

# Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



**Finland** 

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# Waste prevention programme

This **country fact sheet** was produced in the context of reviewing national and regional waste prevention programmes across Europe. The [Waste Framework Directive](#) (Directive 2008/98/EC), Article 29, requires that Member States adopt their **waste prevention programmes** by 12 December 2013. Article 30(2) of the Directive invites the European Environment Agency (EEA) to carry out an annual review of progress in the completion and implementation of the programmes. Within the waste hierarchy, the overarching principle behind EU and national waste policies, waste prevention is considered the most desirable option.

## FINLAND FACT SHEET



Source: Eurostat

### GDP

EUR 205 billion (1.5 % of EU-28 total in 2014)

### Per person GDP

EUR 30 300 (in purchasing power standard)  
(111 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)

### Use of materials

170 million tonnes DMC (2.6 % of EU-28 total in 2014)  
31.1 tonnes DMC/person (238 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)  
Resource productivity 1.10 EUR/kg (55 % of EU-28 average in 2014)

### Structure of the economy

Agriculture: 2.7 %  
Industry: 27.0 %  
Services: 70.3 % (2014 est.)

### Surface area

338 400 square kilometres (7.6 % of EU-28 total)

### Population

5.5 million (1.1 % of EU-28 total)

## Waste prevention programme

1.	Coverage	National
2.	Type of programme	Part of waste management plan
3.	Title of programme and link to programme	<p>Kohti kierrätysyhteiskuntaa: valtakunnallinen jätesuunnitelma vuoteen 2016 (Towards a recycling society: the national waste management plan until 2016)</p> <p><a href="http://www.ymparisto.fi/fi-FI/Ymparisto/Jatteen/Valtakunnallinen_jatesuunnitelma">http://www.ymparisto.fi/fi-FI/Ymparisto/Jatteen/Valtakunnallinen_jatesuunnitelma</a></p> <p>Mot ett återvinningsamhälle: riksomfattande avfallsplan fram till år 2016 <a href="http://www.ymparisto.fi/sv-FI/Miljo/Avfall/Den_riksomfattande_avfallsplanen">http://www.ymparisto.fi/sv-FI/Miljo/Avfall/Den_riksomfattande_avfallsplanen</a></p> <p>Towards a recycling society: the national waste plan for 2016 <a href="http://www.ymparisto.fi/en-US/The_environment/Waste/The_National_Waste_Plan">http://www.ymparisto.fi/en-US/The_environment/Waste/The_National_Waste_Plan</a></p> <p>Components of the waste prevention programme are described on pp. 7–8, 10–15, 19 and 29–30 (in the English version).</p>
4.	Duration of programme	The national waste plan for 2016 was approved in April 2008. It is valid until 2016 or until the entry into force of the next waste plan (p. 7). Preparation of a new national waste plan has begun and will be finished in 2017..
5.	Languages	Finnish, Swedish and English (the version reviewed was the English version).
6.	Contact person	<p>Tarja-Riitta Blauberg, Senior Officer, Ministry of the Environment, <a href="mailto:tarja-riitta.blauberg@ymparisto.fi">tarja-riitta.blauberg@ymparisto.fi</a></p> <p>Sirje Stén, Senior Officer, Ministry of the Environment, <a href="mailto:sirje.sten@ymparisto.fi">sirje.sten@ymparisto.fi</a></p> <p>Ministry of the Environment, <a href="http://www.ymparisto.fi/en-US/">http://www.ymparisto.fi/en-US/</a></p> <p>Finish Environment Institute (SYKE), <a href="http://www.syke.fi/en-US">http://www.syke.fi/en-US</a></p>
7.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement of material efficiency in the main product categories.</li> <li>• Improvement of material efficiency in industry and mineral extraction.</li> <li>• Extension of the useful life of buildings.</li> <li>• With regard to private consumption, the focus will be on eco-efficient products and services, and a reduction in the generation of household waste.</li> <li>• The use of certain hazardous chemicals is to be reduced and they are to be replaced with less hazardous alternatives (pp. 14–17).</li> </ul>
8.	The means used to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste	<p><b>Are the measures/means specifically mentioned in the waste prevention programme?</b></p> <p>No. Sectoral agreements will be concluded on a trial basis as a way of increasing material efficiency in production (p. 12). In fact, all the measures in the plan have this goal.</p>

9.	Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining, raw material processing;</li> <li>• construction and infrastructure;</li> <li>• manufacturing;</li> <li>• sale, retail, transport;</li> <li>• households;</li> <li>• private service activities/hospitality;</li> <li>• public services.</li> </ul>
10.	Prevention of waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction and demolition waste;</li> <li>• hazardous waste;</li> <li>• household/municipal waste;</li> <li>• packaging;</li> <li>• waste electrical and electronic equipment /batteries;</li> <li>• industrial waste.</li> </ul>
11.	Quantitative targets	<p>The aim is to stabilise the amount of municipal waste at the level of the early years of this century (2.3–2.5 million tonnes annually) and ensure that the trend is downwards by 2016.</p> <p>There was not enough information on other industrial waste categories and therefore no quantitative objectives have been set for them. The plan envisages that individual industrial sectors will set targets for reducing their specific waste volumes within their own material efficiency agreements.</p>
12.	Measures on quantitative prevention	See points 14 and 15.
13.	Measures on qualitative prevention	See points 14 and 15.
14.	Prevention measures covered as referred to in Directive 2008/98, Annex IV: Examples of waste prevention measures referred to in Article 29 (1–16)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Daycare centres and educational institutions are to draw up operating plans for sustainable production and consumption (p. 15).</li> <li>2. Support pilot construction projects that promote innovation in sustainable construction and waste prevention. Make research on hazardous substances more efficient from the point of view of waste. Assess possible waste-related risks from nanotechnology and biotechnology (p. 14).</li> <li>3. Draw up practical indicators measuring material efficiency, production and consumption that illustrate trends in waste volumes (p. 29).</li> <li>4. Promote the incorporation of material efficiency criteria into product standards, implementation provisions covering the ecological development of energy-using products, and eco-labels (p. 11). Promote material efficiency in new construction using an environmental classification system for building (p. 14). When designing, constructing and supervising buildings, emphasis should be placed on building convertibility, durability of structures, prevention of water and module damage, and the updatability of building automation (p. 14). Reduce the use of certain hazardous substances and replace them with less hazardous alternatives (p. 19).</li> <li>5. Gradually incorporate information on material efficiency and specific waste volumes into the EU's sectoral best available techniques reference (BREF) documents (p. 13).</li> <li>6. Include the harmful impacts caused by chemicals during their waste phase when drawing up guidelines for environmental permit authorities (p. 19).</li> <li>8. Issue guidelines for manufacturers about the reduction and harmfulness of waste</li> </ol>

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from their products (p. 12). Develop services aimed at improving waste management and material efficiency in small and medium-sized enterprises (p. 13). Make better use of the expertise and active involvement of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to enhance information campaigns. The private sector may provide their staff with advice (p. 15).

9. Conclude sectoral agreements on a trial basis and set targets on material-efficiency (p. 12).

10. Construction companies are to set targets for the eco-efficiency of buildings during life cycle, their quality and environmental systems, and requirements with regard to these targets are to be included in tender specifications (p. 14).

12. Broaden consumers' rights to obtain information about the durability of products (p. 11). Funding has been made available to the Service Centre for Material Efficiency, which was established in 2007 (p. 12). Municipalities are to provide advisory services in relation to waste prevention (p. 14). National advisory support services and informational material on material efficiency are to be provided (p. 14). Better use is to be made of the expertise and active involvement of such actors as NGOs, schools, educational institutions, libraries and retail chains to enhance dissemination of information to consumers (p. 15).

12, and 13. Revise minimum requirements on labelling and warranties in consumer protection legislation (p. 11).

13. Companies are to add information on eco-efficiency to product labels as part of their customer service (p. 15).

15. Incorporate minimum requirements for product durability, updatability, repairability and other material efficiency features into public procurement processes (p. 12).

16. Promote reuse of reusable, repairable and updatable products and building components in a collaborative effort involving municipalities, producer companies, the voluntary sector and employment authorities (p. 12). Promote building maintenance and material-efficient building renovation (p. 13). Examine the need for, opportunities for and benefits of providing a more extensive household deduction in connection with (i) maintenance and repair services aimed at extending the useful life of household appliances, furniture and other consumer durables, and (ii) the purchase of renovation design services (p. 15). Municipalities are to promote small repair service businesses by offering them low-cost premises and publicity (p. 15).

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15. Other prevention measures not covered by Annex IV

- Carry out studies on which natural resources should be subject to economic instruments (p. 12).
- Clarify the organisation, responsibilities and funding of waste advisory services, particularly in the area of waste prevention by companies and producer responsibility schemes (p. 13).
- Clarify obligations concerning improvements in material efficiency and the powers of the authorities to issue appropriate permit conditions as part of the revision of waste and environmental legislation (p. 13).
- Support the recently established International Resource Panel (p. 13).
- Carry out research into chemical risks to employees and consumers during the waste phase (p. 19).
- Promote the reduction of hazardous waste in industry by, for instance, improving source separation of hazardous substances and giving priority to reusable chemical packages. The Safety Technology Authority and the National Board of Customs should allocate more resources to supervising the implementation of the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive (RoHS 2 Directive) (2011/65/EC). Market surveillance is to be carried out to persuade manufacturers and importers to control in-house activities efficiently and to monitor their subcontractors (pp. 19–20).

16. Indicators proposed	<p><b>Does the programme define indicators for waste prevention?</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Environment and the Finish Environment Institute will draw a monitoring programme for the assessment of the implementation and impacts of the plan. The programme will list the indicators to be monitored in connection with the most important steering instruments. Most of the indicators will be based on existing information systems and statistics.</p> <p>The plan mentions the need to improve the information base on the sustainable use of natural resources and the assessment of the impacts of waste prevention. It specifically refers to the creation of a database that can be used to calculate the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and waste volume generated by materials and products during their life cycles (p. 29). The national waste plan monitoring programme has defined the indicators to be used.</p>
17. Evaluation and monitoring of the programme	<p><b>Is the programme evaluated (midterm, etc.)?</b></p> <p>Yes. Interim reports on its implementation were published in 2012 and 2014. Preparation of a new national waste plan has started.</p>
18. Target groups	Consumers, producers, authorities, industry, production and the construction sector.
19. Involvement of stakeholders	<p><b>Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the development of the programme?</b></p> <p>The foreword to the national waste plan states that ‘the preparatory process was characterised by a high degree of openness and interaction, and was in accordance with the general obligation to assess its environmental impacts, as laid down in the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure’.</p>
20. Other comments	<p>Are the costs/savings of waste prevention measures stated in the programme?</p> <p>The cost impacts of the national waste plan have been assessed<sup>1</sup>. (Assessing the cost impacts of the national waste plan, Pöyry, 2007 (in Finnish)).</p> <p><i>Other comments:</i> the programme takes into account issues relating to sustainable consumption and production.</p>

<sup>1</sup> In the Finnish version of the document, there is a chapter on impacts, in addition to provisions for impact assessments of some waste prevention measures. The English version of the document is shorter.