



2021

**Swedish Waste Management
abbreviated version**



AVFALL SVERIGE

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 Swedes 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 – Zero Waste.

Statistics for 2021 show that municipal waste amounted to 4.9 million tonnes, equivalent to 475 kg per person. This is an increase compared to the previous year. We've seen it before. During periods of economic boom, there is an increase in consumption – and with it, an increase in waste volumes. It is a relationship that we need to prevent and break. However, we are pleased to see that the amount of food and residual waste decreased by 1.5 percent, from 202 kg to 199 kg, compared to 2020. This is a positive development towards achieving our shared goal of a 25 percent reduction in food and residual waste between 2015 and 2025, as well as meeting national environmental objectives as well as targets set by the EU. But much more needs to be done so we can reach our goal together!

The waste collection 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 5 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. The municipalities are taking action to minimise waste, promote reuse and ensure that the waste produced is recycled, recovered and managed. The rest of society also needs to take responsibility. How things are designed and produced, as well as how people consume and then sort their waste, 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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE?

See "Swedish waste management", which can be found at avfallsverige.se

Malmö, August 2022

In this context, waste refers to waste that falls under municipal waste responsibility, i.e. waste from households and similar waste from, for example, shops, restaurants and offices.

99.1%

99.1 percent of municipal waste was recycled in 2021. The challenge now is to reduce waste.

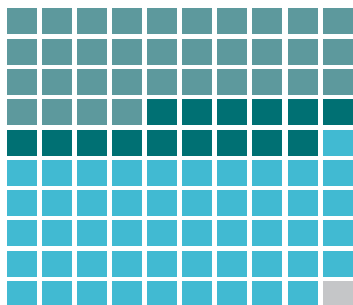


4,961,910 tonnes

volume treated in 2021

2.5% increase compared to 2020

Waste treatment

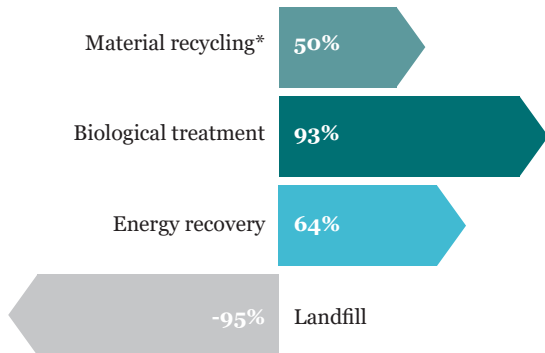


- Material recycling*34%
- Biological treatment..... 15%
- Energy recovery.....50%
- Landfill 0.9%

* incl. construction material

Waste trend

change 2001–2021



* incl. construction material



Swedish households pay, on average, the price of an apple per day to have food and residual waste collected kerbside and to have access to recycling centres to turn in bulky waste and hazardous waste.



14%

Increase in the collection of source-separated food waste from 2018 to 2021

Biological treatment

2021 > **748 Ktonnes**

1975 > **60 Ktonnes**

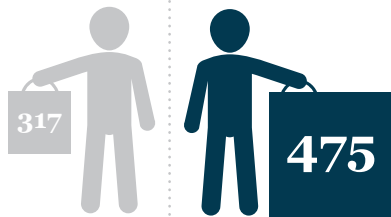
1,147%
more in 2021 than in 1975

Waste

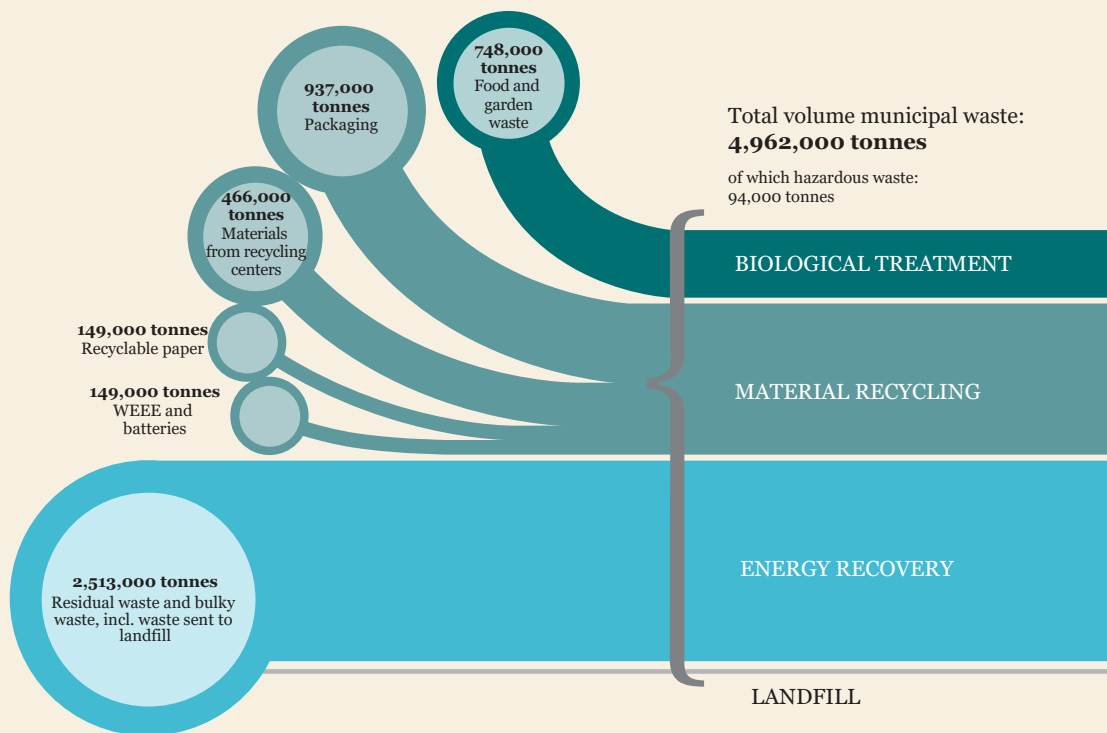
kg/person

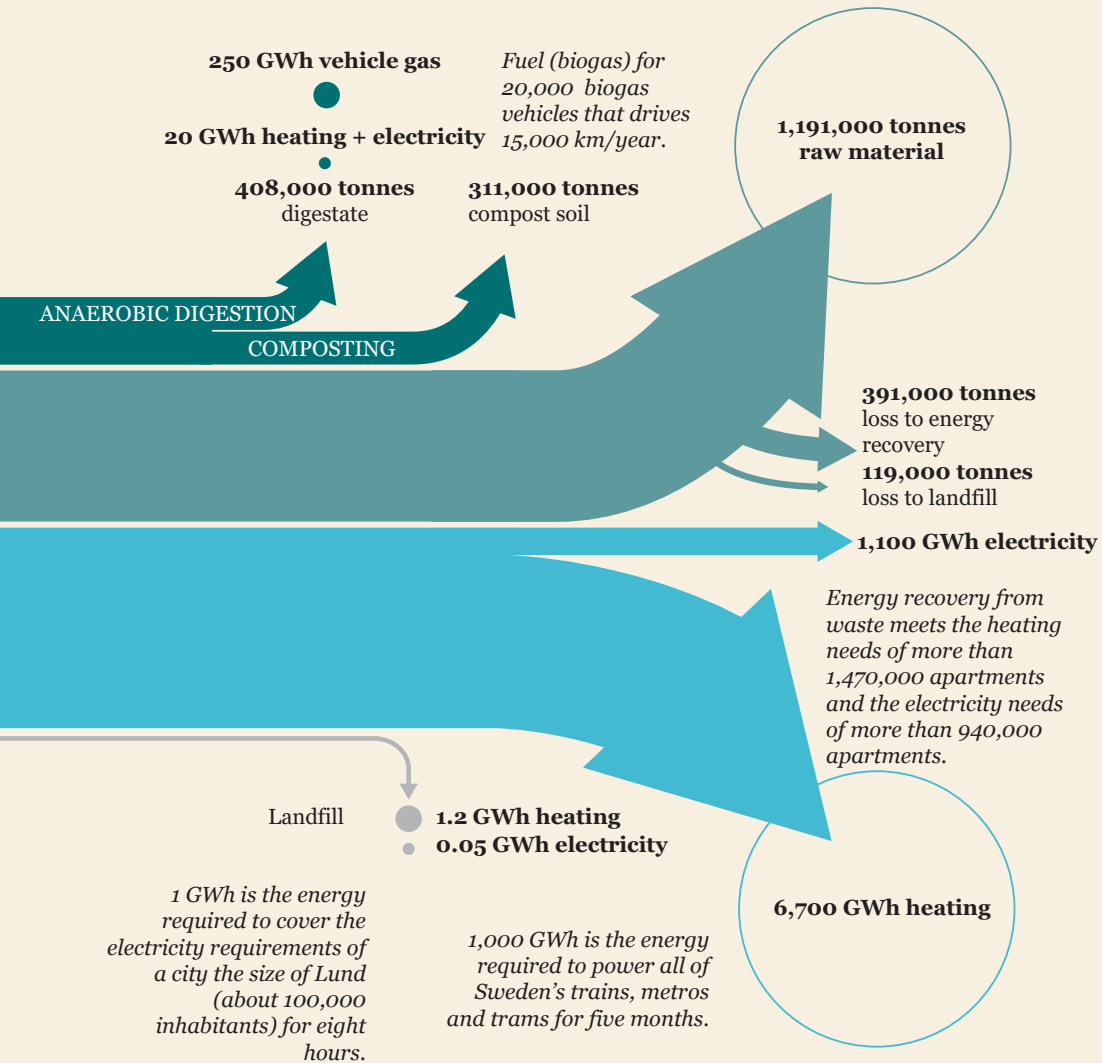
1975

2021



Swedish municipal waste 2021





Avfall Sverige's vision: “Zero 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, e.g. energy recovery
- disposal, e.g. to landfill.

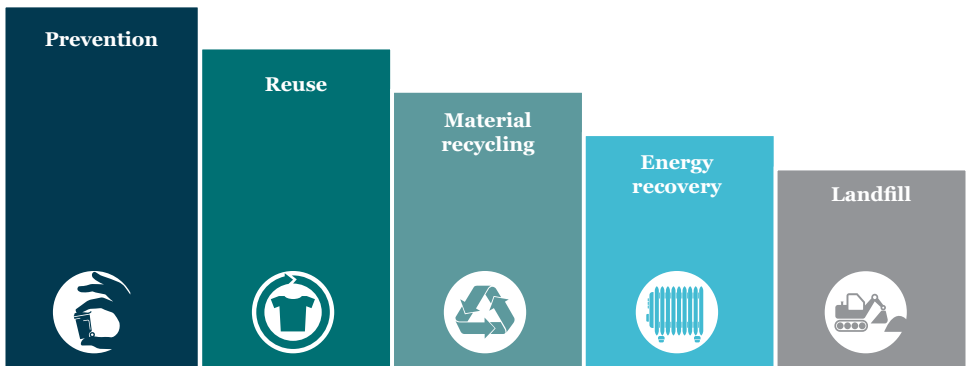
There are different methods for treating waste:

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

Material recovery 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 digestate. 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.

Waste hierarchy



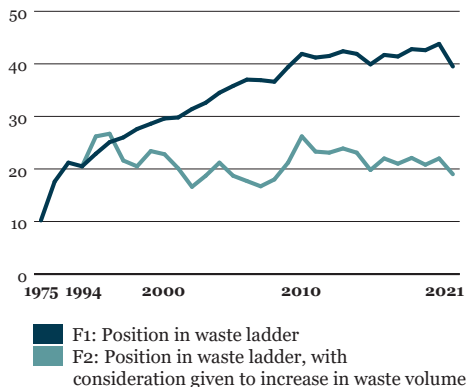
Avfall Sverige has developed indicators to measure and monitor progress towards more resource-efficient waste management. Movement indicator 1 shows where Sweden is in the waste hierarchy, with a value of 100 indicating that all waste is prevented or reused. This indicator shows steady improvement over the years, with more waste being recycled and reused. However, there is great potential for improvement.

Movement indicator 2 shows developments, taking the increase in waste volumes into account, which limits the progress contributed by more resource-efficient waste management.

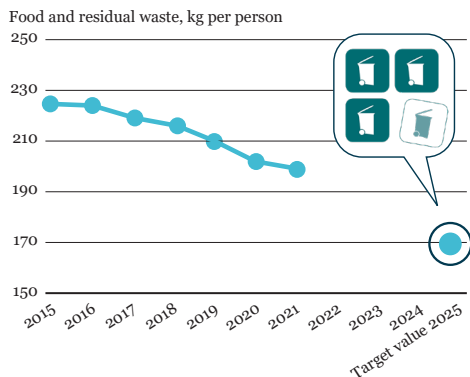
Avfall Sverige has set a target: a 25 percent reduction of food and residual waste volumes by 2025, compared to the 2015 volumes. The idea is that it will serve as an inspiration for municipalities and municipal enterprises in their efforts to reach higher up in the waste hierarchy. Municipalities are free to take up the challenge, which is tough – but realistic.

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

Movement indicators F1 and F2



Follow-up of 25/25 goal



Collection of materials and textiles for reuse amounted to 30,550 tonnes in 2021.



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