



ProCredit Bank

ProCredit Eco

Waste management and food waste

NEWSLETTER, Q3/2020

www.procreditbank.ge

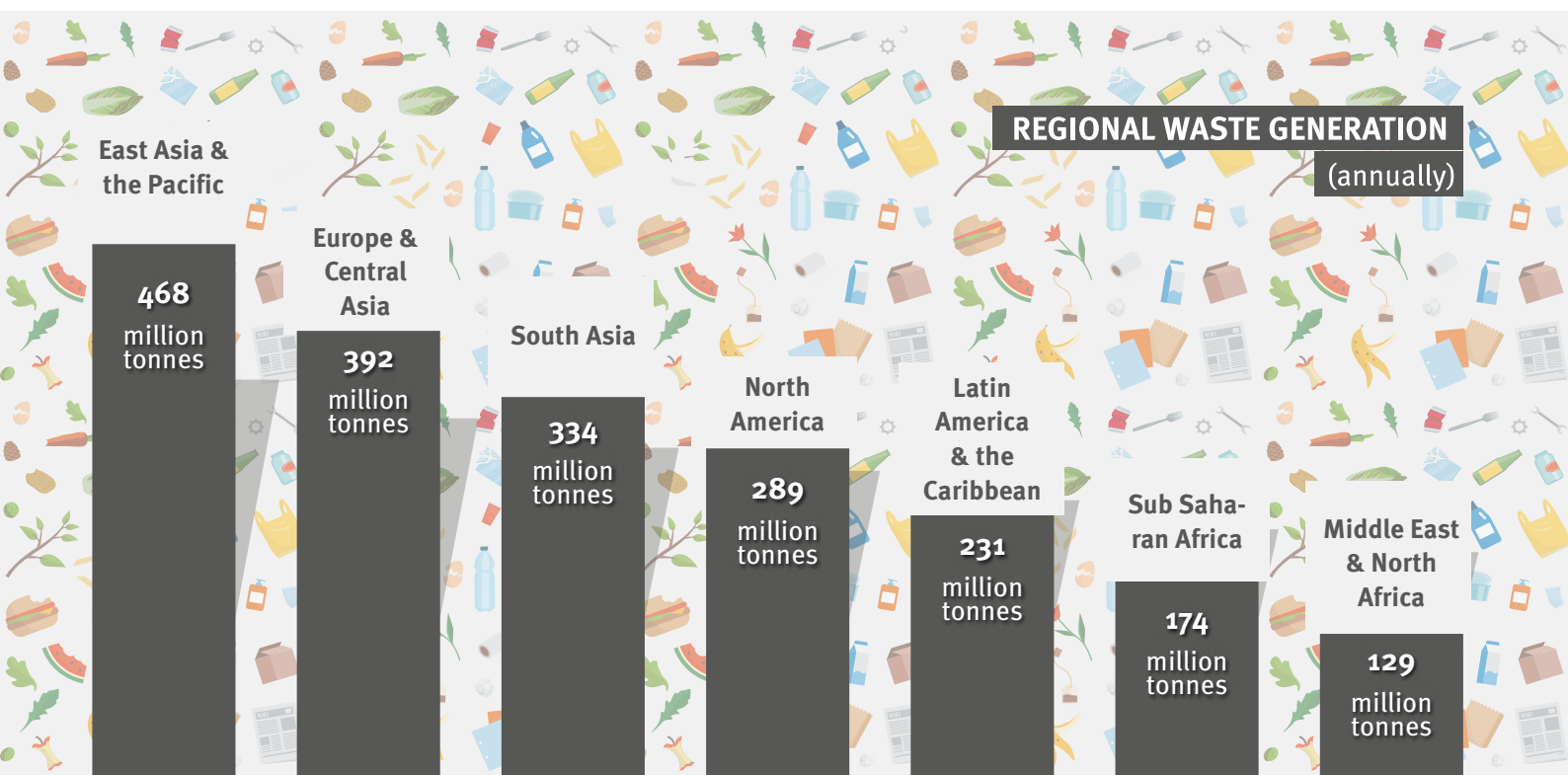
Waste management

Globally, 2.01 billion tonnes of municipal waste, also known as household waste (i.e. waste produced by households and offices), is generated per year. The average amount of waste per person per day ranges from 0.11 to 4.53 kg¹. By 2050, global waste is expected to increase to 3.40 billion tonnes annually. This edition of the eco-newsletter focuses specifically on this type of waste.

In high-income countries, waste generation per capita is very high (34% of the world's waste or 683 million tonnes). However, most of the waste

generated in high and upper-middle income countries is collected by municipalities (city authorities). Data shows that waste collection tends to be more reliable in urban areas than in rural areas.

According to the World Bank (2018)², the highest rates of waste collection are given for the regions of North America (100%) and Europe/Central Asia (90%), while the South Asian and Sub-Saharan African regions have the lowest collection rates (44%). The graph below shows the amount of waste generated annually per region in tonnes.



Source: World Bank (2018), <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2018/09/20/what-a-waste-20-a-global-snapshot-of-solid-waste-management-to-2050>

A crucial lack of proper waste management can be found in low and middle-income countries where over 90%³ of waste is disposed of in unregulated dumps or is incinerated. This carries with it serious health, safety and environmental issues. At least 33%⁴ of municipal waste worldwide is not managed in an environmentally safe manner. This is why waste management is increasingly becoming a significant issue globally.

¹ World Bank (2018), https://datatopics.worldbank.org/what-a-waste/trends_in_solid_waste_management.html#:~:text=The%20world%20generates%202.01%20billion,from%200.11%20to%204.54%20kilograms

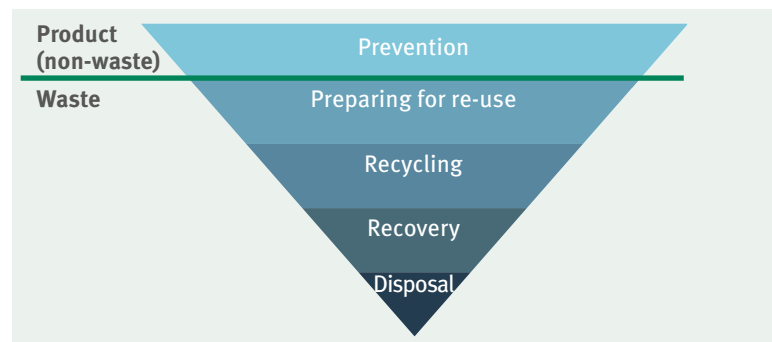
² World Bank (2018), What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050

³ World Bank (2019), <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/brief/solid-waste-management>

⁴ World Bank (2018), https://datatopics.worldbank.org/what-a-waste/trends_in_solid_waste_management.html#:~:text=Worldwide%2C%20waste%20generated%20per%20person,tonnes%2C%20of%20the%20world's%20waste

Waste management hierarchy

A means of dealing with the vast amount of waste generated can be to create a circular economy, i.e. develop processes for re-use, recycling and recovery, in order to minimise waste outcome. The chart below shows the hierarchy for proper waste management, which should be applied on all levels of waste production (households, industries, countries, etc.).

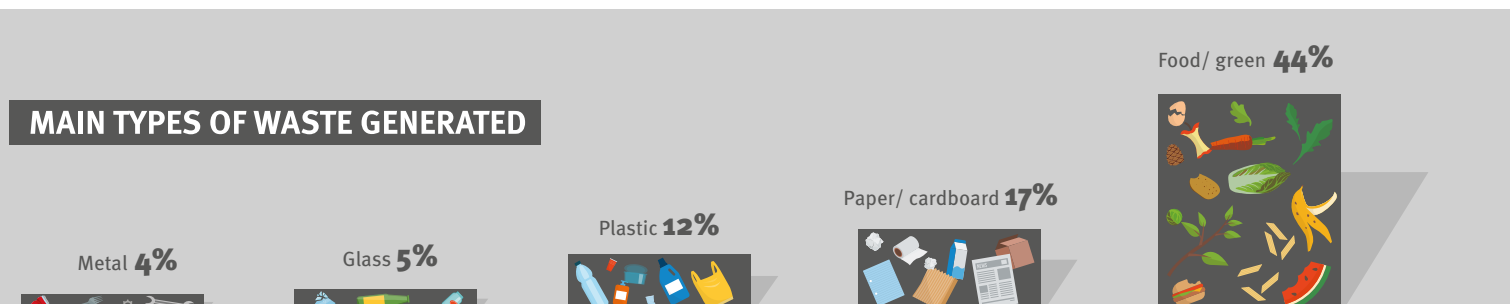


Source: European Commission (2019), <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/>

What a waste of food!

Food waste is one of the most significant waste issues the world is facing today. Around 44% of waste generated in households is food waste, which accounts for the largest share of all categories by far (see graphic below).

Globally over 1/3⁵ (33-55%) of food produced is never eaten. Apart from the moral aspect, food waste is very bad for the environment. If food goes into landfills and rots, it produces methane, a greenhouse gas that is even more toxic for the environment than carbon dioxide⁶ (food waste accounts for up to 10% of greenhouse gases). Moreover, a large amount of resources, such as water, harvesting, transport and packing, is wasted in order to grow food.



Source: World Bank (2018), <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2018/09/20/what-a-waste-20-a-global-snapshot-of-solid-wastemanagement-to-2050>

The ProCredit group encourages its staff to regulate and manage their waste management practices at all institutions in a systematic and prudent manner.

In addition, we endeavour to support waste management companies that make a great contribution to the reduction of waste released to the environment in our countries of operation. As of August 2020, our portfolio includes more than 60 clients involved in this field, such as in recycling, waste management or waste prevention and their total outstanding loan volume is around EUR 15m.

Moreover, our objective of reducing waste in general also leads us to encourage and advise our clients to invest in better waste management systems within their own operations, which in turn increases their resource efficiency and helps them to reduce overall costs.

⁵ Olio (2020), <https://olioex.com/food-waste/the-problem-of-food-waste/>

⁶ WWF (2020), <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/fight-climate-change-by-preventing-food-waste#:~:text=Today%2C%20an%20estimated%20one%2Dthird,the%20world%20goes%20to%20waste.&text=When%20we%20waste%20of%20food%2C%20we,more%20potent%20than%20carbon%20dioxide.>

Tips on how you can reduce food waste

If we take some time to think about the huge amounts of waste produced every day around the globe, it soon becomes clear just how important it is for us – even as private individuals – to do our bit and start reducing our own waste footprint.

Did you know that uneaten food accounts for the largest share of waste generation by far?

Below are a few examples of things that each and every one of us can do to reduce the amount of food we waste every day – and contribute to a more sustainable environment at the same time.

Buy only as much as you need

Many people buy more food than they actually need. In order to avoid impulse buying, make a list with weekly meals in mind. This way, you only buy what you really need and use.



Store food correctly

Improper food storage can lead to a massive waste of food. Learn how to store food correctly in order to avoid the premature ripening of fruits and vegetables, e.g ethylene-sensitive foods such as potatoes and apples, as well as how to keep other products from spoiling.



Get creative in the kitchen

Cooking does not mean sticking to a recipe all the time. Reinventing meals can be an excellent way of repurposing food scraps or leftovers. When experimenting in the kitchen, you have the freedom to season the food just as you like.



Donate food if necessary

Find initiatives in your city where you can donate food and in this manner, provide food to those who might not have a steady food supply.



By reducing your own food waste, you and the environment benefit because you:

- save money by buying less
- reduce your carbon footprint and emissions from landfills
- conserve energy and resources, for example, by preventing pollution, manufacturing and transport

ProCredit Bank Georgia

Taking care of the environment is not part of our image only but of our daily life as well.

The waste management policy has been in place at ProCredit Bank for more than five years. The outcome is that the efficiency of the consumed resources has increased and the negative impact on the environment has reduced.

Measures taken by the bank in this regard include the placement of special-purpose bins for paper, plastic, glass, aluminum and electronic waste in all offices of the bank; proper management of used batteries, cartridges and other hazardous waste; regular training of employees to raise knowledge and awareness of the significance of the issue; placement of special-purpose information signs and indicators at all service facilities.

The bank has also found an effective way of using rainwater. The bank's head office has been collecting, properly treating and using rainwater for technical purposes since 2018.

In addition to internal activities, the bank pays much attention to developing environmentally friendly behavior in customers. The bank provides professional advice to its customers based on its experience and shares international practices. As a consequence, the bank customers make a positive impact on the environment not only through energy- and resource-efficient investments but also by giving due consideration to proper management of waste.