

Waste prevention country profile

Lithuania

April 2023



© Joel Cavaliero, Well with Nature/EEA



European Environment Agency



Country profile: Lithuania

General information

Name of the country/ region	Lithuania
Coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/ regional)	National
Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan)	Integrated into National Waste Prevention and Management Plan (2021-2027)
Title of programme and link to programme	“Valstybinis atliekų prevencijos ir tvarkymo 2021-2027 metų planas” (National Waste Prevention and Management Plan 2021-2027), URL: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/caef2783e1af11ecb1b39d276e924a5d?positionInSearchResults=12&searchModelUUID=5e15d9a6-5a7c-4d27-8063-a2d7abdbc8da
Duration of programme	2021 -2027
Language	Lithuanian
Contact person in the country/region	Vilma Slavinskienė, Waste Policy Group of the Ministry of Environment vilma.slavinskiene@am.lt
Development process of the programme/ revision	The program as part of the National Waste Prevention and Management Plan is approved in the mid of 2022. The program will be valid until 2027.
Foreseen budget for implementation of the project	A budget for the implementation of specific measures has been included in the plan.

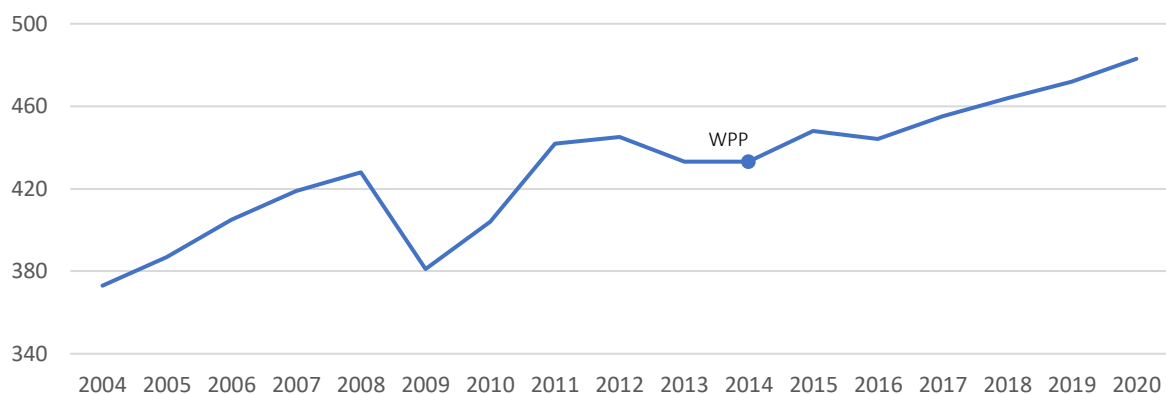
WASTE GENERATION

The following figures illustrate the progress towards waste prevention and decoupling of waste generation from economic growth in Lithuania:

MSW

- The generation of municipal waste per capita (see Figure 1) dropped from 2008 to 2009 after which it started rising again. 2015-2016 a short plateau was reached but from 2017 onwards, the trend has been a moderate increase. In 2020, municipal waste generation reached 483 kg/capita and year.
- Although the trend is increasing, Lithuania's municipal waste generation is still below the European average (517 kg¹ per capita/year).
- The municipal waste generation value in 2009 is probably influenced by the global financial crisis that took place at the same time. Private household expenditure per capita dropped sharply as well from 2008-2009 and started rising again in 2010.²
- The first WPP of Lithuania came into force in 2014. However, so far, it is difficult to see any clear immediate effect of the program, especially since the municipal waste generation increased in 2015. As MSW generation is influenced by many factors, such as population and household expenditure, clear conclusions are difficult to make.

Figure 1: Municipal waste generation in Lithuania (kg per capita), 2004-2020.



Source: Eurostat [ENV_WASMUN]

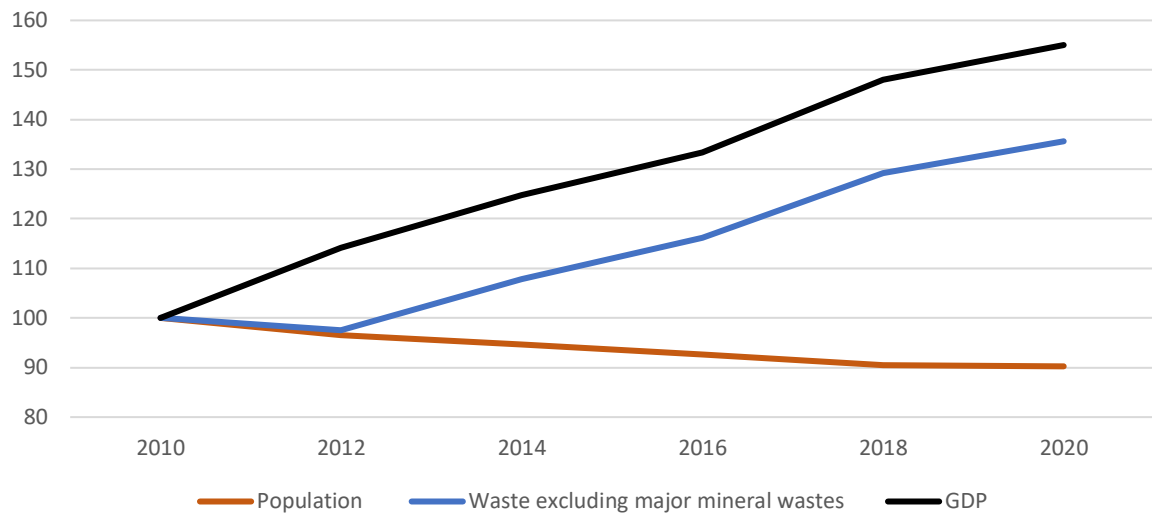
Total waste

- Total waste generation (excluding major mineral wastes) in Lithuania decreased between 2010 and 2012, after which it has grown by ca. 4-5 % annually until 2020 (see Figure 2). During the same period, the GDP growth has varied between ca 3 % and 10 % showing the smallest growth in 2014.
- Total waste (excluding major mineral wastes) generation values are available only for every second year. With rather few data points, it is difficult to make clear conclusions on trends for this period, 2010-2020.
- Total waste (excluding major mineral wastes) generation is more associated to GDP rather than demographics (population).

Figure 2: Growth rate of waste (excluding major mineral wastes), GDP (main GDP aggregates, chain linked), and population, 2010-2020, (2010=100).

¹ Based on data collected from Eurostat in September 2022.

² URL: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NE.CON.PRVT.PC.KD?end=2018&locations=LT&start=2006>



Source: Eurostat [ENV_WASGEN, NAMA_10_PC, DEMO_GIND]

WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Objectives and priorities

1. Waste prevention objectives of the Programme include quantitative objectives (waste reduction) and qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/ environmental impacts)	<p>The plan for 2021-2027 aims to reduce the amount of waste generated, ensure the safe management of waste for human health and the environment and the rational use of material and energy resources, thus reducing the use of natural and other resources, landfilling, environmental pollution and providing industry with local raw materials.</p> <p>Waste prevention goals and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- avoid the generation of waste, and reduce the amount of generated waste and hazardous substances in raw materials and products;- to encourage users to choose reusable products, products for repeated use, repair and/or repair services;- combat littering, manage existing litter;- promote and ensure the prevention of food waste;- promote the ecological design of products and structures, implement business models that ensure waste prevention.
2. Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• manufacturing and industry;• construction and infrastructure;• retail;• households;• service activities;• hospitality;• public services (including procurement).
3. Priority waste types	<p>The following waste streams have separate sections in the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Food and food waste;- Packaging and packaging waste;- Electrical and electronic equipment, waste electrical and electronic equipment;- End-of-life vehicles;- Waste oils;- Waste batteries and car batteries;- Waste tyres;- Waste fishing gear containing plastic;- Waste textile;- Waste furniture;- Hazardous waste;- Manufacturing waste;- Construction and demolition waste;- Healthcare waste;- Sewage sludge. <p>Among waste and litter prevention measures, following waste streams are mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Food waste;- Packaging;- Fishing gear containing plastic waste;- Electrical and electronic equipment;- Furniture;- Textiles;

- Construction and demolition waste.

4. Target groups	Several ministries are responsible for the implementation of the plan and its measures. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Plan, and municipalities - for the execution of the tasks set for them in the Plan.
------------------	---

Targets, indicators and monitoring

1. Indicators proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circular material use index (%);• Waste intensity, net waste amount per GDP, (ton per MEUR);• Municipal waste per capita (kg/year) compared to the EU average;• Share of municipal waste deposited in landfills (%);• Share of waste prepared for reuse and recycled waste in municipal waste (%);• Greenhouse gas emissions in the waste sector compared to the base year 2005 (% change);
------------------------	--

2. Quantitative targets	Targets and criteria for evaluation of the indicators above: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Circular material use rate</i>: no less than EU average in 2025 and 2027;- <i>Waste intensity of net waste volume per GDP</i>: 100 tones/MEUR in 2025 and 90 tones/MEUR in 2027;- <i>Municipal waste per capita</i>: below the average of the European Union in 2025 and 2027;- <i>Share of municipal waste deposited in landfills</i>: 15 % in 2025 and 8% in 2027;- <i>Share of waste prepared for reuse and recycled waste in municipal waste</i>: 55 % in 2025 and 57% in 2027;- <i>Greenhouse gas emissions in the waste sector compared to 2005</i>: -50,9 % in 2025 and -61% in 2027.
-------------------------	---

3. Monitoring of programme	According to the WPP, the effectiveness of the existing program is evaluated biannually (even years) and published on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency. However, such information on the monitoring was not found on government websites at the time of updating this country profile.
----------------------------	--

4. Evaluation of the programme	According to the WPP, evaluation should take place every six years. However, such information on the WPP evaluation was not found on government websites at the time of updating this country profile.
--------------------------------	--

Prevention measures

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured according to Art 9 WFD

<p>Promote and support sustainable consumption models</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current plan includes measures to encourage eco-design for products and buildings and support business models that encourage waste prevention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ enable the sustainable transformation of small and medium-size enterprises: promote the development, demonstration and implementation of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies; ○ develop and approve a methodology for modelling the environmental life cycle impacts of buildings; ○ finance technological solutions of companies that ensure efficient use of resources, use fewer primary and more secondary raw materials for the provision of products or services.
<p>Encourage the design, manufacturing and use of products that are resource-efficient, durable (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), reparable, re-usable and upgradable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current plan includes following measures to encourage users to choose reusable products, second hand products, repaired products and/or repair services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to promote and finance the development of small businesses providing trade of second-hand items and repair services; - assess the possibility of expanding the use of reusable packaging (glass and others) and, if necessary, change legislation; - organize information campaigns encouraging the choice of reusable products and second-hand items.
<p>Target products containing critical raw materials to prevent that those materials become waste.</p>	<p>Include measures to promote WEEE prevention, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organise information campaigns to promote the use of second-hand products; - promote and support the development of small businesses providing trade in used items and repair services; - create conditions for the sustainable transformation of small and medium-size enterprises: promote the development, demonstration and implementation of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies.

<p>Encourage the re-use of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and re-use activities, including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products.</p>	<p>Include measures to promote preparation for reuse, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare and approve the criteria for recognizing items (EEE, furniture and textiles) not suitable (unfit) for reuse; • to prepare and approve a control procedure for recognizing used EEE, furniture and textiles as unsuitable for use and to strengthen control, so that only safe ready-to-reuse products enter the domestic market; • to expand the network of collection points (stations) for reuse and finance the preparation for reuse activities, • assess the possibility to introduce regulatory measures obliging that the returns and re-sales of unused leftover goods and materials (e.g. construction and renovation materials, furniture, textile and other materials) are offered at their points of sale.
<p>Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights, the availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information, or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and re-use of products without compromising their quality and safety.</p>	
<p>Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finance technological solutions of companies that ensure efficient use of resources, use fewer primary and more secondary raw materials for the provision of products or services.
<p>Reduce the generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services as well as in households as a contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030.</p>	<p>The plan contains following measures to ensure the prevention of food waste in order to contribute to UN SDG reduce by 50 % per capita food waste by 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to establish a platform for cooperation to find the most advanced, rational solutions for food prevention and ensure the sustainable use of food, finding food-sharing ideas and good practices; - provide financing measures to promote food sharing, and food donation opportunities; - provide funding opportunities to continue and expand the initiatives of sustainable food consumption in public catering establishments, school canteens, kindergartens, and workplaces, promoting buffet-based catering; - initiate educational campaigns for the population to ensure economical shopping, sustainable food consumption and reduced household food waste; - create conditions for the sustainable transformation of small and medium-size enterprises: promote the development, demonstration and implementation of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies; - promote and support short food supply chains; - establish requirements for large retail chains, catering establishments and food production companies to obligatorily donate food (suitable

	for humans) in accordance with good foreign practice.
Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and the reprocessing into non-food products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish a platform for cooperation to find the most advanced, rational solutions for food prevention and ensure the sustainable use of food, finding food-sharing ideas, and good practices; - provide financing measures to promote food sharing, food donation opportunities.
Promote the reduction of the content of hazardous substances in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at Union level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing program includes qualitative aspects of waste prevention such as finance eco-design, promote less use of hazardous substances, apply digital and advanced solutions to reduce waste generation.
Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for re-use or recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to finance technological solutions that ensure more efficient use of resources, use fewer primary and more secondary raw materials for products or services;
<p>Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural and marine environments, and take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter from such products, where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they shall ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory.</p> <p>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current plan includes the following measures to prevent littering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ implement information campaigns and measures to reduce littering with single-use plastic products and pollution with fishing gear; ○ organize and promote civic garbage collection initiatives; ○ include litter collection in forests, around water bodies, on roads in public works programs; ○ include environmental topics as well as anti-littering measures in general education programs; ○ extend the collection of source-sorted waste in public places (parks, main streets, etc.); ○ set legal requirements so that single-use thin plastic shopping bags are not distributed free of charge; ○ in order to reduce plastic packaging waste, develop a network of public drinking water stations in municipal

	attraction centres, public sports grounds, playgrounds, and parks.
Develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current plan includes the following measures related to information campaigns to raise awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ organize information campaigns encouraging the choice of reusable products and reuse of items ○ implement public information and publicity measures in order to reduce littering with single-use plastic products and pollution with fishing gear, ○ organize and promote litter collection initiatives; ○ include littering prevention as part of education programs ○ initiate educational campaigns for the population to ensure economical shopping, sustainable food consumption, and reduced household food waste.

Additional implemented prevention measures, not covered by Article 9

FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

Food waste generation

According to the data of the State Waste Accounting, and the research of the composition of mixed municipal waste, the amount of food waste generated in Lithuanian households is growing. Almost 36 kg of food waste per capita was generated in 2017. In 2018 the amount had increased to 37 kg/capita, in 2019 – to 41 kg/capita and in 2020 – to 43.7 kg/capita and year.

Measures to prevent food waste

The waste prevention programme for 2022-2027 lists measures for food waste prevention along the food production and supply chain to contribute to UN's SDG goal 12.3 (to reduce food waste by 50% per capita by 2030):

- to establish a platform for cooperation to find the most advanced, rational solutions for food prevention and ensure the sustainable use of food, finding food-sharing ideas and practices;
- provide tax deduction and financing measures to promote food sharing, food donation opportunities;
- provide funding opportunities to continue and expand the initiatives of sustainable food consumption in public catering establishments, school canteens, kindergartens and workplaces, promoting buffet-based catering;

- initiate educational campaigns for the population to ensure economical shopping, sustainable food consumption and reducing household food waste;
- create conditions for the sustainable transformation of small and medium-size enterprises: promote the development, demonstration and implementation of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies;
- promote and support short food supply chains;
- establish requirements for large retail chains, catering establishments and food production companies to obligatorily donate food (suitable for humans) in accordance with good foreign practice.

REUSE OF PRODUCTS

Data

With regard to the Commission Implementing Decision (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=urisrv%3AOJ.L_.2021.010.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2021%3A010%3ATOC), this section will be updated by the EEA accordingly.

Measures to support ReUse

The plan includes plans to initiate agreements with the trade sector in order to protect and develop the existing reuse systems for packaging, thus reducing waste generation and to prepare a law on waste management and accompanying implementing legislation and amendments in order to establish requirements for reuse and preparation for reuse operations.

Measures include

- prepare and approve criteria for recognising items (EEE, furniture and textiles) not suitable (unfit) for reuse;
- prepare and approve the control procedure for recognizing EEE, furniture, and textiles as items unfit for use and thus strengthen control, so that only safe ready-to-reuse products enter the domestic market;
- provide financial incentives for reuse of items: to extend a network for the collection points for reuse of items;
- assess possibility to introduce regulatory measures obliging that the returns and re-sales of unused leftover goods and materials (e.g. construction and renovation materials, furniture, textile and other materials) are offered at their points of sale.

Best practice example

Increasing textile reuse

Textile waste entering the municipal waste stream accounts for approximately 8% of the total municipal waste stream in Lithuania and most of it is disposed of or incinerated. Currently, residents can deliver textile waste to municipal bulky waste reception sites or dedicated containers (more information www.atliekos.lt). However, containers for textile waste are not available in every city. Neither does ongoing collection of textile waste does not guarantee the reuse and recycling of textile waste. Ca 13% of used textiles is collected separately from all new textiles sold.

After establishing in Lithuania in 2013, a global fast fashion brand started the *collection* of used clothing in any condition *in the stores* of its Lithuanian branch network. During this time, over 260

tons of textile waste were collected in Lithuania alone. For each kilo collected, the Lithuanian branch allocated 2 cents to the Red Cross Society.

Vinted is an online marketplace based in Lithuania for buying, selling and exchanging new or second-hand items, mainly clothing and accessories. Available on iOS, Android, and desktop browsers, *Vinted* provides users a platform to sell their clothing and accessories, purchase or swap from other users, and communicate with members using the forums. Since their launch, *Vinted* has expanded into men's and children's clothing. As of 2020, *Vinted* is available in fifteen countries. Its impact on global textile reuse is notable, named the world's largest market-place for used fashion items, the number of transactions per month exceeded 4 million in 2018³.

Generally, the attitude towards and motivation for reuse of textile is changing. When the motivation earlier has been dominantly economic, environmental motivation is increasing⁴, witnessed by shopkeepers of second-hand clothing stores.

Links to circular economy

Waste prevention is an integral part of the comprehensive transformation towards a circular economy. It reduces the input of natural resources into the economy as well as the necessary efforts to collect and recycle waste.

Approaches for improving circularity are often highly interlinked with successful waste prevention. The following table shows which circular strategies are explicitly integrated into the Lithuanian waste prevention programme.

Topic	Addressed in the programme	Comments
Eco-design	Yes	Inter alia by preparing methodological material for ecological design of products (packaging and electrical and electronic equipment).
Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture	Yes	Assessment of feasibility of financial incentives for repair and reuse.
Recycling	No	Increased recycling based on wider and more efficient source separation of waste is a core item in the national waste management plan.
Economic incentives and finance	Yes	Inter alia by financial support to companies to implement environmental management systems.
Circular business models	Yes	Lithuania will improve the requirements of Green Procurement, to set the requirements for public procurement up to 50%. increase green procurement.
Eco-innovation	Yes	E.g. requirements for waste prevention have been included in the evaluation criteria of the competition "Lithuanian Product of the Year"

³ Knowles K. 2018. Step Into Vinted: The World's Largest Pre-Loved Fashion Marketplace. Available at: <https://www.forbes.com/>

⁴ <https://www.tv3.lt/naujiena/verslas/laukia-naujoves-rusiuosime-ne-tik-tekstile-bet-ir-maisto-bei-statybines-atliekas-n1104980>

Governance, skills and knowledge	Yes	Several training initiatives for public organisations, ministries and waste organisations relating to waste prevention .
----------------------------------	-----	--
