

NORWAY

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

Norway is at risk of not meeting the municipal waste target and the material-specific recycling target for plastic packaging waste. Norway already meets the 2035 landfill target.



IN 2022:
Municipal waste recycling rate was 41%
EEA 2025 target >55%



IN 2022:
Landfilling rate was 3.1%
EEA 2035 target <10%



In 2021
Packaging waste recycling rate was 58.3%
EEA 2025 target >65%

Plastic packaging is the waste stream of most concern. While the recycling rate for total packaging waste increased by 7 percentage points between 2017 and 2021, the recycling rate for plastic packaging decreased in the same period with 8.6 percentage points. Capture rates remain low at 34%, and the recycling rate sits at 28.3%, which is 21.7 percentage points below the 2025 target of 50%.



MAIN CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Further improve separate collection systems for plastic, bio-waste and textiles, especially from non-household sources.



Raise awareness on separate collection to enhance public participation.

Introduce advanced fee modulation for packaging waste.

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES FROM NORWAY



A waste-management company in the Bergen region is exploring options to use food for insect and algae farming, which can be turned into fish feed.

Beverage containers, including aluminium cans and PET plastic bottles are covered by a deposit refund system. Due to this system, close to all beverage containers are returned.

- ▶ ESA supports the EEA EFTA States to improve their waste management performance, in close cooperation with the national authorities.
- ▶ The early warning report for Norway 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>