

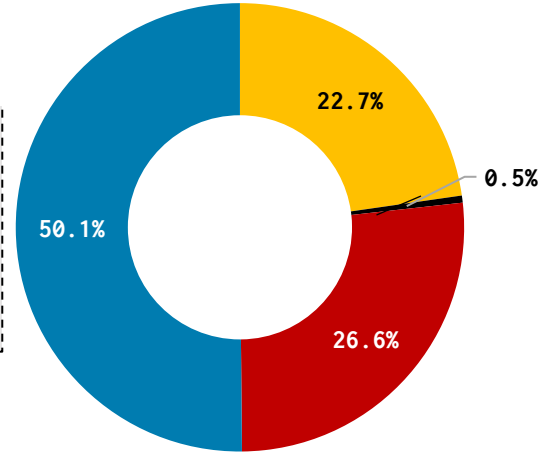


Wasting Energy: Treatment of Waste in Europe & Greece

Wolfram

Vol.40 Wasting Energy: Treatment of Waste in Europe & Greece

Share of municipal waste by waste management operations in Europe, [2023]

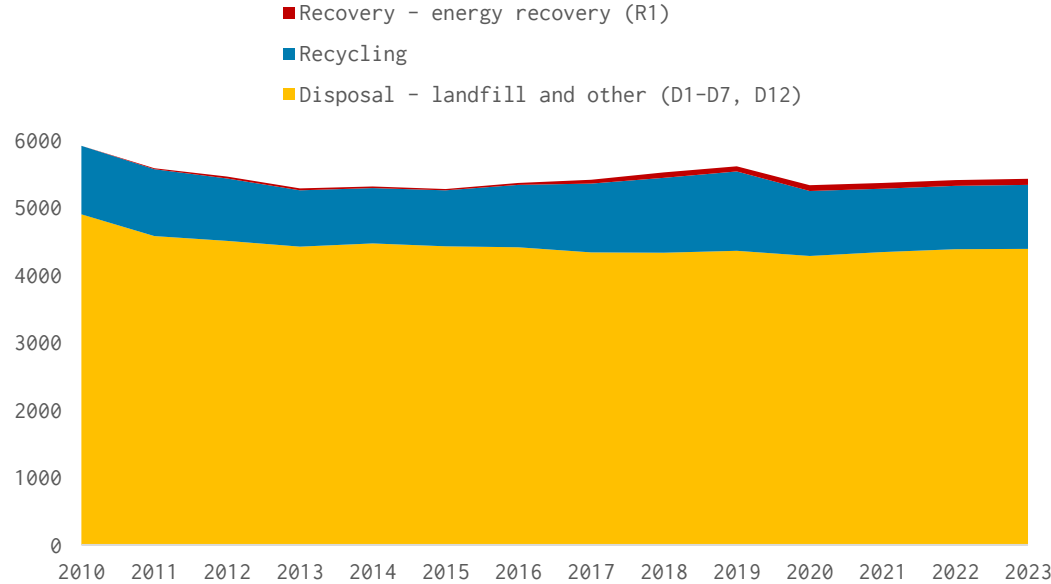


Total municipal waste:

218,136
thousand tonnes

■ Landfill and other
 ■ Incineration
■ Energy recovery
 ■ Recycling

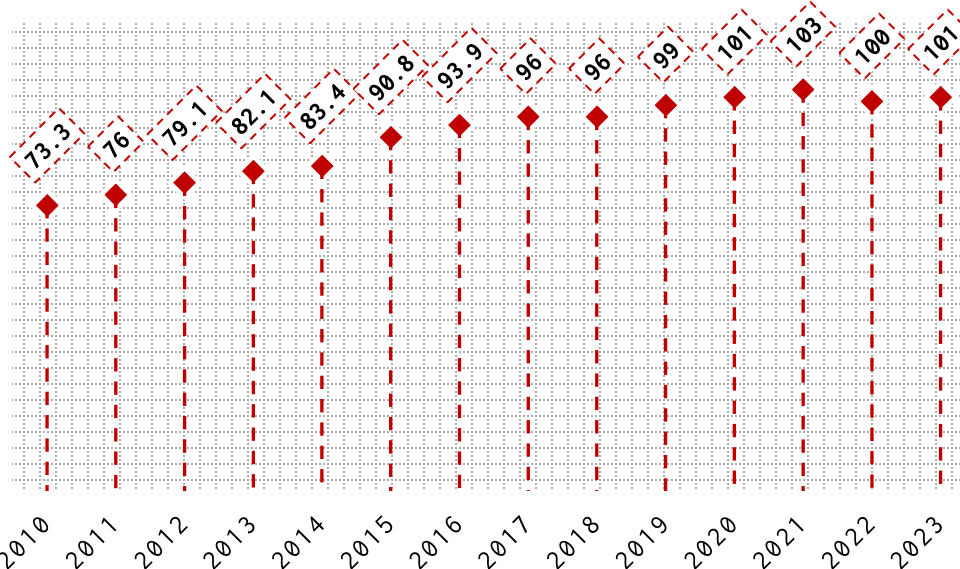
Municipal waste (thousand tonnes) by waste management operations in Greece, [2010-2023]



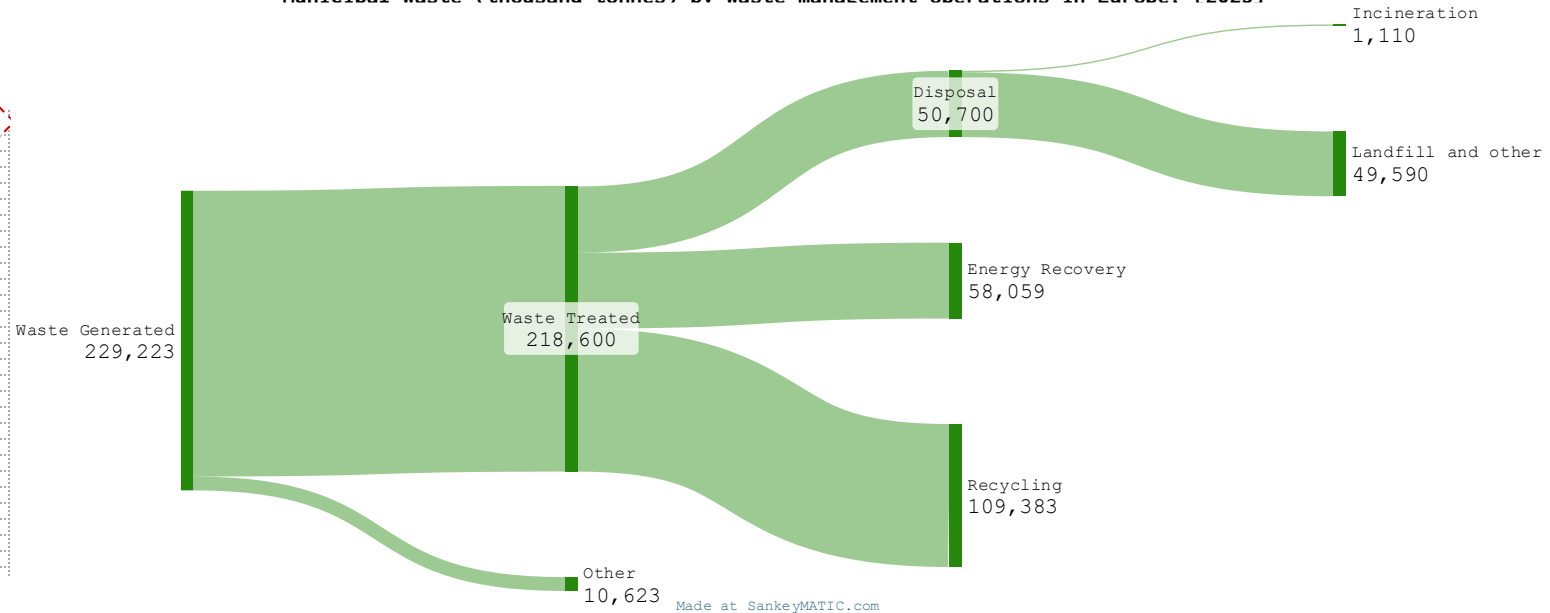
In Greece, as of 2023, the total municipal waste treated as follows:

- **2%** is used for **energy recovery**
- **18%** is **recycled** and,
- **80%** is disposed in **landfills**

Residual Waste Thermally treated (mil. tonnes) in Europe, [2010-2023]



Municipal waste (thousand tonnes) by waste management operations in Europe. [2023]



Over the past decade, Europe has steadily increased thermal treatment of residual waste, marking a shift away from landfill disposal. Expanded Waste-to-Energy (WtE) capacity reflects a focus on energy recovery, enhancing both waste management efficiency and energy diversification.

Shift Toward Thermal Treatment

Greece remains heavily reliant on landfilling, with approximately 80% of municipal waste still disposed in landfills. Limited energy recovery and recycling rates highlight a significant gap versus European averages, underscoring untapped potential in circular economy practices.

Greece's Landfill Dependence

Untapped Potential for Energy Recovery

With only about 2% of municipal waste used for energy recovery, Greece has significant untapped potential. Expanding waste-to-energy infrastructure could reduce landfill reliance, strengthen energy security, and help meet EU waste and decarbonisation targets.

Europe's Waste Hierarchy

Across Europe, waste management is characterized by a balanced hierarchy, with recycling and energy recovery as primary methods and minimal reliance on landfill. This integrated approach advances environmental objectives, reduces emissions, and optimizes resource efficiency through comprehensive waste treatment systems.





HELLENIC ASSOCIATION
for ENERGY ECONOMICS

Meet the Team

HAEE Research Team

Prof. Dr. Kostas Andriosopoulos
Editor-in-chief
Alba Graduate Business School;
BoD Member, HAEE

Konstantinos Sfetsioris
Senior Project Manager, HAEE

Ilias Tsopelas
Energy Analyst, HAEE

Georgia Giannakidou
Research Associate, HAEE

Deloitte Team

Konstantinos Eleftheriadis,
Partner | Strategy, Risk & Transactions, Energy,
Resources and Industrials Leader, Deloitte Greece

Dr. Konstantinos Bergeles,
Principal | Strategy, Risk & Transactions,
Energy, Resources and Industrials, Deloitte Greece

Dr. Thanos Bourtsalas,
Senior Manager | Strategy, Risk & Transactions,
Energy, Resources and Industrials, Deloitte Greece

Dr. Lefki Germanou,
Manager | Strategy, Risk & Transactions,
Energy, Resources and Industrials, Deloitte Greece

Ioannis Kouloumpis,
Manager | Strategy, Risk & Transactions,
Energy, Resources and Industrials, Deloitte Greece

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info@haee.gr
www.haee.gr



**Hellenic Association For
Energy Economics
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