use and disclosure requirements
- Designing containers to withstand a specified number of washes
- Optimizing the container design for efficient washing, transportation, storage, and interoperability

Get view access to RES-001:26/CSA R304:26
www.csagroup.org/R304

Learn more about CSA Group research and standards supporting the circular economy across various industry sectors
www.csagroup.org/CircularEconomy