Circular Economy Policies in Cyprus

Towards a Greener Future: European Innovation
Waste Management Session
Nicosia, Cyprus, 27 November 2025

JOANNA CONSTANTINIDOU, SENIOR ENVIRONMENT OFFICER
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Existing situation of waste management in Cyprus
2. Municipal Waste Management Plan 2022-2028
3. Development of an integrated infrastructure network for the management of mixed and separately collected municipal waste in accordance with the Municipal Waste Management Plan 2022 – 2028

EXISTING SITUATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT IN CYPRUS

Facts and figures of waste management in Cyprus

Municipal waste management is one of the greatest challenges facing the Republic of Cyprus, given that:

- The high rate of municipal waste generated per inhabitant per year.
- The comparatively low recycling rates compared to the high targets set by the European directives on waste.

The Statistical Service in Cyprus estimates that in 2023:

- The total amount of **municipal solid waste generated stood at 625 thousand tonnes**,
- From the total amount of 496 thousand tonnes treated in 2023, **76,8% was disposed in landfills, 16,3% was used for recycling, 3,2% was used for energy recovery purposes and 3,7% was composted**,
- The **municipal waste generation per capita reached 653 kg**, which ranked the 5th highest among EU member states. The average municipal waste generation per inhabitant in the European Union in 2023 was 511 kg.

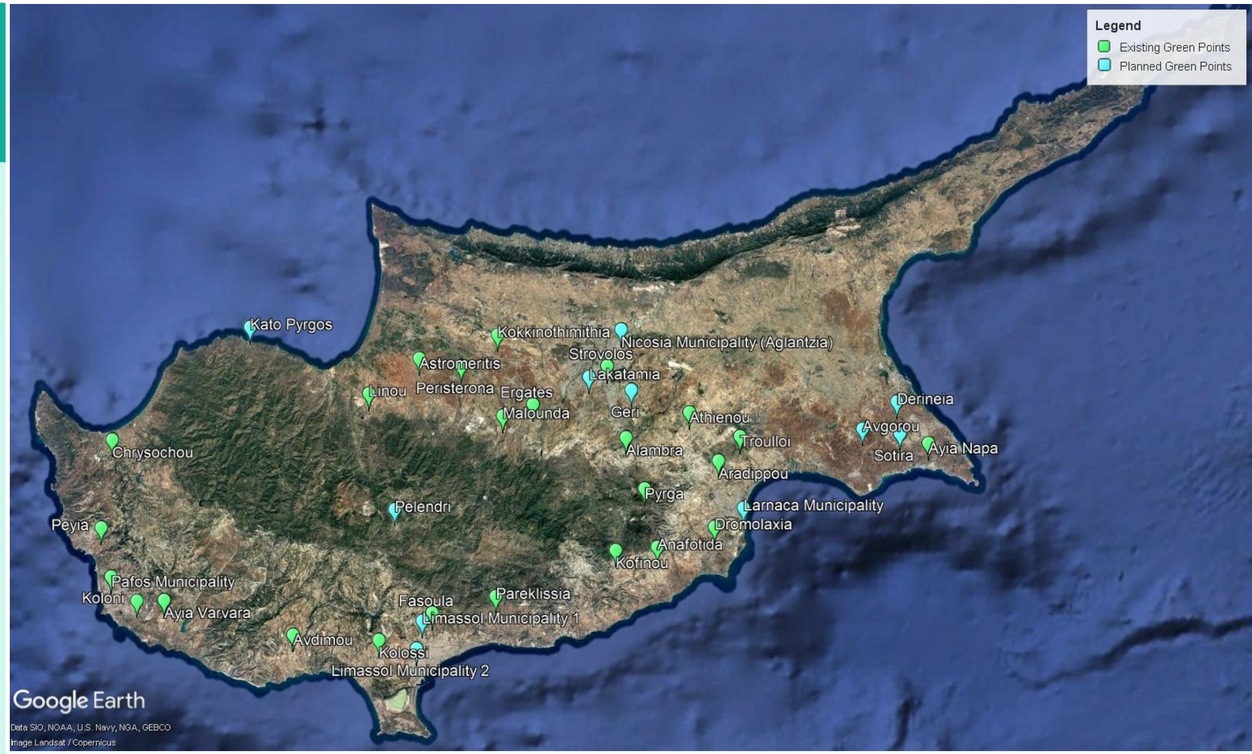
To achieve the targets of the Waste Framework Directive and the Landfill Directive, Cyprus has initiated the implementation of a number of important actions aimed at two important pillars of waste management:

- The **separate collection of municipal waste (PAYT)** to increase recycling and reuse rates, improve the quality of recycling due to the purity of the materials that will be collected and reduce the quantities of municipal waste that end up in landfills.
- The **completion of the infrastructure network** for the treatment of the mixed and separately collected organic waste. It is noted that the recyclable waste streams are primarily treated in private sorting plants and subsequently exported for recycling.

Existing infrastructure for the treatment of mixed municipal waste

Overview of the municipal waste treatment

- Cyprus has no waste incineration plants.
- The residual municipal waste is treated at two MBT plants, and outputs are landfilled or exported for recycling, due to the lack of recycling facilities in Cyprus.
- The two MBT units located in Larnaca (Koshi) and Limassol (Pentakomo) extract some recyclable paper and cardboard, metal, glass, and plastic fractions from MSW, and send them either to other EU Member States, or to pre-treatment units in Cyprus, which then export the pre-treated fractions to other EU Member States, or outside the EU for further treatment.
- The Paphos Landfill has been operating since 2005. It was established to consolidate waste disposal for the Paphos district, replacing previous dumpsites.
- Waste collected separately through the extended producer responsibility systems (packaging waste, WEEE, batteries, non-packaging paper, pharmaceuticals, tobacco) and at the Green Points collection network is exported for further treatment and primarily for recycling.



Existing infrastructure for the treatment of mixed municipal waste

Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) in Larnaca (Koshi)

- It has been operating since 2010 for the management of the mixed municipal waste collected from the Nicosia, Larnaca and Famagusta districts.
- The capacity of the plant is 190.000 tonnes/year of mixed municipal waste, 16.000 tonnes/year of green waste and 8.000 tonnes/year of bulky waste.
- It includes an MBT unit for the mechanical sorting of recyclable materials from the mixed waste and the composting of the organic fraction of the mixed waste to produce stabilized material.
- It receives bulky household waste and separate green waste from gardens, roads and parks.
- The residue stream resulting from the processing of waste in the MBT unit, as well as the residue from the composting of green waste and the shredding of bulky waste, are landfilled.

Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) in Limassol (Pentakomo)

- It has been operating since 2017, for the management of the mixed municipal waste collected from the Limassol district.
- The capacity of the plant is 140.000 tonnes/year of mixed municipal waste.
- It includes an MBT unit for the mechanical sorting of recyclable materials from the mixed waste and biological treatment for the anaerobic digestion of the organic fraction of the mixed waste, with co-production of electricity and heat from the combustion of the biogas produced.
- From the residue of the mechanical sorting (RDF) and the anaerobic treatment (SRF), a secondary fuel is produced. The residual waste resulting from the MBT unit is landfilled.

GENERATION AND TREATMENT OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE IN CYPRUS	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total amount of municipal solid waste (1.000 tonnes)	**575,63**	**585,73**	**557,73**	**585,24**	**614.62**	**625,08**
Municipal solid waste generated per inhabitant in CY (kg/person)	**651**	**654**	**615**	**635**	**655**	**653**
Municipal solid waste generated per inhabitant in EU (kg/person)	**500**	**505**	**520**	**533**	**513**	**511**
Total amount of municipal waste treated (1.000 tonnes):	**494,01**	**484,52**	**467,35**	**450,13**	**468,99**	**496,33**
➢ Disposed to landfills (IWMF, Landfills) (1.000 tonnes)	392,86 79,5%	379,39 78,3%	364,14 77,9%	354,30 78,7%	363,34 77,5%	381,05 76,8%
➢ Sorted for recycling (1.000 tonnes)	87,87 17,8%	91,42 18,9%	89,61 19,2%	75,03 16,7%	80,82 17,2%	81,12 16,3%
➢ Sorted for composting (1.000 tonnes)	9,30 1,9%	8,08 1,7%	5,77 1,2%	6,87 1,5%	10,14 2,2%	18,51 3,7%
➢ Used for energy recovery (1.000 tonnes)	3,98 0,8%	5,63 1,2%	7,83 1,7%	13,93 3,1%	14,69 3,1%	15,65 3,15%

MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022 – 2028

Municipal Waste Management Plan (MWMP) 2022-2028

In accordance with the Waste Law, the Council of Ministers approved in July 2022 the Municipal Waste Management Plan (MWMP) 2022-2028, which sets out the framework of actions and measures to be implemented over the six years period and to comply with the obligations of the EU Directives for the separate collection and appropriate management of municipal waste, and to achieve the targets for reuse, recycling and the reduction in landfilling.

When determining the measures, it was considered a prerequisite that the sorting at source and separate collection of recyclable and organic waste would be implemented throughout Cyprus, in accordance with the requirements set out in the Waste (Management of Municipal Waste by Local Authorities) Regulations (Act 292/2022).

Based on the above prerequisite, the MWMP 2022-2028 focuses on the expected reduction of mixed waste that will be transferred to the existing MBT plants and on the sustainable management of waste, including the sorting at source and the treatment of the separately collected organic waste and recyclable materials.

The MWMP 2022-2028 seeks to ensure an infrastructure network of sufficient capacity for the treatment of all the recyclables at source materials, separately collected organic waste, mixed waste, as well as the residual waste.

Municipal Waste Management Plan (MWMP) 2022-2028

The MWMP 2022-2028 includes actions and measures in the following areas

- Reduction of waste generation.
- Promoting reuse and preparation for reuse.
- Strengthening the separate collection of municipal waste.
- Strengthening extended producer responsibility systems.
- Upgrading and expanding the infrastructure for the management of mixed municipal waste, organic waste from separate collection and residual waste.
- Legislative measures (introduction extended producer responsibility to additional waste streams, separate collection).
- Financial measures and tools (landfill tax, DRS, PAYT scheme, secondary raw materials).
- Improving waste data management.
- Strengthening inspections and enforcement.
- Strengthening administrative capacity.
- Information and awareness.

Regarding infrastructure, the MWMP 2022-2028 is based on the following strategic principles

- Compliance with the obligations arising from the European Directives on municipal waste management.
- Full utilization of the existing waste management infrastructure and specifically the two IWMF at Pentakomo and Koshi.
- Implementation of the waste hierarchy.
- Adoption of best practices and financial sustainability.

Targets set by the Waste Framework Directive regarding the management of municipal waste

Separate collection of municipal waste

Municipal Waste

By 2015:
Separate collection at least for paper, metal, plastic and glass

Biowaste

By 31.12.2023:
Either collection at source
Either collected separately and not mixed with other types of waste

Textiles

By 01.01.2025:
Establishing separate collection for textiles

Household Hazardous Waste

By 01.01.2025:
Establishing separate collection for hazardous household waste fractions

Targets set by the Waste Framework Directive regarding the management of municipal waste

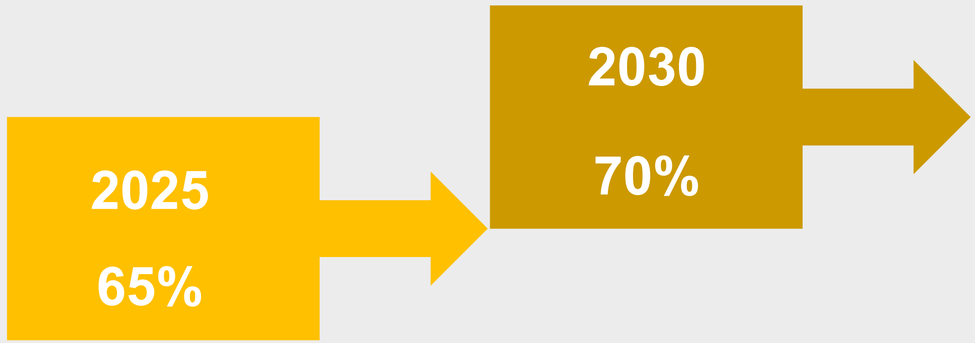
Preparation for reuse and recycling of municipal waste

Municipal Waste

Target:
Preparation for reuse and recycling of municipal waste (by weight)

Packaging

Target:
Recycling of packaging waste



Targets set by the Waste Framework Directive regarding the management of municipal waste

Landfill of municipal waste

Target:
The amount of municipal waste landfilled must be reduced

2030

Ban on landfilling of recyclable materials

2035

10% reduced of the total amount of municipal waste generated

Waste eligible for recycling / recovery shall not be accepted in a landfill site

SECTION 1: WASTE REDUCTION MEASURES			
1	Support R&D on eco-design with the aim to create new circular products and services	National Circular Economy Action Plan RRF €1.000.000	2022- 2026
2	Promote food donation by businesses active in the retail and and hospitality sectors	Through partnerships	Ongoing action
3	Support local initiatives to reduce food waste	Through partnerships	Ongoing action
4	Promote the inclusion of circular economy principles in Green Public Procurement procedures in line with the Green Public Procurement Handbook issued by the European Commission	N/A	Ongoing action
5	Design and develop a resource exchange platform for the circular economy	National Circular Economy Action Plan RRF €20.000	2022-2023

SECTION 2: REPAIR AND REUSE MEASURES			
1	Set up 2 Reuse/ Repair Centers and a network of 36 Reuse Shops in Green Points	LIFE IP CY Zero WASTE €5.300.000	2022-2026
2	Streamline processes to establish End-of-Waste status and support the creation of a stable and secure market for secondary materials	LIFE IP CY Zero WASTE and National Circular Economy Action Plan €115.000	2022-2027
3	Implement the funding scheme under the Circular Economy Action Plan to support business investments in the circular economy	National Circular Economy Action Plan RRF Part of €13.300.000	2022-2025
4	Collection and exploitation of marine debris in 6 fishing shelters	LIFE IP CY Zero WASTE €50.000	2026-2027
5	Promote the donation of clothes and the reuse of fabrics	Through partnerships	Ongoing action

SECTION 3: SEPARATE COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL WASTE MEASURES			
1	Implementation of the regulations for the management of municipal waste by local authorities (mandatory separate collection and establishment of Pay-As-You-Throw schemes throughout Cyprus)	Legislative regulation	2022
2	Programme for the techno-economic support of local authorities for the establishment of separate collection systems for municipal solid waste and the implementation of Pay-As-You-Throw Schemes	LIFE IP CY Zero WASTE Cohesion Policy Funds €25.000.000	2021-2026
3	The Municipal Solid Waste Reduction Program (sorting at source and separate collection) for Coastal Hotel and Related Tourism Infrastructure in Limassol and Paphos	Cohesion Policy Funds €10.500.000	2021- 2027
4	Programme for the prevention, separate collection and recovery of municipal waste in the mountainous areas of Cyprus	Cohesion Policy Funds €3.500.000	2021-2027

SECTION 3: SEPARATE COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL WASTE MEASURES			
5	Programme for the establishment of a network of 50 Green Kiosks for recyclables in remote and semi-remote communities	Life IP CY Zero WASTE and RRF €3.300.000	2021-2025
6	Expansion of the Green Points network	RRF €10.000.000	2021-2024
7	Installation of 6 community composting units and 16.000 household composters in rural and semi-rural communities	LIFE IP CY Zero WASTE and €20.000.000	2023-2026
8	Establishment of end-of-waste criteria for quality compost as well as standards for bio-waste entering organic recycling processes, based on best available practices.	LIFE IP CY Zero WASTE €40.000	2022-2027
9.	Separate collection of household hazardous waste (HHW) through 4 mobile units and 10 permanent units	LIFE IP CY Zero Waste Norway Grants €1.000.000	2022-2024

SECTION 4: EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) MEASURES		
1	Revise EPR Schemes (reinforce financial responsibility on waste prevention measures, reuse centres, take-back and collection systems, and the prevention of littering)	2022-2023
2	Establish EPR schemes for bulky waste (furniture, mattresses etc) and other waste streams (plastic waste from agriculture, construction waste, medicinal waste etc)	2022-2023
3	Adjust financial contributions in EPRSs to ensure they are based on a life-cycle approach, considering product durability, reparability, reusability and recyclability and the presence of hazardous substances	Ongoing action
4	Establish deposit-refund and return-refill schemes (DRS)	2023

SECTION 5: INFRASTRUCTURE MEASURES			
1	Upgrade the Pentakomo MBT plant to facilitate the: • Treatment of the separately collected organic waste from Limassol • Treatment of all the mixed waste from the districts of Limassol and Paphos		
2	Upgrade the Koshi MBT plant to facilitate the: • Treatment of the separately collected organic waste from the district of Larnaca • Treatment of all the mixed waste from the districts of Nicosia, Larnaca and Famagusta		
3	Assess the need for the construction of a waste-to-energy plant for the acceptance of the SRF/RDF from the two MBT plants		
4	Develop infrastructure for the management of organic waste (construction of composting/anaerobic digestion units in Paphos and Famagusta / Nicosia)	Cohesion Policy Fund €15.000.000	2023- 2027

SECTION 6: LEGISLATIVE MEASURES		
1	Regulations for the separate collection of textile wastes included in the municipal waste until 2025	2022
2	Regulations for the separate collection of hazardous waste from households by 2025	2022
3	Regulations for the establishment of producer's responsibility for household medicinal waste	2022
4	Establishment of end-of-waste criteria for solid recovered fuels (SRF) at the national level	2024
5	Mandatory implementation of Environmental Management Systems and BATs by waste management operators	Until 2028
6	Legislation on Sustainable Product Policy, such as standards to extend product life cycle and facilitate repairability, reuse and recycling, measures to limit consumption, etc.	Until 2028
7	Mandatory labeling information on the repairability and recyclability of a product	Until 2028

SECTION 7: FINANCIAL MEASURES (ECONOMIC TOOLS)		
1	Introduction of a Landfill tax	2025
2	Evaluate the implementation of a Green tax on goods, such as single use plastic products and products with a plastic content	2022 – 2025
3	Assess the possibility of a VAT reduction for second-hand and End-of-Waste products (secondary materials)	2025
4	Establish Pay-As-You-Throw Schemes	2021 – 2027
5	Establish deposit-refund and return-refill schemes (DRS)	2023

SECTION 8: WASTE DATA MANAGEMENT MEASURES			
1	Establish a waste data platform for administrations and operators that will include an Electronic Register of Waste Operators, electronic databases for waste shipments and waste management	Cohesion Policy Fund €1.500.000	2024
2	Establish a platform for the reporting of food waste data throughout the food supply chain, including primary production, processing and manufacturing, retail and other food distribution, restaurants and food services and households	LIFE IP CY Zero WASTE €350.000	2023 -2027
3	Develop a software tool for the mapping and monitoring of marine litter	LIFE IP CY Zero WASTE €200.000	2026-2027
4	Electronic system for the management, control and communication of information on the implementation of the waste management programmes	Cohesion Policy Fund and national funds €1.500.000	2024

SECTION 9: ENFORCEMENT AND CONTROL MEASURES		
1	Create a central inspection unit and strengthen the enforcement and inspection capacities of local authorities	2022
2	Establish a regulatory framework for waste management reporting, audits and inspections, compliance monitoring and enforcement	Until 2025
3	Establish and implement a police and local authorities coordinated program to reduce uncontrolled dumping	Until 2025
4	Preparation/Use of standardized protocols, guides, instructions and checklists to facilitate law enforcement	Until 2025

SECTIONS 10 & 11: CAPACITY BUILDING AND AWARENESS RAISING MEASURES			
1	Establish a Waste Management Coordinating Body between Central government and Local Authorities	LIFE IP CY Zero Waste, Structural Funds €900.000	2022-2025
2	Develop and implement skills development and waste management training programs for legislators and regulators, and implement national education and awareness campaigns (focus on zerowaste)	LIFE IP CY Zero Waste €650.000	2023-2029
3	Implement a communication strategy to promote the separate collection of municipal waste	LIFE IP CY Zero waste €1.200.000	2021-2027

DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Future infrastructure of waste management in Cyprus

Planned infrastructure for the treatment of municipal waste

- Upgrading and expanding the existing 2 Integrated Waste Management Facilities in Larnaca (Koshi) and Limassol (Pentakomo)
- Construction of 3 Organic Waste Treatment Facilities in Nicosia, Famagusta and Paphos
- Construction of 2 Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) in Nicosia and Paphos
- Construction of 2 Waste Transfer Stations (WTS) in Nicosia and Paphos (existing WTS in Larnaca and Limassol)
- Construction of 2 Repair and Reuse Centres in Nicosia and Limassol
- Construction of 6 Community Composting Units in mountainous and isolated areas

Planned infrastructure or equipment for the separate collection of municipal waste

- Expanding the Green Points Network
- Installation of 36 Repair Shops
- Installation of 50 Green Kiosks for recyclables & textiles and 30 Corners for bulky waste in mountainous and isolated areas
- Installation of 20 Collection Points (skip) in mountainous areas
- Installation of 10 Household Hazardous Waste Units in combination with 4 HHW units
- Supply of 16.000 home composters in mountainous and isolated areas
- Supply of PAYT equipment and trucks all over Cyprus
- Supply of equipment and trucks for HORECA sector in coastal areas of Limassol and Paphos

Famagusta District
Larnaca District
Limassol District
Nicosia District
Pafos District
Planned Green Points
Repair & Reuse Center
Repair & Reuse Center South Nicosia - Idalion Municipality
Repair & Reuse Center Limassol Municipality
Kato Pyrgos
Kokkinothimithia
Nicosia Municipality (Aglantzia)
Astromeritis
Peristerona
Strovolos
Lakatamia
Linou
Geri
Ergates
Malounda
Athienou
Derineia
Avgorou
Sotira
Ayia Napa
Trouloi
Alambra
Aradippou
Chrysochou
Pyrga
Pelendri
Larnaca Municipality
Peyia
Dromolaxia
Kofinou
Anafotica
Pafos Municipality
Koloni
Ayia Varvara
Pareklissia
Limassol Municipality 1
Fasoula
Kolossi
Limassol Municipality 2
Google Earth
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus

Thank you
Ευχαριστώ

https://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CYPRUS