



European Commission

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

# CIRCULAR ECONOMY

## Closing the loop

### MONITORING FRAMEWORK FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

In a circular economy, waste generation is minimised, and the value of products, materials and resources is maintained for as long as possible. It's a new economic model that offers tremendous opportunities. It helps save natural resources, combats climate change, makes production, consumption and waste management more sustainable, and it creates green, local jobs.

To stimulate the transition towards this new model, the European Commission released a Circular Economy Action Plan in December 2015. Two years on, one of its last milestones – [a framework for monitoring progress](#) – has just been adopted.

Tracking progress is not easy, as this transition is taking place in many different areas. But the monitoring framework is an important tool, showing how the various elements of the circular economy are beginning to mature. It will help citizens and policy makers **identify success factors**, and show where **more action is needed**. The results will help **set new priorities** as Europe moves towards its long-term aim – a more circular economy.

The monitoring framework consists of **ten indicators in four areas**: (1) production and consumption, (2) waste management, (3) secondary raw materials and (4) competitiveness and innovation. This broadly follows the logic and structure of the Circular Economy Action Plan.

#### CIRCULAR ECONOMY MONITORING FRAMEWORK

##### 1 EU SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR RAW MATERIALS

The share of a selection of key materials (including critical raw materials) used in the EU that are produced within the EU

##### 2 GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

The share of major public procurements in the EU that include environmental requirements

##### 3A-C WASTE GENERATION

Generation of municipal waste per capita; total waste generation (excluding major mineral waste) per GDP unit and in relation to domestic material consumption

##### 4 FOOD WASTE

Amount of food waste generated

##### 7A-B CONTRIBUTION OF RECYCLED MATERIALS TO RAW MATERIALS DEMAND

Secondary raw materials' share of overall materials demand - for specific materials and for the whole economy

##### 8 TRADE IN RECYCLABLE RAW MATERIALS

Imports and exports of selected recyclable raw materials



##### 5A-B OVERALL RECYCLING RATES

Recycling rate of municipal waste and of all waste except major mineral waste

##### 6A-F RECYCLING RATES FOR SPECIFIC WASTE STREAMS

Recycling rate of overall packaging waste, plastic packaging, wood packaging, waste electrical and electronic equipment, recycled biowaste per capita and recovery rate of construction and demolition waste

##### 9A-C PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, JOBS AND GROSS VALUE ADDED

Private investments, number of persons employed and gross value added in the circular economy sectors

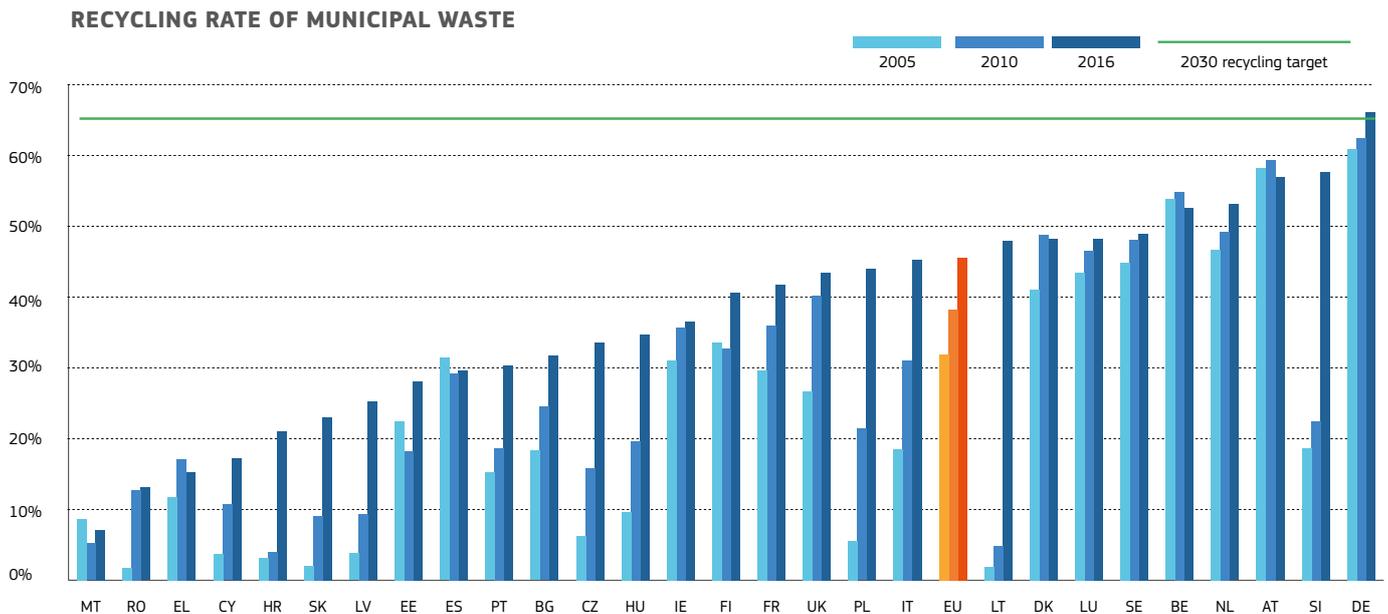
##### 10 PATENTS

Number of patents related to waste management and recycling

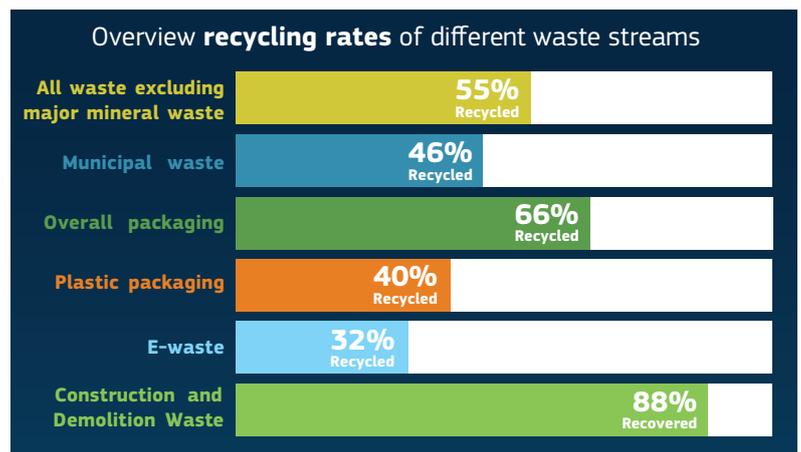
## FOCUS ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

In general, waste management shows a positive trend, although there is significant potential for improvement, and big differences between Member States and waste streams.

Between 2008 and 2016, EU **recycling rates for municipal waste increased** from 37% to 46%.



Between 2008 and 2015, the **recycling rates for packaging waste also increased** in the EU, from 62% to 66%. For **plastic packaging**, the average recycling rate in the EU is significantly lower, at **40%**, even though there have been improvements in recent years.



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