



PRESS RELEASE

Global Waste Index 2025: Ranking the biggest waste polluters worldwide

Comprehensive Analysis ranks 38 member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and development (OECD) according to how effectively they manage their waste.

- Israel and Chile emerged as the two largest waste producers in the world.
- The United States increased its output from 811 to 951 kilograms per capita per year, remaining the country that generates the most municipal solid waste.
- The UK managed to decrease its incineration rate by approximately 74% — from 190 kg to 50 kg per year.
- Estonia joined the top three countries with the best waste management practices, alongside two Asian countries Japan and South Korea.

4 June 2025 – The Global Waste Index 2025 created by Sensoneo, a leader in the digital transformation of waste management operating in 87 countries worldwide, reveals that significant differences remain in the amount of waste generated globally and in how it is disposed of. The Global Waste Index 2025 analyzes the waste management efficiency of 38 countries and ranks the world's largest waste polluters. The study was first conducted in 2019 and followed by the 2022 edition.

Table: The world's biggest waste polluters, showing per capita amounts of total waste generated, recycled, incinerated, and landfilled in a year.

The Global Waste Index 2025 evaluates the waste management efficiency and ranks countries in descending order, starting with those performing the worst. This comparative analysis is based on the most recent data available in each country. For the full methodology and the complete ranking of all 38 countries, please visit the [Sensoneo website](#).

Rank	Rank 2022	Country	Waste Generated	Recycling	Incineration	Landfill	Recycled / Generated	Final score
38	✓ 33	Israel	650	49	9	524	8%	0.0
37	✓ 36	Chile	437	2	1	417	0%	22.1
36	✓ 25	United States	951	284	127	447	30%	28.7

35	✓ 28	Greece	519	82	8	420	16%	29.0
34	✓ 31	Canada	694	192	34	468	28%	30.3
33	✓ 19	Australia	543	100	64	286	18%	42.9
32	↗ 38	Turkey	380	49	0	330	13%	43.5
31	↗ 35	Mexico	359	13	0	219	4%	43.6
30	✓ 24	Portugal	505	66	92	285	13%	44.4
29	↗ 30	Iceland	595	123	93	196	21%	48.7
28	↗ 29	New Zealand	608	213	0	304	35%	49.2
27	✓ 23	Spain	465	96	49	223	21%	53.3
26	↔ 26	Costa Rica	325	42	10	255	13%	53.9
25	✓ 15	Hungary	429	83	53	233	19%	55.4
24	✓ 20	Czech Republic	570	175	69	263	31%	56.9
23	✓ 22	Colombia	243	19	0	214	8%	60.5
22	↗ 37	Latvia	464	157	14	202	34%	62.8
21	↗ 27	Slovak Republic	472	154	36	183	33%	64.8
20	✓ 13	Poland	367	58	76	111	16%	66.8
19	✓ 14	France	530	120	161	121	23%	68.8
18	↔ 18	United Kingdom	436	114	50	40	26%	69.3
17	↗ 34	Italy	486	141	90	88	29%	71.4
16	✓ 2	Denmark	802	187	364	12	23%	78.1
15	✓ 12	Ireland	623	161	268	93	26%	80.3
14	↗ 16	Lithuania	446	110	180	35	25%	84.2
13	↗ 22	Slovenia	517	231	69	49	45%	85.5
12	✓ 8	Netherlands	468	129	188	7	28%	87.6
11	✓ 10	Luxembourg	712	224	291	21	31%	88.1
10	✓ 4	Switzerland	677	193	324	0	29%	91.3
9	✓ 6	Norway	724	227	339	39	31%	92.5
8	↗ 9	Sweden	392	79	230	4	20%	92.6
7	↗ 11	Belgium	689	232	310	1	34%	96.2
6	✓ 5	Finland	468	135	256	2	29%	97.9
5	↗ 17	Austria	803	334	284	17	42%	98.6
4	✓ 3	Germany	601	270	184	7	45%	99.4
3	↗ 32	Estonia	373	142	159	2	38%	99.5
2	✓ 1	South Korea	438	236	91	56	54%	99.6

1	↗ 7	Japan	326	63	245	3	19%	100.0
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Largest increases and positive shifts in Europe

Belgium and Austria reported the largest increases in waste generation, each increasing by over 200 kg per person during the observed period. Among European OECD countries, an average of 20% of municipal waste is landfilled, with Greece topping the list at 420 kg per capita. Finland and Sweden lead in incineration, treating over 55% of their waste through energy recovery. Encouragingly, 16 out of 26 European countries succeeded in reducing their overall waste generation, indicating progress toward more sustainable waste management.

Alarming Landfilling Rates in North America

As in 2022, the country generating the most municipal solid waste remains unchanged: the United States has even increased its output from 811 kilograms to 951 kilograms per capita. Along with its neighbour Canada, both North American nations rank at the bottom in terms of waste management, with alarming rates of landfill disposal. The United States sends 447 kg of its 951 kg of waste per capita to landfills, while Canada has an even higher proportion: 67 % out of 684 kg of all generated waste ends up in landfills.

Other findings of the World Waste Index 2025:

- **Austria recycles the highest amount** of municipal waste, at 334 kilograms per capita, which represents 42%, even before the introduction of a national deposit return scheme.
- **In Israel, 524 kg out of 650 kg of generated waste is sent to landfills** and disposed of in a particularly environmentally harmful way — the highest amount among all countries analyzed.
- Three countries with largest decreases in **the amount of waste generated** compared to the previous edition of the ranking were New Zealand (173kg), Finland (128kg) and Iceland (107kg).
- From an environmental perspective, waste incineration is preferable to landfilling. However, **in 12 out of 38 countries, more than 50% of generated waste still ends up in landfills** — including in countries like Canada, New Zealand, and Australia.
- **Switzerland is the only country that does not send any waste to landfill**. Other countries with minimal amounts sent to landfill are Belgium (1kg), Finland and Estonia (2kg) and Japan (3kg).

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About Sensoneo: Sensoneo is a global technology company providing data-driven solutions for waste management. Through the integration of innovative technology, Sensoneo enables cities, businesses, and countries to digitally transform their performance, optimize waste collection processes, and lower their environmental footprint. With its team of 150+ professionals, Sensoneo provides complex software and hardware solutions worldwide, with an active presence in Europe, USA, and the MENA region. Sensoneo's smart waste management solutions have garnered attention from countries, cities, and businesses worldwide, with installations in over 87 countries across five continents.

As the only company worldwide, Sensoneo has successfully implemented and operates IT systems for Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) in 9 countries, achieving recycling performance exceeding 90%. The deployment of smart sensors by Sensoneo is poised to contribute to the **largest smart waste installation worldwide**, encompassing an impressive 11,100 sensors in Madrid. Additionally, Sensoneo has designed tools to automate factory waste collection, enabling its customers to improve waste diversion rates and data reporting at their locations.

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