

# Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



**Austria** 

October 2016

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# Waste prevention programme

This **country fact sheet** was produced in the context of reviewing national and regional waste prevention programmes across Europe. The [Waste Framework Directive](#) (Directive 2008/98/EC), Article 29, requires that Member States adopt their **waste prevention programmes** by 12 December 2013. Article 30(2) of the Directive invites the European Environment Agency (EEA) to carry out an annual review of progress in the completion and implementation of the programmes. Within the waste hierarchy, the overarching principle behind EU and national waste policies, waste prevention is considered the most desirable option.

## AUSTRIA FACT SHEET

	<p><b>GDP</b> EUR 329 billion (2.4 % of EU-28 total in 2014)</p>
	<p><b>Per person GDP</b> EUR 35 500 (in purchasing power standard) (130 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)</p>
<p><i>Source: Eurostat</i></p>	<p><b>Use of materials</b> 180 million tonnes DMC (2.7 % of EU-28 total in 2014) 21.0 tonnes DMC/person (161 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014) Resource productivity 1.71 EUR/kg (86 % of EU-28 average in 2014)</p>
	<p><b>Structure of the economy</b> Agriculture: 1.3 % Industry: 28.4 % Services: 70.2 % (2014 est.)</p>
	<p><b>Surface area</b> 83 900 square kilometres (1.9 % of EU-28 total)</p>
	<p><b>Population</b> 8.5 million (1.7 % of EU-28 total)</p>

## Waste prevention programme

1.	Coverage	National
2.	Type of programme	Part of waste management plan
3.	Title of programme and link to programme	Abfallvermeidungsprogramm: <a href="http://www.bundesabfallwirtschaftsplan.at/dms/bawp/vermeidungsprogramm/BAWP_Band-1_Kap-6-1-/BAWP_Band%201_Kap%206%5B1%5D.pdf">www.bundesabfallwirtschaftsplan.at/dms/bawp/vermeidungsprogramm/BAWP_Band-1_Kap-6-1-/BAWP_Band%201_Kap%206%5B1%5D.pdf</a>  Federal Waste Management Plan: <a href="http://www.bundesabfallwirtschaftsplan.at/dms/bawp/BAWP_Band_1_EN.pdf">www.bundesabfallwirtschaftsplan.at/dms/bawp/BAWP_Band_1_EN.pdf</a>
4.	Duration of programme	2011–2017 (an updated version of the federal waste prevention programme, to be valid for the period July 2017 – June 2023 is under preparation)
5.	Languages	German and English
6.	Contact person	Birgit Walter, <a href="mailto:birgit.walter@umweltbundesamt.at">birgit.walter@umweltbundesamt.at</a> Umweltbundesamt (Environment Agency Austria), Austria, <a href="http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/">www.umweltbundesamt.at/</a>
7.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme	Based on the Waste Framework Directive, the Austrian Waste Management Act and the Austrian waste management plan, the following objectives have been defined for the waste prevention programme (p. 225): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• decoupling economic growth from the environmental life-cycle impacts of Austrian wastes and their upstream material flows;</li> <li>• reducing emissions;</li> <li>• minimising pollutant dissipation;</li> <li>• reducing pollution;</li> <li>• conserving resources, focusing on raw materials and energy carriers.</li> </ul>
8.	The means used to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste	<b>Are the measures/means specifically mentioned in the waste prevention programme?</b> Yes. The measures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prevention of deconstruction waste;</li> <li>• waste prevention in industry and other organisations;</li> <li>• waste prevention in households;</li> <li>• prevention of food waste;</li> <li>• reuse.</li> </ul>
9.	Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction and infrastructure;</li> <li>• manufacturing;</li> <li>• sale, retail, transport;</li> <li>• households;</li> <li>• private service activities, hospitality;</li> <li>• public services.</li> </ul>

10.	Prevention of waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food/organic;</li> <li>• construction and demolition waste;</li> <li>• hazardous waste;</li> <li>• household/municipal waste;</li> <li>• waste electrical and electronic equipment/batteries;</li> <li>• manufacturing waste;</li> <li>• bulky waste;</li> <li>• other.</li> </ul>
11.	Quantitative targets	The waste prevention programme does not specify quantitative targets.
12.	Measures on quantitative prevention	With bundles of specific measures focusing on particular priorities (see points 15 and 16), the programme targets both quantitative waste prevention (less waste generation) and qualitative waste prevention (less hazardous waste generation).
13.	Measures on qualitative prevention	See point 12.
14.	Prevention measures covered as referred to in Directive 2008/98, Annex IV: Examples of waste prevention measures referred to in Article 29 (1–16)	<p>The Austrian waste prevention programme provides a comprehensive overview of waste prevention measures and their implementation (pp. 226ff). The bundles of specific measures focus on, inter alia, the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Standardisation of a building pass, an instrument that provides information on the use and location of raw materials and pollutants, and collects this core data for entry into a centrally held register of buildings and apartments (p. 230).</li> <li>2. Pilot projects for selective demolition and reuse of construction materials (p. 230).</li> <li>4. Prolonging the use of buildings; pilot projects for low-waste buildings (p. 230).</li> <li>5. Development of teaching materials for low-waste construction (p. 230).</li> <li>6. Evaluation of the waste management concept for strengthening the integration of waste prevention into a system of permits (p. 232).</li> <li>8. Factsheets on best practices for waste prevention in the production industries and training on waste prevention techniques (p. 232).</li> <li>10. Support for environmental management systems (p. 232).</li> <li>12. Factsheets and information campaigns on waste prevention in households; support for municipal waste advisers (p. 233).</li> <li>12, 13. Development of quality standards and guidelines for non-governmental organisations dealing with unused food; development of quality standards for second-hand products (p. 235).</li> <li>15. Incorporation of waste prevention principles into procurement guidelines (p. 236).</li> <li>16. Support for reuse networks; development of networking platforms for the reuse and waste sectors (p. 236).</li> </ol>
15.	Other prevention measures not covered by Annex IV	<p>Regulations for on-site separation of demolition waste (p. 230).</p> <p>Development of insurance packages for reuse organisations (p. 236).</p>

16. Indicators proposed	<p><b>Does the programme define indicators for waste prevention?</b></p> <p>Yes. A set of indicators has been developed within the waste prevention programme, differentiating between core and additional indicators (p. 241):</p> <p><i>Core indicators</i></p> <p>Generation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• waste from households and similar institutions, per person;</li> <li>• mixed municipal waste;</li> <li>• industrial waste;</li> <li>• hazardous waste;</li> <li>• construction and demolition waste (without excavation).</li> </ul> <p>Amount of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• separately collected packaging waste;</li> <li>• separately collected problematic materials.</li> </ul> <p><i>Additional indicators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residual waste: mass of hazardous waste, mass of food (packed, unused, etc.).</li> <li>• Reuse: number and turnover of reuse organisations, number of second-hand products sold.</li> <li>• Degree of consumer awareness: surveys on knowledge about different aspects of waste and waste prevention.</li> <li>• Construction and demolition waste: recycling rates, landfilled waste, mass of hazardous waste.</li> </ul> <p>The programme does not include a specific description of the monitoring system. The core indicators will be published regularly — if possible annually — and, if possible, the additional indicators will be published at least once before 2017.</p>
17. Evaluation and monitoring of the programme	<p><b>Is the programme evaluated (midterm, etc.)?</b></p> <p>The core indicators are published annually as part of the Federal Waste Management Status Report.</p> <p>An evaluation report of the year 2011 waste prevention programme is under preparation. This report serves as the main bases for the update of the waste prevention programme in 2017.</p>
18. Target groups	<p>The prevention programme is aimed at a wide variety of target groups, including people involved in the design of products, people involved in producing goods and providing services, consumers and all stakeholders within the waste management sector. In addition to aiming to make products more environmentally sound throughout their life cycles, the programme also reaches out to the educational system, public administration and the research and development sector.</p> <p>It has a specific Austrian focus and does not include measures aiming to prevent waste outside of Austria (e.g. through economic incentives to reduce waste in the production of raw materials).</p>

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19. Involvement of stakeholders

**Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the development of the programme?**

Yes. The waste prevention programme is based on the extensive participation of stakeholders during the development of the 2006 waste management plan. The Austrian Ministry of the Environment initiated a process with the objective of preparing a consensual recommendation for the 2006 national waste prevention and recycling strategy. Between May 2004 and September 2006, six workshops were held with the participation of waste management experts from public administration, universities, interest groups and consulting firms. The process included the development of trends and a vision running up to 2015, a discussion of basic principles and objectives for the coordination of waste prevention and recycling, an analysis and selection of concrete measures and instruments, and the bundling of specific measures into packages as the core of the prevention strategy.

The results of this participation process have been published in a separate study: <http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/fileadmin/site/publikationen/REP0008.pdf>

Based on the experience gained from the 2006 waste prevention and recycling strategy and on the new requirements of the Waste Framework Directive, the Environment Agency Austria and the Ministry of the Environment discussed and agreed the 2011 waste prevention programme with waste sector stakeholders by means of two workshops and an internet-based consultation.

**Does the waste prevention programme describe the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the programme?**

Yes. The waste management programme of the Austrian waste management system (including waste producers and consumers) for the Austrian waste management system. The waste management programme provides a summary of initiatives which have been implemented by the stakeholders within the framework of the previous programme and beyond. The waste management programme includes measures to be implemented by federal, regional and local government, NGOs, industries and commercial organisations as discussed among representatives of these stakeholders. It, however, is not designed as a narrowly prescriptive programme. It gives enough leeway for the stakeholders to participate in the implementation of the measures according to their possibilities and modify the measures according to the actual needs.

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20. Other comments

**Are the costs/savings of waste prevention measures stated in the programme?**

No information.

*Other comments:* the current programme is based on a 2009–2011 evaluation of the Austrian 2006 waste prevention and recycling strategy. In addition, several case studies have been conducted (e.g. on deconstruction waste, food waste and extended producer responsibility). The results of these studies have been published and contain a lot of detailed information about specific waste prevention measures: <http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/umweltsituation/abfall/vermeidung/strategie/>

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