

Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



Norway 

2021

Photo: © Mario Cvitkovic from Pixabay

General information

Name of the country/region	Norway
Coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/regional)	National
Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan)	Integrated into waste management plan
Title of programme and link to programme	'Forebygging av avfall' (Waste prevention), Chapter 4 in the waste management plan 'Fra avfall til ressurs' (From waste to resources) https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/27128ced39e74b0ba1213a09522de084/t-1531_web.pdf
Duration of programme	Adopted in 2013; of indefinite duration.
Language	Norwegian
Development process of the programme/revision	No information
Foreseen budget for implementation of the project	The waste prevention programme does not include a specific budget for implementing the measures

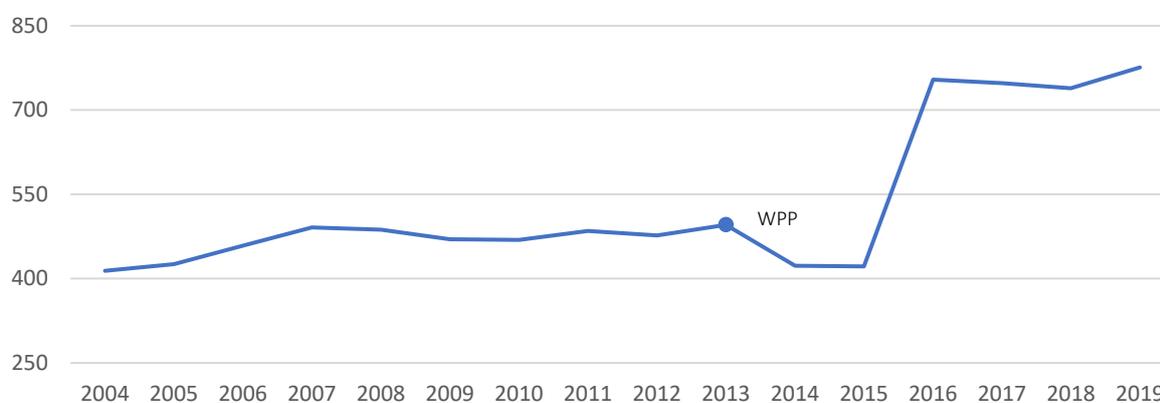
Waste generation

The following figures illustrate the progress towards waste prevention and decoupling of waste generation from economic growth in Norway.

Municipal solid waste

- The generation of municipal solid waste (MSW) per capita slightly increased between 2004 and 2007 and remained steady at approximately 490 kg per capita until 2013 (see Figure 1).
- Although MSW generation is influenced by many factors (population, household expenditure) the generation of MSW dropped from 496 kg per capita in 2013 to 422 kg per capita in 2015, which could be explained by the measures in the waste prevention programme (WPP) from 2013.
- From 2016 onwards, however, the level of waste generation exceeded 700 kg per capita (which is due to a break in the time series) and significantly exceeded the EU average of 495 kg per capita.

Figure 1: Municipal waste generation in Norway (kg per capita), 2004-2019

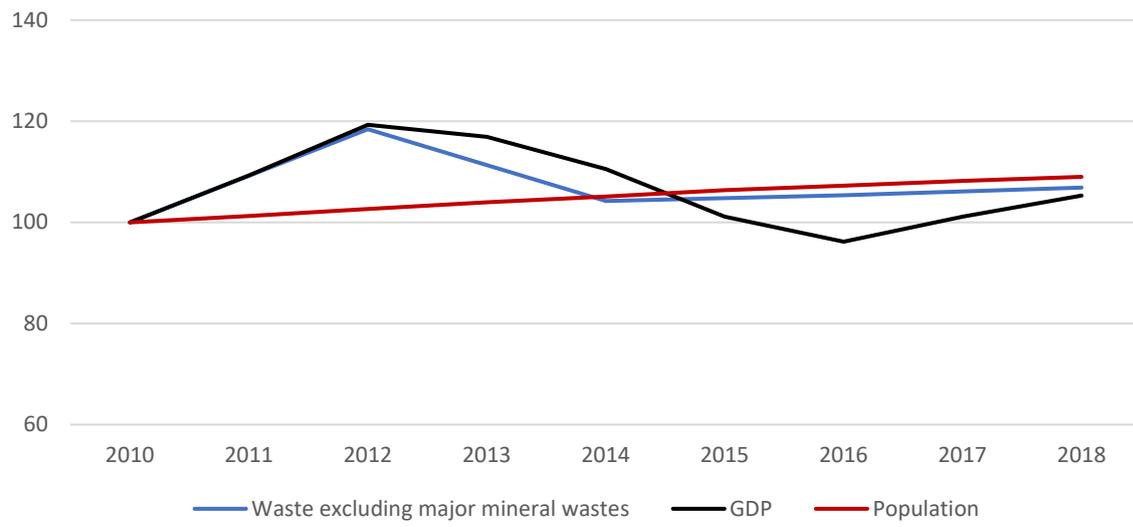


Source: Eurostat Circular Economy Monitoring Framework.

Total waste

- Norway's waste generation (excluding major mineral waste) increased significantly between 2010 and 2012, dropped in 2014 and increased again slightly until 2018 (see Figure 2).
- A similar trend can be observed for GDP, which indicates that Norway's economic growth is not yet decoupled from its waste generation.
- Any impact of population growth on waste generation cannot be observed, as its growth rate remained quite steady throughout this period.

Figure 2: Growth rate of waste (excluding major mineral wastes), GDP and population in Norway, 2010-2018 (2010 = 100)



Source: Eurostat.

Waste prevention programme

Objectives and priorities

1.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme: quantitative objectives (waste reduction) and qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/environmental impacts)	Relative decoupling of economic growth from waste generation
2.	Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction and infrastructure• Sale, retail, transport, households• Public services• Hotels, restaurants and catering
3.	Priority waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food/organic• Textiles• Construction and demolition waste• Hazardous waste• Household/municipal waste• Packaging• Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), batteries• Other
4.	Target groups	Authorities, non-governmental organisations and the public The WPP does not describe the involvement of stakeholders in the development of the programme. However, the programme envisages stakeholder involvement for the implementation process, including stakeholders from food and textile value chains (WPP, pp. 35 and 38)

Targets, indicators and monitoring

1. Indicators proposed	No indicators are defined in the WPP. However, the programme states that the Norwegian Environmental Agency and Statistics Norway will develop food waste indicators (p. 37) and indicators for other waste streams (p. 34)
2. Quantitative targets	The WPP does not include specific quantitative targets
3. Monitoring of programme	See below
4. Evaluation of the programme	The programme has not been evaluated

Prevention measures

Prevention measures implemented in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive	<p>The WPP highlights successfully implemented prevention measures in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. sustainable consumption 2. reuse of materials and products 3. reduction of food waste 4. reduction of the content of hazardous substances 5. information campaigns to raise awareness <p>Detailed information on specific measures can be found in the following overview (see Table 1)</p>
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Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

Promote and support sustainable consumption models	<p>The Ministry of Climate and Environment will assess whether producer responsibility schemes are able to support waste prevention in relation to packaging and WEEE to a greater degree</p> <p>Ecolabelling, such as the swan (the Nordic ecolabel) and the flower (the EU ecolabel), will help to ensure that products have a smaller impact on the environment during production, use, and at the end-of-life phase (p. 34)</p> <p>The Ministry will initiate dialogue on increased collaboration between producers and importers, voluntary collectors and the municipalities on textile waste prevention (p. 35)</p>
Encourage the design, manufacture and use of products that are resource-efficient, durable (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), repairable, reusable and upgradeable	
Target products containing critical raw materials to prevent that those materials become waste	
Encourage the reuse of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and reuse activities , including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products	<p>Reuse and/or repair of appropriate discarded products at recycling centres will be encouraged (gjenvinningsstasjonene) (p. 36)</p>
Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights, the availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information , or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and reuse of products without compromising their quality and safety	

<p>Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques</p>	
<p>Reduce the generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services, as well as in households as a contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030</p>	<p>The environmental and statistical authorities are to develop indicators for food waste (p. 37) The government will initiate mandatory collaboration with stakeholders in the food value chain to prevent food waste (p. 38). Many stakeholders in the sector have already taken the initiative to reduce food waste through the ‘ForMat’ programme (p. 38)</p>
<p>Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and reprocessing into non-food products</p>	
<p>Promote the reduction of the content of hazardous substances in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at EU level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to Article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021</p>	<p>The Ministry of Climate and Environment will support stricter international regulations regarding the use of chemicals in textiles (p. 35)</p>
<p>Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for reuse or recycling</p>	
<p>Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural and marine environments, and take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter from such products; where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they should ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory</p>	
<p>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds</p>	

Develop and support [information campaigns to raise awareness](#) about waste prevention and littering

Awareness campaigns and information provision will be organised, targeting the general public, in relation to reuse, green products and the negative effects on the environment of large-scale consumption (p. 36)
A website, www.erdetfarlig.no, has been developed to provide users with information about green products and how to avoid products with hazardous substances (p. 34)
Guidelines for green public procurement of construction and estate operations are to be promoted (p. 35)

Additional implemented prevention measures, not covered by Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

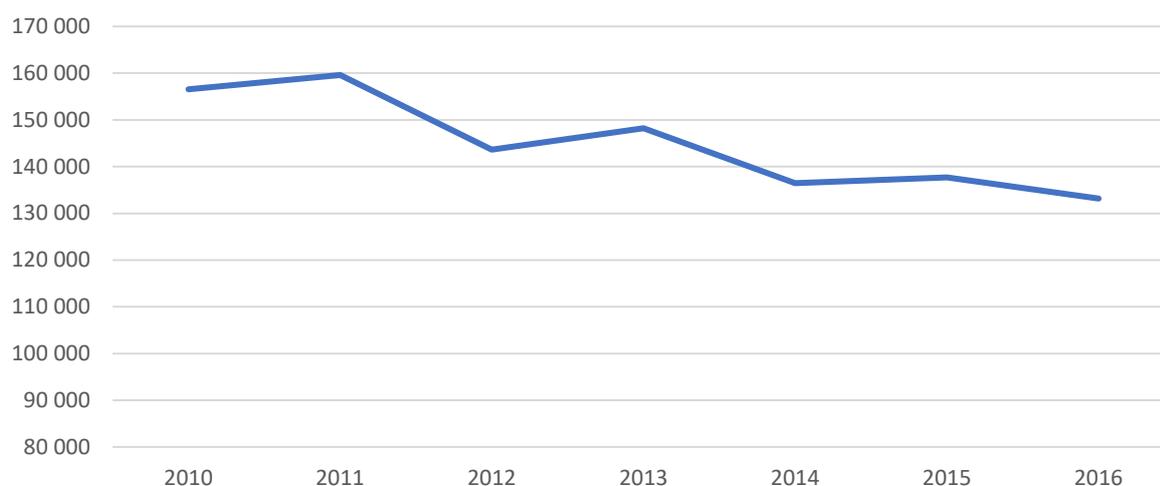
None

Food waste prevention

Food waste generation

Between 2010 and 2016, an overall decrease in food waste generation (based on the three stages: industry, wholesale and retail) can be observed for Norway (Figure 3). Although the trend has fluctuated, Norway managed to decrease its food waste by around 15 %, reaching approximately 133 000 tonnes in 2016. This corresponds to a reduction of 6.68 kg (or 21 %) per capita during this period. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with food waste declined in the same period by 11 %. Producers accounted for most of the food waste (57 %), followed by retailers (40 %) and wholesalers (2 %) (1).

Figure 3: Food waste generation (based on industry, wholesale and retail) in Norway, 2010-2016 (in tonnes)



Source: Stensgard and Hanssen (2016).

Measures to prevent food waste

The ‘Guidelines for safe reuse of food’ aim to reduce food waste. As part of the KuttMatsvinn2020 research project, Matvett (the food industry’s organisation for food waste prevention and reduction) and the research institutes Nofima and Østfoldforskning developed a guide with practical tips and advice on how to ensure the safe reuse of food. The purpose of this guide is to provide professional support and inspiration to those who produce and sell prepared dishes. Through this assessment, sellers can be confident about whether dishes that have been produced can be used again or should be discarded.

In 2019, a ‘Cut Food Waste’ week was arranged by Matvett to mobilise actors in the food service industry to make their efforts to reduce food waste visible. The initiative gained attention on social media, both through examples of how some of the participating food businesses communicate with their guests to throw away less food and in connection with a ‘Look, smell, taste’ campaign that Matvett conducted on social media. A festival was arranged in collaboration with the Municipality of Oslo’s Agency for Urban Environment, Oslo European Green Capital, a network of actors working to reduce food waste in Norway, such as ‘Too Good To Go’, the network of Norwegian food banks, and the movements ‘Eat your food!’ and ‘Foodlist’, as well as several food service businesses.

Norway’s biggest environmental organisation, ‘Future in our Hands’, continued the success of its ‘FoodWIn’ project, which now includes more than 10 municipalities. The project is part of its

¹ <https://www.matvett.no/uploads/documents/OR.06.18-Edible-food-waste-in-Norway-Report-on-key-figures-2016.pdf>

‘Climate Heroes’ campaign. In addition, its ‘Food Win Challenge’ was taken up by more than 40 families who reduced their food waste by 70 % within a month.

To reduce food waste and encourage food donations, the Norwegian government introduced a VAT exemption on food redistributed to charities. It is also worth noting that the Norwegian government and the food industry have signed an agreement (#Envision2030) to reduce food waste in Norway by 50 % by 2030.

For a more comprehensive mapping of country efforts to prevent food waste, please visit the [European Commission’s Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub](#).

Reuse of products

Data

With regard to the Commission Implementing Decision (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2021.010.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2021%3A010%3ATOC), this section will be updated by the EEA accordingly.

Measures to support reuse

The project ‘A Nordic strategy for collection, sorting, reuse and recycling of textiles’ is one of three projects in Norway to increase the reuse and recycling of textiles in the Nordic region. This initiative, financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers and proposed by the Nordic Waste Group, fosters cooperation between textile producers and retailers on minimising textile waste and increasing textile reuse.

Best practice examples

Loopfront (formerly GreenStock)

Loopfront's digital platform enables developers to easily locate and reuse building materials, thus cutting construction waste.

Materials that can generally be recycled from construction sites include steel and concrete elements, aluminium, untreated timber, cardboard, paint and plastics. Leftover materials may include complete products, such as doors, windows, insulation, flooring and technical equipment.

Loopfront has completed the development of the beta version of the platform and is testing it with building developers. A fully developed solution for a public marketplace is planned for 2021. The company is a member of NTNU Accel, an accelerator programme at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

Links to the circular economy

Waste prevention is an integral part of the comprehensive transformation towards a circular economy. It reduces not only the input of natural resources into the economy but also the efforts required to collect and recycle waste.

Approaches to improving circularity are often linked to successful waste prevention. The following table shows which circular strategies are explicitly integrated into the Norwegian waste prevention programme.

Topic	Addressed in the programme	Comments
Eco-design	Yes	Emphasis on qualitative prevention and phasing out hazardous substances
Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture	Yes	Focus on reuse and reusable packaging
Recycling	Yes	Integrated approaches for several waste streams
Economic incentives and finance	Yes	For example, tax reductions for reused plastic bottles
Circular business models	No	Not specifically mentioned
Eco-innovation	No	Not specifically mentioned
Governance, skills and knowledge	Yes	For example, focusing on green procurement practice