



2024

Avfall Sverige in two minutes

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Avfall Sverige (Swedish Waste Management Association) has been the municipalities' trade association in the field of waste management and recycling since 1947. Avfall Sverige's members ensure that waste is collected and recycled in all Swedish municipalities. We perform our work on behalf of society: in an environmentally sound, sustainable and long-term manner. Our vision is "Zero Waste". We are taking action to prevent waste, promote reuse and ensure that the waste produced is recycled, recovered and managed in the optimal manner. Municipalities and their enterprises are the ambassadors, catalysts and guarantors of this change.



MEMBERS

Avfall Sverige represents its members – municipalities, local government associations, municipal enterprises and municipally-owned regional enterprises in waste and recycling. Our members represent the entire population of Sweden. The organisation also includes associate members, who are manufacturers, consultants and contractors active in waste management. Avfall Sverige has 218 municipal members and 149 associated members.

COMMUNICATION



The overall objectives of Avfall Sverige's joint communication are to increase awareness of how to prevent waste and then deal with the waste that does occur, as well as emphasising the role of the municipalities. Joint communication with the members takes the form of campaigns targeting the various stages of the waste hierarchy as well as the role and responsibilities of municipalities. Avfall Sverige publishes the industry journal Avfall och Miljö [Waste and Environment] and a newsletter. On our website, we present news and share material available for download. Those who are interested can also register for Avfall Sverige's courses, conferences and theme days on the website.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Avfall Sverige is composed of eighteen directors, ten of whom are elected representatives and eight of whom are civil servants. The directors are active in municipalities, local government associations, or municipal enterprises. The aim is for the composition of the Board to reflect the association's membership in terms of its organisational structure, size and geographical distribution. The Board shall also achieve the most equal gender distribution possible. The Board meets at least four times each financial year. Meetings are convened by the Chair.

WORKING GROUPS

Working groups are an important link between members and the office as well as among members. Our courses, themed days, development projects and transfer of knowledge are the results of working group efforts. The working groups are an important internal base for establishing support for Avfall Sverige's positions on various legislative and lobbying issues. The working groups are divided into eight areas. The working groups each contain a number of operational groups and networks.



ADVISORY SERVICES

The members of Avfall Sverige become part of the country's foremost collective expertise in the field of waste management. Members access this specialist expertise via reports, templates and guides, or by contacting the office directly. This also applies to legal questions and questions about communication.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Avfall Sverige's Administrative Office has a staff of 21 employees in 2023. The Administrative Office is located in Malmö. There is also a satellite office with two employees in Stockholm. The Board determines the direction of the Administrative Office, whose work is led by the Managing Director.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Development Committee contributes to developments within the waste industry and consists of the chairs of the working groups, an additional municipal representative, and the Managing Director of Avfall Sverige. The Committee decides which projects should be approved and how the funds to execute them should be distributed. The working groups for energy recovery, biological treatment and landfill also have their own development initiatives, which they finance and have decision-making authority over. The results of the various development initiatives are communicated in reports and in courses. 27 reports were published in 2023.



AVFALL WEB

Avfall Sverige's statistical tool, Avfall Web, allows municipalities to compare, benchmark and follow-up. The reporting also serves as the basis for the national municipal waste statistics that Avfall Sverige publishes in the report "Swedish Waste Management" and in an annual statistical report at the county and municipal levels. Avfall Sverige also delivers statistics to government agencies, including the Energy Agency, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Swedish EPA) and Statistics Sweden (SCB).

TRAINING

Avfall Sverige organises a large number of digital and in-person courses, themed days and conferences every year to enhance skills and give members the opportunity to exchange experiences. The training programme enjoys broad support among the working groups, with activities based on the needs of members. Courses were organised on 25 occasions with a total of 1,774 participants in 2023.

FUNDING

The organisation is funded through revenues consisting of approximately equal proportions of membership fees and the income from commercial activities such as courses, conferences, consulting assignments, publications, etc. All members pay a membership fee as well as a service fee. In addition, municipal members pay a development fee.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Avfall Sverige's commission includes regular and extensive interaction with the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag), the Government Offices of Sweden, government agencies, organisations and opinion leaders. Avfall Sverige actively contributes opinions ahead of political decisions through its official consultative responses and correspondence. Avfall Sverige is also engaged in lobbying within the EU. This is done through both the Government Offices of Sweden and through European organisations such as MWE, CEWEP, etc. Avfall Sverige is part of the ISWA global network.

CEWEP – Confederation of European Waste-to-Energy Plants
MWE – Municipal Waste Europe
ISWA – International Solid Waste Association
ECN - European Compost Network

29 consultation responses, 2 pieces of correspondence, and 9 opinion pieces and replies were written in 2023.





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