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EN 

# Global Waste Index :

**The biggest waste  
producers worldwide:  
Senseo Global**

# Waste Index 2019

In September 2018, the World Bank

([https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-<br/>release/2018/09/20/global-waste-to-grow-by-70-percent-by-2050-<br/>unless-urgent-action-is-taken-world-bank-report)

[release/2018/09/20/global-waste-to-grow-by-70-percent-by-2050-](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-<br/>release/2018/09/20/global-waste-to-grow-by-70-percent-by-2050-<br/>unless-urgent-action-is-taken-world-bank-report)

[unless-urgent-action-is-taken-world-bank-report](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-<br/>release/2018/09/20/global-waste-to-grow-by-70-percent-by-2050-<br/>unless-urgent-action-is-taken-world-bank-report)) announced that our

global waste production is predicted to rise by **70 per cent by 2050**

unless we take urgent action. Humankind currently produces **two**

**billion tonnes of waste per year between 7.6 billion people**

([https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-<br/>release/2018/09/20/global-waste-to-grow-by-70-percent-by-2050-<br/>unless-urgent-action-is-taken-world-bank-report)

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may be part of the problem, but it's levels of consumption within a

handful of developed nations, and their **gross mismanagement of**

**waste**, that have led to this environmental catastrophe. **The United**

**States** is the biggest generator of waste per capita worldwide, with

each citizen producing an average of **808 kilograms per year –**

**almost a tonne – and more than double that of citizens of Japan.**

However, as the Global Waste Index highlights, it's not just the

generation of waste that will threaten our planet in the upcoming

decades – but the way we choose to manage it.

The Global Waste Index offers a comprehensive breakdown of the most environmentally-friendly methods of waste management. It ranks the **36 countries within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation**

and Development (OECD) according to how effectively they manage their waste per capita.

Rank	Country	Waste Generated	Recycling	Incineration	Landfill
01	Turkey	1.11	0.00	0.00	1.49
02	Latvia	1.25	1.69	0.00	1.72
03	New Zealand	4.17	0.00	0.00	5.00
04	Mexico	1.08	0.38	0.00	2.16
05	Chile	0.73	0.03	0.00	2.27
06	Italy	1.76	2.31	0.37	0.89
07	Estonia	0.45	1.62	0.74	0.18
08	Canada	3.96	2.65	0.08	3.51
09	Slovak Republic	0.64	0.52	0.14	1.55
10	Israel	3.34	2.93	0.00	3.33
11	Greece	1.91	1.74	0.00	2.77
12	United States	5.00	5.10	0.42	2.93
13	Slovenia	1.58	3.98	0.31	0.70
14	Lithuania	1.42	1.90	0.21	1.66
15	Spain	1.49	1.42	0.20	1.65
16	Ireland	3.05	3.70	0.40	1.66

Rank	Country	Waste Generated	Recycling	Incineration	Landfill
17	United Kingdom	1.55	2.32	0.61	0.75
18	Austria	2.58	2.66	0.85	0.11
19	Portugal	0.73	1.14	0.38	1.53
20	France	2.02	2.08	0.70	0.89
21	Hungary	0.71	1.82	0.21	1.39
22	Luxembourg	2.96	3.14	0.85	0.76
23	Iceland	3.45	6.67	0.12	3.31
24	Australia	2.48	4.29	0.22	1.88
25	Czech Republic	0.29	1.60	0.22	1.15
26	Denmark	4.72	3.88	1.67	0.06
27	Poland	0.00	1.51	0.15	0.87
28	Norway	1.08	2.01	0.89	0.10
29	Belgium	0.96	2.56	0.73	0.03
30	Finland	1.97	2.61	0.96	0.40
31	Germany	3.22	5.51	0.79	0.01
32	Netherlands	2.00	2.30	0.99	0.05
33	Switzerland	3.96	4.11	1.36	0.00
34	Japan	0.32	1.30	1.11	0.03
35	Sweden	1.39	2.66	0.92	0.02

Rank	Country	Waste Generated	Recycling	Incineration	Landfill
36	South Korea	0.45	3.79	0.36	0.40



Recycling, the process of converting rubbish into new materials, is the **best method for managing waste**; while incineration, the process of controlled combustion used to turn waste into energy, is considered far more favourable than **landfill sites and illegal dumping**. Each country was scored according to the kilograms of waste it processes every year using each of these techniques – as well as per capita waste generated, and kilograms of waste unaccounted for.

At [Sensoneo \(http://www.sensoneo.com\)](http://www.sensoneo.com), we're **redefining smart waste management**. Our solution combines **unique inhouse-produced Smart Sensors that monitor waste real-time with sophisticated software and applications**, providing cities and businesses with digital waste transformation, data-driven decision making, and optimization of waste collection routes, frequencies and vehicle loads. This leads to reduced traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and, most importantly, it enables us to work together to keep our cities litter-free.

**It's time for an investment in waste management methods that prioritise the health of our planet.** At Sensoneo, we believe we've taken the first step.

([https://ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/studiotem-space/sensoneo/global\\_waste\\_index\\_2019\\_photo-Nitra.png](https://ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/studiotem-space/sensoneo/global_waste_index_2019_photo-Nitra.png))

([https://ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/studiotem-space/sensoneo/global\\_waste\\_index\\_2019\\_photo-by-bas-emmen-EXpa6pyXkHA-unsplash.png](https://ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/studiotem-space/sensoneo/global_waste_index_2019_photo-by-bas-emmen-EXpa6pyXkHA-unsplash.png))

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# Methodology

The Global Waste Index is a comparative analysis of per capita waste management across the 36 countries within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). [Here you can find the full methodology and sources used.](#)

<https://ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/studiotem-space/sensoneo/Global-Waste-Index-2019-Methodology-ENG-%E2%80%93-Sensoneo.pdf>

## **The main sources for the study**

### **1. Country Level Code Book and Country Level Dataset**

<https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/what-waste-global-database>

The World Bank, 'What A Waste' Global Database (1993 – 2017). OECD country-level data is largely available from 2016 onwards.

### **2. Municipal Waste Statistics (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Municipal\_waste\_statistics#Municipal\_waste\_generation)**

The European Union 'Municipal Waste Database' (2016 – 2017).

### **3. National Waste Report 2018**

<https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/7381c1de-31d0-429b-912c-91a6dbc83af7/files/national-waste-report-2018.pdf>

Australian Department of Environment and Energy (2018).

# Factors

On a per capita level, we uncovered the amount of waste in each country that ends up recycled, incinerated, on a landfill site, on an open dump, or unaccounted for – i.e. untraced – over a year.

**Waste Generated Per Capita:** the kilograms of waste produced per person.

**Recycled:** the kilograms of waste converted into new materials.

**Incineration:** the kilograms of waste disposed of via controlled combustion.

**Landfill:** the kilograms of waste disposed of via burial.

All types of landfill site were included (unspecified, sanitary, controlled).

**Open Dump:** the kilograms of waste dumped illegally.

**Unaccounted:** the kilograms of untraceable waste.

# Scoring

This index aims to identify the most environmentally-friendly countries for waste management. Therefore, each of the factors/techniques was allocated a number of positive or negative points relative to the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and environmental contamination it causes on average.



## **Waste Generated Per Capita**

Waste generated per capita is considered a negative factor, a country could lose up to 3 points for its amount of waste produced per person (calculated according to waste produced on a country level / total population).

## **Recycling**

Recycling is considered a positive technique, a country could obtain up to 4 points for the amount of waste recycled.

## **Incineration**

Incineration is considered a positive technique, a country could obtain up to 1 point for its amount of waste disposed of via incineration.

## **Landfill**

Landfill considered a negative technique, a country could lose up to 3 points for its amount of waste disposed of via landfill sites.

## **Open Dump**

Open Dump is considered an extremely negative technique, a country could lose up to 6 points for its amount of waste illegally dumped.

## **Unaccounted**

Unaccounted waste is considered an extremely negative technique, a country could lose up to 6 points for its amount of untraced waste.