

Waste statistics 2018

Municipal waste

More municipal waste was generated in 2018 than in previous years

Corrected on 17 January 2020. The correction is indicated in red.

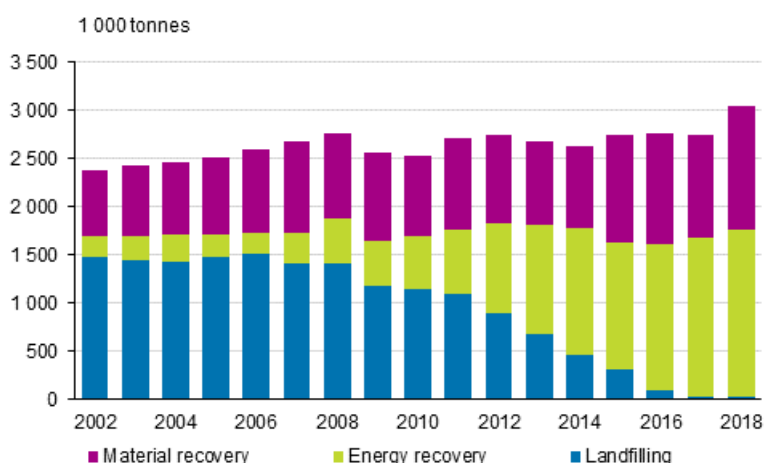
The total amount of municipal waste was around three million tonnes in 2018. Growth from the previous year amounted to nearly 230,000 tonnes, which denotes an increase of around eight per cent in the total amount. No great changes took place in the mutual shares of treatment modes of waste. The amount of waste corresponded to around 550 kg calculated per inhabitant.

The total amount of municipal waste was 3,041,082 tonnes in 2018. The amount is around eight per cent, that is, 229,000 tonnes more than in the previous year. There has not been a corresponding growth in the amount of municipal waste prior to the statistical reference year 2018.

Treatment of waste was still focused on energy recovery

No great changes took place in the mutual shares of treatment modes of waste. Energy recovery of waste was still the most significant treatment mode of municipal waste, although its share fell slightly, to 57 per cent. Energy recovery of municipal waste is based on combined production of electricity and heat, and heat is particularly recovered in district heating networks.

Municipal waste by treatment method in 2002 to 2018



The share of material recovery of waste grew, being 42 per cent. Landfill disposal of waste has ceased almost completely: its share was only around 0.7 per cent in 2018. This is partly due to the landfill prohibition of organic waste that came into force in 2016, which has channelled waste to energy recovery.

Amount of mixed waste grew significantly, but recycling of wood and plastic also increased

When examining different waste components, the share of mixed waste grew particularly. Municipalities produced around 1.5 million tonnes of mixed waste, which was over 20 per cent more than in 2017. The production of non-specified waste components was slightly smaller than in the year before, which can partly explain a small part of the growth in mixed waste. Nearly the same amount of waste collected separately as material was produced as in previous years, around 1.4 million tonnes.

Of separately collected waste components, wood and plastic were recovered more than in previous years. The considerable increase in recycling of wood packages is due to new recycling objects and the growth in the amount composted. Recycling of glass also increased.

Paper and paperboard and biowaste have long been the biggest separately collected material items. The recycling rate of cardboard, paper and paperboard was fairly high, calculated at over 100 per cent. This is due to packages from passenger imports and online shop orders and the effect of enterprises with lower turnover in the calculation method. Most of biowaste was composted and decomposed; in all, the amount composted and decomposed grew by around eight per cent from the previous year. Decomposition produces biogas, in addition to which the decomposition residue and compost soil can be utilised in soil improvement or landscape development.

Amount of municipal waste per inhabitant grew

The amount of waste also grew relative to Finland's population. In the early 2010s, the amount of waste settled to around 2.7 million tonnes, which was around 500 kg per inhabitant. In 2018, the amount of municipal waste grew to around 550 kg per person. Municipal waste refers to waste generated in housing as well as comparable waste from trade and services and corresponding waste from manufacturing support activities.

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Municipal waste 2018, tonnes

	Total waste treatment	Material recovery (w/o aerobic and anaerobic digestion)	Aerobic and anaerobic digestion	Energy recovery	Incineration without energy recovery	Landfilling
Mixed waste	1.465.449	12.724	14.467	1.424.399	0	13.860
Separately collected waste total, of which	1.431.111	863.473	378.731	183.225	953	4.729
- Paper and cardboard waste	490.418	455.628	0	34.790	0	0
- Biodegradable waste	424.793	13.406	367.511	41.993	63	1.820
- Glass waste	89.985	79.831	0	10.044	50	60
- Metal waste	154.465	154.464	0	0	1	0
- Wood waste	115.746	56.988	168	58.590	0	0
- Plastic waste	67.145	42.377	0	24.204	5	559
- Electrical and electronic waste	57.477	57.476	0	0	1	0
- Other separately collected fractions	31.082	3.303	11.052	13.604	833	2.290
Other and unspecified waste	144.522	9.775	6.541	124.827	19	3.360
Total waste	3.041.082	885.972	399.739	1.732.451	972	21.949

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Source: Waste statistics, Statistics Finland