Country profile

Early warning assessment related to the 2025 targets for municipal waste and packaging waste

Latvia

June 2022

European Environment Agency

Contents

Acknowledgements

This draft assessment was prepared by the ETC/WMGE and the successive ETC/CE under guidance of the European Environment Agency and with inputs from a consortium led by Rambøll Group under contract with the European Commission. It builds to a large extent on the answers provided by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (MEPRD) and the Latvian Environmental, Geological and Meteorological Centre (LEGMC) to a questionnaire developed by the EEA and ETC/WMGE. The EEA and ETC/CE would like to thank the Latvian authorities for the provided information and the kind review of drafts of this assessment in 2021 and April 2022.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background and purpose

The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC (as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851) includes a target to recycle and prepare for reuse, by 2025, 55 % of municipal waste generated. The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/852) includes targets for the recycling of packaging waste, both in total and by material, to be achieved by 2025. The Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/850) requires to limit the landfilling of municipal waste to 10 % of the generated municipal waste by 2035. The Directives also foresee that the European Commission, in cooperation with the European Environment Agency, publishes early warning reports on the Member States' progress towards the attainment of the targets, including a list of Member States at risk of not attaining the targets within the respective deadlines, three years ahead of the target dates. This assessment is a contribution from the EEA to the early warning reports according to Article 11b Waste Framework Directive and Art. 6b Packaging and Packaging Waste directive.

This document is an early warning assessment for Latvia. The document is based on the analysis of a number of factors affecting recycling performance (success and risk factors). The assessment aims at concluding whether Latvia is at risk of missing the targets for municipal waste and packaging waste set in EU legislation for 2025. In addition, it provides a preliminary assessment of the prospects for meeting the 2035 target for landfilling of municipal waste.

The assessment takes into account information that was available before 10 May 2022.

1.2 Approach

The assessment follows a methodology developed by the EEA and ETC/WMGE and consulted with the Eionet in 2020 (ETC/WMGE, 2021), which was adjusted in 2021 taking into account experiences with applying the methodology in 2021 (ETC/CE & ETC/WMGE, 2022). This methodology uses a set of quantitative and qualitative success and risk factors that have been identified to affect the recycling performance. The assessment is to a large extent based on the information provided by the Member State in the reply to an EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire as well as on available data and information from Eurostat and other relevant sources. In addition, a consortium under contract with the European Commission (led by Rambøll Group) has conducted a critical review of the draft assessment in Q4/2021 and provided further information.

More specifically, chapter 2.1 assesses the likelihood for Latvia to achieve the target to prepare for reuse and recycle at least 55 % of municipal solid waste (MSW) for 2025. Chapter 2.2 assesses the likelihood for Latvia to achieve the overall packaging waste and specific packaging materials' recycling targets for 2025. Chapter 2.3 examines the prospects for Latvia to landfill less than 10 % of the generated municipal solid waste by 2035. The official early warning assessment for the landfilling target is only due in 2032 and accordingly the assessment contained in Chapter 2.3 is only preliminary.

1.3 Country profile – context parameters

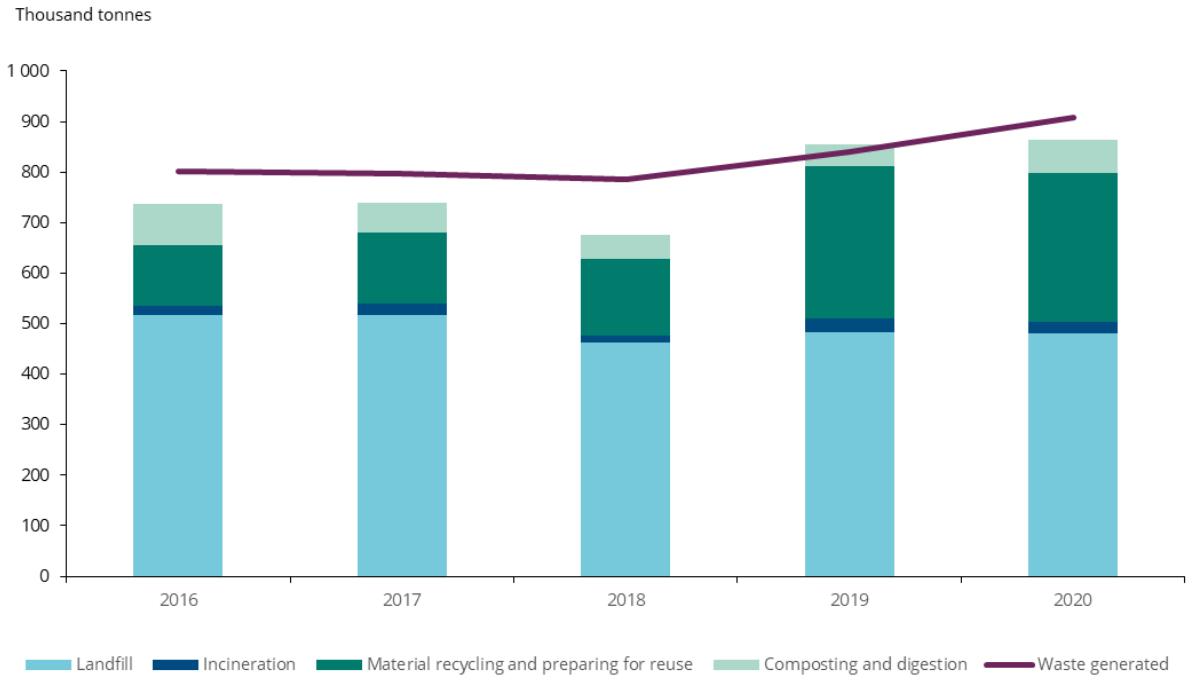
Municipal waste generation and treatment

The annual municipal waste generation in Latvia between 2016 and 2018 was approximately 800 000 tonnes, with an increase to 909 000 tonnes in 2020 (Figure 1.1). Municipal waste generation per capita has been steadily increasing from 410 kg/person in 2016 to 478 kg/person in 2020, which remains below the (estimated) EU average of 505 kg/person. The country continues to rely heavily on landfilling, although a significant decrease can be seen. Landfilling dropped from 64.3 % in 2016 to 52.8 % in 2020. Nevertheless, the total amount of landfilled waste remained fairly constant (approximately 500 000 tonnes), while there was an increase in waste generation.

Material recycling more than doubled between 2018 and 2020, from 150 000 tonnes to almost 300 000 tonnes. Around 2-3 % of municipal waste is incinerated, and 5-10 % is composted/digested, with little changes in the past five years. After fluctuating around 25 %, the recycling rate increased to around 40 % in 2020 when waste exported for recycling was included in the statistics for recycled waste.

The clear trends in waste management in Latvia, are the increase in waste generation per capita, and the increasing recycling rate.

Figure 1.1 Waste generation and treatment in Latvia between 2016 and 2020, in thousand tonnes



Note: Eurostat estimates for incineration and landfill for 2019 and 2020

Source: Eurostat (2022a)

Legal Framework

Latvia's regulatory framework aims to transpose the EU waste acquis. The key legislation related to municipal and packaging waste consists of (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021):

- The Waste Management Law (2010), last amended in 2020, supports the implementation of the National Waste Management Plan (NWMP), sets targets for MSW recycling, and outlines

the responsibilities of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional development, the municipalities and waste management companies (Latvijas Republikas Saeima, 2010) for reaching the recycling targets;

- The Natural Resource Tax Law (Latvijas Republikas Saeima, 2006b), which applies the polluter-pays principle to natural resource management (materials, waste) and specifies related exemptions;
    - Producer responsibility organizations are not directly responsible for the attainment of the target of recycling of municipal waste, but in accordance with provisions of the Law on Natural Resource Tax and relevant regulations they are responsible for meeting recycling targets for certain fractions of municipal waste (e.g., packaging, electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and accumulators) (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021)
- "Law On Pollution" (2001) , which regulates polluting activities, such as waste recovery, disposal and storage facilities, according to their potential environmental risk (OECD, 2019; Latvijas Republikas Saeima, 2001);
- The Environmental Protection Law (2006), which requests waste managers to monitor their environmental performance and inform the public (OECD, 2019; Latvijas Republikas Saeima, 2006a);
- The Packaging Law (Latvijas Republikas Saeima, 2002).

The Natural Resource Tax Law and the Packaging Law define that the responsibilities for the supervision of producer responsibility organisations and the operator of the Latvian packaging deposit system lies with the State Environmental Service.

Waste management plan(s)

The Latvian National Waste Management Plan 2021-2028 was adopted on 22 January 2021 by the Cabinet of Ministers (Ordinance No. 45 of January 22, 2021) (Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia, 2021). The NWMP has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management Law, the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers arising from it and the relevant directives. The implementation period of the plan is eight years.

The Plan continues the National Waste Management Plan 2013-2020 as well as determines new directions and measures that are necessary to achieve the obligations and goals specified in the international and national policy planning documents and regulatory enactments.

The national WMP covers all waste streams with dedicated chapters covering targeted waste streams. The plan provides input for the assessment of the impacts of other policies and other sectors on the implementation of the regional WMPs. Based on the information provided in the NWMP, Latvia counts one national WMP and ten regional WMPs. In addition, local WMPs may be elaborated.

The national WMP foresees the revision of the number of waste management regions from currently ten to five, which is recommended and planned to be assessed by the Cabinet of Ministers in May 2021. No further sectoral plans have been identified.

The main planned waste management measures are the optimisation of the regional waste management and the reduction in the number of regions along with the restructuring of the landfills in the region, the general focus on waste prevention, quantitative reduction and circular economy, the extension and upgrade of the waste collection and separate waste collection (currently including at least paper and cardboard, plastics, glass and metal waste) and the development of additional waste infrastructure.

With regard to packaging waste, the NWMP includes a Waste Prevention Programme, providing measures for the prevention of packaging waste. These measures have been supplemented with

measures to promote the circular economy, i.e. the introduction of a deposit system for beverage packaging in the national territory from 1 February 2022.

Implementation of previous early warning recommendations

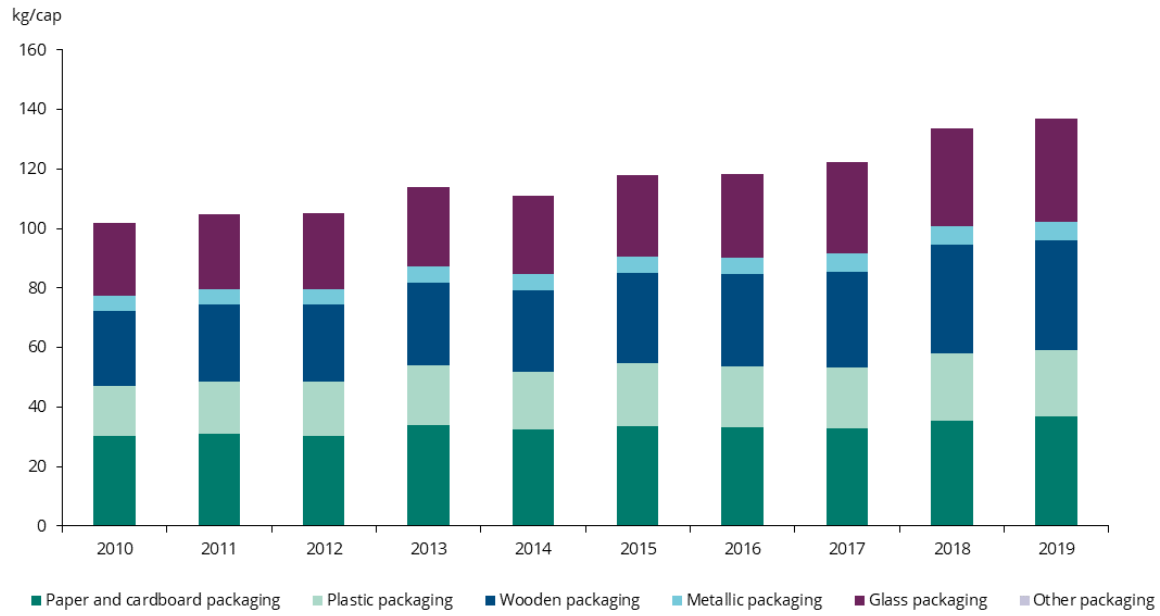
In 2018, the European Commission assessed that Latvia would be at risk of not meeting the Waste Framework Directive's target to prepare for re-use and recycle at least 50 % of municipal waste, and provided a set of policy recommendations to improve the situation (EC, 2018). Annex 1 lists the recommendations and a self-assessment of the Latvian authorities on the status of taking them into account. Latvia considers 13 out of the 15 recommendations of the previous early warning as implemented, while two are considered as partially implemented (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

Packaging waste generation and treatment

In Latvia, approximately 262 000 tonnes (137 kg/cap) of packaging waste were generated in 2019, which is below the EU average of 177 kg/cap.

The overall packaging waste generation increased since 2010 for all packaging materials (Figure 1.2).

Figure 1.2 Packaging waste generation in Latvia between 2010 and 2019, in kg per capita



Source: Eurostat (2022b)

Capture rates for recyclables

The capture rate is a good performance indicator of the effectiveness of the separate collection system. The capture rate is calculated by dividing the separately collected weight of a certain material for recycling by the weight of the material in total municipal waste. For Latvia, Table 1.1 shows the calculated capture rates for different waste fractions:

Table 1.1 Capture rates for different waste fractions in Latvia

	Residual waste composition (%)([b])	Residual waste composition (tonnes)([a])	Separately collected amounts (tonnes)([b])	Materials in total MSW (tonnes)	Capture rates (%)
Reference year	2016		2019		
Mixed municipal waste, total		561 159			
Paper and cardboard	8.0 %	44 893	72 855	117 748	62 %
Metals	3.7 %	20 763	1 278	22 041	6 %
Glass	9.2 %	51 627	29 828	81 455	37 %
Plastic	12.9 %	72 390	10 359	82 749	13 %
Bio-waste	34.2 %	191 916	47 146	239 063	20 %
Wood	not reported				

([a]) Note: Share of material in residual waste (household waste only) multiplied with the amount of residual waste in 2018 as reported in the questionnaire by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia and Latvian Environmental, Geological and Meteorological Center (2021)

([b]) Source: As reported in the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia and Latvian Environmental, Geological and Meteorological Center (2021)

This indicates that there is room for improvement to capture higher amounts of all materials, and especially metals, plastics and bio-waste.

2 Success and risk factors likely to influence future performance

2.1 Target for preparing for reuse and recycling of municipal waste

This chapter aims at assessing the proximity of Latvia to achieve the **55 % preparing for reuse and recycling target** for municipal waste in 2025. For a detailed description of the methodology followed, the development of success/risk factors and their impact on recycling, please consult the methodology report (ETC/CE & ETC/WMGE, 2022).

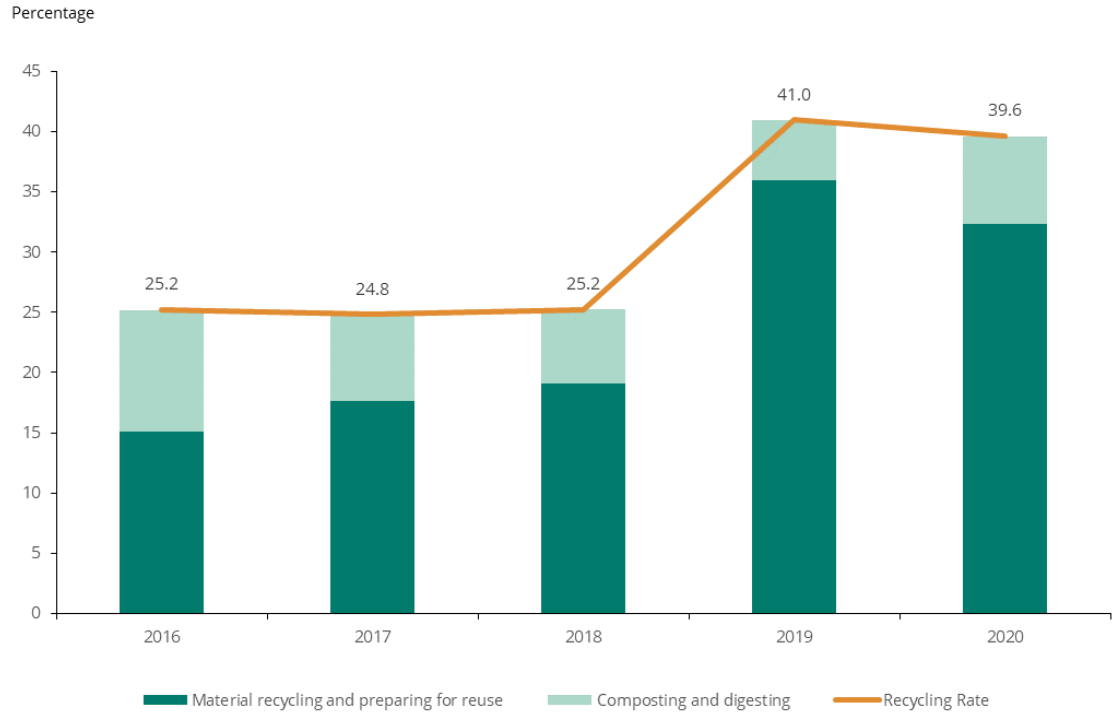
2.1.1 Current situation and past trends

SRF MSWR-1.1: Distance to target

The overall recycling rate of Latvia has increased from 25.2 % in 2016 to 39.6 % 2020. Between 2017 and 2018 there was a significant increase with 15.7 percentage points when waste exported for recycling was included in the statistics for recycled waste (Figure 2.1). In this analysis the recycling rate is calculated by dividing the summed amounts of recycling of materials and of composting and digestion by the total generated amounts. The data source used is the Eurostat data set *Municipal waste by waste management operations [env_wasmun]* (following the OECD/Eurostat Joint Questionnaire); Data reported by Member States according to Article 10.2(a) of the Waste Framework Directive are not used for this assessment as the reporting methods differ by Member State, resulting in a lack of comparability between Member States. The data source used here is assumed to be the best available proxy, given that data in accordance with the rules on the calculation of the attainment of the targets as defined in Article 11a are not yet available.

According to data provided by the Latvian authorities, around 141 000 tonnes of dry recyclables were collected separately in 2019, and around 47 400 tonnes were extracted from mixed municipal waste in sorting and MBT plants, adding up to 189 000 tonnes in total (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021). The amount reported as material recycled to Eurostat is 302 000 for the same year (Eurostat, 2021b). This large gap is explained due to waste exported for recycling being included in statistics for recycled waste as of 2019.

Figure 2.1 Recycling rate in Latvia between 2016 and 2020, in percentage



Note: Change in reporting methodology in 2019.
Source: Eurostat (2022a)

The actual distance to the target for the most recent data point is a key factor determining the likelihood of meeting/not meeting the target. The closer the Member State is to the target already, the more likely it becomes that the target will be met. For Latvia, the recycling rate was 39.6 % in 2020, which is 15.4 percentage points below the target for 2025. Meeting the target will require an average increase of 3.1 percentage points annually in the period between 2020 and 2025, which is lower than the annual increase in the previous five year period (2016-2020). Taking into consideration the significant increase in the recycling rate from 2018 to 2019, there is a fair chance of meeting the target.

However, the data used for this analysis are based on a different methodology than the calculation rules for the target. The actual impact of the application of the new calculation rules to the recycling rate has not been quantified yet in Latvia. A few Member States have provided quantified estimates indicating how the application of the new reporting rules would influence the recycling rate (compared to the data reported to Eurostat under the Joint Eurostat/OECD questionnaire), resulting in reductions between 3.8 and 13 percentage points, and on average 5.5-6.7 percentage points. While the effect depends on how Latvia currently reports the data, an effect of a reduction with 5 percentage points is therefore assumed for this assessment, bringing the recycling rate down to 34.6 % in 2020. This assumption will not result in a change of the assessment for this SRF.

Summary result

Distance to target > 15 percentage points	Based on currently available data Latvia's recycling rate lies at 39.6 %, 15.4 percentage points below the 2025 target. Considering however the impact of the new calculation rules, we assume a reduction with 5 percentage points for this assessment, resulting in an estimated recycling rate of 34.6 %, 20.4 percentage point below the target.
Robustness of the underlying information	The currently available data do not yet reflect the calculation rules applicable to the 2025 target. Latvia has not yet quantified the influence of the new calculation rules on the recycling rate (at the time of writing this assessment). New calculations including export (which is also part of the new calculation rules) have increased the recycling rate. However a recycling rate which would be 5 percentage points below the currently reported one would not change the assessment for this SRF

SRF MSWR-1.2: Past trend in municipal solid waste recycling rate

The recycling rate over the last five years shows a sudden very strong increase from 2018 to 2019 when waste exported for recycling was included in the statistics for recycled waste (Figure 2.1).

In Latvia, the waste treatment has been significantly lower than the generation during the past years (except in 2019), with treatment rates of approximately 90 % of the waste generation. This is because exported waste for recycling was not included in the statistics. Since 2019, exports for recycling are included, which significantly increased the reported recycling rate, related mainly to a change in reporting method.

Summary result

RR < 45% and increase in last 5 years < 10 percentage points	The recycling rate has increased by 14.4 percentage points over the past five years. Although Latvia reports a strong increase in recycling rate, it is related to reporting methodology that since 2019 includes exports for recycling in the recycling reports. Since this SRF measures improvement in performance and not reporting, the change in methodology is not considered to show a trend of increased recycling performance. For Latvia the application of the new calculation rules would result in an estimated recycling rate of 34.6 %.
Robustness of the underlying information	There is no break in the time series date. The waste treatment rates have been lower than generation. Since 2019, exports for recycling are included which has significantly increased the reported recycling rates. The currently available data do not yet reflect the calculation rules applicable to the target.

2.1.2 Legal instruments

SRF MSWR-2.1: Timely transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive into national law

Timely transposition of the Waste Framework Directive as amended by Directive 2018/851, into national law within the foreseen period is key for a waste management system in line with EU requirements.

Latvia has transposed the amended Waste Framework Directive into national law on 26 October 2021 with a delay of more than 12 months after the deadline of 5 July 2020 via Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.712 *Regulations on separate collection, preparation for re-use, recycling and material recovery of waste,* and notified the European Commission on 1 November 2021.

Summary result

Transposition with delay of > 12 months, or no full transposition yet	The Waste Framework Directive as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851 has been transposed into Latvian law with a delay of more than 12 months.
Robustness of the underlying information	Information provided by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia

SRF MSWR-2.2: Responsibilities for meeting the targets, and support and enforcement mechanisms, e.g. tools, fines etc.

Clearly defined responsibilities, enforcement and support mechanisms for meeting the targets across different entities and governance levels are important for achieving high recycling rates. The clearer the responsibilities for meeting the targets and the accountability for failing the targets are, the higher the chance that the targets will be met.

The following stakeholders have responsibilities with respect to meeting the targets of MSW recycling (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021):

- The Cabinet of Ministers sets targets for preparation for re-use, recycling, or material recovery of municipal waste;
- The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (MEPRD) shall include measures for the improvement of the extended producer responsibility scheme for e.g. packaging and textiles in the State waste management plan;
- The State Environmental Service is the competent authority for supervision of producer responsibility organisations and operators of the Latvian packaging deposit system. The State Environmental Service has specific responsibilities to:
    - supervise and control the application of the extended producer responsibility scheme;
    - publish information on the application of the extended producer responsibility scheme, a list of managers, and information on the waste management of the relevant type of managers, including on the amounts of recycling and recovery of waste on its website;
- Municipalities/local governments are responsible for organising and planning separate collection of waste in their administrative territory (in cooperation with waste management companies). The municipality bears responsibility for meeting recycling targets, in co-operation with the waste management companies (see below);
- The responsibility of meeting the recycling targets is on the municipality in co-operation with the waste management companies;
- Producer responsibility organisations are not directly responsible for the attainment of the recycling target of municipal waste, but are responsible for meeting the recycling targets for certain fractions of municipal waste, such as packaging;
- Operators of the packaging deposit system are not responsible for meeting national recycling targets.

The Waste Management Law provides, that after assessment of attainment of the targets, the MEPRD will publish a list of municipalities and waste management companies that have not reached the target (Latvijas Republikas Saeima, 2010). The Law On Local Governments (Latvijas Republikas Saeima, 1994) states that the Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development may request an explanation from the chairperson of the city or municipality council. In the case of extreme breaches, the Parliament (the Saeima) may also dismiss the council of the municipality, while the minister of

environmental protection and regional development may dismiss the chairperson of the municipality in response of not living up to these responsibilities.

The Natural Resources Tax Law provides that a producer who does not fulfil the duties in respect of the EPR scheme for packaging, must pay the tax in double for all packaging materials put on the market during that year. In addition, a fine corresponding to the twofold amount of the unpaid tax according to the basic rates can be levied on the producer in case of intentional misreporting or if the taxes were not paid as a result of incomplete information on material volumes (Latvijas Republikas Saeima, 2006b).

Regulation No.480 (Latvia Cabinet of Ministers, 2017c) provides that the PRO should increase public awareness and organizes at least four communication events annually focusing on the importance of the separate collection of waste, and to increase separately collected waste volumes.

In order to support the improvement of the efficiency and performance of waste management and to increase recycling, Latvia has implemented (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021):

- Waste management plans including goals and the activities and investments necessary to achieve these goals.
    - The Latvian State Waste Management plan for 2021-2028 (valid as of January 2021), including also the State Waste prevention programme, Food Waste Prevention programme, Packaging waste prevention programme, programme on re-use and activities for prevention of marine littering (MEPRD, 2021). The plan lists necessary activities and investment needs for the improvement of municipal and packaging waste management.
    - Mandatory regional waste management plans for 2023-2027 to be prepared by municipalities by 31 December 2022.
- Permits and financial guarantee: the State Environmental Service issues permits for waste management activities. In order to receive these permits, a waste management company has to establish a financial guarantee in accordance with Regulation No 134 (Latvia Cabinet of Ministers, 2021b).
- Waste registration and tracking: in accordance with the Waste Management Law, waste management companies are obliged to record the volume, type, origin, frequency of collection and transport, type and place of recovery or disposal of the waste managed or generated and store such information for at least three years. Waste management companies also have to register the transportation of waste from collection sites to recycling, recovery and disposal facilities in accordance with Regulations No.494 (Latvia Cabinet of Ministers, 2018). In order to facilitate development of bio-waste collection, several municipalities, on their own initiative, have established registers of home-composting.
- Waste Statistics: companies generating waste and waste management companies report their waste data to a database managed by the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Center (LEGMC) as stated in Regulations No.271 (Latvia Cabinet of Ministers, 2017a). Regional Environmental Boards of State Environmental Service are responsible for supervision of data collection and validation. LEGMC publishes the annual waste survey “3-waste” including the official waste statistics, containing data on waste generation, storage, transports, imports and exports, recovery and disposal activities.
- Co-operation and sharing best practices: the MEPRD, State Environmental Service and LEGMC are actively co-operating with stakeholders in the process of preparation, enforcement and implementation of legislation, as well as co-operation with municipalities and their associations on waste management implementation.

- Information and public awareness: public awareness campaigns are constantly ongoing, aiming to increase public awareness on sorting and waste reduction, as well as the harmful environmental impacts of excessive consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags. The campaigns have developed communications materials and videos, and established presence online and on social media, as well as in advertisements.

In summary, Latvia is reporting clearly defined responsibilities, enforcement mechanisms and support mechanisms for meeting the targets.

Summary result

Clearly defined responsibilities, enforcement and good set of support mechanisms for meeting the recycling targets	Latvia is reporting clearly defined responsibilities, enforcement mechanisms and support mechanisms for meeting the targets.
Robustness of the underlying information	There is no information on the implementation of the enforcement mechanisms and whether local governments have been dismissed as a consequence of failure to meet targets or implementing waste management according to the requirements stated in the waste legislation.

2.1.3 Economic instruments

SRF MSW-3.1: Taxes and/or ban for landfilling residual- or biodegradable waste

Bans and taxes on landfilling of residual waste can help to discourage strong reliance on residual waste treatment and thus support recycling.

Latvia has introduced an escalator to increase the landfill tax as follows (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021):

- Municipal waste from 25 EUR/t (in 2017) to 65 EUR/t (in 2021) and further to 95 EUR/t (in 2023)
- Hazardous waste from 45 EUR/t (in 2017) to 70 EUR/t (in 2021) and further to 100 EUR/t (in 2023)

The tax also covers outputs of MBT plants that are landfilled.

Latvia is introducing a landfill ban for recyclable waste. The Waste Management Law states that it will be forbidden to landfill municipal waste suitable for preparation for re-use, recycling or recovery from 1 January 2030 (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

Summary result

Landfill tax > 30 EUR/t([a]) with escalator	The landfill tax is currently 65 EUR/t (corresponding to 85 EUR/t rescaled based on purchasing power parities), and it includes an escalator.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information was received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.

([a]) Note: Rescaled based on purchasing power parities Eurostat (2020a)

SRF MSWR-3.2: Taxes on municipal waste incineration

Taxes on incineration of residual waste can help to discourage strong reliance on residual waste treatment and thus support recycling.

Latvia has introduced an incineration tax of 15 EUR/t and this entered into force on 1 January 2021. It is currently not planned to review it. There is no tax on waste exported for incineration (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

Summary result

Taxes > 18 EUR/t([a])	The incineration tax of 15 EUR/t (corresponding to 19.6 EUR/t rescaled based on purchasing power parities) does not include an escalator.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.

([a]) Note: Rescaled based on purchasing power parities Eurostat (2020a)

SRF MSWR-3.3: Pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) system in place

PAYT systems are designed in order to incentivize citizens to make a bigger effort in separating their waste at source. However, a PAYT system should be designed with the appropriate level of source separation encouragement to ensure that citizens do not misplace waste in recycling bins in order to avoid residual waste charges. Overall, PAYT usually has a positive effect on source separation and thus recycling rates through direct involvement of citizens.

Latvia has not implemented PAYT on a national basis. PAYT is currently only implemented in one municipality in Latvia (Jūrmala, as of 1 March 2018). However, it is concluded that the system in Jūrmala is too expensive in relation to the meagre results in separately collected waste (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

The National Waste Management plan for 2021-2028 presents plans to do a background study on the implementation of PAYT in Latvia. Several municipalities have already assessed the potential of introducing PAYT, and conclude that it would be too expensive to introduce PAYT in cities and towns with a majority of multi-apartment buildings. In rural areas with mainly single family houses it is considered possible.

Summary result

Less than 50% of the population covered by PAYT	Latvia has not implemented PAYT, only one municipality has an implementation of PAYT.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.

2.1.4 Separate collection system

SRF MSWR-4.1: Convenience and coverage of separate collection systems for the different household waste fractions

Separate collection systems are a key enabler for high recycling rates and for collecting recyclables at adequate quality. Generally, the more convenient and accessible these systems are for their users, the better results they deliver, The assessment methodology categorises different types of collection systems (door-to-door, bring points with a density of > 5 per km^2, bring points with a density of < 5 per km^2, civic amenity site) for assessing the degree of convenience, and differentiates between cities (densely populated), towns and suburbs (intermediate densely populated) and rural (thinly populated areas). It then calculates which share of the population is served by which type of system. The assessment is done on a material basis and taking into account the different materials according to

their average share in municipal waste. This is described in more detail in the methodology (ETC/CE & ETC/WMGE, 2022).

For Latvia, according to the most recent data, the percentage of households living in cities is 51.7 %, in towns and suburbs 4.8 % and in rural areas 43.5 % (Eurostat, 2021a).

The minimum service standards for the collection of waste (including bio-waste) are set in Regulations No.788 (Latvia Cabinet of Ministers, 2016) defining types and requirements of waste collection and sorting sites, types and volumes of containers, markings on the containers[1], frequency of collection, and waste types of to be collected. At the collection points, containers for the following materials must be available: paper, metal, plastics and glass, as well as biodegradable waste. At civic amenity sites, containers for the following waste materials must be available: plastics, plastics packaging waste, wood and wooden packaging waste, paper and cardboard, paper and cardboard packaging waste, glass and glass packaging waste, metal packaging, environmentally harmful waste (WEEE, batteries) (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

In accordance with the Waste Management Law, each municipality issues binding regulations regarding the management of municipal waste within their administrative territory, including the division into waste management zones, requirements for waste collection including frequency, transport and logistics, payment procedures, as well as authorities controlling the compliance with these regulations. The MEPRD supports the municipalities in improving waste management services (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

Separate collection is also mandatory for waste collected from non-household sources, such as business premises. The separately collected materials are the following (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021):

- Paper and cardboard
- Ferrous metals
- Aluminium
- Glass
- Plastic
- Wood
- Bio-waste
- Electrical and electronic equipment
- Batteries and accumulators

By 31 December 2020, a system for separate collection of bio-waste must be set up as stated in Regulations No.184 (Latvia Cabinet of Ministers, 2013). At the municipal landfill sites, a biodegradable waste recovery or recycling facility must be set up at the latest in 2022. If the collection system for some reason starts later than 2022, the treatment facility must be operating by the end of 2023. The NWMP also plans to promote separate food waste collection from institutions and companies (MEPRD, 2021; MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

The convenience and required coverage of the separate collection systems are stated in Regulations No.328 (Latvia Cabinet of Ministers, 2017b):

[1] Each container should bear information on waste to be collected in this container, and name of waste management company who owns this container and contact information

- In cities with a population lower than 50 000, there should be at least one collection point or one civic amenity site in each waste management zone if the municipality is divided in waste management zones;
- In cities with a population higher than 50 000, there should be at least one separate collection point for 700 inhabitants;
- In cities with a population of 50 000 - 100 000, there should be at least two civic amenity sites or one civic amenity site in each waste management zone, if the municipality is divided in waste management zones;
- In cities with a population higher than 100 000, there should be at least two civic amenity sites or one civic amenity site in each waste management zone if the municipality is divided in waste management zones. In addition, for each 100 000 people, one additional civic amenity site should be established;
- In rural municipalities of Latvia there should be a collection point when the population exceeds 200 people, and for each 450 inhabitants there should be a collection point. In towns, there should be one collection point for each 550 inhabitants;
- In each municipality with a population above 8000, there should be at least one civic amenity site;
- In case it is not possible to establish collection points or civic amenity sites in rural areas, municipalities shall ensure regular collection of separately sorted waste;
- In addition to these criteria, waste management companies can establish additional separate waste collection points or civic amenity sites.

In 2020 there have been approximately 5000 separate collection points and 90 civic amenity sites established. Data collected for 2018 and 2019 by the MEPRD shows that on average there has been one separate collection point for 598 inhabitants established, while one civic amenity site has been established per 14 816 inhabitants. In Rīga one separate collection point has been established per 493 inhabitants, while one civic amenity site is established per 210 871 inhabitants (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

The State Environmental Service operates a website (Latvia State Environmental Service, 2021) about separate collection. Currently, legislation is being amended to oblige waste management companies, municipalities and EPR schemes to submit information about waste collection facilities they are operating (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) also play an important role in the development of the separate waste collection systems. Regulations No. 788 provide that the manager of PROs must ensure that at all civic amenity sites managed by waste management companies contracted by municipalities collect (i) hazardous waste of household origin as provided in Regulations No.64 and (ii) household packaging and single-use cutlery, as provided in Regulation No. 480 (Latvia Cabinet of Ministers, 2016, 2021a, 2017c). Thus, managers of PRO are required to use municipal collection arrangements and support their further development by contracts for separate waste collection services with municipalities.

In Latvia, the collection does currently not distinguish between packaging waste and non-packaging waste. However, the container openings are designed to best fit for packaging waste, with the aim to focus the collection on packaging waste. Non-packaging waste collected with packaging waste should not be reported as recycled packaging waste (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

Table 2.1 Characterisation of the collection system in Latvia

	Cities (densely populated areas)					**Towns and suburbs** (intermediate density areas)					**Rural areas** (thinly populated areas)			
	Door-to-door – separate	Door-to-door - co-mingled	Bring point (>5 per km²)	Bring point (<5 per km²)	Civic amenity site	Door-to-door - separate	Door-to-door - co-mingled	Bring point (>5 per km²)	Bring point (<5 per km²)	Civic amenity site	Door-to-door - separate	Door-to-door - co-mingled	Bring point	Civic amenity site
Residual waste		xx	x				xx	x				x	x	
Paper and Cardboard			xx		x	x		xx		x		x	x	
Ferrous metals					x					x				x
Aluminium					x					x				x
Glass			xx		x			xx		x	x		x	
Plastic			xx		x			xx		x		x	x	
Bio-waste	xx*		x		x	xx		x			x		x	
food			x					x					x	
garden			x		x			x					x	
Textiles					x					x				x
Wood					x					x				
WEEE					x					x				x
Composite packaging					x					x		x	x	

Note: xx: dominant system; x: other significant systems. *food and garden waste are collected together in door-to-door collection. Grey cells indicate high convenience collection systems.

Source: MEPRD and LEGMC (2021)

Bring point collection is the predominant system in Latvia for all MSW collection, including residual waste. Except for food waste, all separate fractions are collected via bring points and civic amenity sites. According to a study by MEPRD, showing that on average there is one bring point for 598 inhabitants and one civic amenity site for 14 816 inhabitants, the bring points can be considered the system with higher user rates in comparison between these two (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

Bio-waste is only collected separately in a few municipalities. Municipalities located near Rīga were obliged to introduce separate collection systems for bio-waste by the end of 2020, while other municipalities have to set up such systems by the end of 2023. In rural areas, biowaste is either composted in home composting, or used as animal feed. If there is set up a separate bio-waste collection system, then in most cases it is door-to-door collection (MEPRD, 2022).

In addition to the bring point system, there is also door-to-door co-mingled collection of recyclables in some rural areas, where the population density is too low for the arrangement of bring points (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021). There is also a newly established deposit return system for plastics, aluminium and glass beverage packaging with approximately 1 400 collection points (Depozitapunkts, 2022). There are further plans to expand the system (MEPRD, 2022).

Regarding the collection of metal packaging waste, since 1 February 2022 a deposit system for packaging waste was introduced. Currently there are approximately 1 400 collection points operational. The further development of the deposit system is planned by increasing the number of collection points (MEPRD, 2022).

Due to the high economic value of metals and in order to improve the enforcement of recycling, Latvia has introduced a special licensing and permitting system for collection facilities for the collection of metal scrap and for purchasing metal scrap from other operators. They must also have a waste management permit for the activities. Between 2016–2021, 56 licences for metal scrap operations were issued. The Latvian authorities estimate that only metal packaging is collected at civic amenity sites (Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia, 2011; MEPRD, 2022).

WEEE is collected both at civic amenity sites, but also through take back schemes at retailers, in maintenance workshops and repair shops, as well as through mobile acceptance points (MEPRD, 2022).

Taking this into account, the lack of door-to-door collection in Latvia does not seem to present a barrier to recycling, as the service level for residual waste collection is similar to sorted waste. However, due to the lack of a PAYT, there are no economic incentives for waste sorting by households and businesses.

Summary result

Paper and cardboard	A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	High density bring points and civic amenity sites are the predominant system in Latvia for collection of paper and cardboard waste. Taking into account, that the bring points have a significantly higher user rate, they are considered the dominant system for cities and suburbs in the assessment.
Metals	A low share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	Civic amenity sites are the predominant system in Latvia for collection of metal waste. There is also a newly established deposit-return system for aluminium beverage cans.
Plastics	A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	High density bring points and civic amenity sites are the predominant system in Latvia for collection plastic waste, with a portion of co-mingled collection in rural areas. Taking into account, that the bring points have a significantly higher user rate than civic amenity sites, they are considered the dominant system for cities and suburbs in the assessment. However, only plastic packaging is targeted with the collection at the bring points.
Glass	A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	High density bring points and civic amenity sites are the predominant system in Latvia for the collection of glass waste, with a portion of door-to-door collection in rural areas. Taking into account, that the bring points have a significantly higher user rate than civic amenity sites, they are considered the dominant system for cities and suburbs in the assessment.
Bio-waste	A medium share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	Only a few municipalities have introduced separate collection for bio-waste so far, mainly using bring points.

Wood	A low share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	Civic amenity sites are the predominant system in Latvia for collection of wood waste
Textiles	A low share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	Civic amenity sites are the predominant system in Latvia for collection of textile waste.
WEEE	Medium convenience collection services dominate	Take back schemes at retailers and other service provider, as well as collection at civic amenity sites are the dominant collection systems
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire. The information on co-mingling in rural areas might impact the assessment.	

SRF MSWR-4.2: Firm plans to improve the convenience and coverage of separate collection for the different household waste fractions

Latvia plans to extend the separate collection services, the budget for these activities are allocated in the NWMP. The NWMP includes plans to improve and expand the existing separate waste collection system of municipalities by (MEPRD, 2021; MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021):

- Increasing the number of collection points and civic amenity sites and developing door-to-door collection services for households;
- Introduce smart containers at the collection points;
- Providing containers for waste sorting free of charge to companies and households;
- Expand the coverage of the deposit return system (DRS) for beverage containers by increasing the number of collection points and assess the option of introducing a DRS for cardboard packaging in 2025;
- Investigate the alternative of a combined DRS with other Baltic countries (Estonia) as of 2027.

The NWMP defines responsibilities, timelines, performance indicators and related investment needs, as well as sources of funding, including the use of EU funds. However, the details of the improvements will be defined in the regional waste management plans that need to be developed by the end of 2022.

Summary result

Paper and cardboard	N/A (for countries in which a high share of the population is already covered by high convenience collection services)	Latvia plans to extend the separate collection services by increasing the number of collection points and developing door-to-door collection services for households.
Metals	No firm plans to improve the convenience and coverage	Currently, metals are only collected at civic amenity sites and Latvia has not indicated any plans to introduce separate collection of metals at bring points. There are plans to expand the number of collection points for the deposit return system for aluminium beverage packaging.
Plastics	N/A (for countries in which a high share of the population is already covered by high convenience collection services)	Latvia has indicated plans to improve and expand the existing separate waste collection system as well as to introduce a DRS for beverage containers.

Glass	N/A (for countries in which a high share of the population is already covered by high convenience collection services)	Currently, glass is collected at bring points and civic amenity sites and in rural areas also by co-mingled collection. However, Latvia has indicated plans to improve and expand the existing separate waste collection system as well as to introduce a DRS for beverage containers.
Bio-waste	There are plans to improve the collection service but unclear plan for implementation.	Latvia plans to introduce door-to-door collection of bio-waste, but the planned collection system is unclear.
Wood	There are plans to improve the collection service but unclear plan for implementation.	Currently, wood is only collected at civic amenity sites in cities and suburbs. However, Latvia has indicated plans to introduce separate collection of furniture waste.
Textiles	There are plans to improve the collection service but unclear plan for implementation.	Currently, textiles are only collected at civic amenity sites. However, Latvia has indicated plans to introduce separate collection of textiles at bring points.
WEEE	There are plans to improve the collection service but unclear plan for implementation.	Currently, WEEE is only collected at civic amenity sites. However, Latvia has indicated plans to introduce separate collection of WEEE at bring points.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.	

2.1.5 Extended producer responsibility (EPR) and similar schemes

SRF MSWR-5.1: Fee modulation in EPR schemes for packaging

Within EPR schemes, fee modulation (or eco-modulation) is a system with different fees for different types of packaging material and designs. While basic fee modulation, i.e. different fees for the main material groups, are common, advanced fee modulation can create stronger incentives for packaging producers to design for recycling and thus create favourable conditions for higher recycling rates. The level of advancement of the fee modulation is assessed against four criteria that have been selected as benchmarks for a well-designed eco-modulated fee system:

- recyclability, for example differentiating between PET and PS, between different colours of PET, or between 100% cardboard boxes and laminated beverage cartons;
- sortability and disruptors, for example a malus for labels/caps/sleeves made of other materials, which are not fitted for the recycling technologies of the main packaging;
- recycled content; and
- if there is a transparent compliance check by the PRO that producers report correctly.

In Latvia, there are five active PROs for packaging MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021):

1) SIA "Eko Rija";
2) SIA "Zaļais Centrs";
3) SIA "Zaļā josta";
4) AS “AJ Power Recycling”;
5) AS “Latvijas Zaļais punkts”.

A producer putting more than 300 kgs of packaging on the market has the obligation to arrange waste management or sign up with a PRO. If the producer does not take care of these obligations, the company has to pay packaging taxes which are double the normal rate (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

The EPR scheme in Latvia covers packaging waste from both household and non-household sources and covers packaging of paper and cardboard, ferrous metals, aluminium, glass, plastics, wood and composite materials (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

Currently, Latvia does not apply advanced fee modulation in the EPR scheme. There is an obligatory transparent compliance check by the Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) where an independent auditor verifies that producers report correctly (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

However, according to the Natural Resources Tax Law (Section 6 Application of the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme), there is a general requirement on PROs to apply fee modulation. Any PRO has the following obligations:

- to ensure that the payments of its contracting partner cover the costs referred to in paragraph six of this Section 6, and are as differentiated as possible in relation to particular goods or groups of similar goods and packaging of goods, in conformity with the priority order of the types of waste management as laid down in the Waste Management Law and implementing even functioning of the internal market;
- to conform to the principle of transparency in its operation and decision-making, including to justify the costs related to the implementation of the extended producer responsibility scheme.

The fee system can be characterized as a basic fee modulation as it applies rather simple averages per material (weight) or product type, based on measurable cost of collection, sorting and treatment/recycling.

However, Latvia plans to develop an advanced fee modulation with more detailed criteria (e.g. recyclability) with the following changes planned:

- not to apply for an exemption from the payment of the Natural Resources Tax for plastic and composite packaging, which is not particularly suitable for recycling and not containing recycled material (i.e. companies will have to pay Natural Resources Tax as well as EPR fees);
- to determine separate national recycling targets and differentiated Natural Resources Tax rates for beverage cartons.

The Latvian authorities note that advanced fee modulation adds complexity to EPR systems and therefore increases the administrative load of all stakeholders. Additional costs arise, both initially (e.g. to establish the modulation system) and on an ongoing basis (e.g. costs of additional reporting, monitoring and enforcing).

Summary result

No advanced fee modulation.	Latvia does not apply advanced fee modulation in the EPR scheme. There is a transparent compliance check by the Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) where an independent auditor verifies that producers report correctly.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.

2.1.6 Treatment capacity for bio-waste

SRF MSWR-6.1: Capacity for the treatment of bio-waste

Bio-waste is the largest single waste fraction in municipal waste, and adequate treatment capacity needs to be made available.

As reported by the Latvian authorities (Table 1.1), the country's separately collected bio-waste amounted to 47 000 tonnes in 2019. The total generation of bio-waste within total municipal waste, including separately collected bio-waste and bio-waste present in the residual waste fraction, was 240 000 tonnes, while the bio-waste treatment capacity amounted to 234 000 tonnes in 2019, which is more than 80 % of generated municipal bio-waste. The available capacity for the treatment of separately collected bio-waste is currently partly used also for the biological output from MBT (MEPRD, 2022):

- Composting facilities at landfills, 100 000 tonnes:
- Composting facilities other than at landfills, 34 000 tonnes;
- Anaerobic digestion, 100 000 tonnes.

The planned treatment capacities for bio-waste are (MEPRD, 2022):

- Sorting and pre-treatment, 210 000 tonnes per year;
- Anaerobic digestion, 90 000 tonnes per year;
- Production of fuel from bio-waste, up to 20 000 tonnes per year.

Currently, a major part of the bio-waste is not separately collected. Separate collection of bio-waste is available at 13 civic amenity sites. Municipalities located near Rīga were obliged to set up separate collection systems for bio-waste in 2020, while other municipalities are obliged to do this in 2023. At the latest by 2022, at the municipal landfill sites, a biodegradable waste recovery or recycling facility must be set up. In case the separate collection of bio-waste starts later then 2022, the treatment facility must be operating by end of 2023. Separately-collected bio-waste can be used for the production of compost, however the biological fraction from MBT treatment may contain hazardous pollutants and impurities and is mainly used as covering material in landfills (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

Summary result

Enough bio-waste treatment capacity for 80% of generated municipal bio-waste	The treatment capacity covers nearly all municipal bio-waste generated.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.

SRF MSWR-6.2: Legally binding national standards and Quality Management System for compost/digestate

To create a market for compost and digestate, compost should be of a good quality for use as a soil improver or fertilizer. Legally binding standards provide guarantees regarding the quality of the compost produced. A quality management system aims at addressing different elements of a production process to ensure a stable and high-quality output (product) which helps toward reaching a defined quality for the product.

Currently Latvia has no national standard for compost quality, nor a quality management system for the production of compost (EEA, 2020). Compost standards and end-of-waste criteria have been

developed and submitted for inter-ministerial consultation. The Latvian authorities expect that these regulations will be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers by July 2022 (MEPRD, 2022).

Summary result

No national standards or quality management system.	Latvia has no national standard for compost quality, nor a quality management system for the production of compost.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.

2.2 Target for the recycling of packaging waste

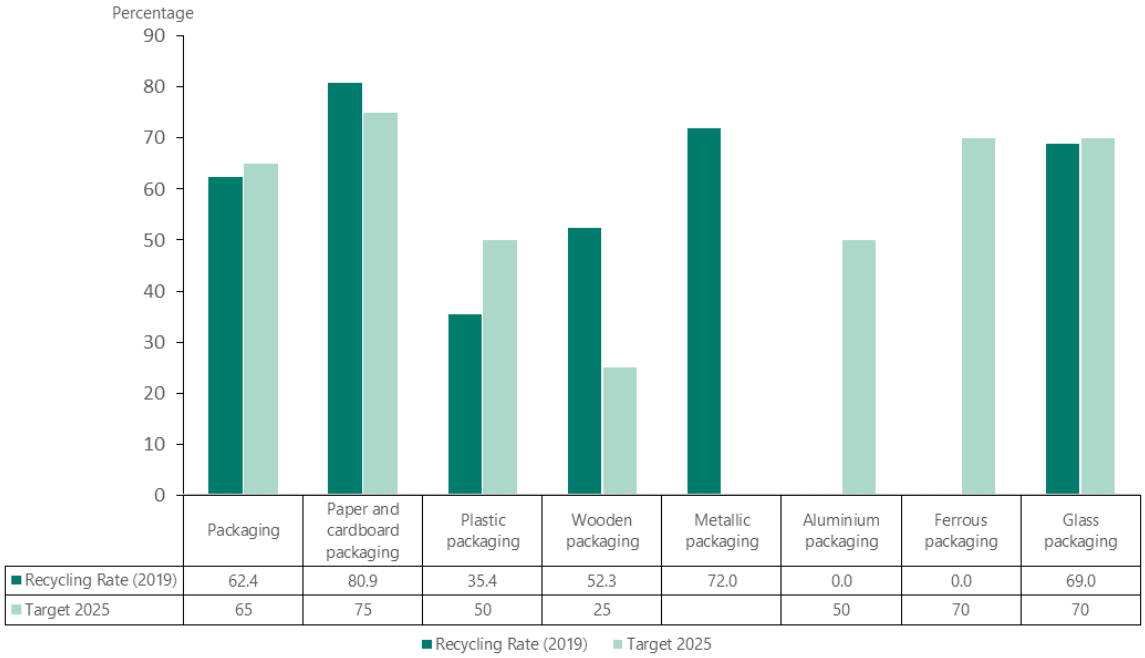
This chapter aims at assessing the proximity of Latvia to achieve the **65 % recycling target for packaging waste** in 2025 as well as the **material specific packaging waste recycling targets** (50 % of plastic; 25 % of wood; 70 % of ferrous metals; 50 % of aluminium; 70 % of glass; 75 % of paper and cardboard). In order to conclude on this likelihood, the analysis takes stock of the status of several factors that are proven to influence the levels of recycling in a country. For a detailed description of the methodology followed, the development of success/risk factors and their impact on recycling, please consult the methodology report (ETC/CE & ETC/WMGE, 2022).

2.2.1 Current situation and past trends

SRF P-1.1 Distance to target

The actual distance to the target for the most recent data point is a key factor determining the likelihood of meeting or not meeting the target. This analysis is based on data reported by Latvia to Eurostat in accordance with Commission Decision 2005/270/EC as last amended by the Commission Implementing Decision 2019/665 (EC, 2019), published in the dataset *Recycling rates of packaging waste for monitoring compliance with policy targets, by type of packaging [env_waspacr].* The latest available data refer to 2019. The performance of Latvia for 2019 is illustrated in Figure 2.2Figure 2.2.

Figure 2.2 Packaging recycling rates for Latvia in 2019, in percentage



	Packaging	Paper and cardboard packaging	Plastic packaging	Wooden packaging	Metallic packaging	Aluminium packaging	Ferrous packaging	Glass packaging
Recycling Rate (2019)	62.4	80.9	35.4	52.3	72.0	0.0	0.0	69.0
Target 2025	65	75	50	25		50	70	70

Note: No data are available for ferrous and aluminium packaging, only for metallic packaging
Source: Eurostat (2022c), EU (2018)

For Latvia the reported recycling rates for paper and cardboard, wooden and metals packaging exceed the 2025 recycling targets. For metals, the reported recycling rates do not make a distinction between ferrous metals and aluminium, but the total recycling rate for metals packaging (72 %) exceeds the recycling target rates for both ferrous metals and aluminium. For total packaging waste, the distance to target is 2.6 percentage points, for plastics 14.6 percentage points, and for glass 1 percentage point (Eurostat, 2021c).

However, the recycling rates presented are based on the calculation rules of the Commission Decision 2005/270 before it was amended by the Commission Implementing Decision 2019/665 and will likely differ from the recycling rates to be reported according to the new calculation rules. The new calculation rules will only be mandatory to be used for the reference year 2020 and onwards. A key difference in the new calculation rules compared to the old rules is that the amount of sorted packaging waste that is rejected by the recycling facility shall not be included in the reported amount of recycled packaging waste.

The Latvian authorities do not expect the new calculation rules to impact the recycling rates since the calculation already includes losses within the recycling plants. A minor effect is expected due to future inclusion of reusable sales packaging placed on the market for the first time and reused as part of a reuse system (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

As a matter of sensitivity analysis, to assess what the impact of these new calculation rules could be (change in calculation point), recycling losses found in literature (EXPRA, 2014) are applied to the packaging recycling rates as reported for reference year 2019:

- Paper and cardboard packaging: decrease by 10 %, from 80.9 % to 72.8 %
- Metal packaging: decrease by 14 %, from 72.0 % to 61.9 %
- Glass packaging: decrease by 5 %, from 69.0 % to 65.6 %
- Plastic packaging: decrease by 21 %[2], from 35.4 % to 27.9 %
- Wooden packaging: no decrease is assumed as the measurement point coincides with the sold product (i.e. chipped wood) (Eurostat, 2021d)
- Total packaging: Calculated based on the amounts of each packaging material generated and recycled in 2019, the recycling rate would drop from 62.4 % to 57.7 %.

Applying these estimates the recycling targets for wooden packaging and aluminium would still be exceeded, whereas the recycling rates of all other fractions as well as total packaging would be below the target levels.

Nevertheless, there are some inconsistencies between the data on municipal waste and packaging waste. Latvia reports packaging data based on EPR data. This approach is known to lead to underreporting and thus to an overestimation of the recycling rate. The Latvian authorities state that the reported amounts put on the market were corrected but the corrections are diminutive (Eurostat, 2021d). For example, when the total amount of glass waste in municipal waste is calculated based on data on the composition of municipal waste for 2019, the amount of mixed municipal waste and separately collected waste, and assuming that 80 % of glass in municipal waste is packaging, it can be estimated that municipal waste contains around 65 000 tonnes of glass packaging. If this is compared to the total reported 65 000 tonnes of glass packaging generated, it seems that the generated amount of glass waste from households and similar sources is the same as the total reported packaging waste generated which should also include packaging waste from commercial and industrial sources. These are rough calculations but they indicate that the generated amount of packaging waste might be underestimated, or that other statistical issues are responsible for this mismatch.

[2] This is the weighted recycling loss taking into account the 29 % recycling loss for packaging waste from household sources (66 %) and the 5 % recycling loss for packaging waste from commercial sources (33 %).

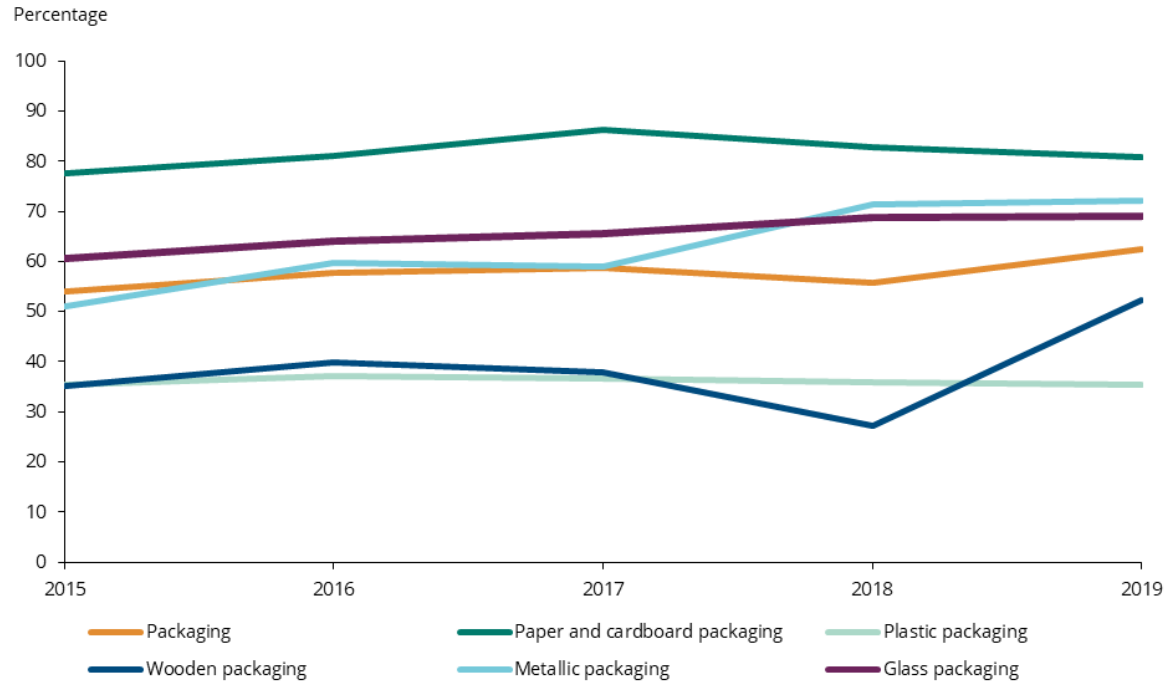
Summary result

Total packaging	5 - 15 percentage points below target	Latvia reports a recycling rate of 62.4 %. If the new calculation rules were applied (taking into account losses in the recycling plants for the different materials), the estimated recycling rate would drop to 57.7 %, 7.3 percentage points below the target.
Paper and cardboard packaging	< 5 percentage points below target	Latvia reports a recycling rate of 80.9 %. If the new calculation rules were applied (taking into account losses in the recycling plants for the different materials), the estimated recycling rate would drop to 72.8 %, 2.2 percentage points below the target.
Ferrous metals packaging	5 - 15 percentage points below target	Latvia reports a recycling rate of 72 % for metal packaging. If the new calculation rules were applied (taking into account losses in the recycling plants for the different materials), the estimated recycling rate would drop to 61.9 %, 8.1 percentage points below the target for ferrous metals, and exceeding the target for aluminium by 11.9 percentage points.
Aluminium packaging	Target exceeded	
Glass packaging	< 5 percentage points below target	Latvia reports a recycling rate of 69.0 %. If the new calculation rules were applied (taking into account losses in the recycling plants for the different materials), the estimated recycling rate would drop to 65.6 %, 4.5 percentage points below the target.
Plastics packaging	> 15 percentage points below target	Latvia reports a recycling rate of 35.4 %. If the new calculation rules were applied (taking into account losses in the recycling plants for the different materials), the estimated recycling rate would drop to 27.9 %, 22.1 percentage points below the target.
Wooden packaging	target exceeded	Latvia reports a recycling rate of 52.3 %. Loss rates for recycling must not be applied for wooden packaging as they are already included in the data. The target is exceeded by 27.3 percentage points.
Robustness of the underlying information		The assessment is limited by the fact that the recycling rates for 2019 reported by Latvia to Eurostat do not yet reflect the new calculation rules, and the impact of the new calculation rules has therefore been estimated based on literature (except for wooden packaging). Latvia does not expect the new calculation rules to impact the recycling rates since the calculation already includes losses from treatment. The data reported to Eurostat includes an estimate of the amounts put on the market by free-riders. The estimate is based on waste composition studies of residual waste. The recycling rate of packaging excludes other waste than packaging materials collected in the same system. The assessment is preliminary as it is based on currently available data that deviates from the calculation rules defined for the target. Distance to the target assessment for ferrous metals and aluminium packaging is estimated.

SRF P-1.2: Past trend in Packaging Waste Recycling

The development of the historical trend in the recycling rate indicates previous efforts towards packaging waste recycling. In this analysis the recycling rate reported in the Eurostat dataset *Recycling rates of packaging waste for monitoring compliance with policy targets, by type of packaging [env_waspacr]* (latest data year: 2019) is used. The recycling trends for packaging waste by material in Latvia are illustrated in Figure 2.3.

Figure 2.3 Trend in packaging waste recycling in Latvia between 2015 and 2019, in percentage



Source: Eurostat (2022c)

The overall packaging recycling rate in Latvia shows a significant increase during the past five years, with a slow increase until 2017, and a drop in 2018, and again an increase in 2019, leading overall to an increase by 8.5 percentage points since 2015. Wooden packaging has already exceeded the targets and a significant increase was observed between 2018 and 2019, as wood chips/granules were only included in recycling data in 2019 (if the "product certificates" were settled). Paper and cardboard packaging had already exceeded the 2025 target in 2017, however the recycling rate has been stagnating since. Plastics packaging recycling rates have been relatively stable over the past five years, fluctuating around 35 %. The recycling of metallic packaging (including both ferrous and aluminium) has shown a steady increasing trend in the past five years, with a sharp increase from 59 % to 71 % in 2018. Also glass packaging has shown a steady increasing trend during the past five years and was only one percentage point from the 70 % recycling target in 2019 (Eurostat, 2021c).

Summary result

Total packaging	RR > 55% and increase in last 5 years < 10 %	The recycling rate increased by 8.5 percentage points over the past five years, and is estimated at 57.7 % if the new calculation rules would be applied (taking into account losses in the recycling plants).
Paper and cardboard packaging	RR > 70% and increase in last 5 years < 5 percentage points	The recycling rate increased by 3.4 percentage points over the past five years, and is estimated at 72.8 % if the new calculation rules would be applied (taking into account losses in the recycling plants).
Ferrous metals packaging	RR > 60% and increase in last 5 years > 10 %,	The trend in recycling rate over the last five years cannot be quantified, as Latvia has only provided recycling rates for metallic packaging. This recycling rate shows an increase by 21.0 percentage points over the past five years, and is estimated at 61.9 if the new calculation rules would be applied (taking into account losses in the recycling plants).
Aluminium packaging	RR > 50%	
Glass packaging	RR > 65% and increase in last 5 years > 5 percentage points	The recycling rate increased by 8.5 percentage points over the past five years, and is estimated at 65.6 % if the new calculation rules would be applied (taking into account losses in the recycling plants).
Plastics packaging	RR < 40% and increase in last 5 years < 10 percentage points	The recycling rate increased by 0.1 percentage points over the past five years, and is estimated at 27.9 % if the new calculation rules would be applied (taking into account losses in the recycling plants).
Wooden packaging	RR > 25%	The recycling rate increased by 17.2 percentage points over the past five years, and is estimated at 52.3 % applying the new calculation rules would be applied.
Robustness of the underlying information		The assessment is limited by the fact that the recycling rates for 2019 reported by Latvia to Eurostat do not yet reflect the new calculation rules, and the impact of the new calculation rules has therefore been estimated based on literature. The data can be considered robust. The Latvian data reported to Eurostat includes an estimate of the amounts put on the market by free-riders. The estimate is based on waste composition studies of residual waste. The recycling rate of packaging excludes other waste than packaging materials collected in the same system. No information is available for separate trends for ferrous metal and aluminium packaging.

2.2.2 Legal instruments

SRF P-2.1: Timely transposition of the revised Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive into national law

Timely transposition of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive as amended by Directive 2018/852, into national law within the foreseen period is key for a waste management system in line with EU requirements. Latvia has transposed the PPWD into national law.

Summary result

Transposition without delay	The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive is transposed into national law.
Robustness of the underlying information	Information provided by the European Commission (status as of 12 November 2021)

SRF P-2.2: Responsibilities for meeting the targets, and enforcement mechanisms, e.g. fines etc.

Responsibilities for meeting the targets, and support and enforcement mechanisms with respect to packaging waste are described in detail in section 2.1.1 under SRF MSWR-2.2.

Summary result

Clearly defined responsibilities, enforcement and good set of support mechanisms for meeting the recycling targets	Latvia is reporting clearly defined responsibilities, enforcement mechanisms and support mechanisms for meeting the targets.
Robustness of the underlying information	There is no information on the implementation of the enforcement mechanisms and whether local governments have been dismissed as a consequence of failure to meet targets or implementing waste management according to the requirements stated in the waste legislation.

2.2.3 Economic instruments

SRF P-3.1: Taxes and/or ban for landfilling residual- or biodegradable waste

Bans and taxes on landfilling of residual waste can help to discourage strong reliance on residual waste treatment and thus support recycling, also of packaging waste.

As described in Section 2.1.3 in more detail, Latvia has introduced an escalator and increased the landfill tax, which is now 65 EUR/t covering also outputs of MBT plants that are landfilled. Furthermore, Latvia is introducing a landfill ban as of 2030.

Summary result

Landfill tax > 30 EUR/t([a]) with escalator	The landfill tax is currently 65 EUR/t (corresponding to 85 EUR/t rescaled based on purchasing power parities), and it includes an escalator.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.

([a]) Note: Rescaled based on purchasing power parities Eurostat (2020a)

SRF P-3.2: Taxes on municipal waste incineration

Taxes on incineration of residual waste can help to discourage strong reliance on residual waste treatment and thus support recycling. As described in Section 2.1.3 in more detail, Latvia has an incineration tax of 15 EUR/t without escalator in place.

Summary result

Yes, taxes > 18 EUR/t([a])	The incineration tax of 15 EUR/t (corresponding to 19.6 EUR/t rescaled based on purchasing power parities) does not include an escalator.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.

([a]) Note: Rescaled based on purchasing power parities Eurostat (2020a)

SRF P-3.3: Packaging taxes

Packaging taxes can support the aim to reduce packaging waste generation and/or to influence the choice of packaging materials and encourage recyclability and eco-design.

According to the information available, Latvia has the following packaging taxes (OECD, 2020; MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021):

- metals (1.10 EUR/kg);
- glass (0.44 EUR/kg);
- wood, paper, carton or other natural fibre materials (0.24 EUR/kg);
- plastics (1.22 EUR/kg);
- oxy-degradable plastics (1.22 EUR/kg);
- polystyrene (2.20 EUR/kg);
- lightweight plastic carrier bags (4.80 EUR/kg);
- plastic carrier bags thicker than 50 microns (1.50 EUR/kg).

Producers are exempted from paying the packaging tax when they join a producer responsibility organisation.

Summary result

Packaging taxes in place	Latvia has packaging taxes in place with the aim to reduce packaging waste generation, to influence the choice of packaging materials and to motivate producers to join a producer responsibility organisation.
Robustness of the underlying information	The information is robust as it is defined in Latvian legislation.

SRF P-3.4: Pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) system in place

As a large share of packaging waste is generated in households, incentivising households to separate packaging waste at source, e.g. by applying PAYT systems, is relevant for meeting the recycling targets for packaging waste.

As described in Section 2.1.3 in more detail, Latvia has not implemented PAYT, only one municipality has experimental implementation of PAYT.

Summary result

Less than 50% of the population covered by PAYT	Latvia has not implemented PAYT, only one municipality has an implementation of PAYT.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.

SRF P-3.5: Deposit return systems

Deposit Return Systems (DRS) generate high capture rates for packaging covered by the system and thus contribute to increased recycling rates.

There is a newly established deposit return system for plastics, aluminium and glass beverage packaging. The deposit system operator in Latvia is *SIA Depozīta Iepakojuma Operators.* The operator is responsible for all DRS for packaging, including glass, plastics and aluminium packaging for carbonated and non-carbonated non-alcoholic beverages, beer, and other fermented products with an alcohol content of up to 6 % (such as cider and alcoholic cocktails) (MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021).

The NWMP includes plans to assess the option of introducing a DRS for cardboard packaging in 2025.

Summary result

Aluminium drink cans	Mandatory DRS for some drink cans	Specific cans with a volume of 0.2 to 1 l
Glass drink bottles	Mandatory DRS for some glass drink bottles	Specific glass bottles with a volume of 0.1 to 3 l
Plastic drink bottles	Mandatory DRS for some plastic drink bottles	Specific plastic PET bottles with a volume of 0.1 to 3 l and specific bottles for alcoholic beverages with a volume of 0.1 to 0.5 or 1 l
Plastic crates	No DRS for plastic crates	
Wooden packaging	No DRS for wooden packaging	
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.	

2.2.4 Separate collection system

SRF P-4.1: Convenience and coverage of separate collection for different packaging waste fractions

As a large part of packaging waste comes from households, separate collection systems for households and similar sources are a key condition for achieving high recycling rates of packaging waste and for collecting recyclables at adequate quality. Generally, the more convenient and accessible these systems are for their users, the better results they can deliver. The material specific assessment considers packaging waste from both household and non-household sources. For assessing the convenience and coverage of separate collection systems for households, the same methodology is used here as described in section 2.1.4.

As described in Section 2.1.4 in more detail, separate collection is mandatory in Latvia for both households and businesses and companies (non-households). There are no enforcement mechanisms to ensure the sorting and separation of packaging waste at household nor non-households.

From the total amount of packaging waste collected, the amount of packaging waste collected from households should be at least (In accordance with Regulation No. 480):

- 25 % in 2021;
- 35 % in 2022;
- 40 % in 2023.

Summary result

Paper and cardboard packaging	**1. Packaging waste from households** A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	High density bring points and civic amenity sites are the predominant system in Latvia for collection of paper and cardboard waste. Taking into account that the bring points have a significantly higher user rate, they are considered the dominant system for cities and suburbs in the assessment. The separate collection system applies both to household and non-household producers of packaging waste
	2. Packaging waste from non-household sources Separation at source is mandatory for non-household paper and cardboard packaging waste	
Ferrous metals packaging	**1. Packaging waste from households** A low share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	Civic amenity sites are the predominant system in Latvia for collection of metal waste. The separate collection system applies both to household and non-household producers of municipal waste. However, ferrous metals are also extracted from mixed waste in sorting plants.
	2. Packaging waste from non-household sources Separation at source is mandatory for non-household ferrous metals packaging waste	
Aluminium packaging	**Packaging waste from households** A low share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	Civic amenity sites are the predominant system in Latvia for collection of metal waste. However, there is a mandatory DRS in Latvia for some aluminium drink cans, and non-ferrous metals are also extracted from mixed waste in sorting plants.
Glass packaging	**1. Packaging waste from households** A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	High density bring points and civic amenity sites are the predominant system in Latvia for collection of glass waste, with a portion of co-mingled collection in rural areas. Taking into account, that the bring points have a significantly higher user rate than civic amenity sites, they are considered the dominant system for cities and suburbs in the assessment. The separate collection system applies both to household and non-household producers of municipal waste
	2. Packaging waste from non-household sources Separation at source is mandatory for non-household glass packaging waste	
Plastics packaging	**1. Packaging waste from households** A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	High density bring points and civic amenity sites are the predominant system in Latvia for collection plastic waste, with a portion of co-mingled collection in rural areas. Taking into account, that the bring points have a significantly higher user rate than civic amenity sites, they are considered the dominant system for cities and suburbs in the assessment. The separate collection system applies both to household and non-household producers of municipal waste
	2. Packaging waste from non-household sources Separation at source is mandatory for non-household plastic packaging waste	
Wooden packaging	**Packaging waste from non-household sources** Separation at source is mandatory for non-household wooden packaging waste	Civic amenity sites are the predominant system in Latvia for collection of wood waste

Robustness of the underlying information	The separate collection system applies both to household and non-household producers of municipal waste. PROs are required to report separately on household and other (non-households) packaging waste. The information on co-mingling in rural areas might impact the assessment, see section 2.1.4

Note: The main source for aluminium packaging waste is drink cans from households, therefore the assessment does not consider aluminium non-household waste.

SRF P-4.2: Firm plans to improve the convenience and coverage of separate collection for the different packaging waste fractions

To improve the convenience and coverage of separate collection, concrete plans are needed. This SRF is only relevant for MS and materials that do not score 'green' in SRF P-4.1. The assessment is done on a material basis and summing up the scores of the different materials according to their average share in packaging waste[3]. Again, the material specific assessment considers packaging waste from both household and non-household sources.

Latvia plans to extend the separate collection services, the budgets for these activities are allocated in the NWMP. The NWMP includes plans to improve and expand the existing separate waste collection system of municipalities by (MEPRD, 2021; MEPRD and LEGMC, 2021):

- Increasing the number of collection points and civic amenity sites and developing door-to-door collection services for households;
- Introduce smart containers at the collection points;
- Providing containers for waste sorting free of charge to companies and households;
- to expand the deposit return system (DRS) for packaging: to expand the coverage of the DRS for beverage containers and assess the option of introducing a DRS for cardboard packaging in 2025;
- investigate the alternative of a combined deposit system with other Baltic countries (Estonia) as of 2027.

Summary result

Paper and cardboard packaging	**1. Packaging waste from households** N/A (for countries already covering > 80% of the population by high convenience points)	
	2. Packaging waste from non-household sources N/A (for countries already implementing mandatory sorting at source for non-household paper and cardboard packaging waste)	

[3] Based on data from Eurostat on the share of packaging materials in total packaging generated in 2018.

Ferrous metals packaging	**1. Packaging waste from households** No firm plans to improve the convenience and coverage	Currently, metals are only collected at civic amenity sites and Latvia has not indicated any plans to introduce separate collection of metals at bring points.
	2. Packaging waste from non-household sources N/A (for countries already implementing mandatory sorting at source for non-household ferrous metals packaging waste)	
Aluminium packaging	**Packaging waste from households** There are plans to improve the collection service but unclear plan for implementation.	There is a mandatory DRS in Latvia for some aluminium drink cans and plans to further expand this system. However, there is no indication of the impact of the expansion.
Glass packaging	**1. Packaging waste from households** N/A (for countries already implementing mandatory sorting at source for non-household glass packaging waste)	Currently, glass is collected at bring points and civic amenity sites, and in rural areas also by co-mingled collection. However, Latvia has indicated plans to improve and expand the existing separate waste collection system but there is no clear indication of the potential for improving coverage or convenience of glass packaging collection. There is also a mandatory DRS in Latvia for some glass drink bottles and plans to further expand this system. However, there is no indication of the impact of the expansion.
	2. Packaging waste from non-household sources N/A (for countries already implementing mandatory sorting at source for non-household glass packaging waste)	
Plastics packaging	**1. Packaging waste from households** N/A (for countries already covering > 80% of the population by high convenience points)	
	2. Packaging waste from non-household sources N/A (for countries already implementing mandatory sorting at source for non-household plastic packaging waste)	
Wooden packaging	**Packaging waste from non-household sources** N/A (for countries already implementing mandatory sorting at source for non-household wooden packaging waste)	Currently, wood is only collected at civic amenity sites in cities and suburbs.
Robustness of the underlying information	The separate collection system applies both to household and non-household producers of municipal waste. However, since there are no enforcement mechanisms to ensure the sorting and separation of packaging waste at non-households, there is no information regarding how the mandatory separation at source is validated. The information regarding non-household sources is currently not considered robust.	

2.2.5 Extended producer responsibility (EPR) and similar schemes

SRF P-5.1: Coverage of EPR schemes

As described in Section 2.1.5 in more detail, in Latvia, there are five active PROs covering packaging waste from both household and non-household sources and covering all packaging materials.

Summary result

All main packaging fractions([a]) are covered by EPR schemes, covering household and non-household packaging	In Latvia, there is an EPR system in place, covering packaging waste from both household and non-household sources for all packaging materials.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.

([a]) **Note:** Paper and cardboard, Ferrous metals, Aluminium, Glass, Plastic

SRF P-5.2: Fee modulation in EPR schemes for packaging

As explained in Section 2.1.5, fee modulation (or eco-modulation) is a system with different fees for different types of packaging material and designs. The assessment is the same as described in Section 2.1.5

Currently, Latvia does not apply advanced fee modulation. There is a transparent compliance check by the Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) where an independent auditor verifies that producers report correctly. Changes to the requirements on fees are however planned for plastics and composite packaging.

Summary result

No advanced fee modulation	Latvia does not apply advanced fee modulation.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.

SRF P-5.3 Material specific EPR assessment

The material specific assessment is based on a combination of the coverage of the material specific EPR schemes and the use of fee modulation for the specific packaging material. The assessment takes the different situations for different types of materials into account: Plastics packaging is the packaging material that is the most difficult to recycle out of the packaging materials targeted by the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. Fee modulation therefore plays a larger role for plastic packaging than for the other materials and is therefore rated differently from paper/cardboard, ferrous metals, aluminium and glass. The methodology foresees a green score for plastics packaging only if all four fee modulation assessment criteria mentioned above are met. On the other hand, wooden packaging is mainly generated by commercial and industrial sources and fee modulation is less relevant, therefore the methodology only relies on EPR schemes for wooden packaging from commercial and industrial sources.

As described in Section 2.1.5 in more detail, in Latvia, there are five EPR systems in place for packaging, covering packaging waste from both household and non-household sources and covering all packaging materials.

Summary result

SRF P-5.3.1 EPR scheme for Paper and cardboard packaging waste	EPR scheme covering household and non-household packaging	Latvia does not apply fee modulation in the EPR scheme. The EPR scheme covers packaging waste from both household and non-household sources.
SRF P-5.3.2 EPR scheme for Ferrous metals packaging waste	EPR scheme covering household and non-household packaging	Latvia does not apply fee modulation in the EPR scheme. The EPR scheme covers packaging waste from both household and non-household sources.
SRF P-5.3.3 EPR scheme for Aluminium packaging waste	EPR scheme covering household and non-household packaging	Latvia does not apply fee modulation in the EPR scheme. The EPR scheme covers packaging waste from both household and non-household sources.
SRF P-5.3.4 EPR scheme for Glass packaging waste	EPR scheme covering household and non-household packaging	Latvia does not apply fee modulation in the EPR scheme. The EPR scheme covers packaging waste from both household and non-household sources.
SRF P-5.3.5 EPR scheme for Plastic packaging waste	EPR scheme without fee modulation	Latvia does not apply fee modulation in the EPR scheme. The EPR scheme covers packaging waste from both household and non-household sources.
SRF P-5.3.6 EPR scheme for Wooden packaging waste	EPR scheme covering all non-household packaging	The EPR scheme covers wooden packaging waste from all non-household sources.
Robustness of the underlying information	Credible information received from the Latvian authorities through the EEA-ETC/WMGE questionnaire.	

2.3 Target on landfill of municipal waste

2.3.1 Current situation and past trends

SRF LF-1.1: Distance to target

The Landfill directive (1999/31/EC), as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/850, sets a target to reduce, by 2035, the amount of municipal waste landfilled to 10 % or less of the total amount of municipal waste generated (by weight).

Data to show the current rate of landfilling in line with the reporting rules will only be reported by mid-2022. Therefore, this analysis calculates the landfilling rate based on the current Eurostat dataset *Municipal waste by waste management operations [env_wasmun]*; by dividing the amount of landfilled waste by the total amount of waste generated. The overall landfilling rate of Latvia was 52.8 % in 2020 (calculated based on (Eurostat, 2022a)). Thus, the distance to target is 42.8 percentage points. The landfilled waste includes a large amount of biologically treated mixed municipal waste.

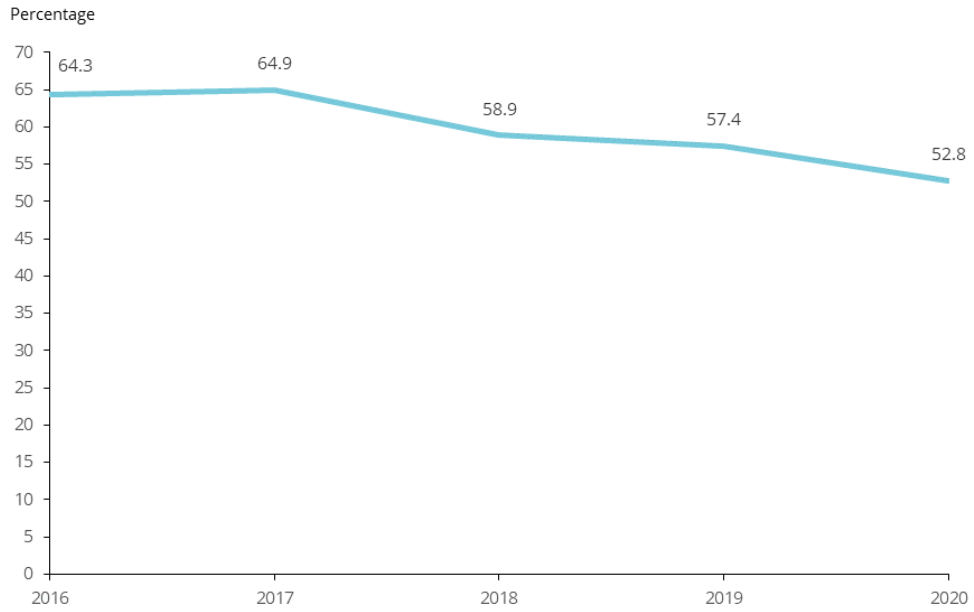
Summary result

Distance to target > 20 percentage points	The distance to target for Latvia is 42.8 percentage points with a landfilling rate of 52.8 % in 2020.
Robustness of the underlying information	The data are derived from Eurostat and are considered to be rather robust. However, the reported landfill rate might increase once the new calculation rules laid down in the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1885 will be applied. Based on the available information, it is currently not possible to quantify the impact of the new calculation rules on the landfill rate.

SRF LF-1.2: Past trend in municipal solid waste landfill rate

Over the past five years, the overall landfilling rate of Latvia shows first an increase followed by a decrease (Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4 Landfilling in Latvia between 2015 and 2019, in percentage



Source: Eurostat (2022a)

Summary result

Landfill rate in 2020 > 25% and decrease in last 5 years < 15 percentage points	Latvia has done much effort in increasing the recycling rates and landfilling rates keep on decreasing.
Robustness of the underlying information	The waste treatment varies significantly over time, with higher treatment rates, the recycling rates are also higher. The increase in recycling seems not to have a significant impact on landfilling rates.

SRF LF-1.3: Diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill

According to Art. 5(2c) of the EU Landfill Directive, Member States had to ensure that by 2016, biodegradable municipal waste going to landfills is reduced to 35 % of the total amount (by weight) of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995 or the latest year before 1995 for which standardised Eurostat data is available. However, Latvia benefits from a four year derogation period and thus has to meet the target by 2020.

Latvia has reported 56 % biodegradable waste landfilled for 2019, which is the latest available data (EC, 2022).

Summary result

Target for reducing the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) landfilled to 35% of BMW generated in 1995 has not been achieved yet and available data indicate that it is unlikely to be achieved	Latvia has reported 56 % biodegradable waste landfilled for 2019 of the total amount (by weight) of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995, 21 percentage points above the target. Latvia benefits from a four year derogation period, but the evolution over the past years does not show feasible evidence that the target could be met.
Robustness of the underlying information	The data can be considered robust.

3 Conclusion

This risk assessment indicates whether Latvia is at risk of not meeting the targets. The 'total risk' categorization is the result of the sum of the individual scores of each SRF as described in the previous chapter, where the assessment of each SRF results in a score of **2 points (green), 1 point (amber) or 0 points (red)**, depending on the assessment of the SRF. As some SRFs are considered to have a higher impact on meeting the target, the score of the SRF is multiplied by the defined weight of the SRF. As some SRFs might not be applicable to Latvia, only the SRFs relevant to Latvia are taken into account to define the maximum score. Latvia is considered to be 'not at risk' if its score is more than 50 % of this maximum score, and 'at risk' if its score is less than 50 % of this maximum score.

3.1 Prospects for meeting the recycling target for municipal solid waste

34 % **of maximum score**	Based on the provided information and the analysis done, it is concluded that Latvia is **at risk for not meeting the MSW recycling target in 2025**.
Current situation and past trends:	Based on currently available data Latvia's recycling rate lies at 39.6 %, so the distance to the 2025 target is 15.4 percentage points. Considering however the impact of the new calculation rules, we assume a reduction with 5 percentage points for this assessment, resulting in an estimated recycling rate of 34.6 %, 20.4 percentage point below the target. A strong increasing trend in recycling can be seen during the past years, mainly as a result of including exports for recycling in statistics.
Legal instruments:	The amended WFD has been transposed into Latvian law with a delay of more than 12 months. Latvia has clearly defined responsibilities, enforcement and support mechanisms for meeting the recycling targets
Economic instruments:	There is a landfill tax for recyclable waste, and a tax on incineration. Latvia has not implemented PAYT, only one municipality has experimental implementation of PAYT.
Separate collection systems:	Currently the separate collection system relies heavily on high-density bring points and collection at civic amenity sites. The bring points target mainly packaging waste as the container openings are designed to best fit for packaging waste. A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services for paper and cardboard, plastics, and glass. A medium share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services for bio-waste and WEEE. A low share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services for metals, wood, and textiles. Latvia plans to extend the separate collection services by increasing the number of collection points and developing door-to-door

	collection services for households. There is also a newly established deposit return system for plastics, aluminium and glass beverage packaging and further plans to expand the system. Latvia is planning to increase the coverage of door-to-door collection of bio-waste gradually, starting with the municipalities located near Riga in 2021, followed by the remaining municipalities by the end of 2023.
Extended producer responsibility:	EPR schemes are in place for packaging waste from households and non-households, but there is no advanced fee modulation.
Bio-waste treatment capacity and quality management:	Bio-waste treatment capacity is high and currently partly used also for the biological output from MBT. The capacities surpass the total bio-waste generation.

3.2 Prospects for meeting the recycling target for packaging waste

68 % **of maximum score**	Based on the provided information and the analysis done, it is concluded that Latvia is **not at risk for not meeting the 65 % recycling target for packaging waste in 2025**	
87 % of maximum score	Paper and cardboard	Not at Risk
65 % of maximum score	Ferrous metals packaging	Not at Risk
74 % of maximum score	Aluminium packaging	Not at Risk
88 % of maximum score	Glass packaging	Not at Risk
44 % of maximum score	Plastics packaging	At Risk
88 % of maximum score	Wooden packaging	Not at Risk
Current situation and past trends:	The total packaging waste recycling rate is 62.4 %, 2.6 percentage points from the 2025 target of 65 %. Taking into account the new calculation rules, the recycling rate drops to 57.7 %, 7.3 percentage points below the target. The total packaging recycling rate has increased by less than one percentage points over the past five years. All waste materials have exceeded the targets for recycling for 2025, except ferrous metals and plastics packaging, which are 8.1 and 22.1 percentage points respectively from the 2025 target.	
Legal instruments:	The PPWD is transposed into national law in Latvia. Latvia has clearly defined responsibilities and support mechanisms for meeting the recycling targets.	
Economic instruments:	There is a landfill tax for recyclable waste, a tax on incineration, as well as packaging taxes in place.	

	Latvia has not implemented PAYT, only one municipality has experimental implementation of PAYT. In Latvia, there is a mandatory DRS for some drink cans and bottles..
Separate collection systems:	Separate collection is mandatory in Latvia for both households and also for businesses and companies (non-households). For packaging waste, the service level for separate collection is assessed to be quite high. Currently the separate collection system relies heavily on high-density bring points targeting mainly packaging waste as the container openings are designed to best fit for packaging waste. A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services for paper and cardboard, plastics, glass and wooden packaging. For ferrous metals and aluminium, a low share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services. There is also a newly established deposit return system for plastic, aluminium and glass beverage packaging and further plans to expand the system. Latvia has indicated plans to improve and expand the existing separate waste collection system as well as to introduce a DRS for beverage containers but there is no clear indication of the potential for improving coverage or convenience of glass packaging collection.
Extended producer responsibility:	There is an EPR system in place, covering packaging waste from both household and non-household sources for all packaging materials. However, no advanced fee modulation is applied to improve the design of packaging towards better recyclability.

3.3 Prospects of meeting the landfill of municipal waste target

0 % **of maximum score**	Based on the provided information and the analysis done, it is concluded that Latvia is **at risk for not meeting the 2035 target to reduce the amount of municipal waste landfilled to 10 % or less of the total amount of municipal waste generated.**
Current situation and past trends:	The overall landfilling rate of Latvia was 52.8 % in 2020. Thus, the distance to target is 42.8 percentage points. The landfilled waste includes a large amount of biologically treated mixed municipal waste. Latvia has done much effort in increasing the recycling rates and landfilling rates keep on decreasing.
Diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill:	Latvia has reported 56 % biodegradable waste landfilled for 2019 of the total amount (by weight) of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995, 21 percentage points above the target. Latvia benefits from a four year derogation period, but the evolution over the past years does not show feasible evidence that the target could be met.

List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Name
DRS	Deposit Return Systems
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environment Agency
Eionet	European Environmental Information and Observation Network
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
ETC/CE	European Topic Centre on Circular Economy and resource use
LEGMC	Latvian Environmental, Geological and Meteorological Centre
MBT	Mechanical biological treatment
MEPRD	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
MS	Member state
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NWMP	National Waste Management Plan, the Latvian NWMP is called State Waste Management Plan 2021-2028
PAYT	Pay As You Throw
PET	Polyethylene terephthalate
PPWD	Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive
PRO	Producer Responsibility Organisation
RR	Recycling rate
SRF	Success and risk factor
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
WFD	Waste Framework Directive

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Annex 1 Implementation of previous early warning recommendations

In 2018, the European Commission assessed that Latvia would be at risk of not meeting the Waste Framework Directive's target to prepare for re-use and recycle at least 50 % of municipal waste, and provided a set of policy recommendations to improve the situation (EC, 2018). This annex lists the recommendations and a self-assessment of the Latvian authorities on the status of taking them into account.

Recommendations on Economic incentives

1) *Assessment of the levels of the landfill tax rate and gate fee to conclude whether these are sufficiently high to act as financial incentives for separate waste collection and to shift waste away from disposal.*

Following the recommendations of the previous early warning, Latvia has significantly increased the landfill tax and also introduced an incineration tax; the disposal tax (including landfill and incineration) is increased as follows:

- Municipal waste from 25 €/ton (in 2017) to 95 €/ton (in 2023)
- Hazardous waste from 45 €/ton (in 2017) to 100 €/ton (in 2023)

Latvia considers the recommendation **implemented.** As a result of the implementation, Latvia reports that the recycling and recovery of waste are increased, and the amount of landfilled waste is reduced.

2) *Support to municipalities in their implementation of pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) schemes to encourage households to segregate waste. This will involve sharing best practice examples from both Latvia (taken from the ongoing PAYT trial) and abroad, and carrying out pilots of PAYT schemes specifically for apartments/multi-occupancy buildings.*

The National Waste Management plan for 2021 -2028 presents plans to do a background study on the implementation of PAYT in Latvia. Several municipalities have already assessed the potential of introducing PAYT. It is considered to be too expensive to introduce PAYT in cities and towns with a majority of multi-apartment houses. In rural areas with mainly single family houses it is considered possible. PAYT is currently implemented in one municipality in Latvia (Jūrmala, as of 1st March 2018). However, it is concluded that the system is too expensive in relation to the meagre results in separately collected waste. With these actions, Latvia considers the recommendation **partly implemented.**

Recommendations on Mandatory recycling targets for municipalities

3) *Adoption of national law (i) cascading the 50 % recycling rate target to municipalities accompanied by a (ii) monitoring of implementation and (iii) concrete consequences or penalties for missing these targets.*

(i) The Waste Management Law was amended in 2020, empowering Cabinet of Ministers to set targets for preparation for re-use, recycling, or material recovery of municipal waste. The responsibility of meeting the targets is now on the municipality in co-operation with the waste management companies. The draft regulation "Regulations on separate collection of waste, preparation for re-use,

recycling and material recovery"[4] transposes the targets for preparation for re-use, recycling, and material recovery for municipal waste of the WFD.

(ii) The monitoring of implementation of the set targets is established in the Waste Management Law, stating that the MEPRD (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development) is to assess if the targets are met using criteria set by the Cabinet of Ministers. Detailed order and criteria for assessment of targets are set in the draft "Regulations on separate collection of waste, preparation for re-use, recycling and material recovery"

(iii) The Waste Management Law provides, that after assessment of attainment of targets, the MEPRD will publish a list of municipalities and waste management companies, which have not reached the target. The Law On Municipalities states that the Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development may request an explanation from the chairperson of the city or municipality council. In the case of extreme breaches, the Parliament (the Saeima) may also dismiss the council of municipality, while the minister of environmental protection and regional development may dismiss the chairperson of municipality.

With these legislative amendments, Latvia considers the recommendation **implemented.**

Recommendations on Separate collection

4) *Setting out in national law minimum municipal waste collection standards, including the minimum number of collection points and minimum criteria on density of civic amenity sites.*

Regulations No.328[5] provides criteria for separate waste collection service in cities (population exceeding 50 000), towns and rural areas, stating the number of collection points and civic amenity sites for sorted recyclables. The responsibility of complying with the legislation is set on municipalities and waste management companies. With these legislative amendments, Latvia considers the recommendation **implemented.**

5) *Development of national minimum service standards for waste collection (including bio-waste) to specify, for example, the type and volume of containers, frequency of collection and type of vehicle used, taking into account the type of housing stock, how rural the area is, typical climate, etc.*

Minimum service standards for waste collection are set in Regulations No.788[6], defining types of waste collection and sorting sites (separate collection points, civic amenity sites, sorting and transfer stations, civic amenity sites for construction and demolition waste, composting site for biodegradable waste and composting site for park and garden waste). At points for separate collection there should be containers for separate collection of at least paper, metal, plastics and glass waste, as well as biodegradable waste. Technical requirements for waste collection and sorting sites include collection frequency depending on season, as well as types, volumes and labelling requirements of containers. Requirements for transport are set in Regulation No.703[7] providing that the waste management company has a permit for collection, transport, reloading, sorting or storage of waste.

With these legislative amendments, Latvia considers the recommendation **implemented.**

6) *Implementation of a mechanism that would (i) require municipalities to rectify their schemes if the minimum standards are not met, and (ii) apply penalties/consequences for failing to meet the standards.*

4 http://tap.mk.gov.lv/lv/mk/tap/?pid=40495461
5 https://likumi.lv/ta/id/291534
6 https://likumi.lv/ta/id/287396
7 https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/236019

(i) In accordance with Regulations No.328, municipalities must assess if separate waste collection meet the minimum standards (tbd within 1 year after regulations enter into force). Municipalities together with waste management companies review and adjust service level to ensure compliance with criteria of these regulations.

(ii) The Waste Management Law provides, that after assessment of attainment of targets, the MEPRD will publish a list of municipalities and waste management companies, which have not reached the target. The Law On Municipalities states that the Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development may request an explanation from the chairperson of the city or municipality council. In the case of extreme breaches, the Parliament (the Saeima) may also dismiss the council of municipality), while the minister of environmental protection and regional development may dismiss the chairperson of municipality.

With these legislative amendments, Latvia considers the recommendation **partly implemented.**

7) *Introduction of (i) compulsory bio-waste collection, and adoption of (ii) legislation on compost standards to ensure uptake of compost and digestate. Promotion of (iii) best practice in bio-waste collections, particularly for apartments/multi-occupancy buildings.*

(i) Compulsory bio-waste collection is stated in Regulations No.184[8], as of 2021 putting the responsibility of organising a system for separate collection of bio-waste on the local government in co-operation with waste companies. At the municipal landfill sites, a biodegradable waste recovery or recycling facility must at latest in 2022 be set up. If the collection system for some reason will start later than 2022, the treatment facility must be operating by end of 2023.

(ii) In accordance with the NWMP[9], Latvia is planning to develop compost standards and end-of-waste criteria for biodegradable waste by the end of 2021

(iii) The Waste Management Law states that State Environmental Service shall operate a website on separate collection to enhance public awareness and promote separate collection.

With these legislative amendments, Latvia considers the recommendation **partly implemented.**

Recommendations on Extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes

8) *Setting up by law a clearing house to coordinate the producer responsibility organisations (PROs) in Latvia, while stipulating how municipalities are remunerated by PROs for the management of the relevant waste material(s). This should include suitable checks to ensure that municipalities are not carrying out these collections in an inefficient manner. The clearing house would: (i) coordinate the PROs; (ii) collect, audit and validate data for the materials collected, both by the PROs and municipalities; and (iii) set up arrangements for channeling funding to municipalities in a fair manner (i.e. covering the cost necessary to provide a cost-efficient waste collection service).*

The State Environmental Service (SES) performs the functions of the clearing house - coordinates the PROs, collects and validates data for the materials collected. The PROs fund the collection of the specified type of waste (packaging waste and waste of electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and accumulators) covering all of Latvia. The waste collection points are managed by a municipal waste manager via contract with the local government.

With these actions, Latvia considers the recommendation **implemented.**

8 https://likumi.lv/ta/id/256092

9 http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/documents/6951

9) *Mandating the audits of data collected by the clearing house while ensuring that all parts of the market are covered (i.e. including the internet sales, etc.) to identify gaps or shortcomings in the data, and to ensure that these are addressed and that improvements are made.*

According to Natural Resources Tax Law[10], PROs must submit verified (audited) reports to SES regarding the financial management of the system and quality of data.

With these legislative amendments, Latvia considers the recommendation **implemented.**

10) *Managing the collection infrastructure so that it complements rather than duplicates municipal collection arrangements.*

Regulations No. 788 provides that the manager of PROs must by contract ensure that at all civic amenity sites managed by waste management companies contracted by municipalities collect (i) hazardous waste of household origin as provided in Regulations No.64[11] and (ii) household packaging and single-use cutlery, as provided in Regulation No. 480[12]. Thus, managers of PRO are required to use municipal collection arrangements and support their further development by contracts for separate waste collection services with municipalities.

With these legislative amendments, Latvia considers the recommendation **implemented.**

Recommendations on Spending of EU funds

11) *Prioritisation of projects higher up in the waste hierarchy, such as PAYT trials and separate collection, including of bio-waste. Channelling the available funding into suitable bio-waste treatment infrastructure.*

In 2014, Latvia has allocated cohesion funds for the establishment of biowaste anaerobic digestion and composting facilities with the annual capacity of 142 594 tons, further investments through REACT-EU funding are planned to expand the annual biowaste treatment capacity by 51 000 tons. In order to comply with the WFD, Latvia also plans to further expand separate collection of bio-waste, textiles and hazardous household waste . Funding is also planned for the further developement of waste recycling capacities with focus on bio-waste treatment.

In addition to that, investment is also planned for the implementation of the circular economy principles and moving up the waste hierarchy, for the closing and remediation of landfills, as well as for systems for tracing and reporting material flows.

With these actions, Latvia considers the recommendation **implemented.**

Recommendations on Improving data

12) *Publication of annual waste statistics for all municipalities, clearly stating recycling performance by municipality, and address any issues or gaps with respect to data on the collection of commercial waste.*

Waste collection and recycling performance by municipality are reported by waste management companies and reported annually in the 3-Waste[13] report published by LEGMC.

With these actions, Latvia considers the recommendation **implemented.**

10 https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/124707

11 https://likumi.lv/ta/id/320622

12 https://likumi.lv/ta/id/292919

13 https://videscentrs.lvgmc.lv/lapas/atkritumi-un-radiacijas-objekti/

13) *Extension of data collection to cover collection, treatment and disposal, including robust data collection from waste operators, with a clear understanding of the end destinations of materials (i.e. recycling or disposal route).*

In accordance with the Waste Management Law, companies active within waste management must record the volume, type, origin, frequency of collection and transport, type and place of recovery or disposal of waste and store such information for at least for three years. They also have to register waste transports from collection sites to treatment in accordance with Regulations No.494[14] There is also a separate registration system for transportation of construction and demolition waste in accordance with Regulations No.199[15]. As of 1st July 2021, a unified waste transportation registration system will become operational and both regulations will be replaced by Regulations No.113[16].

Order of providing waste statistics is set by Regulations No.271[17]. All waste management companies are obliged to report data on waste collection and treatment for the annual State Statistical survey 3-Waste, managed by LEGMC. The Regional Environmental Boards of State Environmental Service are responsible for supervision of data collection, management of data base and for checking consistency and coherency of data.

With these actions, Latvia considers the recommendation **implemented.**

Recommendations on Communication and awareness raising

14) *Development of a set of national communications materials addressed to the public for use at local level, with clear and consistent messages, and with particular focus on bio-waste. These materials should be used as part of awareness-raising campaigns, in leaflets and at civic amenity sites.*

Latvia has implemented campaigns with the aim to increase public awareness on sorting and waste reduction via presence online and on social media, as well as in advertisements. The campaigns have developed communications materials, videos, and in addition, a family of four well-known people was involved in the 'Reduce Waste' challenge, which sorted waste over several weeks with the aim to show the reduction in residual waste generation. In 2018, the “Sort easily” campaign was implemented with the aim of encouraging people to sort waste. In 2019-2020, the “Discarded Not Missing” campaign was aimed to increase public awareness on waste reduction.

Public awareness campaigns are constantly ongoing, targeting the harmful environmental impacts of excessive consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags. The Packaging Law sets out the obligation for producers and retailers to inform consumers on the importance of reduction in consumption of plastic carrier bags, of alternative packaging solutions and of multi-use bags.

With these actions, Latvia considers the recommendation **implemented.**

Recommendations on Technical support to municipalities

15) *Development of a system at national level that provides technical support for municipalities, specifically in the following areas: (a) choosing collection services; (b) service procurement; (c) service management; and (d) communication campaigns; coupled with active sharing of good ideas and practices that can improve efficiency in terms of cost reduction and improvement in performance.*

14 https://likumi.lv/ta/id/300874
15 https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/265711
16 https://likumi.lv/ta/id/321151
17 https://likumi.lv/ta/id/291027

A system for technical support for municipalities has been developed at national level, covering all the recommended areas. (a) The Waste Management Law stipulates that municipalities must choose collection service provider in accordance with the laws and regulations governing public procurement or public-private partnership. The economically most advantageous offer determines as the criterion for selecting an offer. (b) The Waste Management Law[18] provides that local government shall include requirements on qualification and performance in the tendering and indicate a landfill site for waste disposal of according to the regional waste management plan. The Cabinet of Ministers determines minimum quality, technical and environmental requirements for service procurement according to Regulations No. 546[19]. (c) Regulations No. 546 sets requirements on the exchange of information between municipality and waste management company thus ensuring sufficient supervision of quality and efficiency of service. In accordance with the Waste Management Law, each municipality issue binding regulations regarding the management of municipal waste within their administrative territory, including the division into waste management zones, requirements for waste collection including frequency, transport and logistics, payment procedures, as well as authorities controlling the compliance with these regulations. The MEPRD assesses the conformity of these regulations with the laws and regulations regarding waste management, the NWMP and regional plans. (d) In accordance with Regulations No. 546, the waste management companies are obliged to arrange public awareness campaigns.

With these actions, Latvia considers the recommendation **implemented.**

18 https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/221378-waste-management-law

19 https://likumi.lv/ta/id/284195

Annex 2 Detailed scoring of success and risk factors

Assessment sheet - Recycling target for municipal waste

MS Latvia

Date Jun-22

SRF		Assessment result	Weight	Score
Current situation and past trends				
MSWR-1.1	Distance to target	Distance to target > 15 percentage points or no data reported	5	0
MSWR-1.2	Past trends in municipal solid waste recycling rate	RR < 45% and increase in last 5 years < 10 percentage points	1	0
Legal instruments				
MSWR-2.1	Timely transposition of the revised WFD into national law	Transposition with delay of > 12 months, or no full transposition yet	1	0
MSWR-2.2	Clearly defined responsibilities for meeting the targets and support and enforcement mechanisms	Clearly defined responsibilities, enforcement and good set of support mechanisms for meeting the recycling targets	1	2
Economic instruments				
MSWR-3.1	Taxes and/or ban for landfilling residual or biodegradable waste	Ban, or landfill tax > 30 EUR/t* with escalator, or landfill tax > 45 EUR/t	1	2
MSWR-3.2	Taxes on municipal waste incineration	Taxes > 7 EUR/t* with escalator, or tax > 18 EUR/t	1	2
MSWR-3.3	Pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) system	No or less than 50% of the population covered by PAYT	1	0

Separate collection systems				
MSWR-4.1	Convenience and coverage of separate collection systems for the different household waste fractions			
	Paper and cardboard	A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	0.46	0.92
	Metals	A low share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	0.08	0
	Plastics	A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	0.28	0.56
	Glass	A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	0.18	0.36
	Bio-waste	A medium share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	0.84	0.84
	Wood	A low share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	0.06	0
	Textiles	A low share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	0.06	0
	WEEE	Medium convenience collection services dominate	0.04	0.04
MSWR-4.2	Firm plans to improve the convenience and coverage of separate collection systems for the different household waste fractions			
	Paper and cardboard	N/A (for countries in which a very high share of the population is already covered by high convenience collection services)	0.23	0
	Metals	No firm plans to improve the convenience and coverage	0.04	0
	Plastics	N/A (for countries in which a very high share of the population is already covered by high convenience collection services)	0.14	0
	Glass	N/A (for countries in which a very high share of the population is already covered by high convenience collection services)	0.09	0
	Bio-waste	There are plans to improve the collection service but unclear plan for implementation	0.42	0.42
	Wood	There are plans to improve the collection service but unclear plan for implementation	0.03	0.03
	Textiles	There are plans to improve the collection service but unclear plan for implementation	0.03	0.03
	WEEE	There are plans to improve the collection service but unclear plan for implementation	0.02	0.02

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) and similar schemes				
MSWR-5.1	Fee modulation in EPR schemes for packaging	No advanced fee modulation OR fee modulation meets less than two assessment criteria	1	0
Bio-waste treatment capacity and quality management				
MSWR-6.1	Capacity for the treatment of bio-waste	Enough bio-waste treatment capacity for 80% of generated municipal bio-waste	1	2
MSWR-6.2	Legally binding national standards and Quality Management System for compost/digistate	No national standards or quality management system, or still under development	1	0
			Total score	**11.22**
			Maximum score	33.08
				34%

Assessment sheet - Recycling target for packaging waste

MS Latvia

Date Jun-22

SRF		Assessment result	Weight	Score
Current situation and past trends				
P-1.1	Distance to target - Overall packaging	5 - 15 percentage points below target	5	5
	Distance to target - Paper and cardboard packaging	< 5 percentage points below target, or target exceeded	5	10
	Distance to target - Ferrous metals packaging	5 - 15 percentage points below target	5	5
	Distance to target - Aluminium packaging	< 5 percentage points below target, or target exceeded	5	10
	Distance to target - Glass packaging	< 5 percentage points below target, or target exceeded	5	10
	Distance to target - Plastics packaging	> 15 percentage points below target, or no data reported	5	0
	Distance to target - Wooden packaging	< 5 percentage points below target, or target exceeded	5	10
P-1.2	Past trends in packaging waste recycling rate	RR > 60% and increase in last 5 years < 5 percentage points, or RR > 55%, and increase in last 5 years < 10 percentage points, or RR < 55% and increase in last 5 years > 10 percentage points	1	1
	Past trends in paper and cardboard packaging recycling	RR > 70% and increase in last 5 years < 5 percentage points, or RR > 65%, and increase in last 5 years < 10 percentage points, or RR < 65% and increase in last 5 years > 10 percentage points	1	1
	Past trends in ferrous metals packaging recycling	RR > 65% and increase in last 5 years > 5 percentage points, or RR > 60% and increase in last 5 years > 10 %, or RR > 70%	1	2
	Past trends in aluminium packaging recycling	RR > 45% and increase in last 5 years > 5 percentage points, or RR > 40% and increase in last 5 years > 10 %, or RR > 50%	1	2
	Past trends in glass packaging recycling	RR > 65% and increase in last 5 years > 5 percentage points, or RR > 60% and increase in last 5 years > 10 %, or RR > 70%	1	2

	Past trends in plastic packaging recycling	RR < 40% and increase in last 5 years < 10 percentage points	1	0
	Past trends in wooden packaging recycling	RR > 20% and increase in last 5 years > 5 percentage points, or RR > 15% and increase in last 5 years > 10 %, or RR > 25%	1	2
Legal instruments				
P-2.1	Timely transposition of the revised Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive into national law	Transposition without delay	1	2
P-2.2	Clearly defined responsibilities for meeting the targets and support and enforcement mechanisms	Clearly defined responsibilities, enforcement and good set of support mechanisms for meeting the recycling targets	1	2
Economic instruments				
P-3.1	Taxes and/or ban for landfilling residual or biodegradable waste	Ban, or landfill tax > 30 EUR/t* with escalator	1	2
P-3.2	Taxes on municipal waste incineration	Taxes > 7 EUR/t* with escalator, or tax > 18 EUR/t	1	2
P-3.3	Packaging taxes	Packaging taxes in place	1	2
P-3.4	Pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) system	No or less than 50% of the population covered by PAYT	1	0
P-3.5	Deposit-return systems for aluminium drink cans	Mandatory for some or voluntary DRS for nearly all drink cans	1	1
	Deposit-return systems for glass drink bottles	Mandatory for some or voluntary DRS for nearly all drink bottles	1	1
	Deposit-return systems plastic drink bottles	Mandatory for some or voluntary DRS for nearly all drink bottles	1	1
	Deposit-return systems for plastic crates	No or voluntary DRS for some plastic crates	1	0
	Deposit-return systems for wooden packaging	No or voluntary DRS for some wooden packaging	1	0

Separate collection systems				
P-4.1	Convenience and coverage of separate collection systems for the different packaging waste fractions			
	Paper and cardboard packaging (household)	A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	1	2
	Paper and cardboard packaging (non-household)	Separation at source is mandatory for non-household paper and cardboard packaging waste	1	2
	Ferrous metals packaging (household)	A low share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	1	0
	Ferrous metals packaging (non-household)	Separation at source is mandatory for non-household ferrous metals packaging waste	1	2
	Aluminium packaging	A low share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	2	0
	Glass packaging (household)	A high share of population is covered by high convenience collection services	1	2
	Glass packaging (non-household)	Separation at source is mandatory for non-household glass packaging waste	1	2
	Plastics packaging (household)	A high share of the population is covered by high convenience collection services	1	2
	Plastics packaging (non-household)	Separation at source is mandatory for non-household plastic packaging waste	1	2
	Wooden packaging	Separation at source is mandatory for non-household wooden packaging waste	2	4
P-4.2	Firm plans to improve the convenience and coverage of separate collection systems for the different packaging waste fractions			
	Paper and cardboard (household)	N/A (for countries in which a high share of the population is already covered by high convenience collection services)	0.5	0
	Paper and cardboard (non-household)	N/A (for countries already having mandatory sorting at source)	0.5	0
	Ferrous metals packaging (household)	No firm plans to improve the convenience and coverage	0.5	0
	Ferrous metals packaging (non-household)	N/A (for countries already having mandatory sorting at source)	0.5	0
	Aluminium packaging	There are plans to improve the collection service but unclear plan for implementation	1	1
	Glass packaging (household)	N/A (for countries in which a very high share of the population is already covered by high convenience collection services)	0.5	0
	Glass packaging (non-household)	N/A (for countries already having mandatory sorting at source)	0.5	0

	Plastics packaging (household)	N/A (for countries in which a very high share of the population is already covered by high convenience collection services)	0.5	0
	Plastics packaging (non-household)	N/A (for countries already having mandatory sorting at source)	0.5	0
	Wooden packaging	N/A (for countries already having mandatory sorting at source)	1	0
Extended producer responsibility (EPR) and similar schemes				
P-5.1	Coverage of EPR schemes	All main packaging fractions* are covered by EPR schemes, covering household and non-household packaging	1	2
P-5.2	Fee modulation in EPR schemes for packaging	No fee modulation OR fee modulation meets less than two assessment criteria	1	0
P-5.3	Material specific EPR assessment - Paper and cardboard packaging waste	EPR scheme covering household and non-household packaging	1	1
	Material specific EPR assessment - Ferrous metals packaging waste	EPR scheme covering household and non-household packaging	1	1
	Material specific EPR assessment - Aluminium packaging waste	EPR scheme covering household and non-household packaging	1	1
	Material specific EPR assessment - Glass packaging waste	EPR scheme covering household and non-household packaging	1	1
	Material specific EPR assessment - Plastics packaging waste	No EPR scheme or EPR scheme covering only household, industrial OR commercial packaging OR EPR scheme but without fee modulation	1	0
	Material specific EPR assessment - Wooden packaging waste	EPR scheme covering all non-household packaging	1	2
Total packaging recycling target				**21.88**
			Maximum score	32.07
				68%

Paper and cardboard recycling target

Total score	**26.00**
Maximum score	30.00
	87%

Ferrous metals packaging recycling target

Total score	**20.00**
Maximum score	31.00
	65%

Aluminium packaging recycling target

Total score	**25.00**
Maximum score	34.00
	74%

Glass packaging recycling target

Total score	**28.00**
Maximum score	32.00
	88%

Plastics packaging recycling target

Total score	**15.00**
Maximum score	34.00
	44%

Wooden packaging recycling target

Total score	**28.00**
Maximum score	32.00
	88%

Assessment sheet - Target for landfilling of municipal waste

MS Latvia

Date Jun-22

SRF		Assessment result	Weight	Score
Current situation and past trends				
LF-1.1	Distance to target	Distance to target > 20 percentage points, or no data reported	5	0
LF-1.2	Past trends in municipal solid waste landfill rat	Landfill rate in 2020 > 25% and decrease in last 5 years < 15 percentage points	1	0
LF-1.3	Diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill	Target for reducing the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) landfilled to 35% of BMW generated in 1995 has not been achieved in 2016 or in the year specified in the derogation where applicable, or data not reported. Or in case of derogation: Target for reducing the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) landfilled to 35% of BMW generated in 1995 has not been achieved yet and available data indicate that it is unlikely to be achieved	1	0
			Total score	**0.00**
			Maximum score	14.00
				0%