

REPORT 2024

# Swedish Waste Management

➔ Abbreviated version

# World-class waste management

Well-functioning waste management contributes to reducing climate impact and implementing the global sustainability goals and national environmental objectives.

Sweden's municipalities and Swedish citizens are good at waste management. From sorting to collection and recycling. With this publication, we want to briefly present the development and important trends in Swedish waste management. Trends that illustrate how far we have come in Sweden, but also how far we still have to go to achieve Avfall Sverige's vision – a future without waste.

Statistics for 2024 show that the volume of household waste amounted to 4.5 million tonnes, equivalent to 426 kg per person. This is a decrease compared to the previous year. There has also been a 3 percent decrease in the volume of residual waste compared to 2023, from 148 kg to 143 kg per person. This is a positive development towards meeting the national environmental objectives and the targets set by the EU. But much more needs to be done so we can reach our goal together!

The waste charge is intended to cover customer service, information and, not least, the collection and treatment of waste, as well as work at recycling centres and waste prevention efforts. On average, a Swedish household pays SEK 6.80 per day for this.

## Swedish waste management is good value for money.

Waste management is an important societal function, with the municipalities serving as one of the main actors handling this in an environmentally safe and sustainable way as part of their public duties. Municipalities are responsible for ensuring that waste is managed safely and in a resource-efficient manner – through prevention, reuse, and recycling. Through collaboration and innovation, we are working toward a future where waste is seen as a resource. The rest of society also needs to take responsibility. How things are designed and produced, how they are consumed, and how the waste is sorted after use are crucial factors in how successful waste management can be. For the efforts to be successful, everyone needs to do their part and the municipalities need to continue their responsibility for waste management.

The statistics are mainly taken from Avfall Sverige's web-based statistics system, Avfall Web.

Malmö, 1 July, 2025

Tony Clark,  
Managing Director Avfall Sverige

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE?**  
See Swedish Waste Management,  
which is available at [avfallsverige.se](https://avfallsverige.se)

# 4,511,270 tonnes

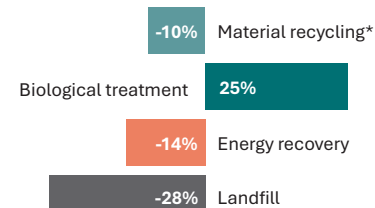
volume treated in 2024

**1% DECREASE COMPARED TO 2023**

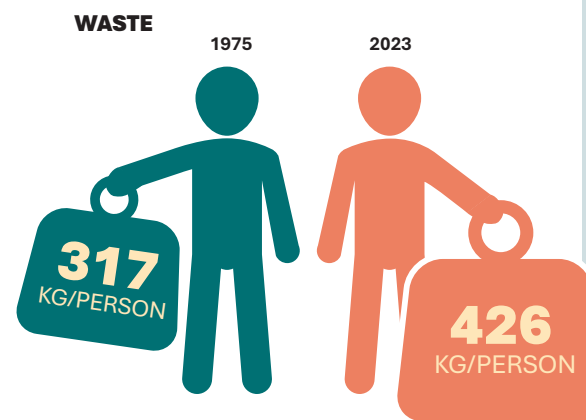
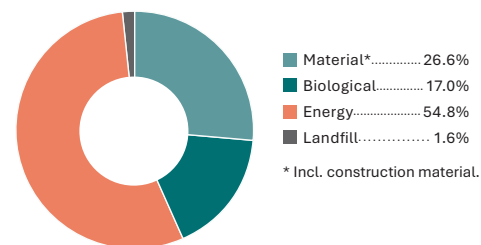
## WASTE TREND

Change 2014–2024.

\* Incl. construction material.



## WASTE TREATMENT 2024



## SOURCE-SEPARATED FOOD WASTE

Collection increased between 2014 and 2024 by

# 45%

## BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT

Collection increased between 1975 and 2024 by

# 1147%

# 98.4%

of household waste was recycled in 2024.

The challenge now is to reduce the volume of waste.

# 6.80 SEK PER DAY

SWEDISH HOUSEHOLDS PAY  
ROUGHLY THE PRICE OF AN APPLE  
FOR THEIR WASTE MANAGEMENT

*The term household waste refers to the waste generated by households and businesses that falls under municipal waste responsibility pursuant to Chapter 15, § 20 of the Swedish Environmental Code. Compared with the concept of municipal waste, construction and demolition waste from households is included, while waste from park and street maintenance is not included.*

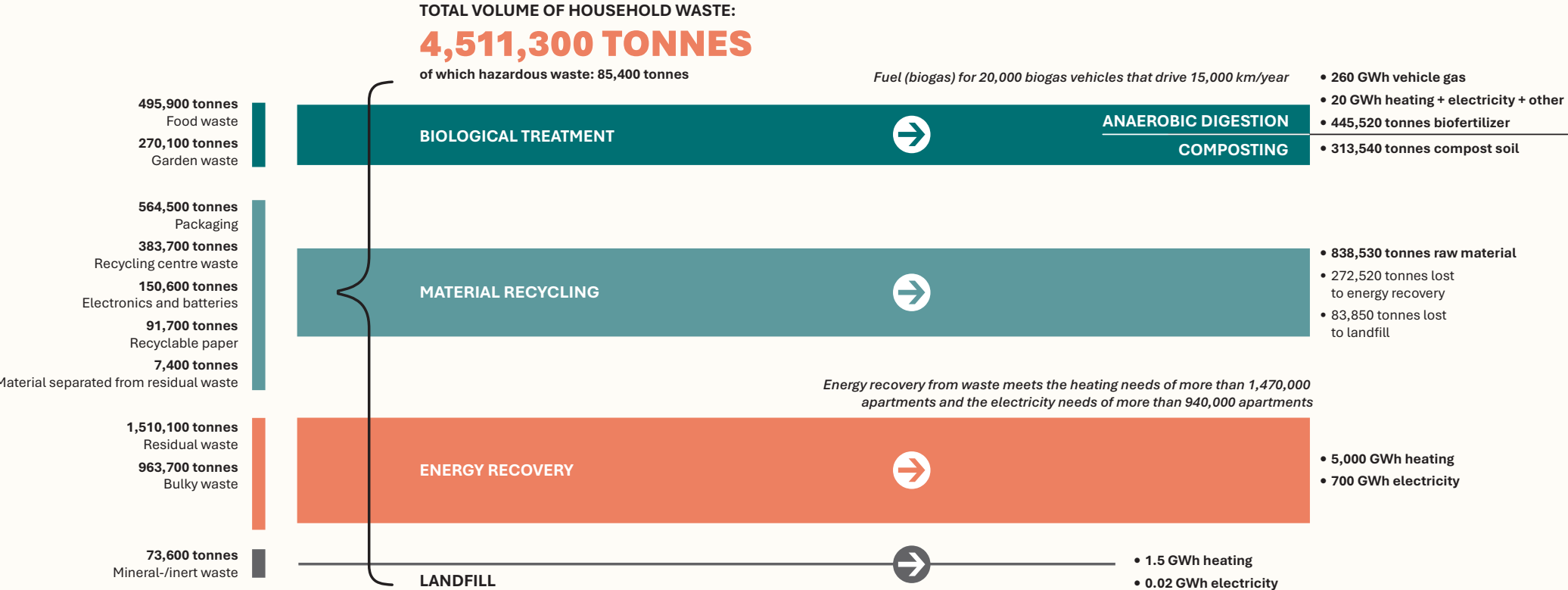
# Swedish household waste 2024

1 GW

The amount of energy required to meet the electricity needs of a city the size of Lund (approximately 100,000 inhabitants) for eight hours.

1000 GWh

The amount of energy required to power all of Sweden's trains, metros and trams for five months.





AVFALL SVERIGE'S VISION

# A future without waste

Preventing the creation of waste is the top step in the waste hierarchy. It is the priority of both Swedish and European waste legislation.

The waste hierarchy order of priority is:

- waste prevention
- reuse
- material recycling and biological treatment
- other recycling and recovery, e.g. energy recovery
- disposal, e.g. to landfill.

There are different methods for treating waste:

- material recycling
- biological treatment
- energy recovery
- landfill.

Material recycling saves energy and natural resources, thereby reducing environmental impact. Biological treatment closes the eco-cycle's loop, produces electricity and biogas, and returns nutrients to the soil in the form of biofertiliser. Energy recovery refers to the extraction of energy from waste to provide both district heating and electricity. Landfill entails waste being stored in a manner that is safe in the long-term.

Hazardous waste can be treated using one or more of these methods, depending on its properties. Waste that may contain hazardous substances should not undergo material recycling, but should instead be phased out of the eco-cycle. Preparation for reuse is also a recycling process.

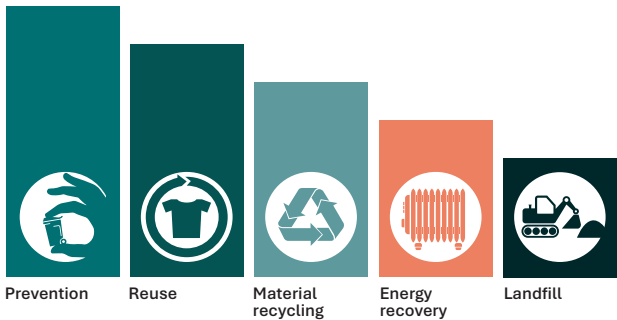
Avfall Sverige has a goal of reducing the total volume of food and residual waste by 25 percent (compared to 2014) by 2025. The idea is that it will serve as an inspiration for municipalities and municipal enterprises in their efforts to reach higher up in the waste hierarchy. In 2024, there was a 17 percent reduction compared to 2015, so there is still some way to go to reach this goal. In 2025, Avfall Sverige decided on a new goal – the 30/30 goal, i.e. to reduce the volume of residual waste by 30 percent (compared to 2023) by 2030.

There is a strong commitment to work on both reuse and waste prevention, and more and more experience is being built up.

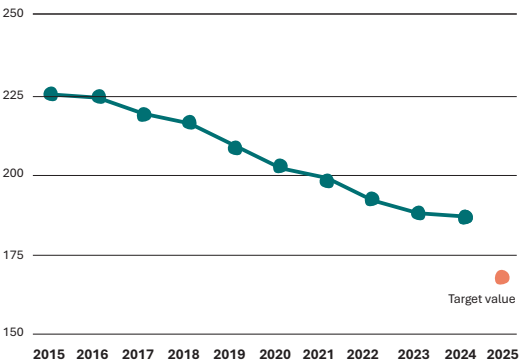
Waste collected and prepared for reuse amounted to 24,860 tonnes in 2024. This includes items such as textiles, furniture, household goods, and sports and leisure items collected at recycling centres either by the municipality or through partnership with reuse operators, and then prepared for reuse through measures such as inspection, cleaning or repair.

The impact of consumption on the environment is becoming increasingly clear. One aspect of consumption that few people are aware of is the large amount of waste produced during the manufacture of various products – the “invisible waste”. For example, as much of 120 kg of waste is generated when producing a single mobile phone. In other words, it is not always what you see that is the true heavyweight.

WASTE HIERARCHY

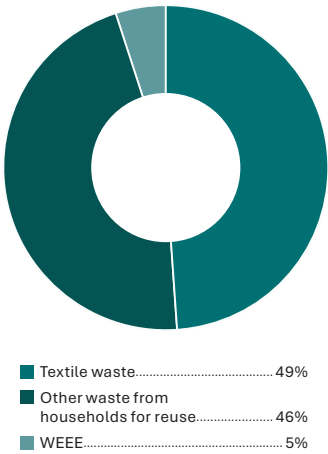


FOLLOW-UP OF THE 25/25 GOAL  
FOOD AND RESIDUAL WASTE, KG PER PERSON



By 2024, the volume of food and residual waste decreased by 17% (38 kg/person) compared to 2015.

COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE  
PREPARED FOR REUSE 2024



**Avfall Sverige (Swedish Waste Management Association) has been the municipalities' trade association in the field of waste management and recycling since 1947**

It is our members who ensure that waste is collected and recycled in all Swedish municipalities. We promote sustainable and innovative waste management, where we collaborate with others based on our social responsibility.

