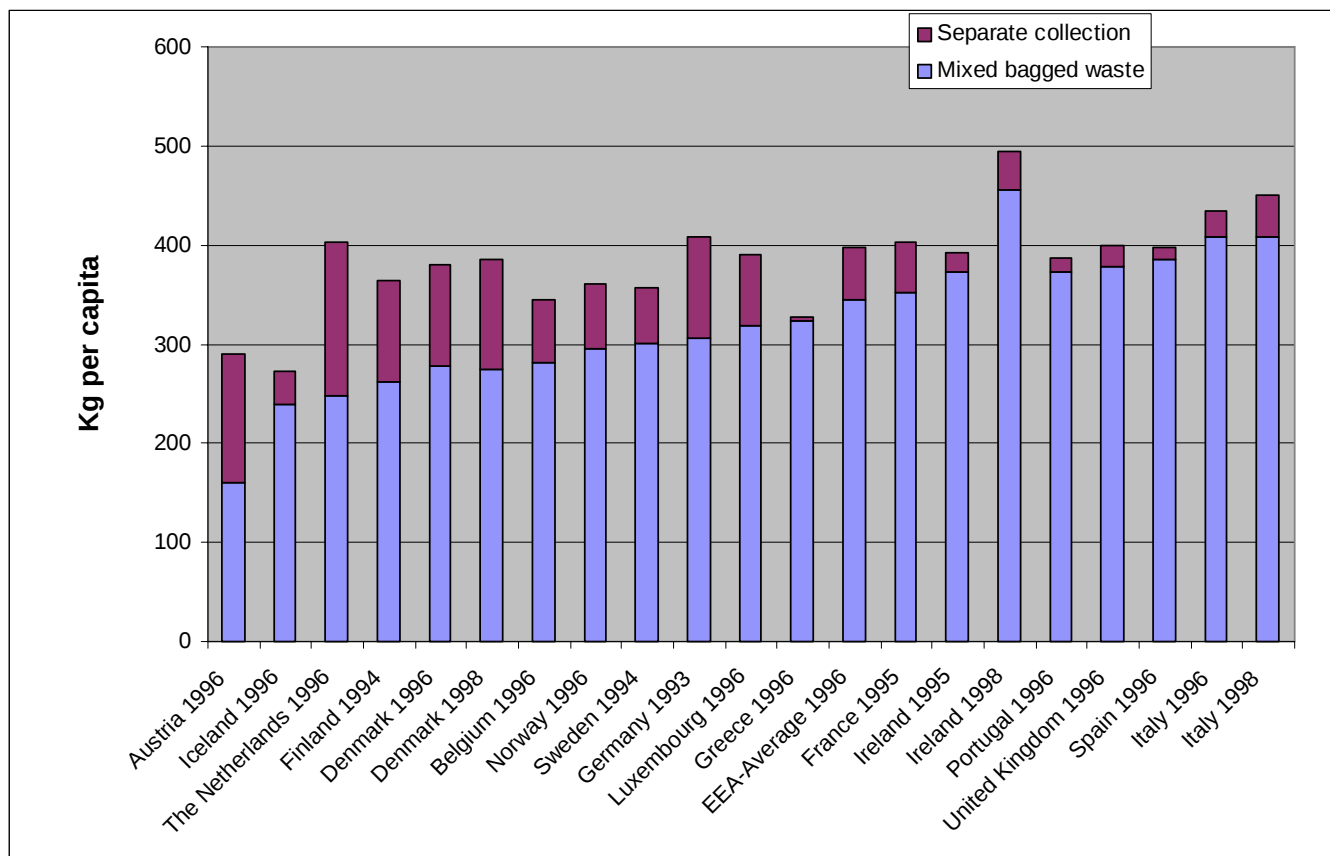




Indicator Fact Sheet Signals 2001– Chapter Waste

Generation of waste from households

W2a: Waste generation from daily household and commercial activities, EU15 plus Norway and Iceland, 1996 and 1998

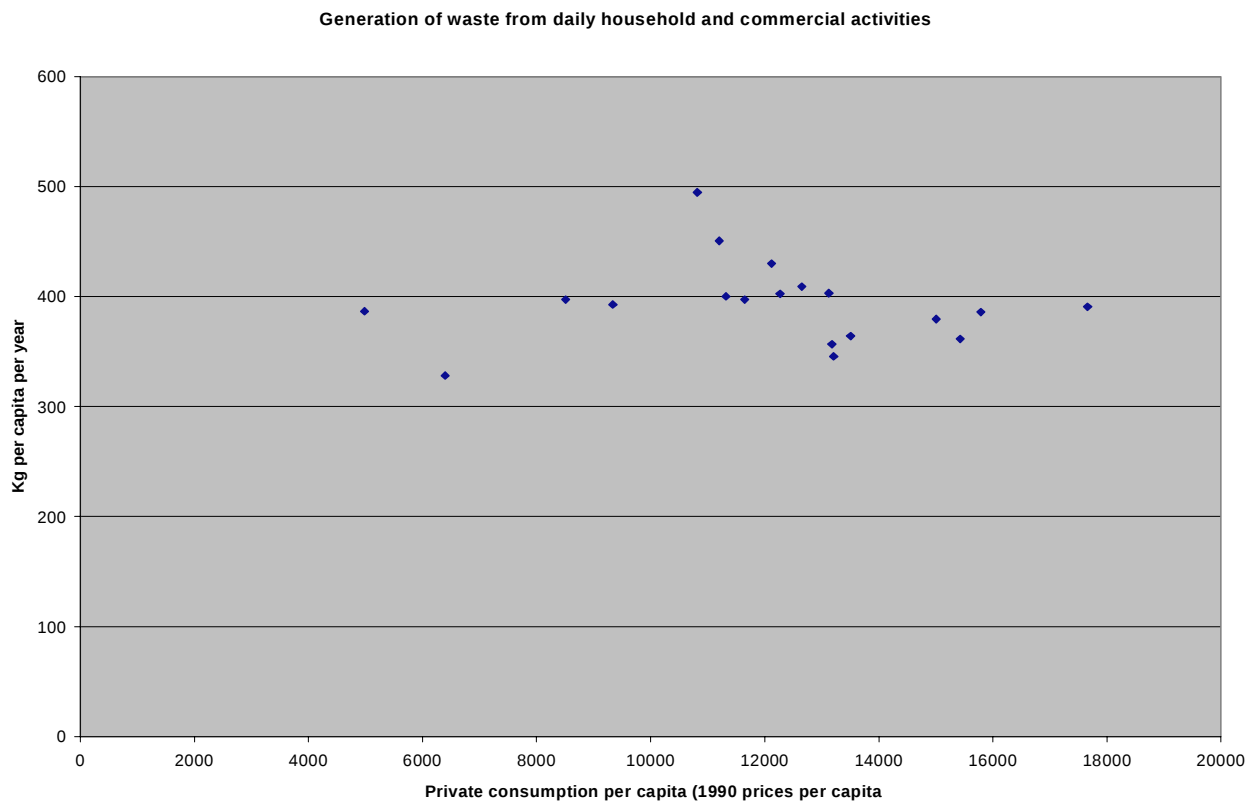


Note : 'Waste from daily household and commercial activities' consists of certain well-defined wastes, which can be compared between all EEA Member countries. It excludes bulky and garden waste. It is different from 'household waste', a classification which is not used in all Member countries. Note deviating years: France 1995, Germany 1993, Ireland 1995 Finland 1994 and Sweden 1994.

Source: Topic report no3/2000 EEA: Household and Municipal waste: Comparability of data in EEA member countries, and update 1998 based on Eurostat data from Joint Questionnaire 2000

⊗ Waste generation per capita from daily household and commercial activities exceeds the target set for 2000 and quantities are still increasing.

W2b: Waste generation from daily household and commercial activities versus private consumption (in EURO)



Source: Eurostat.

Results and assessment

Relevance of the indicator for describing developments in the environment

Waste represents an enormous loss of resources, both in the form of materials and of energy. Indeed, the amount of waste produced can be seen as an indicator of the efficiency of society, particularly in relation to the use of natural resources and waste treatment operations.

Policy relevance and policy references

During the past 20 years there has been an increasing number of initiatives to improve waste management, by the EU, governments, councils, NGOs and private companies, including programmes for reducing the quantities of waste.

References:

- COM(96) 399: Communication from the Commission on the review of the Community strategy for waste management;
- COM(95) 624: Report from the Commission on the implementation of the European Community programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development;

- COM (92) 23: Towards Sustainability - A European Community programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development (5th Environmental Action Programme).

Assessment

One of the targets set in the 5th Environmental Action Programme was to stabilise the generation of 'municipal waste' per capita at the average EU level for 1985 of 300kg per capita by the year 2000. The indicator 'waste generation from daily household and commercial activities' used in this fact sheet will generally show a lower level of waste generation than 'municipal waste'. The average 'waste from daily household and commercial activities' in 1996 was almost 400kg per capita, showing that the 5EAP target is far from being reached. Although the target is obviously unachievable, no other target has been set.

The quantities generated are similar in all countries except Austria and Iceland, where the figures are considerably lower. There is no correlation between quantities generated and private consumption, suggesting that basic needs that produce waste are being satisfied in all countries and that higher incomes will not result in the generation of more waste of this type. Differences between countries are due to other factors, such as difference in consumption patterns and lifestyle. Single households produce more waste per capita than families, ready-made food produces more packaging waste than the traditional family-prepared meals, while traditional preparation results in more organic kitchen waste. Increases in income are likely to be used for long-lived goods and services, which could result in increasing amounts of other types of waste such as bulky waste and wastes from construction and demolition.

The situation in Ireland appears to differ from that in other countries, showing a considerable increase in quantity generated between 1995 and 1998, during which period there was also an increase in private consumption. The increase in quantity could be due to improved waste collection, better record keeping, changes in the number of single households, or more use of pre-prepared food and take-away restaurants.

In general, private citizens throughout Europe have demonstrated an interest in the better management of their wastes. Many sorting schemes for household waste have been established, such as curb-side and centralised collection systems where glass, paper and metals are separately collected for recovery, either by or on the behalf of a municipality. Initiatives for reducing the quantities of waste, however, have not been effective. In some countries, increasing separate collection has resulted in a constant collection of traditional mixed-bagged waste.

Recycling schemes are operational in all countries. On average, 13 % of waste from daily household and commercial activities is collected separately, indicating the level of recycling. There are large variations from country to country and region to region - an average of 20% is collected separately in the northern and 5% in the southern Member States, showing a major potential for increasing the total amount of waste for recycling. This potential also exists within the northern EU Member States, where the amounts collected separately range from 38 % in the Netherlands to 4 % in the UK.

Table W.2 Waste generation from daily household and commercial activities, 1996

Unit: kg/capita

	Bagged	Organic/food	Paper/cardboard	Glass	Metal	Total
Austria	160	45	54	26	5	290
Belgium	281	6	32	22	5	347
Denmark	278	13	63	25	0	379
Finland	263	14	77	6	4	364
France	352	0	24	23	3	403

Germany	306	12	58	30	3	409
Greece	324	0	0	4	0	328
Iceland	240	0	21	11	0	272
Ireland	373	0	9	11	0	393
Italy	409	7	10	10	0	435
Luxembourg	318	0	39	34	0	391
Norway	295	11	45	9	2	362
Portugal	374	0	1	12	0	387
Spain	386	0	0	11	0	397
Sweden	300	0	46	11	0	357
Netherlands	248	75	54	22	3	402
UK	378	4	10	7	0	400
Average for EEA	344	7	27	17	2	397

Note: Data from Member States plus Norway and Iceland. Data for France, Ireland (1995), Finland, Sweden (1994) and Germany (1993).

Source: EEA-ETC/W

Table W.2 Waste generation from daily household and commercial activities, 1998

	Bagged	Organic/food	Paper/cardboard	Glass	Metal	Total
Denmark	274	10	78	19	4	386
Ireland	456	2	25	10	1	495
Italy	409	10	17	12	2	451

Source: Update from member countries to ETC/W 2000.

Meta data

Technical information

1. *Data source:* A study by the European Topic Centre on Waste: "Generation of household waste and municipal waste in member countries of the European Environment Agency", topic report to the EEA, 1999. Economic accounts refer to data in New Cronos.
2. *Description of data:* Municipal Waste refers to waste collected by or on behalf of municipalities; the main part originate from households, but waste from commerce and trade, office buildings, institutions and small business is included. Waste disposed of by the waste generator (directly to treatment facilities or via reloading stations) is also included. The data on waste generated from daily household and commercial activities are estimates based on a break-down of data previously reported by member countries to OECD/Eurostat as well as various reports from member countries. The estimates were made in order to identify waste fractions of a comparable nature: traditional collected mixed and/or bagged waste and separate collected fractions of organic/food waste, glass, metal, paper and cardboard waste.
3. *Geographical coverage:* EU15 + Norway and Iceland.
4. *Temporal coverage:* 1996 or latest year available for waste generated from daily household and commercial activities. Update to 1998 for municipal waste.
5. *Methodology and frequency of data collection:* ETC/W survey based on questionnaires and national reports as supplement to the OECD/Eurostat questionnaire 1998.
6. *Methodology of data manipulation:* Estimates used without any modifications. The relationship between waste generation and household expenditure is given as kg per 1000 ECU of household expenditure.

Quality information

7. *Strengths and weaknesses* (at data level): Whereas municipal waste (the classification used by OECD/Eurostat) refers to waste collected by or on behalf of municipalities, household waste comes only from households. Although the main part of municipal waste originate from households, waste from commerce and trade, office buildings, institutions and small businesses are also included in the indicator. Data are, in general, not comparable between member countries because of different definitions of municipal waste, and the fact that some countries have reported data on municipal waste and others on household waste. Thus, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden do not include data on bulky waste as part of municipal waste, and very often not data on separately collected food waste and garden waste either. Southern European countries in general include very few waste types under municipal waste, indicating that data for traditional collection (bagged waste) apparently is the only big contributor to the total amount of municipal waste in these countries. The term, “waste from household and commercial activities” is an attempt to identify common and comparable parts of municipal waste.
8. *Reliability, accuracy, robustness, uncertainty* (at data level): Data are reported by officials from member countries and must be regarded as the most reliable available.
9. *Further work required*: Statistical improvements. The proposed Council Regulation on Waste Management Statistics will provide some of the necessary statistical improvement for this indicator but data will only be collected every three years. This frequency will result in problems in assessing trends.