

GLOBAL WASTE INDEX

A comprehensive analysis ranks **36 member states** of the **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development** according to how effectively they manage their waste

- **The United States** ranks **12th** out of the **36** countries in the Index, due to the sheer amount of waste generated per capita - the US is the world's largest producer of waste per capita)
- **South Korea** ranks as the best country for waste management, thanks to a meticulous recycling system.
- **Turkey** ranks **first** as the worst country for waste management, due to the amount of illegally dumped rubbish.

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[Sensoneo](#), a leading provider of smart, enterprise-grade waste management solutions operating in 40 countries worldwide, has **ranked the OECD countries according to the environmental impact of their waste management**. The findings aim to hold the world's largest polluters accountable for their actions and push for investment in waste management techniques that prioritize the health of our planet.

The Global Waste Index analyses the most common methods of processing waste and **allocates a number of positive or negative points** relative to the amount of CO₂ emissions, methane, and environmental contamination the technique causes on average. The 36 countries within the OECD were then all scored according to the kilograms of waste they process using each method. These include: **Recycling, Incineration, Landfill, and Open Dump**, as well as the amount of **Waste Generated Per Capita** and the amount of **Waste Unaccounted**.

The US is the world's largest producer of waste per capita. However, the US ranks well for recycling – reaching 3rd best place from all the OECD countries. Landfill is still more preferred method than incineration – the US sends to the landfill 5th highest volume of waste from the countries in the index.

The following table reveals the top 20 OECD countries in the Global Waste Index. For actual figures on the amount of waste processed via each method, and for the full ranking table of all 36 countries, please visit the [Sensoneo website](#).

Country	Waste Generated	annually per capita in kg	Recycling	annually per capita in kg	Incineration	annually per capita in kg	Landfill	annually per capita in kg	Open Dump	annually per capita in kg	Unaccounted Waste	annually per capita in kg	Final score
South Korea	0.45	359	3.79	208	0.36	90	0.40	57	0.00	0	0.00	0	100.00
Sweden	1.39	452	2.66	146	0.92	229	0.02	4	0.00	0	0.00	0	93.09
Japan	0.32	346	1.30	71	1.11	278	0.03	4	0.00	0	0.00	0	92.48
Switzerland	3.96	706	4.11	226	1.36	340	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	89.14
Netherlands	2.00	513	2.30	126	0.99	248	0.05	7	0.00	0	0.00	0	87.43
Germany	3.22	633	5.51	303	0.79	198	0.01	1	0.00	0	1.86	13	87.32
Finland	1.97	510	2.61	143	0.96	240	0.40	58	0.00	0	0.01	0	87.18
Belgium	0.96	410	2.56	141	0.73	181	0.03	4	0.00	0	1.39	9	85.44
Norway	1.08	422	2.01	110	0.89	221	0.10	14	0.00	0	0.88	6	84.97
Poland	0.00	315	1.51	83	0.15	38	0.87	127	0.00	0	0.00	0	84.74
Denmark	4.72	781	3.88	213	1.67	415	0.06	9	0.00	0	0.02	0	84.43
Czech Republic	0.29	344	1.60	88	0.22	56	1.15	167	0.00	0	0.00	0	82.22
Australia	2.48	560	4.29	236	0.22	55	1.88	273	0.00	0	0.00	0	80.85
Iceland	3.45	656	6.67	366	0.12	30	3.31	481	0.00	0	0.00	0	80.10
Luxembourg	2.96	607	3.14	172	0.85	212	0.76	111	0.00	0	0.26	2	80.01
Hungary	0.71	385	1.82	100	0.21	53	1.39	202	0.00	0	0.03	0	79.32
France	2.02	514	2.08	114	0.70	174	0.89	129	0.00	0	0.01	0	79.10
Portugal	0.73	387	1.14	63	0.38	94	1.53	222	0.00	0	0.00	0	75.48
Austria	2.58	570	2.66	146	0.85	212	0.11	17	0.00	0	1.84	12	73.77
United Kingdom	1.55	468	2.32	128	0.61	152	0.75	109	0.00	0	1.84	12	72.60

Further insights

- The **United States** is the world's largest producer of waste per capita. Every year, a US citizen produces up to 809 kilograms. From the total waste produced, 280 kilograms per capita are recycled, 103 kilograms per capita are incinerated and 425 kilograms are landfilled.
- Despite its eco-friendly appearance, **Canada** ranks **behind** the **US** for waste management. **Canada** sends the majority of its waste to landfill sites and has over 10,000 sites across the country in total. The decomposition of waste in landfill releases methane - a greenhouse gas 21 times more harmful than carbon dioxide.
- **Turkey** ranks **worst** in the global waste index. In spite of efforts to change open dumping areas into sanitary landfills and to build recycling and composting facilities, Turkey still has the **highest number of open dumps** per capita.
- **Mexico** ranks in **fourth** worst place, because of its high score for number of open dumps, among others. Annually, 88 kilograms per capita is disposed without any control. However, Mexican citizens do not produce nearly as much waste as US citizens.

- **New Zealand** ranks **third worst** overall. New Zealanders are the third biggest producer of waste per capita. All waste produced is sent to **landfills**. The majority of this waste is not incinerated or recycled and does not break down over time.
- **South Korea** ranks best overall for their waste management. South Korea does not send its waste to open dumps and does not score negatively for unaccounted waste. Moreover, South Koreans generally produce less waste - annually, only **359 kilograms** per capita.
- **Denmark** ranks **first** for incineration. Incineration - the process of burning waste via internal combustion - is mostly used to turn waste materials into energy, hence its positive score in the index. The Danish incinerate **415 kilograms of waste** per capita. **The UK** ranks **14th** for this technique.
- **Iceland** ranks first for **recycling**. Icelanders recycle over 360 kilograms of waste per capita per year - more than half of all the waste they produce.
- **Latvia** has the most unaccounted waste out of all OECD countries, followed by **Italy**, in a worst **second** place for this factor.

Sensoneo is a global enterprise-grade smart waste management solution provider that enables cities and businesses to manage their waste efficiently, be more environmentally responsible and improve the well-being of people.

Through its unique smart waste management technology, Sensoneo is redefining the way waste is managed. The solution combines unique ultrasonic Smart Sensors that monitor waste in real-time with sophisticated software providing cities and businesses with digital transformation, data-driven decision making, and optimization of waste collection routes, frequencies, and vehicle loads.

Sensoneo's smart waste management has attracted cities and business around the world, and the solution has been installed in more than 40 countries on 5 continents. For more information about how Sensoneo can help you manage your waste smarter, please visit www.sensoneo.com.

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