



# Greener vending

The vending industry has been getting greener for years. A lot of individual initiatives, coupled with sector-endorsed measures, have reshaped the ecological footprint of the vending sector.



- The vending machines in Europe are fully compliant with the **WEEE** (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) legislation, and in fact machines and parts are re-used many times over;
- The machines comply with the **RoHS** (Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronic equipment) Directive;
- The EVA developed a protocol to measure the energy consumption of vending machines: the **EVA EMP** (Energy Measurement Protocol). This helps buyers benchmark the different machines. It is working on a classification of machines based on their energy consumption;

Vending companies are committed to environmental protection

- A number of companies have developed **recycling schemes**. These range from plastic cup schemes ("Save a cup" UK) to the collecting and recycling of pods in Switzerland;
- An increasing number of vending companies are committed to environmental protection. They are ISO 14001 certified or are taking measures to become more **environmentally-friendly**;
- Vending companies invest a lot in research and development in the areas of **eco-efficiency and refrigeration**;
- **Paper cups or biodegradable cups** (Bioware©) are on offer as alternatives to traditional plastic cups;
- The value of plastic cups is enhanced at the end of their lifecycle; when incinerated they release a lot of heat which is used for heating water or generating electricity;



- ❑ Soft drinks and bottled water are packaged with **PET**, which has a high recycling rate. Some companies have developed lighter packaging for their soft drinks;
- ❑ **Solar-powered** vending machines also exist, even though their development is limited to certain locations due to acts of vandalism;
- ❑ With hot drinks vending machines, **no water is wasted**, contrary to kettles with which people always boil more water than necessary;
- ❑ **Small devices** can also be installed on vending machines to turn off lights and cooling systems at night or during other, less vending-intensive, periods, whilst continually maintaining a safe temperature, in compliance with food legislation;

Vending machines are made with special glass to limit the energy and heat



- ❑ Vending manufacturers pack their machines in **innovative ways**, with less packaging, and on smaller or recyclable pallets;
- ❑ LED lights are being introduced in new machines because they consume **less energy**;
- ❑ Vending machines, placed outdoors are now made with special glass and with an isolating structure, to limit the **energy** and heat generated by the sun.

