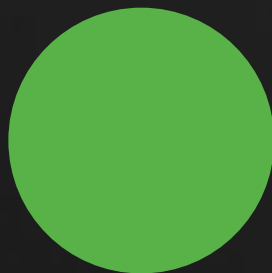
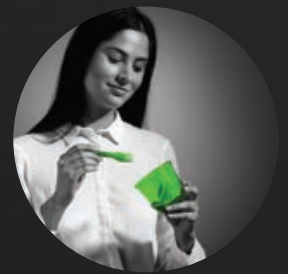
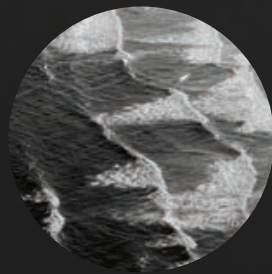
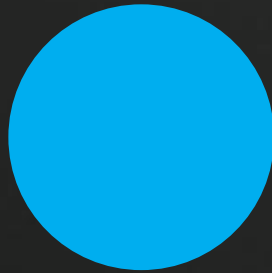




RPC - THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT
SUSTAINABILITY



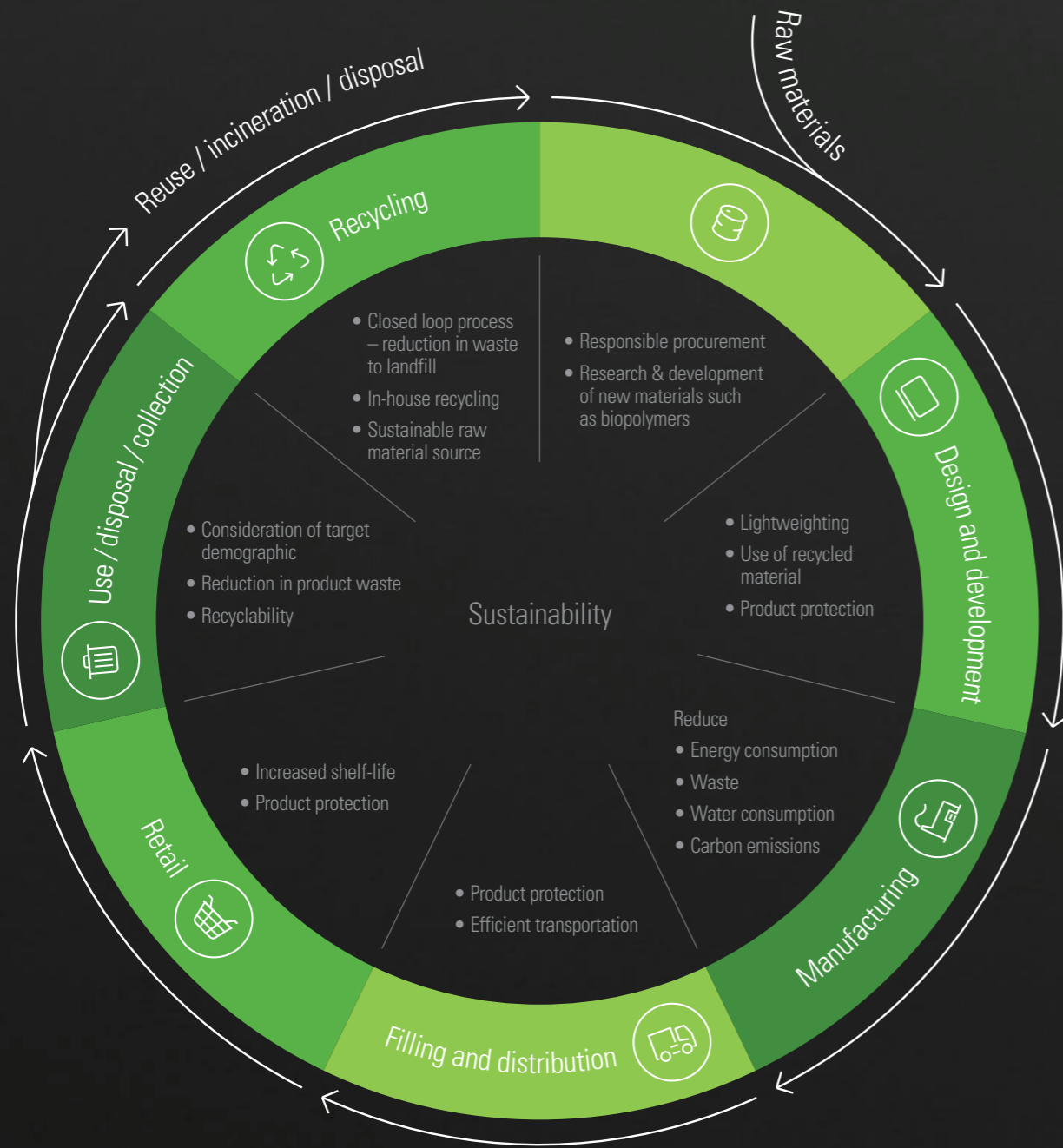
Like any responsible business, creating a sustainable future for generations to come is a core commitment of the RPC Group.

Sustainability underscores everything that we do – both the products that we manufacture and the way we run our operations.

We work to ensure that we meet all our own environmental responsibilities and to help our customers achieve theirs.



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SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS

RPC's commitment to sustainability is evident throughout our products' lifecycles. We aim to make a contribution at every stage, including design and manufacture, efficient transportation and filling, and effective product protection, as well as end-of-life solutions such as recycling, reuse and the use of recycled material.





PLASTICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Plastics have a strong environmental profile. All polymers are lightweight, durable, low carbon and recyclable. They are not a major drain on our natural resources – only 4% of global oil production is used for plastics and it is estimated that packaging accounts for only 1.5% of oil and gas use.*

At RPC we utilise these benefits to create products that provide a sustainable solution while still being fit-for-purpose. Our initiatives include:

- Lightweighting
- Substituting materials
- Recycling and using recycled plastics
- Product protection
- Reducing the impact of manufacturing
- Promoting the responsible disposal of plastics

*Source: BPF



LIGHTWEIGHTING

"While over 50% of all European goods are packaged in plastics, these plastics account only for 17% of all packaging weight."*

The light weight of plastics already makes a significant contribution to reducing a business's carbon footprint and the impact of transportation, as well as helping to minimise raw material usage.

At RPC, we continue to invest in raw material, tooling, process changes and machinery. These initiatives have seen the introduction of even lighter packs, films and products that offer the same or improved technical performance – delivering enhanced sustainability benefits while ensuring our products are still fit-for-purpose.

*Source: Plastics Europe



SUBSTITUTING MATERIALS

Plastics' robustness and reliability at light weights make it the ideal alternative to many traditional materials, ensuring safety and practicality are not compromised in the achievement of a reduced carbon footprint and improved sustainability profile. The use of biopolymers for certain applications can deliver even further sustainable benefits, while the incorporation of barriers maintains product protection and minimises waste.

Production of plastic products and films uses far less energy compared to traditional materials – and plastic components weigh 50% less than similar components made from other materials, which can lead to a 25-35% improvement in fuel economy.*

The other way round creates a very different story. Substitution of plastics by heavier alternatives would lead to a 26% increase in energy consumption and a 56% increase in global warming.**

*Source: BPF and Plastics Europe

**Source: BPF



RECYCLING AND USING RECYCLED PLASTICS

RPC continues to work on the development of products incorporating recycled material, diverting used plastic from the waste stream and landfill.

We are a major recycler of plastics for a variety of second-life applications including waste bins, refuse sacks, outdoor furniture and landscaping, and construction membranes.

We manufacture a variety of other products – from containers to watering cans to storage boxes - containing recycled (r) PP, PE, PET and HDPE, with material sourced from both post-consumer and post-industrial applications. And we continue to research and develop new methods which will increase the current recycled content in existing products and develop new applications that can use recycled plastics.

In addition, we are working with various partners to explore the feasibility of closed loop initiatives that provide a commercially-viable means of collecting and recycling used plastics.

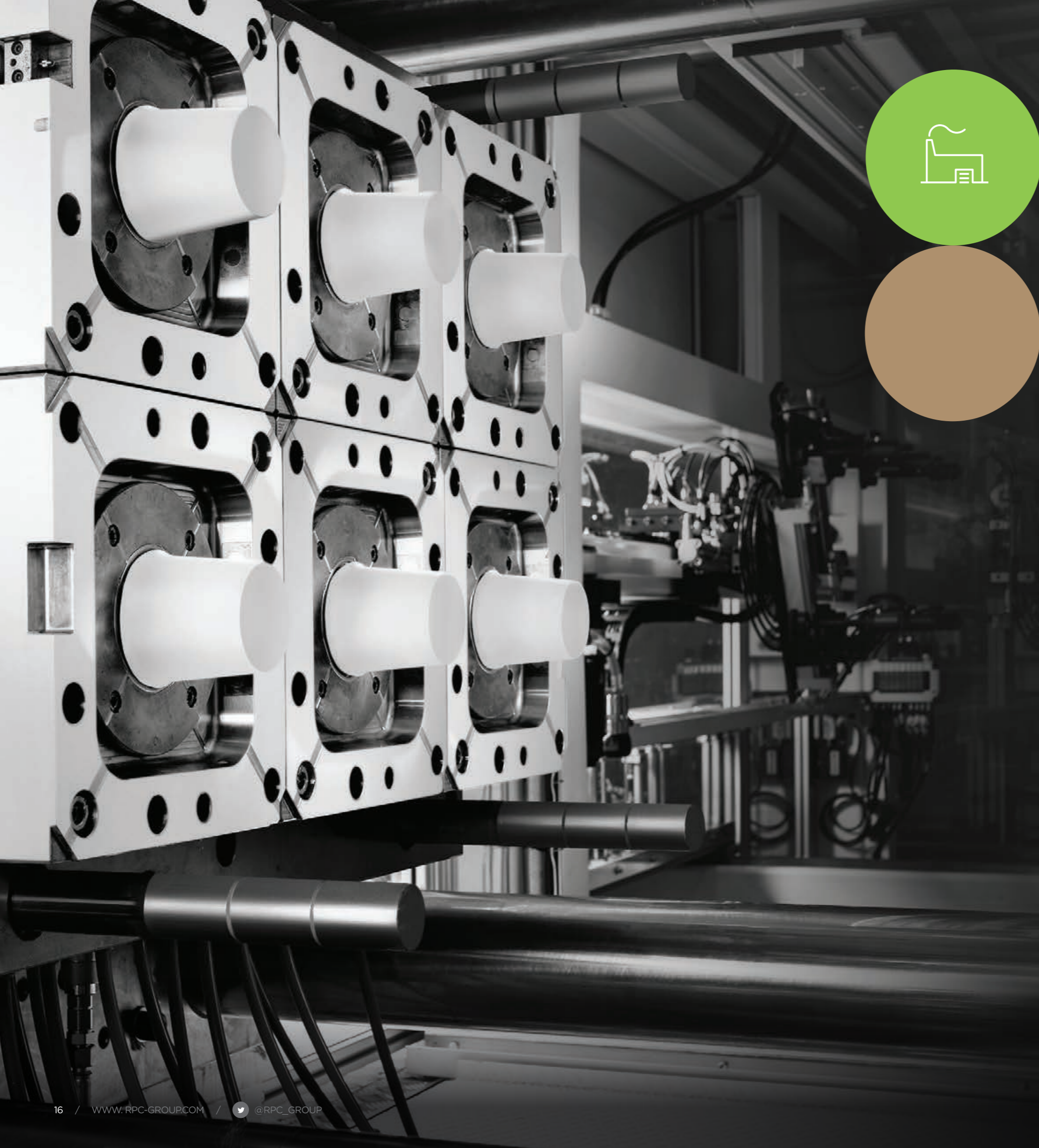


PRODUCT PROTECTION

Plastics are an ideal material to keep products safer for longer and avoid unnecessary waste.

With food waste acknowledged as a major environmental issue, plastic packaging can provide re-sealable containers, individual or smaller size packs for effective portion control and barrier bottles, jars, films and trays that prolong shelf-life. The introduction of extended ambient shelf-life products also reduces the energy demands on refrigeration in retail outlets and the home.

Rigid and flexible plastics offer effective protection solutions across many other end-markets including paint and DIY, personal care and cosmetics, industrial, chemical and agriculture. Plastics are also the material of choice for the creation of reliable long-lasting transport and storage solutions.



REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF OUR MANUFACTURING

RPC is continually working to drive down its energy consumption and implement efficiency initiatives throughout its manufacturing and distribution operations.

Projects include the introduction of more efficient lighting, the replacement of older manufacturing machines with more energy efficient models, and the production of electricity from renewable resources. We continue to make progress in the reduction of water usage and the introduction of closed-loop systems which reduce evaporation losses.

Our lightweighting techniques minimise the impact of transportation and reduce raw material consumption. High-efficiency manufacturing operations salvage the majority of raw material for reuse, and any that cannot be reused is segregated and collected for recycling, as are many other materials such as scrap metal, cardboard boxes and tubes, wooden pallets and shrink wrap. This keeps our waste disposal requirements to a minimum, and several of our sites have achieved or are working towards zero waste to landfill.



THE RESPONSIBLE DISPOSAL OF PLASTICS

All plastics are recyclable and can be used for a variety of valuable second-life applications. Our own initiatives have seen the incorporation of recycled material into many different products for both packaging and non-packaging applications.

As long ago as 1990, RPC was a pioneer in the development of one of the UK's first plastics recycling schemes and we continue to work with a variety of industry and government organisations to promote plastics recyclability and improve collection rates. We are also Europe's largest polythene film recycler.

Where plastics cannot be effectively recycled, we advocate safe, modern incineration facilities for their excellent energy properties that can make an effective contribution to the generation of electricity.



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