



Five EU countries already recycle **more than 50%** of their municipal waste and landfill **less than 5%.**



Some materials circulate better in the economy than others.



Employment in the EU waste management sector has grown by **36%** since 2000.



The European Structural and Investment Funds provide **€5.5 billion** for better waste management in the period 2014-2020.

Waste doesn't need to be waste: it can be the beginning of a new product's life cycle!

That's why the EU needs an effective waste management system to address global resource challenges and create a sustainable and resource-efficient circular economy.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Waste policy and legislation

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste>

Circular Economy Action Plan

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm



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European Commission

FROM WASTE TO RESOURCES

What's in it for you?

Reducing waste saves money, energy and resources, increases competitiveness, and protects the environment.

Waste recycling is a vibrant and innovative sector that creates local **jobs and growth.**

Our **quality of life** improves when we manage waste properly.

Cleaner streets, parks, forests and beaches. Who can say no to that!

Let's take part in the circular economy!

Did you know ...



Each EU citizen throws out nearly **half a tonne** of municipal waste every year.



Less than half of municipal waste is recycled.



Plastic litter can take centuries to decompose in the environment and enters the food chain.



96% of Europeans want the EU to use resources more efficiently.

The EU is developing policies for an innovative and waste-free circular economy.

WASTE IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE

In 2018 the EU adopted **new rules** to turn waste into a resource, encourage innovation and inspire change towards a more circular economy.

The circular economy starts with you!

- ☞ **Choose** products that are designed to be durable, repairable, reusable, refillable or upgradable.
- ☞ **Separate** your waste in the right bins and turn metals, paper, glass, plastic and bio-waste into valuable resources.
- ☞ Set up a **compost** in your garden or neighbourhood.
- ☞ Say **NO! to littering**: Keep your neighbourhood looking good, and join others in clean-up initiatives.



WHAT IS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY?

In a linear economy we take, use and dispose of resources in an accelerating and unsustainable way. A circular economy preserves the value of resources for as long as possible and regenerates them at the end of product life cycles.



THE EU WASTE LEGISLATION HAS DRIVEN IMPROVEMENTS IN WASTE MANAGEMENT SINCE THE '70S.

The EU **waste hierarchy** ranks waste management as follows: prevention, preparing for reuse, recycling and recovery – with disposal as a last option.

The **new rules** will make all Member States **top performers in recycling**:

- ☞ By 2030, at least **70% of all packaging waste** in each EU country should be **recycled**.
- ☞ By 2035, all EU countries should **recycle at least 65% and landfill less than 10% of municipal waste**.



There are also recycling targets for specific packaging materials:

- ☞ Paper and cardboard: 85%
- ☞ Ferrous metals: 80%
- ☞ Aluminium: 60%
- ☞ Glass: 75%
- ☞ Plastic: 55%
- ☞ Wood: 30%