



Submission from Norway on the sixth dialogue under the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme

25th August 2025

Norway welcomes the opportunity¹ to submit views on opportunities, best practices, solutions, challenges and barriers relevant for the sixth dialogue² under the Mitigation Work Program.³

The waste sector offers important opportunities for scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade. UNEPs 2021 Global Methane Assessment states that the waste sector is responsible for approximately 20% of methane emissions, the second largest greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide. Without additional action and measures, these are projected to continue increasing towards 2050⁴. In addition, waste also emit CO₂ when incinerated, highlighting important mitigation strategies such as waste prevention and circular economy approaches.

The sixth dialogue should provide insights into the sector's role in mitigation as well as opportunities for sustainable development.

Waste is a subject of IPCC's AR6 WGIII report Chapter 8 Urban systems and other settlements. The report states that the waste sector remains the largest contributor to urban emissions after the energy sector, even in low-carbon cities. The report also highlights that GHG emissions mitigation through waste prevention, minimization and management have important co-benefits for SDG1 No Poverty, SDG2: Zero Hunger, SGD6: Clean Water and Sanitation, and SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, among others.

GHG emissions in the waste sector are generated from the treatment and disposal of solid and liquid waste. The waste sector, as defined by the IPCC's 2006 guidelines, was responsible for 3% of European countries' GHG emissions in 2022. However, a briefing from the European Environment Agency (EEA) states that the effect of policies and measures in the waste sector can be much wider as they can help reduce emissions in other sectors. EEA use an example,

¹ [Calls for submissions - second half of 2025](#)

² The sixth dialogue taking place under the work programme will focus on enabling mitigation solutions in the waste sector, including through circular economy approaches.

³ As mandated in paragraph 10 in the conclusions from the 6th session of the CMA in paragraph 14 of decision 4 in the conclusions from the 4th session of the CMA, and in paragraph 9 of decision 5 in the conclusions from the 5th session of the CMA .

⁴ [UNEP, Global Methane Assessment: Benefits and Costs of Mitigating Methane Emissions, May 2021](#)

that policies that ensure the collection and processing of waste into recyclable materials can help in the substituting of virgin materials, which usually require more energy to produce than the recycling processes.

For the sixth dialogue, Norway will address and share experiences on opportunities, best practices, solutions, challenges and barriers related to:

1. *Global cooperation and agreements*
2. *Regional cooperation*
3. *Experiences from Norwegian waste policy*

1. Global cooperation and agreements

Norway works actively for international cooperation and agreements relating to waste. These are crucial for effective management, and to maintain high ambitions. This work includes, among others, the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, and the Global Methane Pledge.

Addressing plastic pollution is important for low carbon transition. Norway wants to emphasise the need for continuous efforts to secure a plastic pollution treaty. A future plastic treaty must address all sources of plastic pollution and cover the entire life cycle of plastics - from design and production to consumption and waste - to be effective. Such a treaty should support a transition towards a more circular economy, creating economic opportunities in resource efficient plastic products, alternative products made from natural materials, reuse systems and recycling.

2. Regional cooperation

Reducing the amount of waste and using the resources in waste more efficiently can contribute to emission reductions and are key principles in circular economy approaches.

Norway is closely integrated with the EU through the European Economic Area (EEA) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Through the EEA Agreement, Norway adopts EU legislation related to the internal market, including environmental and climate policies. This contributes to aligned and efficient policies. Alongside the EU, Norway is developing a green, circular economy that makes better use of resources. In June 2021 Norway launched a national strategy for a green, circular economy, which was followed up with an action plan in 2024.

It is important to see the waste sector as part of a wider circular economy. The EU and Norway is taking an integrated approach to the regulation of entire value chains and is focusing on areas such as digitalization, public procurement and consumer information. Regulations for product design are developed with the aim of making products last longer, be repaired when broken, and be reused rather than discarded.

Product design is also seen as a measure to increase recycling rates and thereby make better use of the waste. By ensuring that products can be recycled, they can be used as secondary materials and substitute new ones. Products that last longer will reduce the need to buy new ones and reduce emissions from extraction, production, and waste treatment. Product design and material selection is therefore both a tool to reduce waste and get higher recycling rates.

3. Experiences from Norwegian waste policy

Norway has introduced several measures in the waste sector to increase recycling, reduce emissions, and manage waste in an environmentally sound manner. The overarching aim is that waste should cause the least possible harm to people and the natural environment. Norway is working to reduce the amount of waste generated and use the resources more efficiently through increased preparation for reuse and recycling.

An important part of Norwegian waste policy are national targets for waste. Norway has a national target stating that the growth in the amount of waste must be significantly lower than the economic growth. Norway also has a target to make sure recycling of waste increase over time. In addition to these targets, there are national environmental targets in other areas that strongly affect the waste area, including emissions of greenhouse gases, local air pollution and emissions of substances hazardous to health and the environment.

Norway is also bound by joint EU/EEA targets for preparation for reuse and recycling. The Waste Framework Directive includes the targets of 55 per cent preparation for reuse and recycling of all municipal waste by 2025, 60 per cent by 2030 and 65 per cent by 2035, and also recycling targets for non-hazardous construction and demolition waste.

Measure to increase the circularity of the economy with more effective use and recycling of materials and energy can help support measures to reduce the amount of waste generated. In 2021 Norway put forward a national strategi for circular economy, supported by an action plan put forward in 2024. The action plan put forward policies and measures to support the transition to a more circular Norwegian economy.

In 2024 the government also set up an expert group to look at instruments to promote circular activities. The export group's report was presented to the Minister of Climate and Environment in May 2025, and are at present on a public consultation.

Norwegian waste policies consist of various measures; regulations, a climate tax on waste incineration, grants, producer responsibility schemes and information. The instruments are intended to stimulate good resource utilization and low emissions in a cost-effective manner through prevention, reuse and recycling, as well as regulation of waste treatment to ensure

waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner. Some examples of policy instruments are:

1. Landfilling of wet-organic waste has been prohibited in Norway since 2002. The prohibition was strengthened in 2009 by a wider prohibition that applies to all biodegradable waste. The prohibition of depositing biodegradable waste has significantly reduced methane emissions from landfills and will continue to do so as emissions from waste continue for several decades after deposition. The Norwegian Landfill Regulation also states that all landfills with biodegradable waste must have a system for capturing landfill gas. If the gas is not used for energy recovery, it must be flared. Gas emissions are monitored by measuring boxes placed on the landfill surface.
2. Norwegian waste legislation requires that paper and cardboard, plastics, glass and metals, textiles and bio-waste are collected separately from mixed municipal waste. This is a key requirement to achieve higher recycling rates.

Norway has introduced Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for several product groups. The purpose of such schemes is to promote separate sorting, collection, and treatment of waste to increase recycling and prevent pollution and other environmental problems from waste. In most of the schemes, the producers must join an approved producer responsibility organization (PRO) and pay contribution to ensure that the PRO reaches targets for waste collection and treatment. The EPR schemes have been important in financing waste collection and recycling infrastructure, and EPRs have become an important tool in Norwegian waste management. EPR schemes are currently being further developed, with the purpose of updating and streamlining them. The aim is to make the schemes more efficient and align them to objectives of a circular economy and the waste hierarchy.

3. From 1 July 2024 the Norwegian Sustainable Products Act came into force. The new act will inter alia help ensure that products last longer, can be repaired more easily, and create less waste. The act will allow authorities to set requirements for the production and consumption of products throughout their life cycle, and in a global perspective, utilize resources better and become more sustainable.
4. Norway has recently adopted a Food Loss Act aimed at preventing and reducing food waste. This law, passed by the Norwegian Parliament in June 2025, places a duty of due diligence on all food businesses to implement measures to prevent and reduce food waste. The law also mandates price reductions for perishable foods nearing expiration. It is estimated that the Food Loss Act, alongside an industry agreement on food waste, has an emission reduction potential of up to 1,2 million tons CO₂ eq. by 2030. In comparison, Norwegian GHG emissions was around 45 m. CO₂ eq. in 2024.

5. Other regulatory measures include ban on single use plastics, which aims to reduce plastic pollution, and thereby also reduce plastic waste. In 2024, The Ministry of Climate and Environment established a plastic partnership with relevant business- and industry organisations that provide single-use plastic packaging for food and beverages to reduce the consumption of such products. The government aim is to reduce the consumption with 50% by 2026.
6. A waste incineration plant in Oslo is part of the Longship project establishing a full value-chain for Carbon Capture and Storage. The plant produces district heating from the incineration, with greenhouse gas emissions emitted as a consequence. Carbon capture at the waste incineration plant can capture these emissions. Carbon capture at the waste incineration plant is projected to be in operation in 2029, and 350 000 tons of CO₂ is planned to be captured and stored per year, reducing Oslo's GHG emissions by 19%. Approximately half of the captured emissions will be from biological sources.