

LIECHTENSTEIN

2025 EEA waste recycling targets STATE OF PLAY

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Authority



Turning waste into resources is key in the transition towards a cleaner, climate neutral and circular economy. Re-use and recycling benefit the environment and the economy, promoting environmental protection and resource efficiency. Re-use and recycling help ensure job creation, boost innovation, and reduce pressure on natural resources. To support the green transition, targets to increase the preparation for re-use and recycling are set under EU waste legislation that has been incorporated into the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement.

The EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) in October 2024 issued its early warning report on how Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein are progressing towards the 2025 targets for municipal and packaging waste. It also explores progress towards the 2035 target to reduce the amount of municipal waste sent to landfill. The aim of the early warning report is to identify shortfalls and assist the EEA EFTA States in meeting their recycling targets.

KEY FINDINGS

According to the data available, Liechtenstein meets the municipal waste and total packaging waste targets. Liechtenstein is at risk for not meeting the material-specific recycling targets for plastic and wooden packaging waste. Liechtenstein already meets the 2035 landfill target.



IN 2021:

Municipal waste recycling rate was 76%
EEA 2025 target >55%



IN 2021:

Landfilling rate was 0%
EEA 2035 target <10%



In 2021

Packaging waste recycling rate was 72.2%
EEA 2025 target >65%

Liechtenstein has met the 2025 material-specific targets for paper and cardboard, aluminium, ferrous packaging and glass packaging. For plastic packaging, however, its 18.6 percentage points off target. Wooden packaging is not recycled in Liechtenstein and the distance to target is 25 percentage points.



MAIN CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Improve monitoring and reporting of data, establish a methodology equivalent to EU requirements to determine the weight of municipal and packaging waste.



Assess opportunities to diversify the collection system away from civic amenity sites to explore higher convenience options

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES FROM LIECHTENSTEIN



Liechtenstein does not landfill municipal solid waste or biodegradable waste, due to a legal ban (since 1 January 2000).

A deposit-refund systems (DRS) is applied for nearly all PET bottles, plastic crates, and for re-usable glass bottles. Take-back in retail is available for other plastic packaging waste.

The 'Littering Toolbox' website provides examples of measures against littering available to all those who want to actively combat littering.

- ▶ ESA supports the EEA EFTA States to improve their waste management performance, in close cooperation with the national authorities.
- ▶ The early warning report for Liechtenstein is a result of an assessment of all three EEA EFTA States carried out by ESA according to the EEA waste legislation. It is based on underlying assessments by the European Environment Agency, and follows the same approach and methodology as for the European Commission's assessment of the EU Member States.
- ▶ This assessment identified two EEA EFTA States at risk of missing the 2025 preparing for re-use and recycling target for municipal waste, and one State at risk of missing the 2025 recycling target for packaging waste. The reports for Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein are available at: <https://www.efta-surv.int/esa-at-a-glance/publications>