

Resilient & Optimised Grids - Circular Copper

8 July 2026 – Webinar



Industry Insights: Collaborative efforts for sustainable cables

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1. Introducing Europacable

The voice of Europe's leading wire and cable manufacturers

Member Companies & Partners



National Associations



Associated Industry Partners



Introducing Europacable

What we do



We empower Europe's **decarbonisation**

We connect Europe's **digitalisation**



We make Europe **safer**

We make Europe **sustainable**

Fire Safety is our Responsibility

Yours Too

europacable
Try life without us

All cables used in any type of building are subject to the Construction Products Regulation (CPR). Learn about your responsibilities on fire safety and how to comply

Contents



Recycled content of copper in cables

Manufacturers' initiatives

Challenges ahead

'Collaborative efforts' ?...

A form of circularity that's beyond manufacturers' scope

A29 / CINISI

Autostrada Palermo-Mazara al buio: rubati cavi di rame dell'illuminazione a Marina di Cinisi

I ladri hanno saccheggiato i fili elettrici che davano luce sia alla carreggiata che ad alcune strade laterali. I residenti: "La zona, attraversata quotidianamente da residenti, turisti e pendolari diretti verso Torre Pozzillo, è estremamente pericolosa. Così manca la sicurezza stradale"

Vols de câbles : 3,6 tonnes de câbles présumés volés en France et en Belgique

Lecture 1 min

Accueil • Faits divers



Le prix de la tonne de cuivre s'est envolé depuis quelques années, et atteint désormais les 9 000 euros. © Crédit photo : AFP

Major power cable theft gang disrupted in Europe



High voltage cable worth £100,000 stolen - sparking Network Rail New Year disruption warning

Passengers are advised to check the National Rail website or with their train operator to find out what the closure between Chorley and Bolton means for their journey.

Saturday 28 December 2024 21:57, UK



Kabeldiebstahl: Wenn Buntmetall entwendet wird

Von Dr. Philipp Hammerich

Letzte Aktualisierung am: 9. August 2025

Geschätzte Lesezeit: 3 Minuten



Kommentare

Welche Folgen hat Kabeldiebstahl?

Es ist zu einem echten Problem geworden: Kabeldiebe entwenden in der gesamten Republik Stromleitungen und Erdungskabel und sorgen somit nicht nur für einen hohen Sachschaden, sondern sabotieren gleichzeitig die Infrastruktur.

Erst seit den letzten Jahren ist der Diebstahl von Kabel lukrativ. Grund ist Chinas enormer Hunger nach Buntmetallen, weshalb der Preis für Kupfer und Co. auf dem Weltmarkt einen hohen Wert erreicht hat. Trotz Schwankungen des Weltmarktpreises ist Kabeldiebstahl unentwegt „beliebt“ bei den Dieben.

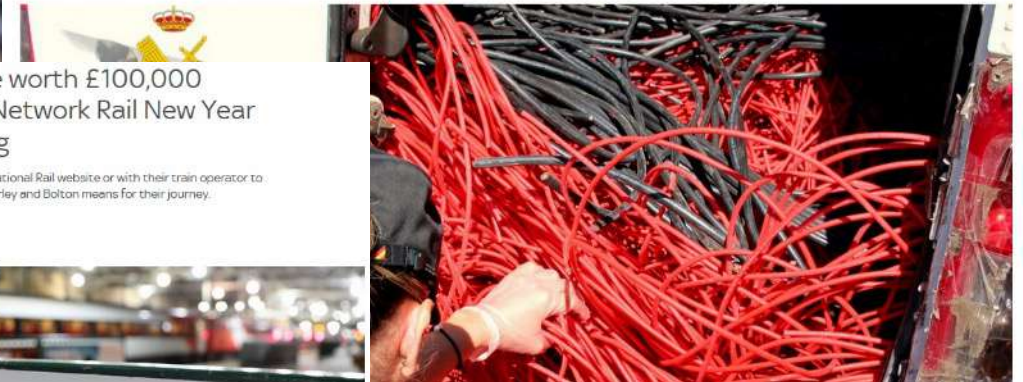
In diesem Ratgeber informieren wir Sie über Kabeldiebstahl, mit welchen Strafen Kabeldiebe rechnen müssen und was Firmen und Polizei unternehmen, um dem Problem Herr zu werden.



Kabeldiebstahl ist ein schweres Verbrechen.

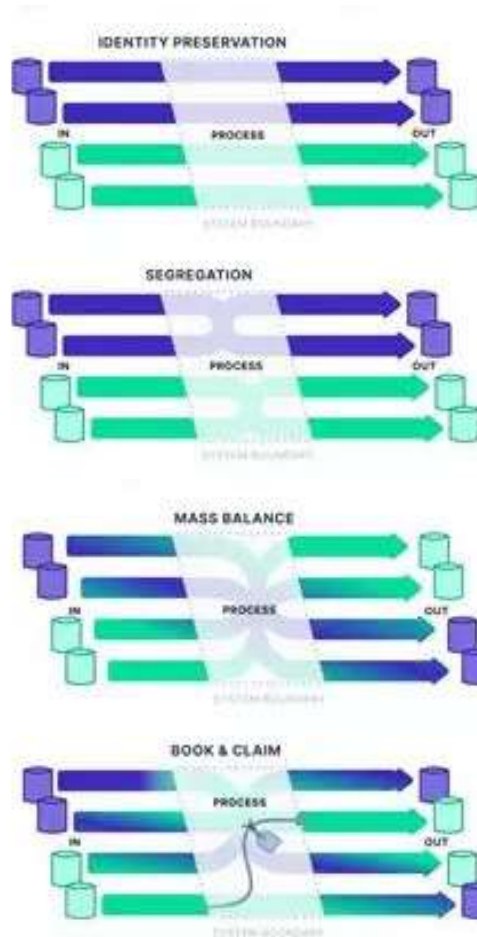
Desmantelado un grupo por robar 53.000 metros de cable de cobre en Asturias y Cantabria

- Los hechos provocaron un coste económico de unos 387.000 euros, aunque se han recuperado 1.100 kilos de cableado
- La Guardia Civil ha detenido a seis personas, cinco hombres y una mujer, y ha esclarecido 37 delitos



Recycled copper in cables

Recycled content



- Recycled copper is in use at several European manufacturers'
- Ongoing research to gradually increase the share of recycled copper
- Key requirement: high purity of material to maintain high level of electrical conductivity
- Issue: recognised chain-of-custody models for renewable and recycled contents

→ **European manufacturers gradually increase the share of recycled copper in new cables**

Recycled copper in cables

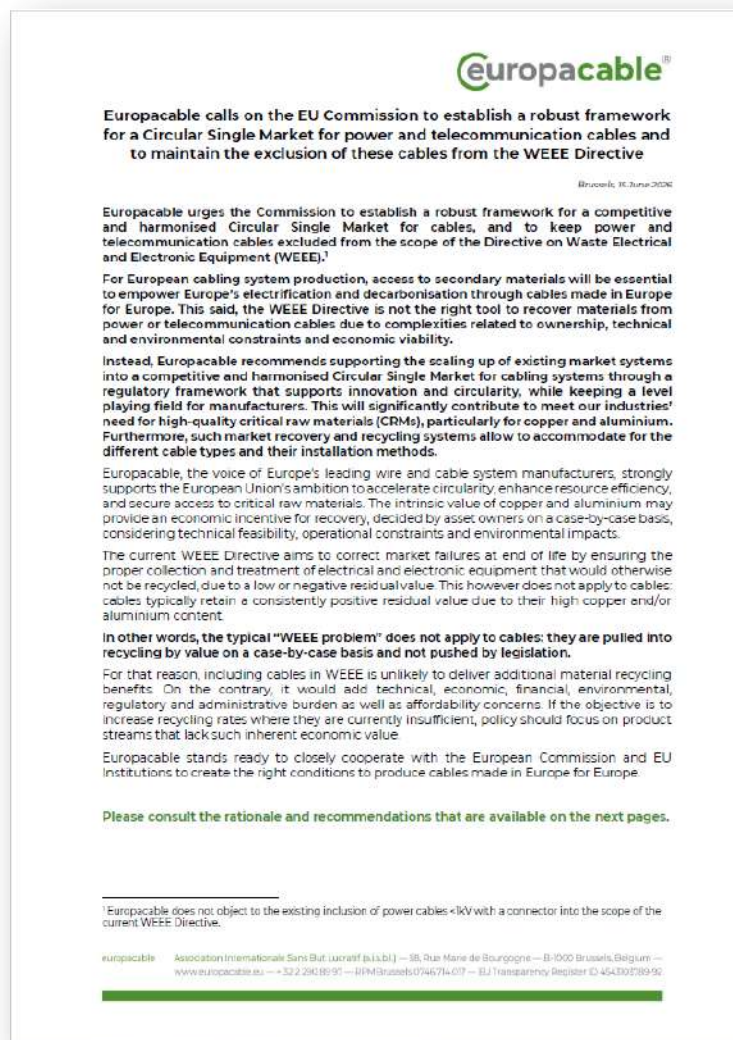
How manufacturers contribute



- Buy back service of unused cable lengths
- Increasing share of recycled copper in cables
 - Recently announced HVDC cable with 100% recycled copper (EGL2 in UK)
- Cable recycling services (decommissioning, collection, processing)

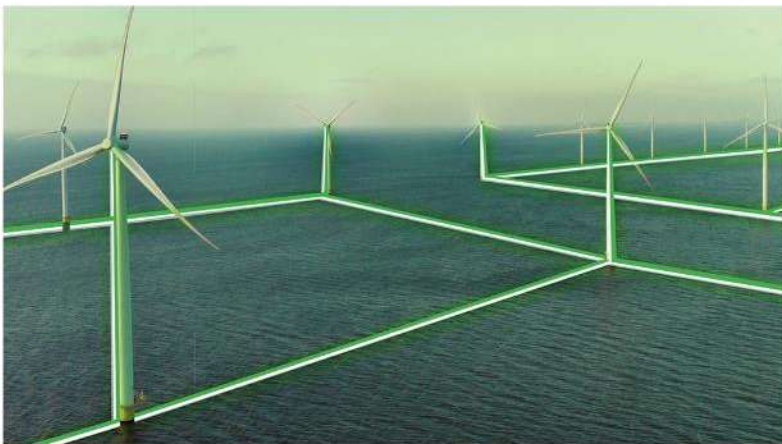
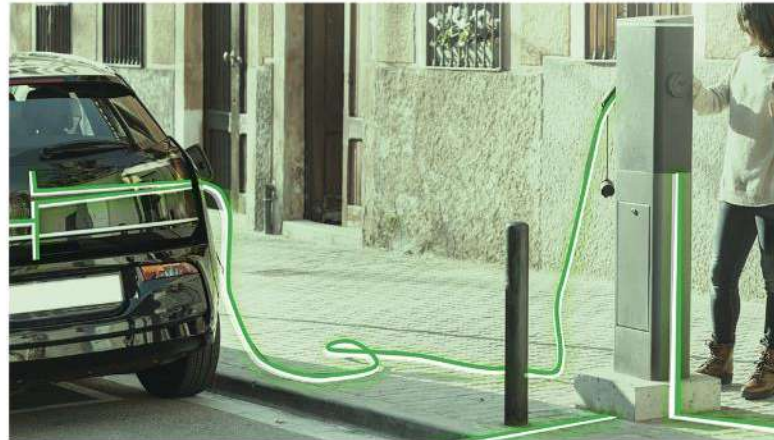
→ **Multiplying initiatives to collect and valorise copper in cables**

Challenges ahead



- Ⓒ Chain of custody models and mandatory standards for recycled content
- Ⓒ Clear allocation of responsibilities in recovery and recycling of cables
- Ⓒ Prevent leakage of EoL cables and scrap
 - Ⓒ China alone imports over 2.3 Mt of recycled copper raw materials annually
 - Ⓒ Substantial amounts of EoL cables are exported through informal, gray-market, or illicit channels
- Ⓒ Harmonise practices to guarantee a level playing field
 - Ⓒ Approved chain-of-custody models
 - Ⓒ Mandatory standards for recycled content (e.g. EN 45557)
 - Ⓒ Harmonised European rules for circularity
- Ⓒ CEA and WEEE directive revision: need for a case-by-case approach
 - Ⓒ Diversity of products and installations
 - Ⓒ Economic, environmental and technical criteria
 - ➔ WEEE Directive is not the appropriate tool for cables

➔ **Cooperation along the value chain
and a favourable regulatory framework are key**



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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