Environment in the EU27

In 2011, 40% of treated municipal waste was recycled or composted, up from 27% in 2001

In the **EU27**, 503 kg of municipal waste[1] was generated per person in 2011, while 486 kg of municipal waste was treated[2] per person. This municipal waste was treated in different ways[3]: 37% was landfilled, 23% incinerated, 25% recycled and 15% composted, compared with 56% landfilled, 17% incinerated, 17% recycled and 10% composted in 2001.

The amount of municipal waste generated varies significantly across Member States. **Denmark**, with 718 kg per person, had the highest amount of waste generated in 2011, followed by **Luxembourg**, **Cyprus** and **Ireland** with values between 600 and 700 kg per person, and **Germany**, the **Netherlands**, **Malta**, **Austria**, **Italy**, **Spain**, **France**, the **United Kingdom** and **Finland** with values between 500 and 600 kg. **Greece**, **Portugal**, **Belgium**, **Sweden**, **Lithuania** and **Slovenia** had values between 400 and 500 kg, while values of below 400 kg per person were recorded in **Hungary**, **Bulgaria**, **Romania**, **Latvia**, **Slovakia**, the **Czech Republic**, **Poland** and **Estonia**.

This information[4] is published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Recycling most common in Germany, incineration in Denmark and composting in Austria

The treatment methods differ substantially between Member States. In 2011, the Member States with the highest share of municipal waste landfilled were **Romania** (99% of waste treated), **Bulgaria** (94%), **Malta** (92%) and **Latvia** (88%).

The highest shares of incinerated municipal waste were observed in **Denmark** (54% of waste treated), **Sweden** (51%), **Belgium** (42%), **Luxembourg** and the **Netherlands** (both 38%), **Germany** (37%), **France** and **Austria** (both 35%).

Recycling was most common in **Germany** (45% of waste treated), **Ireland** (37%), **Belgium** (36%), **Slovenia** (34%), **Sweden** (33%), the **Netherlands** (32%) and **Denmark** (31%). The Member States with the highest composting rates for municipal waste were **Austria** (34%), the **Netherlands** (28%), **Belgium** and **Luxembourg** (both 20%), **Spain** and **France** (both 18%).

Recycling and composting of municipal waste together accounted for more than 50% of waste treated in **Germany** (63%), **Austria** (62%), the **Netherlands** (61%) and **Belgium** (57%).

Municipal waste, 2011

	Municipal waste generated, kg per person	Total municipal waste treated, kg per person	Municipal waste treated, %			
			Landfilled	Incinerated	Recycled	Composted
EU27	**503**	**486**	**37**	**23**	**25**	**15**
Belgium	465	460	1	42	36	20
Bulgaria	375	371	94	0	3	3
Czech Republic	320	319	65	18	15	2
Denmark	718	718	3	54	31	12
Germany	597	597	1	37	45	17
Estonia	298	257	70	0	20	10
Ireland	623	560	55	5	37	4
Greece	496	496	82	0	15	3
Spain	531	531	58	9	15	18
France	526	526	28	35	19	18
Italy	535	505	49	17	21	13
Cyprus	658	658	80	0	11	9
Latvia	350	292	88	0	10	1
Lithuania	442	432	79	1	19	2
Luxembourg	687	687	15	38	27	20
Hungary	382	382	67	11	17	5
Malta	584	536	92	1	7	0
Netherlands	596	502	1	38	32	28
Austria	552	528	3	35	28	34
Poland	315	255	71	1	11	17
Portugal	487	487	59	21	12	8
Romania	365	293	99	0	1	0
Slovenia	411	351	58	2	34	6
Slovakia	327	312	78	11	5	6
Finland	505	505	40	25	22	13
Sweden	460	460	1	51	33	15
United Kingdom	518	514	49	12	25	14
Iceland	571	530	73	11	14	2
Norway	483	473	2	57	25	15
Switzerland	689	689	0	50	35	16
Croatia	373	371	92	0	8	1
Former Yug. Rep of Macedonia	357	357	100	-	-	-
Serbia	361	281	100	0	0	0
Turkey	395	333	99	0	0	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	410	391	100	-	-	-

Data for the EU27, the Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the United Kingdom, Iceland, 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. Wastes from agriculture and industry are 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. For further information, please visit the web site of Eurostat, under Statistics / Environment / Environmental Data Centre on Waste.