

# Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



**Sweden** 

October 2016

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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.

## SWEDEN FACT SHEET



Source: Eurostat

### GDP

EUR 431 billion (3.1 % of EU-28 total in 2014)

### Per person GDP

EUR 33 700 (in purchasing power standard)  
(123 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)

### Use of materials

224 million tonnes DMC (3.4 % of EU-28 total in 2014)  
23.1 tonnes DMC/person (176 % of EU-28 average in 2014)  
Resource productivity 1.75 EUR/kg (88 % of EU-28 average in 2014)

### Structure of the economy

Agriculture: 2 %  
Industry: 12 %  
Services: 86 % (2014 est.)

### Surface area

438 600 square kilometres (9.8 % of EU-28 total)

### Population

9.7 million (1.9 % of EU-28 total)

## Waste prevention programme

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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	<p>Tillsammans vinner vi på ett giftfritt och resurseffektivt samhälle: Sveriges program för att förebygga avfall 2014–2017</p> <p>(Together, we will win on a non-toxic and resource efficient society – the Swedish waste prevention programmes 2014-2017)</p> <p><a href="http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Miljoarbete-i-samhallet/Miljoarbete-i-Sverige/Uppdelat-efter-omrade/Avfall/Avfallsforebyggande-program/">http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Miljoarbete-i-samhallet/Miljoarbete-i-Sverige/Uppdelat-efter-omrade/Avfall/Avfallsforebyggande-program/</a></p>
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4.	Duration of programme	2014–2017
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5.	Languages	Swedish
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6.	Contact person	<p>Maria Ivarsson, <a href="mailto:maria.ivarsson@naturvardsverket.se">maria.ivarsson@naturvardsverket.se</a></p> <p>Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket)</p> <p><a href="http://www.swedishepa.se/">http://www.swedishepa.se/</a></p>
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7.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme	<p>The aim of the programme is to guide and inspire Swedish stakeholders so that environmental goals are achieved, less waste is generated and products are designed not to contain hazardous substances, irrespective of how much the economy grows (p. 8).</p>
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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	<p><b>Are the measures/means specifically mentioned in the waste prevention programme?</b></p> <p>Yes. To successfully reduce the amount of waste generated, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) will work on a number of strategies. These include encouraging material-efficient products and products with a long life, as well as increasing reuse and providing information about the content of hazardous substances in products. Another important strategy is encouraging sustainable consumption patterns (p. 24).</p> <p>In addition, several specific strategies are proposed for each of the four focus areas in the programme (pp. 33, 46–48, 56–57 and 66–68).</p>
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9.	Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agriculture;</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>
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10. Prevention of waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food/organic;</li> <li>• construction and demolition waste;</li> <li>• hazardous waste;</li> <li>• waste electrical and electronic equipment /batteries;</li> <li>• other.</li> </ul>
11. Quantitative targets	<p>The programme includes eight targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The amount of waste generated shall be continuously reduced from 2010 onwards (p. 25).</li> <li>• The content of hazardous substances in materials and products shall be reduced (p. 25).</li> <li>• The amount of food waste in the entire food chain shall be reduced compared with 2010. The EPA has been mandated by the government to develop a numerical target for reduced food waste (p. 33).</li> <li>• The amount of textile waste generated by households shall be reduced compared with 2010. The EPA has been mandated by the government to develop a numerical target for textile and textile waste (p. 46).</li> <li>• The proportion of total sales of textiles made up of sales of second-hand goods shall increase compared with 2014 (p. 46).</li> <li>• Knowledge in the textile sector about the uses and contents of hazardous substances in textiles shall be increased compared with 2014 (p. 46).</li> <li>• In 2020, waste generation per square meter built will be reduced compared with 2014 (p. 56).</li> <li>• By 2020, pre-processors and recyclers of WEEE shall have better access to useful information on the composition of products and their hazardous substances content than they did in 2014 (p. 66).</li> </ul>
12. Measures on quantitative prevention	<p>The programme includes 167 measures, of which 34 are initiatives that the government will implement. The remaining 133 initiatives are proposals that various stakeholders could implement. The majority of the 167 initiatives relates to measures on quantitative waste prevention. The initiatives are both generic and directed to four focus areas: food, textiles, construction and demolition (C&amp;D) and electrical and electronic equipment (EEE).</p> <p>Examples of quantitative waste prevention measures are described in point 14.</p>

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13.	Measures on qualitative prevention	<p>The programme includes a number of measures on qualitative prevention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the work of the global chemicals strategy the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and in particular contribute to the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to develop a proposal for a global information programme on hazardous substances in products. The goal is, at SAICM high-level meeting in 2015, to decide on programme will provide relevant information about dangerous substances to stakeholders throughout the product life cycle, including the waste stage (p. 27).</li> <li>• Organise a workshop on the problem of hazardous substances in waste with waste processors and recyclers (p. 27).</li> <li>• Analyse key development areas in relation to the EU chemicals regulation REACH, in order to contribute to the national environmental objective ‘A Non-Toxic Environment’ (p. 27).</li> <li>• Develop proposals on economic instruments designed to reduce the use of hazardous substances in articles and chemical products (p. 27).</li> <li>• Continue the dialogue with actors in the EEE and textile value chains in order to reduce use of hazardous substances or substitute them with a safer substance (pp. 48 and 68).</li> <li>• Further examples of qualitative prevention measures are described in point 14.</li> </ul>
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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>2. Participate in campaigns, research projects and networks to increase reuse and contribute to more sustainable textiles (p. 48).</p> <p>3. Develop indicators and statistics on waste prevention (p. 26).</p> <p>4. Within the EU, seek to ensure that environmental aspects such as longer life, reparability and hazardous substances content are considered in the design of new products (p. 68).</p> <p>4. Manufacture, develop, purchase and sell textiles designed for long life, that do not contain hazardous substances and that can be reused and recycled (p. 49).</p> <p>5. Disseminate good examples of initiatives for preventing waste to private actors, county councils and municipalities (p. 26).</p> <p>7. Develop guidance on how general environmental rules and the waste hierarchy should be applied when inspecting the management of C&amp;D waste (p. 57).</p> <p>9. Within the scope of the Swedish Government’s action plan for a non-toxic everyday environment, continue the dialogue with textile industry stakeholders about how to phase out harmful substances through better knowledge and education. The Swedish EPA takes part in this dialogue (p. 48).</p> <p>11. Assess and analyse policy instruments designed to reduce the amount of waste generated and use of hazardous substances and to prevent waste in the food, textile, C&amp;D and EEE sectors (p. 26).</p> <p>12. Reduce food waste by informing consumers as a part of a three-year mission initiated by the Swedish Government, to be carried out by the Swedish EPA, the National Food Agency and the Swedish Board of Agriculture (pp. 34–35).</p> <p>12. Carry out a feasibility study to investigate the possibilities of developing a scaled-up ‘Leva Livet’ project (a lifestyle project that combines well-being and a green way of life) in cooperation with, for example, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, municipalities and other important stakeholders (p. 26).</p>

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		<p>14. Through collaboration with other stakeholders, disseminate information about the amount of food waste generated, causes of food waste, how it can be reduced and the benefits of reducing it (environmental and economic) (p. 34).</p> <p>14. Consider starting a network for operators and authorities working with EEE with the purpose of increasing knowledge about waste prevention, supporting innovative efforts and sharing good examples (p. 68).</p> <p>15. Guide on the possibilities of including waste prevention requirements in public procurement processes (p. 26).</p> <p>15. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of waste prevention requirements in connection with public procurement and purchasing. The evaluation will be followed up with new actions (p. 26).</p> <p>16. Explore the public attitude to reuse of electronics (p. 68).</p>
15.	Other prevention measures not covered by Annex IV	None.
16.	Indicators proposed	<p><b>Does the programme define indicators for waste prevention?</b></p> <p>Yes. The indicators and monitoring methods are described in general terms for all targets. The indicator for the amount of total waste generated will be based on total waste excluding mining waste (p. 26). Indicators for the four focus areas (food, textiles, C&amp;D and WEEE) will be further developed (pp. 33, 46, 56 and 66).</p> <p>The programme specifies who is responsible for the development and monitoring of the indicators.</p>
17.	Evaluation and monitoring of the programme	<p><b>Is the programme evaluated (midterm, etc.)?</b></p> <p>No. The programme will be followed up during autumn 2016 and a new programme will be developed until 2018 (p. 9).</p>
18.	Target groups	The actors in the value chain. Key target groups for this programme are decision-makers, namely managers and politicians at various levels, legislators, business leaders, trade associations, municipalities and authorities (p. 8).
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>Yes. Stakeholders participated in workshops in 2012–2013. The Swedish Waste Council (Naturvårdsverkets Avfallsråd) advised on the development of the programme (p. 11).</p>
20.	Other comments	<p><b>Are the costs/savings of waste prevention measures stated in the programme?</b></p> <p>No information.</p> <p>The socio-economic benefits of reducing food waste in Sweden by 20 % between 2010 and 2020 would amount to SEK 10 billion–16 billion per year. One study has also shown that a developer can save nearly 1 % of production costs by preventing waste in a resource-efficient manner using state-of-the-art methods (p. 14).</p>