Avfall Sverige in two minutes

Avfall Sverige (Swedish Waste Management) 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.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Avfall Sverige is composed of eighteen directors, ten of whom are elected representatives from the municipalities, local government associations, or municipal enterprises. The Board meets at least four times each financial year. Meetings are convened by the Chairman and the Managing Director of Avfall Sverige.

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 about a hundred associate members who are manufacturers, consultants and contractors active in waste management. Avfall Sverige has 224 municipal members and 140 associate members.

Advisory services

The members of Avfall Sverige have access to and are part of - the highest collective competence in waste management in the country. Members can make use of Avfall Sverige’s specialist expertise via reports, templates and guides, or by contacting the office directly. This also applies to legal questions and questions about communication.

Training

Avfall Sverige arranges a large number of courses, theme 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. Trainings were arranged on 27 occasions with a total of 1,756 participants in 2020.

Development projects

The Working Group Committee contributes to development within the waste industry and consists of the chairmen of the working groups, one other representative from the municipalities, and the Managing Director of Avfall Sverige. The Committee decides which projects should be given the go-ahead and how the funds to execute them should be distributed. The working groups are energy recovery, biological treatment, and waste treatment plants that have their own development initiatives, which they fund and decide on themselves. The results of the various development initiatives are presented in reports and at courses.

In 2020, 31 reports were published.

Avfall Web

Avfall Sverige’s statistical tool, Avfall Web, makes it possible for municipalities to make comparisons and perform benchmarking and follow-up. The reporting also serves as the basis for the national household 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).

Lobbying

Avfall Sverige’s commission includes regular and extensive interaction with the Riksdag, the Government Offices of Sweden, government agencies, organisations and opinion makers. 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.

Communication

The key objectives of Avfall Sverige’s joint communication are to increase knowledge about Swedish waste management and about the role of the municipalities. The joint communication is in the form of campaigns with different themes. The theme for 2015–2021 is prevention and reuse. Avfall Sverige publishes the industry journal Avfall och Miljö [Waste and Environment] and a newsletter. On its website, Avfall Sverige presents news and makes materials available for download. Those interested can also register for Avfall Sverige’s courses, conferences and theme days on the website.

Communication: In 2020, 27 consultative responses, 9 pieces of correspondence and 19 debate articles and replies were written.

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

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