

Waste Generation and Recycling

Extract from France's 2021 Environmental Performance Review



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Waste is generated at different stages of a product's life cycle: during extraction of raw materials, during the manufacturing process, during its use and at the end of its life. They are generated by all the economic actors concerned. While demand for goods is increasing, prevention, waste reduction and recycling reduce pressure on natural resources.

WASTE GENERATION IN FRANCE AND EUROPE

In 2018, France produced 343.3 million tonnes (Mt) of waste, compared to 355.1 Mt in 2010. This represents 5.1 tonnes of waste per capita, similar to the European average (*Table 1*).

Table 1: Top 10 European waste-generating countries in 2018

	Total waste generation (thousands of tonnes)	of which hazardous waste (thousands of tonnes)	Total (tonnes/inhabitant)	excluding major mineral waste (tonnes/capita)
European Union - 28	2,619,880	107,850	5.1	1.5
Germany	405,524	24,194	4.9	1.8
France	343,307	12,098	5.1	1.3
United Kingdom	282,210	6,195	4.2	1.9
Romania	203,017	737	10.4	1.0
Poland	175,144	3,805	4.6	1.8
Italy	172,503	10,138	2.9	1.4
Netherlands	145,241	5,159	8.4	2.0
Sweden	138,668	2,882	13.6	1.8
Bulgaria	129,752	13,432	18.5	2.1
Finland	128,252	1,899	23.3	2.0

Source: Eurostat, December 2021

Waste is divided into three categories:

- Mineral waste at 235.5 Mt, consists almost entirely of waste from the construction sector.
- Hazardous waste, a risk to human health and the environment and requiring specific treatment, weighs in at 12.1 Mt.
- Non-hazardous non-mineral waste, at 95.7 Mt, covers waste produced by all sectors of activity: agriculture, industry, tertiary and households. The amount of household waste is 29.8 Mt : 8.7% of total waste generated in France (*Table 2*).

Fact Sheet: Waste Generation and Recycling

Table 2: Waste generation in France in 2018

In thousands of tonnes

Category	Sectors						Total
	Agriculture fishing	Manufacturing	Construction	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	Services	Households	
Non-hazardous mineral waste	0	4,338	224,162	3,382	806	2,857	235,544
Non-hazardous non-mineral waste	979	18,183	13,073	20,058	17,486	25,886	95,665
Hazardous waste	331	2,880	2,972	3,652	1,221	1,042	12,098
Total	1,310	25,402	240,207	27,091	19,513	29,785	343,307
<i>Total excluding secondary waste</i>	<i>1,310</i>	<i>25,100</i>	<i>240,206</i>	<i>15,256</i>	<i>19,491</i>	<i>29,785</i>	<i>331,146</i>

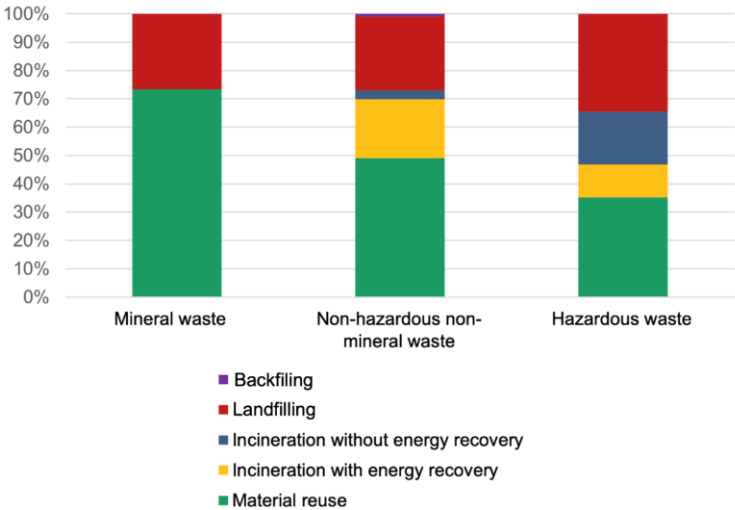
Source: SDES, 2021

RECYCLING TRENDS IN FRANCE

France set targets to increase the recycling rate of non-hazardous non-mineral waste to 55% by 2020 and 65% by 2025. In 2018, 49% of such waste was recycled, compared to 46.8% in 2010. 35% of hazardous waste and 73% of mineral waste were reused as materials. All waste combined, the material and organic recycling rate is 66%, compared to 60% in 2010 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Treatment by type of waste in 2018

In %



Source: SDES, 2021

These improvements in waste recovery are the result of several actions. For construction waste, the revised Waste Framework Directive (2018) envisages setting preparation targets specific to materials for the reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste by 31 December 2024. The French AGEC law no. 2020-105 dated 10 February 2020 against waste and for a circular economy provides for the creation of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) sector for products and materials for the construction sector on 1 January 2022. The sector will have to manage high quantities of over 40 Mt/year. Application of the law is expected to reduce uncontrolled waste

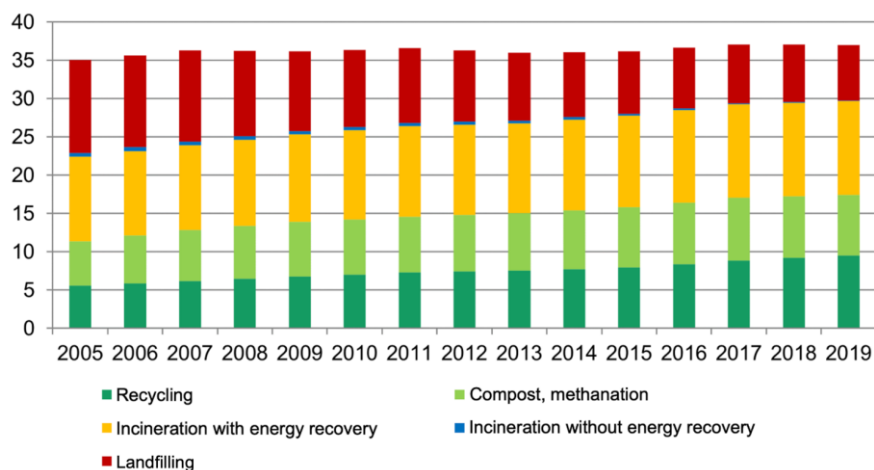
Fact Sheet: Waste Generation and Recycling

deposits which are often from the construction sector. According to Ademe's forecasts, 69% of non-hazardous waste from building is currently recovered: 29% for quarry backfilling, 38% are recycled and 2% are converted into energy. The material recovery rate for construction waste of 67% is close to the official 2020 target of 70% as stipulated by Article L541-1 of the French Environmental Code.

Local authorities are also developing selective household waste collection with door-to-door services, voluntary drop-off points and waste plants. In 2019, this concerned more than half of household and similar waste excluding rubble and debris (21% in selective collection and 32% in waste disposal), the other half being mixed household waste. Since 2000, the number of facilities for the recovery of household and similar waste (sorting, composting, energy recovery, material recovery, methanation) has increased by about 50% allowing for better waste treatment. Between 2000 and 2019, the recycling rate of material and organic waste increased from 24% to 47%. At the same time, landfilling steadily decreased from 43% to 20% of the total (*Figure 2*).

Figure 2: Treatment of household and similar waste

Millions of tonnes



Note: treatment of household and similar waste by public waste management services.

Source: Ademe, collect survey. Treatment: SDES, 2021

EPR SECTORS

18 specialised “extended producer responsibility” sectors were created to organise the management of specific waste streams due to quantities or hazards such as packaging, discarded vehicles, electrical and electronic equipment and used oil. In 2019, 8.2 Mt were collected for recycling by the producer responsibility organization (PRO) concerned. PRO in this scheme were financed by contributions of €1.5 billion in 2019, including €745 million which went to local authorities for organising collection.

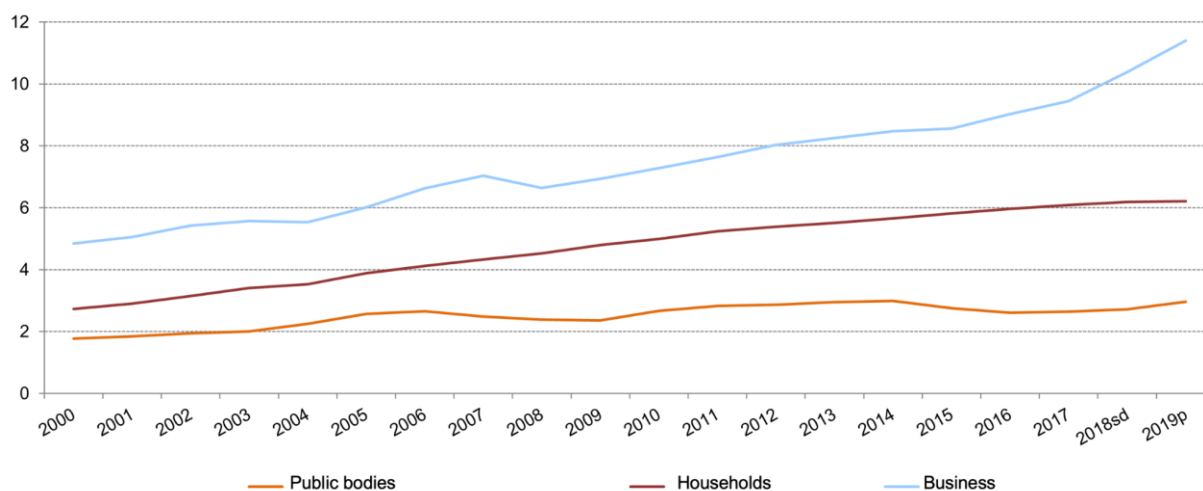
The AGECL law provides for the creation of nine new EPR sectors: tobacco (2021), construction products and materials, sports and leisure goods, mineral and synthetic oils, DIY and garden (2022), chewing gum, hygiene textiles (2024), and fishing equipment with plastic (2025).

WASTE MANAGEMENT EXPENDITURE

Waste management expenditure, including investments and operating costs of collection, sorting and treating household and business waste as well as street cleaning reached €20.6 billion in 2018. The business sector funds the majority of this expenditure (55%), ahead of households (30%) and public bodies (15%) – (*Figure 3*).

Figure 3: Trends in financing waste management expenditure

In current million euros



sd = semi-definitive, p = provisional data.

Scope: France.

Source: SDES, satellite environment account, 2021

Between 2010 and 2018, the cost of managing one tonne of municipal waste increased by almost 16% from €191 to €222. Over the same period, this expenditure was financed by an annual average increase of almost 3% in the tax or levy on household waste collection (TEOM/REOM).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- *Bilan 2018 de la production de déchets en France*, SDES, *Datalab Essentiel*, June 2021, 4pp.
- Eurostat database
- *Les déchets - Notre-environnement*
- *Les filières à responsabilité élargie des producteurs - Données 2018*, Ademe, July 2021, 164pp.
- *Collection survey - Ademe*
- *Référentiel des coûts du service public de gestion des déchets en France métropolitaine - Ademe*
- *Étude de préfiguration de la filière bâtiment*, Ademe, March 2021, 29pp.