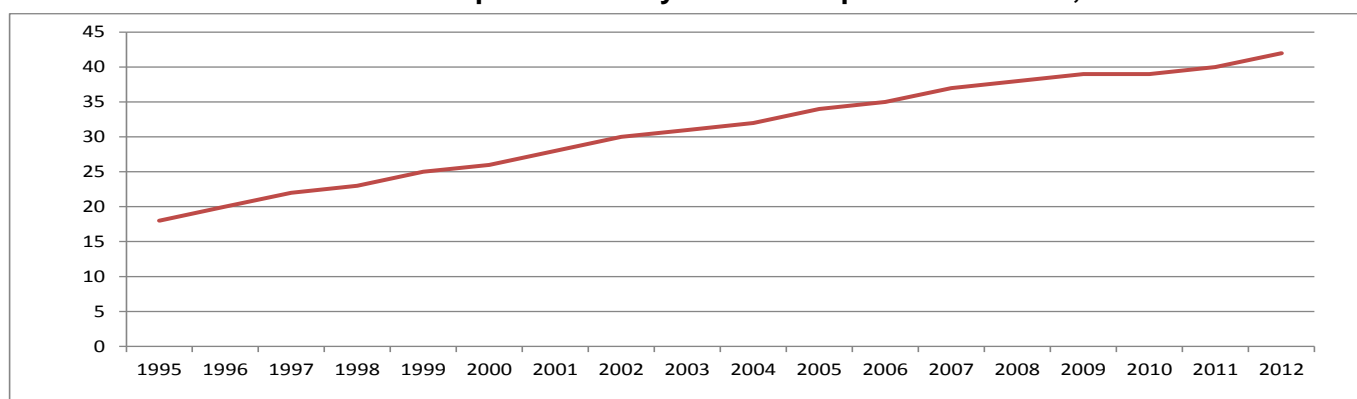


Environment in the EU28

In 2012, 42% of treated municipal waste was recycled or composted

In the **EU28**, 492 kg of municipal waste¹ was generated per person in 2012, while 480 kg of municipal waste was treated² per person. This municipal waste was treated in different ways³: 34% was landfilled, 24% incinerated, 27% recycled and 15% composted. For the **EU**⁴ there has been a significant increase in the share of municipal waste recycled or composted, from 18% in 1995 to 42% in 2012.

Share of treated municipal waste recycled or composted in the EU, 1995-2012



The amount of municipal waste generated varies significantly across Member States. **Denmark**, with 668 kg per person, had the highest amount of waste generated in 2012, followed by **Cyprus**, **Luxembourg** and **Germany** with lower amounts but above 600 kg per person and **Malta**, **Ireland**, **Austria**, the **Netherlands**, **France**, **Italy**, **Finland** and **Greece** with values between 500 and 600 kg. The **United Kingdom**, **Lithuania**, **Spain**, **Sweden**, **Bulgaria**, **Belgium**, **Portugal** and **Hungary** had values between 400 and 500 kg, while values of below 400 kg per person were recorded in **Croatia**, **Romania**, **Slovenia**, **Slovakia**, **Poland**, the **Czech Republic**, **Latvia** and **Estonia**.

This information⁵ is published by **Eurostat**, the statistical office of the European Union.

More than 50% of municipal waste recycled or composted in Germany, Austria and Belgium

The treatment methods differ substantially between Member States. In 2012, recycling and composting of municipal waste together accounted for more than 50% of waste treated in **Germany** (65% of waste treated), **Austria** (62%) and **Belgium** (57%). Recycling and composting was also the major part of waste treatment in the **Netherlands** (50%), **Luxembourg** (47%), the **United Kingdom** (46%), **Ireland** (45%) and **France** (39%). In **Finland** composting & recycling and incineration had equal shares (both 34%).

Observing the treatment methods separately, recycling was most common in **Germany** (47% of waste treated), **Slovenia** (42%), **Ireland** (37%), **Belgium** (36%), **Estonia** (34%), **Denmark** and **Sweden** (both 32%), and composting in **Austria** (34%), the **Netherlands** (26%), **Belgium** (21%), **Luxembourg** (19%), **Germany** and the **United Kingdom** (both 18%).

The highest shares of municipal waste landfilled were recorded in **Romania** (99% of waste treated), **Malta** (87%), **Croatia** (85%), **Latvia** (84%) and **Greece** (82%), and of incinerated municipal waste in **Denmark** and **Sweden** (both 52%), the **Netherlands** (49%), **Belgium** (42%), **Luxembourg** (36%), **Germany** and **Austria** (both 35%), **Finland** (34%) and **France** (33%).

Municipal waste, 2012

	Municipal waste generated, kg per person	Total municipal waste treated, kg per person	Municipal waste treated, %				
			Recycled & composted	Recycled	Composted	Landfilled	Incinerated
EU28	492	480	42	27	15	34	24
Belgium	456	458	57	36	21	1	42
Bulgaria	460	433	27	24	3	73	0
Czech Republic	308	308	24	21	3	57	20
Denmark	668	668	45	32	13	3	52
Germany	611	610	65	47	18	0	35
Estonia	279	220	40	34	6	44	16
Ireland	570	570	45	37	8	39	16
Greece	503	493	18	16	2	82	0
Spain	464	464	27	17	10	63	10
France	534	534	39	23	16	28	33
Croatia	391	381	16	14	2	85	0
Italy	529	523	38	24	14	41	20
Cyprus	663	663	21	12	9	79	0
Latvia	301	301	16	14	2	84	0
Lithuania	469	458	21	19	2	79	1
Luxembourg	662	662	47	28	19	18	36
Hungary	402	402	26	21	5	65	9
Malta	589	559	13	9	4	87	0
Netherlands	551	551	50	24	26	2	49
Austria	552	528	62	28	34	3	35
Poland	314	249	25	13	12	75	1
Portugal	453	453	27	12	15	54	20
Romania	389	313	1	1	0	99	0
Slovenia	362	301	47	42	5	51	2
Slovakia	324	313	13	6	7	77	10
Finland	506	506	34	22	12	33	34
Sweden	462	462	47	32	15	1	52
United Kingdom	472	465	46	28	18	37	17
Iceland	338	338	42	36	6	50	7
Norway	477	467	40	26	14	2	57
Switzerland	694	694	50	35	15	0	50
Former Yug. Rep of Macedonia	381	381	-	-	-	100	-
Serbia	364	254	0	0	0	100	0
Turkey	390	329	1	0	1	99	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	346	284	-	-	-	100	-

Data for Germany, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Austria, Poland, Romania, the United Kingdom, Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina are estimated.

0 equals less than 0.5%

"-" indicates a real zero

1. Municipal waste consists to a large extent of waste generated by households, but may also include similar wastes generated by small businesses and public institutions and collected by the municipality; this part of municipal waste may vary from municipality to municipality and from country to country, depending on the local waste management system.
For areas not covered by a municipal waste collection scheme the amount of waste generated is estimated. Waste from agriculture and industry is not included.
2. The reported quantities of waste generated and treated do not match exactly for some Member States, for the following reasons: estimates for the population not covered by collection schemes, weight losses due to dehydration, double counts of waste undergoing two or more treatment steps, exports and imports of waste and time lags between generation and treatment (temporary storage).
3. Waste treatment refers to the following methods:
Landfill means the depositing of waste into or onto land, including specially engineered landfill and temporary storage of over one year.
Incineration means thermal treatment of waste in an incineration plant.
Recycling means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes, except use as fuel.
Composting means the biological treatment (anaerobic or aerobic) of biodegradable matter resulting in a recoverable product.
In principle, data on treated municipal waste only refer to waste treated within the Member State, and does not take into account waste exported for treatment. However, recycling capacities may be limited in small countries. Luxembourg is a case where recycled amounts include exports.
4. Data refer to EU27 until 2007 and to EU28 from 2008 until 2012
5. For further information, please visit the web site of Eurostat, under Statistics / Environment / [Environmental Data Centre on Waste](#).

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