

# The role of subnational governance in collection and recycling of plastic materials



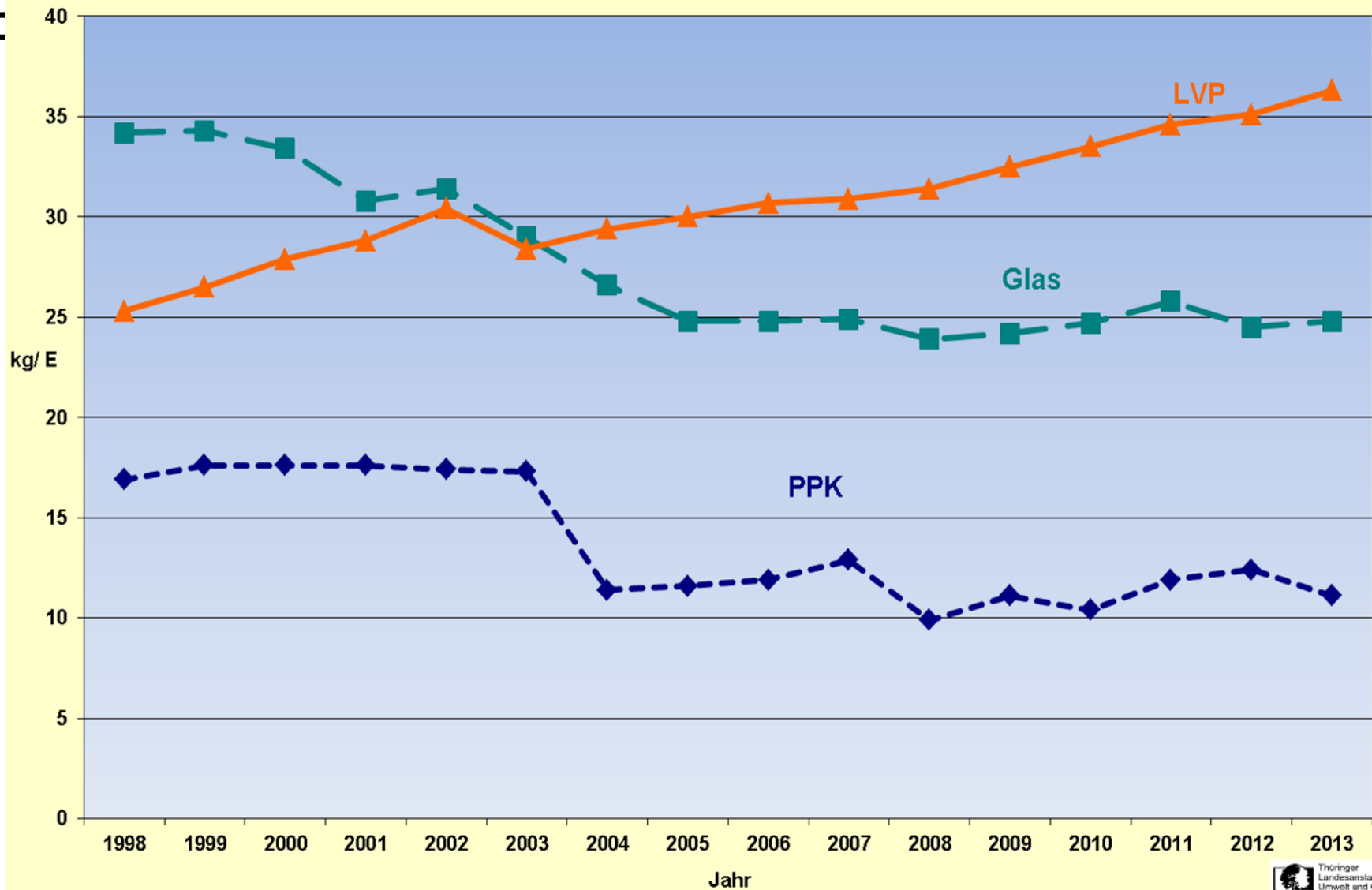
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# Collection of lightweight packaging in Thuringia



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## Municipal Waste

- responsibility of municipalities  
„pay as you throw“

except:

- packaging material

financial and organisational responsibility of producers  
and traders

„producer’s responsibility“ licensing system

- 1) consumer has to sort waste according to the system, not according to the material
- 2) Producer and trader: increasing part of „freeloaders“,  
⇒ consequence: need for licensing or sectoral solutions within specific industrial businesses

Additionally:

- 1) beverage bottles (increase of plastic instead of glass): deposit, differs for multi-use and single-use bottles
- 2) packaging material for transportation: can be returned to the selling point
- 3) SME & Industry Waste: NOT responsibility of municipalities. Separate sorting and recycling of plastic materials

Does that sound complicated to you?

Yes, it does.

„intelligent abuse“ as well as abuse“

- ⇒ System has to be easy-to-use for citizens, then:
- ⇒ higher sampling & sorting quota
- ⇒ better material recovery
- ⇒ more high quality recycling
- ⇒ less „downcycling“ and energetic recovery

⇒ discussion about future system:

Sorting according to material, not to the utilization of the product:

ONE sorting for recyclable material, ONE can for metal and plastics material

(separate for glass and paper/cardboard)

**But who?**

Commercial recyclers collect the „valuable“ parts and municipalities „the rest“ with increasing costs???



Organic Batteries - Energy storage technology based on polymeric materials,

*(Center for Energy and Environmental Chemistry, Jena, Thuringia):*

ecological benefit: no heavy metals, toxic or raw materials, easy to recycle

BUT: EU Batteries Directive as innovation hurdle

New „composed materials“ for construction/buildings:

ecological benefit: reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>

BUT future problems in recycling!

*(Bauhaus University of Weimar, Thuringia)*

## First step is to avoid plastic material waste:

Draft of Circular Economy Law Thuringia

„Municipalities are strongly encouraged to oblige event-organizers to use reusable material“