

The Swedish Consumer Agency

Environmental goal

- to promote patterns of production and consumption which contribute to long-term sustainable development

Konsument
verket • KO

The Swedish legal system for waste from households

- Municipality – collection of household waste except producer responsibility
- Producers – collection and recycling of packaging, waste paper, electric/electronic, tyres and cars

Waste separation for households in practice

- Producers provide container stations (ÅVS) for collection of packaging and waste paper in a nationwide system
- Some municipalities offer curb side collection for homeowners
- Many housing companies offer neighbourhood collection, but at their own expense

Collection/recycling results

- Difficult to obtain data specific for households

	State that they separate ⁱ	Official statistics ⁱⁱ
Glass (packaging)	95 %	96 %
Paper (packaging)	91 %	71 %
Metal (packaging)	92 %	65 %
Plastic (packaging)	90 %	69 %
Paper (newspapers etc.)	96 %	80 %
WEEE (electric/electronic)	87 %	-

Consumer aspects I

- **Time** needed for a household to handle packaging waste for recycling is estimated to 20-30 minutes per week for cleaning and sorting, and around 20 minutes for transportation.
- **Costs** for the household are primarily paid as higher product prices due to producer fees to finance the system of container stations. Estimated to 15 € per household a year. Additional costs for cleaning and transportation.

Consumer aspects II

- In general Swedish households consider waste separation as an **important measure**.
- They are **motivated** by moral aspects (“the right thing to do”) and the fact that other are making the same efforts.
- In general, consumers find the **collection sites** fairly accessible. However, a significant number have long distances to the sites, and find it inconvenient to leave their waste.

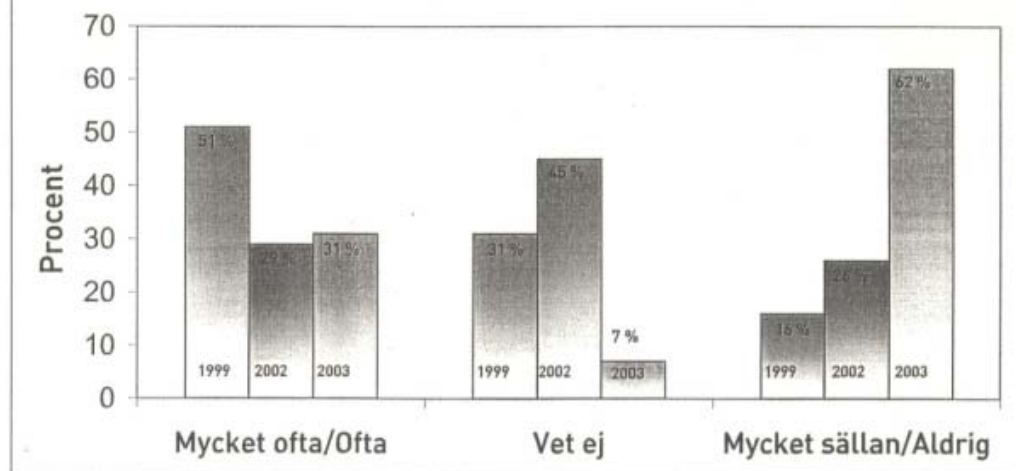
Consumer aspects III

- **Littering** at container parks and full containers have been big problems in Sweden, and improvement is still needed.
- Consumers need good **information** about the system(s). Municipalities have the main responsibility, but producers are also supposed to contribute.

Hur vanligt är det att återvinningsstationen är nedskräpad?

Jämförelse mellan 1999 - 2002 - 2003

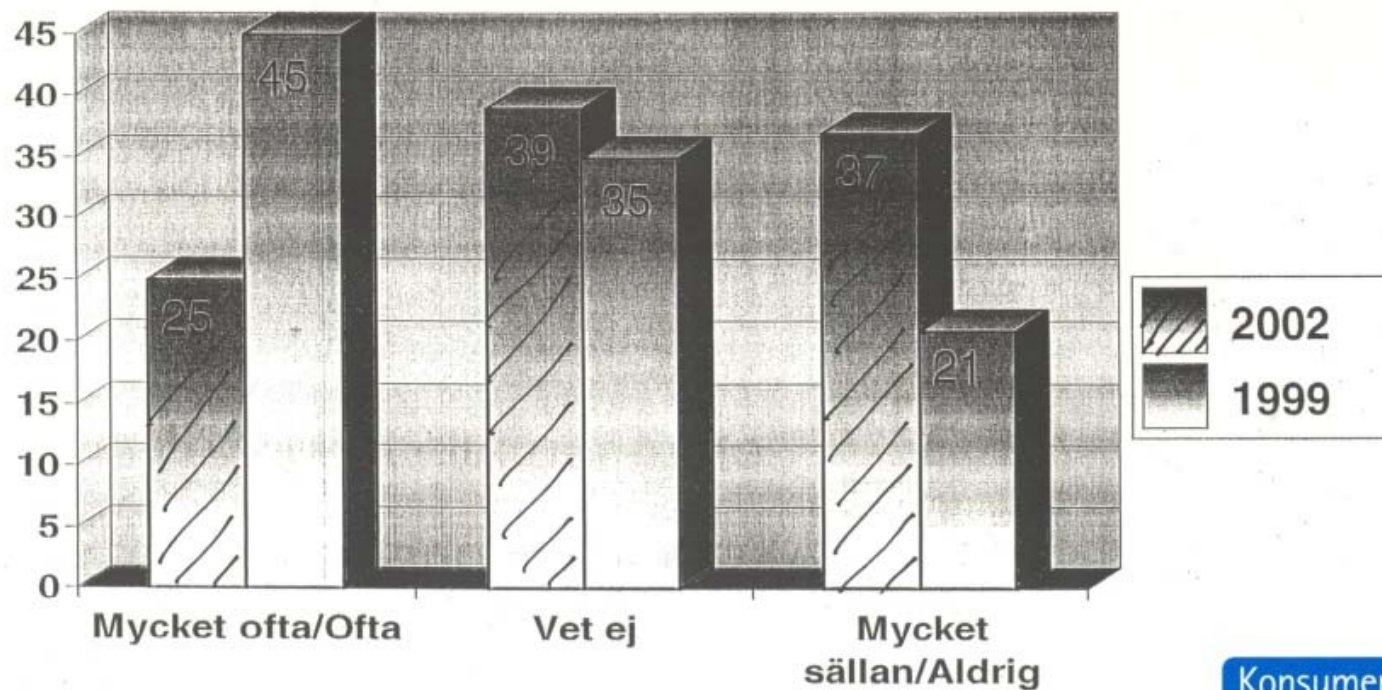
Slumpmässigt Siffourval - 1000 intervjuer varje år



Hur ofta händer det att behållarna är fulla?

Jämförelse mellan 1999 och 2002

[1000 konsumentintervjuer Sifo medio 2002]



Conclusions I

- Container systems can achieve fairly high collection results. Systems with curb side collection for residential districts and neighbourhood collection in areas with blocks of flats give better results, but to higher cost.
- Trouble to cooperate between producers and municipalities.
- With producer responsibility it is important to define responsibilities to avoid poorly maintained collection sites.

Conclusions II

- The system(s) need to be easy to understand and to use for the consumers.
- Swedish consumers are generally engaged in the waste recycling and think that it is important.
- A common view on pros and cons of the introduced system is important to give quick and united response to criticism.