

Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



Iceland 

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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.

ICELAND FACT SHEET

	<p>GDP EUR 12.9 billion (equivalent to 0.1 % of EU-28 total in 2014)</p> <p>Per person GDP EUR 32 700 (in purchasing power standard) (119 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)</p> <p>Use of materials (DMC) Not available</p>
	<p>Structure of the economy Agriculture: 6 % Industry: 22.4 % Services: 71.7 % (2014 est.)</p> <p>Surface area 103 000 square kilometres (equivalent to 0.2 % of EU-28 total)</p> <p>Population 0.3 million (equivalent to 0.1 % of EU-28 total)</p>
<p><i>Source: Eurostat</i></p>	

Waste prevention programme

1.	Coverage	National
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2.	Type of programme	Separate programme
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3.	Title of programme and link to programme	Saman gegn sóun - Almenn stefna um úrgangsförvarnir 2016-2027 (United against waste – General policy on waste prevention 2016-2027) https://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Saman-gegn-soun-2016_2027.pdf
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4.	Duration of programme	2016–2027
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5.	Languages	Icelandic
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6.	Contact person	Steinunn Fjóra Sigurðardóttir, steinunn.fjola.sigurdardottir@environment.is Director General, Department of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources Phone: +354 545 8600; Fax: +354 562 4566
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7.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme	The overall objective of the Icelandic waste prevention policy is to improve the economy through improving resource utilization, efficiency and education to prevent waste. The sub-objectives are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• reduce waste generation;• reduce greenhouse gas emissions;• improve the use of resources, e.g. with a focus on green innovation;• reduce the use of raw materials parallel to less environmental impacts;• reduce the distribution of materials that are harmful to health and environment. (p. 2)
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8.	The means used to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste	The measures/means mentioned in the programme look to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• increase sustainable consumption and support ways of living that improve efficiency;• reduce the use of single-use packaging;• support the design of products that do not contain materials that are harmful to health and environment;• increase green innovation;• reduce further the disposal of waste;• regard waste as a valuable resource that should be utilized. (p. 3) In addition, the Icelandic waste prevention policy aims to improve the economy through improving resource utilization, efficiency and education to prevent waste.
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9.	Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture; • construction and infrastructure; • manufacturing; • sale, retail, transport; • households; • private service activities, hospitality; • public services.
10.	Prevention of waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food/organic; • construction and demolition waste; • hazardous waste; • household/municipal waste; • paper; • packaging; • waste electrical and electronic equipment/batteries; • manufacturing waste; • other (e.g. textiles, plastics other than packaging, animal-by-products from processing of meat and fish) (p. 10).
11.	Quantitative targets	The Icelandic waste prevention programme does not set quantitative targets.
12.	Measures on quantitative prevention	The policy on waste prevention proposes further measurements that are divided into specific topics (p. 6-13). For detailed descriptions see Point 14.
13.	Measures on qualitative prevention	The policy on waste prevention includes the objectives of reducing hazardous waste generation. It proposes several measures to achieve this goal, explained specifically in each category (p.8-13). For detailed descriptions see point 14.
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)	<p>The policy on waste prevention includes the following measures that are proposed to avoid waste generation (p. 8-13):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the possibility of installing a system where food that has passed its best-before date can be sold at a reduced price; • increase the categories of beverage containers that carry a refundable deposit; • educate the public on: more efficient purchasing, how to handle food, assess whether food is edible, the use of labels, the best way to use leftovers; • educate the public on reducing water consumption from disposable packaging; • make an easy access to deliver beverages packaging; • support home composting; • cooperation with restaurants and other caterers to reduce food waste; • partnership with manufacturers and vendors to reduce the use of plastic packaging and unnecessary packaging and promoting designs which take account of waste prevention; • partnership with manufacturers and vendors to reduce the use of plastic carrier bags; • partnerships with vendors, in order to increase the market share of ecolabelled textiles or textiles that contain a minimal amount of harmful substances; • support the reuse of old clothes;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce the use of disposable food containers; • eliminate the use of plastics which are difficult or impossible to recycle; • partnerships with companies in the heavy equipment industry; • measures for plastics other than packaging and carrier bags, e.g. the use of microplastics in cosmetics; • encourage the fashion industry to be more sustainable; • find more ways to create products from animal-by-products which are sent for disposal; • eliminate legal barriers that hinder the use of animal by-products. • cooperation to reduce the use of beverage packaging produced from materials that cannot be recycled; • working with beverage manufacturers to reduce of the use of single-use packaging.
15. Other prevention measures not covered by Annex IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deposit system which promotes the recycling of beverage packaging.
16. Indicators proposed	<p>The policy on waste prevention includes a list of indicators focusing on six topics in order to evaluate progress (p. 8-13):</p> <p>16.1 <u>Indicators on food waste:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average household consumption of food for per year. Adjusted for consumer price index, excluding housing. Data are available from Iceland Statistics. • The amount of food waste collected, both separately and as part of mixed waste. Adjusted for population and GDP at constant prices. <p>16.2 <u>Indicators on reducing plastic waste:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount of imported and produced plastic packaging that carry a recycling fee., adjusted for population and GDP at constant prices. Data available at the Icelandic Recycling Fund, a governmental agency in charge of reducing waste by creating conducive economic conditions for reuse and recovery and ensuring the proper disposal of hazardous substances. • Amount of new plastic carrier bags made per year. <p>16.3 <u>Indicators on greener textiles, and corporate social responsibility within the textile industry:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The market share of clothing produced by environmentally friendly means or containing small quantities of hazardous substances. • Average household clothing purchases per year. Adjusted for consumer price index, excluding housing. Data are available from Iceland Statistics. <p>16.4 <u>Indicators on by-products from the processing of meat and fish:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount of fish waste sent for disposal as a proportion of the total catch. • The amount of slaughterhouse waste sent for disposal, as a proportion of the total amount of produced meat. <p>16.5 <u>Indicators on drink packaging:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of packaging that customers can receive a recycling deposit for of the total amount of packaging. • The proportion of reusable packaging of the total packaging bearing a recycling deposit.

16.6 Indicators on the heavy equipment industry:

- Amount of waste produced in the heavy equipment industry, adjusted for the amount of product manufactured.

There are also a series of indicators focusing on the sustainable development of municipal waste:

- generation of municipal waste;
 - landfilling;
 - incineration of municipal waste;
 - incineration with energy recovery;
 - incineration without energy recovery;
 - recycling of municipal waste;
 - composting of fermenting of biodegradable waste;
 - coverage of the municipal waste collection system.
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17. Evaluation and monitoring of the programme

Is the programme evaluated (midterm, etc.)?

Yes. The policy on waste prevention describes a list of potential approaches to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of specific measures (p. 6).

In order to assess progress, the indicators (see section 16) will be monitored according to various categories. A group of six categories (food, plastics, textiles, electronics, green buildings and paper) will be prioritised for two years at a time. Three categories (by-products from the processing of meat and fish, drink packaging and heavy equipment industry) will be prioritised for more than two years. The group of six categories were chosen because they appeal to organisations, local authorities and companies. Targets will not be set but it is expected that the performance will be evaluated after each two year period. Food, plastics and textiles will take precedence. The electronics, green buildings and paper categories will be prioritised during the period 2022-2027. The policy will be reviewed six years after it has been issued. Part of the review may include a re-evaluation of the categories receiving priority.

For the by-products from the processing of meat and fish, drink packaging and heavy equipment industry categories, the government is planning to create incentives to promote the objectives of the policy, in cooperation with the relevant industries.

18. Target groups

The programme was developed by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and is aimed at households, private and the public sector.

19. Involvement of stakeholders

Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the development of the programme?

Yes. The twelve year strategy on the waste policy should, according to the law on waste management and regulations under Article 5 of Act. 55/2003, aim to reduce waste. Stakeholders were involved in the consultation on the proposal for a policy on waste prevention in 2014.

Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the programme?

Yes. Various joint measures as described in point 14.

20. Other comments

Are the costs/savings of waste prevention measures stated in the programme?

No information.
