

# Municipal waste management



**Albania** 

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Country	Albania
<b>General facts</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface area 28 748 km<sup>2</sup>; population 3 038 594 million; population density (inhabitants/square km) 105; total gross domestic product (GDP) USD 33.9 billion; GDP per capita USD 11 900; degree of urbanisation 57 % of total population, annual rate of urbanisation 2.2 %. Economy (% of GDP): agriculture 21.6 %; industry 14.9 %; services 63.5 %</li> </ul>	
<b>Status quo</b>	
<p>Waste management in Albania is generally at a low level. The collection of municipal solid waste (MSW) is provided in most cities and towns but rarely in rural areas. The waste is mainly disposed of at municipal dumpsites. There are some managed landfill sites at Sharra, Bushat, Bajkaj, Maliq and Elbasan. In Elbasan there is also an incinerator near the landfill. The Sharra landfill is currently being rehabilitated because there is a plan to construct an incinerator nearby. There are no data available for industrial waste. Also, people perceive an imbalance between the new legal framework that complies with EU standards and the limited human and financial resources and waste management practices available.</p>	
<b>Legal framework</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2003 Law on Environmental Administration of Solid Waste, No 9010</li> <li>• 2006 Law on Hazardous Waste Administration, No 9537</li> <li>• 2006 Law on Concessions, No 9663</li> <li>• 2003 Decision on approval of rules and procedures for the import of waste for recycling and treatment, No 803</li> <li>• 2005 Decision on approval of the Albanian Catalogue for Classification of Waste, No 99</li> <li>• 2007 Regulation on treatment of construction and demolition waste from creation and transportation to disposal, No 1</li> <li>• 2010 Regulation on hospital waste management</li> <li>• 2007 Guideline on approval of rules, content and deadlines for drafting of plans for solid waste administration</li> <li>• 2011 Law on Integrated Waste Management, No 10463 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Development of waste management legislation towards full compliance with EU waste management policy</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2011 Decision of Council Members (DCM) on the approval of the National Waste Strategy and National Waste Management Plan, No 175</li> <li>• 2012 DCM on packaging and packaging waste, No 177</li> <li>• 2012 DCM on waste incineration, No 178</li> <li>• 2012 DCM on landfill of waste, No 452</li> <li>• 2012 DCM on approval of rules for separation, collection and treatment of used oils, No 765</li> <li>• 2012 DCM on management of waste by end-of-life vehicles, No 705</li> <li>• 2012 DCM on management of used batteries, No 886</li> <li>• 2012 DCM on waste electrical and electronic equipment, No 957</li> <li>• 2012 National Strategy and Action Plan for the Waste Management</li> <li>• 2012 Law on Integrated Management on Wastes in Albania</li> <li>• 2013 DCM on establishing criteria determining when certain types of scrap metal cease to be waste, No 117</li> <li>• 2014 DCM on separation of waste at source, No 418</li> </ul>	

- 2014 DCM on approval of rules for the transfer of non-hazardous waste and the document for the transfer of non-hazardous waste, No 229
- 2014 DCM on necessary measures for the collection and treatment of bio waste as well as the criteria and deadlines for their reduction, No 608
- 2014 DCM on approval of rules for the export of waste and transit of non-hazardous waste and inert waste, No 641
- 2015 DCM on requirements on use of sewage sludge in agriculture, No 127
- 2015 DCM on requirements on management on construction waste, No 575
- 2015 DCM on approval of rules for the maintenance, updating and publication of waste statistics, No 687
- 2016 DCM on rules and criteria for the management of waste from used tires, No 652
- 2018 DCM on some amendments and additions to decision No 177, dated 06.03.2012, of the Council of Ministers, on packaging and their wastes, No 232
- 2018 DCM on approval of measures for the costs of integrated waste management, No 319
- 2018 DCM on some amendments and additions to decision No 452, dated 11.07.2012, of the Council of Ministers, on waste landfills, No 389
- National Strategy/National Action Plan of Waste Management:
  - defines the political direction regarding sustainable waste management until 2025
  - is based on governmental commitment to financing waste management
  - presents the main investment mechanisms in the waste sector
  - ensures separate collection of waste streams
  - encourages the development of businesses and markets for recycling and minimising waste

## Objectives

- Protect the environment and human health and ensure the environmentally sound management of waste
- Establish integrated waste management
- Improve the efficiency of waste use
- Reduce the overall negative impacts
- Define the best practice for waste management in the medium term, as a basis for the preparation of waste management plans
- Establish a waste management planning system at local, regional and national levels
- Implement priority projects for waste management
- Develop hazardous waste management including preparation of feasibility studies for hazardous waste containment facilities, implementation of new regulations and development of a national hazardous waste management plan
- Complete a legal framework for waste management
- Increase awareness of waste issues and encourage responsible behaviour through public campaigns
- Promote and implement schemes for the collection and separation of waste at source
- Public education
- Increase tariffs in response to the costs of waste management and according to the polluter pays principle;
- Construct a regional landfill
- Close existing landfills
- Promote public-private partnerships
- Better law enforcement

- Prepare the area waste plans for 12 districts (83 % of districts have been prepared)
- Carry out a feasibility study for a waste collection system with three containers (16 % complete)
- Implement a public awareness campaign related to waste generation (68 % complete)
- Set up the promotion action for waste reduction (18 % complete)
- Select a priority project and feasibility study for these projects (11 % complete)
- Compile regional waste management plans

### Specific targets

- Decision No 866, dated 04.12.2012, on batteries and accumulators and their waste  
The minimum collection percentages at national level will be 25 % by 2015 and 65 % by 2025

- The national waste management plan (NWMP) aims to minimise the impact of waste on the environment and improve the efficiency of resource use in Albania, setting two targets for short-term needs:

- 1) to increase the amount of waste collected by local authorities that is recycled or mixed to 25 % by 2015
- 2) to increase the amount of waste collected by local authorities that is recycled or mixed to 55 % by 2020

- Decision No 608, dated 17.09.2014, on the necessary measures for collection and treatment of bio waste, criteria and deadlines for their reduction

Collection of biowaste:

a) will be established for municipalities in the district centre in 2017

b) will be established for other municipalities in 2018

c) the total weight of biowaste going to landfill will be reduced to 50 % of the 2014 amount by no later than 2021 (7 years after the date of the decision)

d) the total weight of biowaste going to landfill will be reduced to 35 % of the 2014 amount by 2026 (12 years after the date of the decision)

- DCM No 418, dated 25.06.2014 on separation of waste at source

Separate collection for waste streams — paper/cardboard, metal, plastic, glass:

a) will be established for municipalities in 2016

b) will be established for local government units in 2018

c) 60 % of paper/cardboard waste will be reused and recycled by the local government units

### Waste management

- MSW generation is based on the number of trucks delivering waste to disposal sites
- The NWMP estimates the total MSW generation to be 852 360 tonnes/year
- Key industrial waste generators: oil industry, cement production, steel and mining
- Collection and disposal of industrial waste is the responsibility of the producer
- Information on quantity or types of industrial waste is not collected
- No information on hazardous waste management (expert studies indicate that hazardous may constitute 3-5 % of the total industrial waste)
- 2009 total waste generation: 1 300 000 tonnes; MSW generation: 800 000 tonnes
- 2010 total waste generation: 1 400 000 tonnes; MSW generation: 1 069 094 tonnes
- 2011 total waste generation: 1 800 000 tonnes; MSW generation: 1 100 000 tonnes
- 2012 total waste generation: 1 450 000 tonnes; MSW generation: 1 150 000 tonnes
- 2013 total waste generation: 1 350 000 tonnes; MSW generation: 1 000 000 tonnes
- 2014 total waste generation: 971 565 tonnes; MSW generation: 760 407 tonnes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2015 total waste generation: 2 847 804 tonnes; MSW generation: 2 641 498 tonnes</li> <li>• 2016 total waste generation: 1 503 386 tonnes; MSW generation: 1 300 377 tonnes</li> <li>• 2017 total waste generation: 1 272 092 tonnes; MSW generation: 1 109 762 tonnes</li> </ul>
<b>Recycling</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some sorting of glass bottles, paper and cardboard, and copper scrap takes place</li> <li>• Glass bottles are collected, sterilised and reused by beverage companies</li> <li>• Paper and cardboard are sorted in only small quantities at a paper-recycling plant in Tirana</li> <li>• Aluminium cans are usually exported to neighbouring countries for reprocessing, and a very small proportion of it goes to a small private Albanian smelter</li> <li>• Steel scrap is sent to the Elbasan metallurgical plant</li> <li>• Recycled household waste (2014): 6 711 tonnes</li> <li>• Amount of recyclable waste exported (2013): metal 29 250 tonnes; plastic 3 105 tonnes; paper 2 700 tonnes; total 35 055 tonnes</li> <li>• Amount of recyclable waste exported (2014): metal 64 000 tonnes; plastics 1 180 tonnes; paper 5 500 tonnes; total 70 680 tonnes</li> </ul>
<b>Landfilling</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dumping in uncontrolled sites is the main method of MSW disposal</li> <li>• It is estimated that about 65 large uncontrolled sites and various small sites are currently in operation</li> <li>• The NWMP plans the replacement of these by 12 regional controlled landfill sites</li> <li>• Landfill sites lack the necessary infrastructure or engineering provisions to collect and contain landfill leachate and gas</li> <li>• Unauthorised disposal of waste on land and along watercourses is common</li> <li>• Bushat landfill : surface area of 12 ha, capacity of 1 000 000 m<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Sharre landfill : surface area of 15 ha, capacity of 2 900 000 m<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Incineration</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no licensed waste incineration facilities</li> <li>• It is common to burn household and other waste in the open</li> <li>• Some wastes, e.g. tyres or wood wastes, are burnt in lime kilns</li> </ul>
<b>Other problems</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining waste accumulation with significant risks to the environment</li> <li>• Medical waste</li> </ul>
<b>Initiatives taken to improve municipal waste management</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the SELEA project at the end of 2014, has completed RWMPs for the following seven regions: Dibër, Kukës, Shkodra, Lezhë, Berat, Gjirokastër, Fier</li> <li>• Integrated waste management, in cooperation with the JICA project for waste reduction, has been implemented and enforced in three municipalities</li> <li>• Based on Law No 139/2015 on Local Selfgovernment, local government units are responsible for the implementation of legislation and achievement of objectives for integrated waste management according to the NWMP</li> <li>• The following actions have been undertaken in the framework of the NWMP implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– prepare the area waste plans for 12 districts (83 % of districts have prepared)</li> <li>– a feasibility study for waste collection system with three containers (16 % complete)</li> <li>– raising public awareness related to waste generation (68 % complete)</li> <li>– set up the promotion action for waste reduction (18 % complete)</li> <li>– selecting the priority projects and a feasibility study for these projects (11 % complete)</li> <li>– compiling regional waste management plans (37 % of districts have prepared)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Possible future trends

### 2015–2020

- Introduce waste collection systems with three bins (separate collection)
- Waste collection system
- Construction of waste-to-energy plants (Elbasan and Tirana)
- Construction of regional landfill sites according to EU standards

### 2020–2025

- Projects for the rehabilitation of the municipal collection sites
- Public-private partnership development
- Recycling of household, commercial and industrial waste
- Develop a home composting scheme (organic waste)

## Sources

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