


Country Factsheet Latvia (LV)

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| <p><i>Member State</i></p> | <p>Latvia</p> |  |
| <p><i>Recent achievements</i></p> | <p>[BiPRO 2012b]; [EC 2012f]; [EC Reg. Policy 2012]; [LV MoE 2012]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – reduction of municipal waste generation between 2008 and 2010 and it remains considerably low compared to the EU average (304 kg/y/inhabitant compared to around 487 kg) – increase in recycling rates (however the total recycling rate still low) – restrictions regarding the disposal of municipal waste in landfills are in place – good information on waste generation and referring treatment capacity – no infringement procedures or court cases (concerning the WFD and the Landfill Directive) – all landfills are compliant with the requirements of the Landfill Directive – separate collection infrastructure and sustainable waste management is under development – pilot projects on bio-waste treatment (collection and composting) – involvement of universities in the development of policy instruments and information exchange on sustainable waste management | |
| <p><i>Population</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Total population in 2011: 2,229,641 [EUROSAT 2012c]; 2,070,371 [LV MoE 2012] – Population in rural areas will continue to decrease [LV MoE 2012] – Number of households: 812,000 (68,8 % many apartment houses, 28,9 % individual houses for one families), [Bendere 2012]; [Reco 2012] | |
| <p><i>Population density</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – inhabitants per km²: 34.5 per km² [EUROSTAT 2012c]; [CIA 2012] – ~ 68 % of total population living in urban areas in 2010 [CIA 2012] | |
| <p><i>Geographical particularities</i></p> | <p>LV covers an area of 64,589 km². Forests account for 50 % of the national territory [EEA 2010b]. Most of the country is composed of fertile low-lying plains with some hills in the east [CIA 2012]. LV lies in a temperate climate zone where active cyclones determine rapid changes in weather conditions (190–200 days per year). Annual mean precipitation is 600–700 mm [EEA 2010b].</p> | |
| <p>Features of the national waste management system</p> | | |
| <p><i>Competent authorities</i></p> | <p>[BiPRO 2007-2011]; [Eionet 2009]; [LV MoE 2012]</p> <p>The competent authorities responsible for waste management comprise on national level the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (MoE) and its competent institutions. LV is characterized by a centralised administration structure conserving major waste policy issues. However, local authorities have strong waste control and general influence on the waste management sector in their respective territory, which leads to overall liberalization of the waste market. In LV, waste management plans are developed on national and regional level. Local waste management plans may</p> | |

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| | <p>be drawn up by municipalities. LV is divided into 10 waste management regions.</p> <p>The MoE or its competent institution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – elaborate the State WMP as well as regional WMPs; – co-ordinate implementation of the State WMP; – elaborate and develop legislative acts in the field of waste management; – batch information according to waste management; – co-ordinate and organize management of hazardous wastes in compliance with legislative and normative acts, as well as provides management of non-host (abandoned) hazardous wastes; – organize management of hazardous waste treatment and processing, including waste incineration installations and construction of waste polygons of national importance; – co-ordinate construction of polygons for municipal waste; – provide information on waste management for EC, international institutions and general public. <p>The Municipalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – organize an effective management of municipal wastes, including separate collection and management of hazardous wastes, in compliance with the State and regional WMPs; – issue local regulations on management of municipal waste and on payment for waste management services; – adopt decisions regarding placing in own administrative territory of new treatment objects and landfills for municipal waste; – Participate in preparation of regional WMPs; – pass binding regulations, designating municipal waste management in its own territory. – Municipalities may cooperate to carry out the above tasks and are allowed to prepare local WMPs. <p>The Environmental State Service (including regional environmental boards) is in charge of the practical implementation and enforcement of waste management legislation including permitting, inspections and data collection as well as the control and supervision of proper implementation of related legislation [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> <p>The State Joint Stock Company “Latvian Environmental, Geological and Meteorological Centre” is compiling and processing waste management data and statistics and is responsible to provide information to the public. In addition, the organisation is coordinating and organising the hazardous waste management infrastructure [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> <p>The State Environmental Supervision Bureau prepares programs for EIA of waste management projects [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> <p>There are two professional waste management associations in Latvia [LV BEF 2012]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Association of waste management service companies in Latvia (Latvijas atkritumu samniecības uzņēmumu asociācija, LASUA) which as a professional organization represents waste management sector in mutual relations with state authorities (www.lasua.lv). - Waste Management Association of Latvia (LASA) which aims to facilitate improvement of the environmental conditions and quality in the waste management field (www.lasa.lv). |
| <i>Informal sector</i> | Internet and literature search did not provide information on the participation of the informal sector. |

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| <i>State of public awareness</i> | Waste management companies provide educative activities for the general public, especially youth [LV MoE 2012]. Along with the development of separate collection infrastructure, the general attitude of the public towards separation of certain waste streams is expected to advance. |
| <i>Occurrence of structural dumping, fly tipping and littering</i> | <p>The largest pollution threats for waste disposal come from old, shut down dumpsites, because many of them are not yet properly closed, although waste management plans foresee that this is done in the next few years. More than 500 dumpsites have been closed in the last years but there are still dumpsites which are not yet properly closed [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> <p>Littering of municipal waste by households is still a major problem [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> |
| Legislation | |
| <i>National</i> | <p>Waste Framework Directive: The Waste Framework Directive has been transposed into national legislation by the Latvian Waste Management Act which entered into force the 18 November 2010. The elements covered by the act comprise all relevant WFD elements [BiPRO 2007- 2011].</p> <p>The Cabinet of Ministers is in charge to adopt regulations on waste management and to approve the national and regional waste management plans.</p> <p>The previous Waste Management Act (in force since 01 March 2001) has been repealed by the new Act. However, the Cabinet of Ministers Regulations has decided to include some transitional provisions issued in accordance with the former Act. Provisions are in force not longer than 30 November 2011, unless repealed by Cabinet of Ministers regulations, issued in accordance with the new Act.</p> <p>More specific, in regard to the new WFD requirements, the following is set out by the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Definitions (hazardous waste, separate collection of waste, recovery, recycling, re-use, preparation for re-use, waste dealer, waste broker, disposal); – Exclusions; – Waste management hierarchy (includes closure of dumpsites) and life cycle thinking; – Provisions on by-products and “end-of-waste” status; – Waste list and properties of waste which render it hazardous; – Provisions for establishment of system for separate collection of waste and for re-use and recycling; – Responsibility for waste management; – Principles of self-sufficiency (limitation regarding shipment of waste) and proximity; – Management of hazardous waste (separate collection, labelling, record-keeping); – Permits; – Waste management plans and waste prevention programmes, including examples of waste prevention measures; – Inspections and records; – Recovery and disposal operations. <p>In addition, the following legislative pieces are related to the implementation of the new WFD [LV WFD 2011]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Draft Cabinet of Ministers regulation submitted for approval to Cabinet of Ministers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – on classification of waste and on properties rendering waste hazardous; |

- on waste recovery and disposal operations;
- on management of certain types of hazardous waste;
- on waste management permits;
- on waste management plans and waste prevention programmes;
- on identification, packaging, marking and recording of transportation of hazardous waste.

Currently, a separate legal document on targets for separate collection of municipal waste and on targets for preparation of re-use and recycling of municipal waste is prepared [BiPRO 2007-2011].

For more information see:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:72008L0098:EN:NOT#FIELD_LV

Landfill Directive and WAC Decision: Has been transposed by means of the following Latvian laws and regulations [LV LD 2007-2009]:

- the Law on Waste Management (see URL below for exact reference)
- the Law on Pollution (see URL below for exact reference)
- the Law on Regulators of Public Utilities (see URL below for exact reference)
- Cabinet Regulation No 1032 of 27 December 2011 regarding the establishment of waste landfills and the management, closure and rehabilitation of waste landfills and dumps;
- Cabinet Regulation No 1082 of 30 2002 on the procedures by which polluting activities of category A, B and C are declared and permits for the performance of category A and B polluting activities are issued;

The Latvian Waste Management Law was approved in 2010 and includes issues like the distribution of competences and all requirements regarding the establishment, management, closure and recultivation of landfills and dumps. It includes the prohibition of illegal dumping [BiPRO 2007-2011].

In LV, paragraphs 28 and 29 of Cabinet Regulation No 1032 of 27 December 2011 lay down requirements for the establishment and management of waste landfills, closure and rehabilitation of waste landfills including landfill-gas collection system and treatment [EC 2012e].

Regulation No 1032 transposes Council Decision of 19 December 2002 establishing criteria and procedures for the acceptance of waste at landfills pursuant to Article 16 of and Annex II to Directive 1999/31/EC [LV Landfill 2007-2009].

For more information see:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:71999L0031:EN:NOT#FIELD_LV

Packaging Directive: Law on Packaging, amended 21.04.2005, with the main objective to ensure development of production of packaging and to organize rational management system of packaging in country ensuring implementation of the voluntary agreements, promoting reuse of used packaging and stimulating reduction of the material capacity of packaging.

For more information see:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:71994L0062:EN:NOT#FIELD_LV

As main legal acts on management of biodegradable waste can be stated CoM Recommendation “Recommendations to municipalities for binding regulations on management of municipal waste”; The Order of separate collection of waste; Provisions for composting of waste (back-yard composting, collection of biodegradable waste), [Reco 2012].

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| <i>Regional</i> | n/a |
| WMP and WPP | |
| <i>National</i> | <p>State Waste Management Plan 2006-2012 (Atkritumu apsaimniekošanas valsts plāns 2006-2012) http://www.varam.gov.lv/lat/likumdosana/normativie_akti/?doc=14572 and Environmental Policy Strategy 2009-2015 http://www.varam.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</p> <p>WPP is not established as own plan nor integrated into the current WMP yet. WPP will be included in the new national WMP for the period 2013-2020 [BiPRO 2007-2011]</p> <p>The next steps in development in waste management planning and related documents entail the preparation of the State WMP for the period 2013-2020 which shall include a national waste prevention programme. It is intended that the plan will be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers by the end of 2012 [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> <p>In addition, Regional WMPs for the period 2014-2020 are prepared and to be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers by the end of 2013. It is not yet decided whether regional plans will be issued as self-standing documents or chapters of the State WMP [BiPRO 2007-2011]. The regional WMPs are elaborated by the Ministry in co-operation with municipalities of the relevant waste management region. Local WMPs are prepared by municipalities within the municipal waste management region, if necessary and in accordance with the relevant regional WMP). According to the legal provisions all adopted WMPs remain in force. However, municipalities have to re-view their local regulations/by-laws on management of municipal waste, and if necessary, make amendments.</p> |
| <i>Regional</i> | <p>10 regional WMPs are available, in particular [LV WFD 2007-2009]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ziemeļ Vidzemes regional waste management plan 2006-13 – Liepāja regional waste management plan 2008-13 – Ventspils regional waste management plan 2008-13 – Dienvidlatgale regional waste management plan 2007-13 – Austrumlatgale regional waste management plan 2007-13 – Piejūra regional waste management plan 2007-13 – Pierīga regional waste management plan 2007-13 – Vidusdaugava regional waste management plan 2008-13 – Maliena regional waste management plan 2008-13 – Zemgale regional waste management plan 2007-13 <p>The WMPs can be accessed by using the following URL: http://www.varam.gov.lv/lat/likumdosana/normativie_akti/?doc=14572</p> |
| Instruments applied in the field of municipal waste and packaging waste | |
| <i>Legal instruments</i> | <p>Landfill ban/restrictions/diversion targets: Landfill restrictions are in place: The Latvian Waste Management Law prohibits the disposing of sludge of waste water treatment plants with water content above 80 % and waste of the food and timber industry if not intended for composting or the generation of biogas [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> |

The landfill ban was introduced in 2002. In landfills it is not permitted to accept for disposal [EC 2012]:

- liquid waste;
- sludge of wastewater treatment plants if the water content therein is more than 80 %;
- organic food industrial waste and wood treatment waste if it is not being composted or used for the acquisition of landfill gas;
- waste which in landfill site conditions is explosive, corrosive, combustible or flammable in accordance with the regulatory enactments regarding waste classification and characteristics making waste hazardous;
- waste which forms after human or animal health care and which is infectious in accordance with the regulatory enactments regarding waste classification and characterization making waste hazardous;
- undamaged worn tyres and cut tyres (except undamaged work tyres which are used for engineering technical work in a landfill site or waste dump, bicycle tyres and the tyres the external diameter of which is more than 1,400 mm);
- waste containing undefined chemical substances originating from the research, learning or technical activity, the influence of which on human and environment is not known (surplus of substances and products from the laboratories), in conformity with the regulatory enactments regarding waste classification and the characteristics that make waste hazardous.

Producer's take-back of specific discarded products: Limited producer responsibility (few waste streams covered) or equivalent systems in place are not able to cover the full costs of separate collection and recycling of main waste streams [EC 2012f]¹.

Collection, reuse/refill and recycling targets [LV MoE 2012]:

Targets of relevant Directives have been transposed in national legislation and are therefore legally binding.

Cabinet Regulation No 983 of 19 October 2010 on percentage amounts (proportions) and deadlines for the recovery of all packaging waste, a procedure for registration and the submission of reports and model forms, requirements which must be fulfilled by commercial companies in order to be registered as packaging managers, examples of the application of the criteria defining packaging and exceptions in relation to heavy metal content in packaging sets the following packaging recovery and recycling targets:

| No | Type of packaging material | Amounts of packaging materials to be recovered (recycling and energy recovery) by 31 December of the relevant year (%) | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| 1. | Paper, cardboard | 79 | 81 | 82 | 83 |
| 2. | Plastic | 37 | 39 | 40 | 41 |
| 3. | Metal | 46 | 48 | 49 | 50 |
| 4. | Glass | 58 | 61 | 63 | 65 |
| 5. | Wood | 27 | 28 | 28 | 29 |
| | Total for all materials | 56 | 58 | 59 | 60 |

| No | Type of packaging material | Amounts of packaging materials to be recycled by 31 December of the relevant year (%) | | | |
|----|----------------------------|---|------|------|------|
| | | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
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¹ http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/nd/swd2012_latvia_en.pdf (see page 19)

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| | <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Paper, cardboard</td> <td>60</td> <td>60</td> <td>60</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Plastic</td> <td>19.5</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>22.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Metal</td> <td>42</td> <td>46</td> <td>48</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Glass</td> <td>50</td> <td>55</td> <td>58</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>Wood</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total for all materials</td> <td>51</td> <td>53</td> <td>54</td> <td>55</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Substance restrictions [LV MoE 2012]:</p> <p>Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No 723” Regulations regarding Restrictions of the Use of Chemicals in Electric and Electronic Equipment” (Adopted 17 August 2004)</p> <p>Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.242 „Regulations of vehicles spare parts and materials which may contain lead, mercury, cadmium or compounds of hexavalent chromium“ (adopted 6 April, 2004)</p> | 1. | Paper, cardboard | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 2. | Plastic | 19.5 | 21 | 22 | 22.5 | 3. | Metal | 42 | 46 | 48 | 50 | 4. | Glass | 50 | 55 | 58 | 60 | 5. | Wood | 13 | 14 | 14 | 15 | | Total for all materials | 51 | 53 | 54 | 55 |
| 1. | Paper, cardboard | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | Plastic | 19.5 | 21 | 22 | 22.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | Metal | 42 | 46 | 48 | 50 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Glass | 50 | 55 | 58 | 60 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | Wood | 13 | 14 | 14 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total for all materials | 51 | 53 | 54 | 55 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Economic and fiscal instruments</i> | <p>[LV MoE 2012]</p> <p>Natural Resource tax covering different categories and activities including for landfilling waste (introduced in 1995 and replaced by new law as of 01.01.2006 (latest version 2010).</p> <p>The level of the landfill taxes in place remains too low compared to other MS [EC 2012f], [LV EEA 2012].</p> <p>The total typical charge for landfilling is currently 40 €/tonne of non-hazardous municipal waste (consisting of 10 €/tonne landfill tax rate and 30€/tonne landfill gate fee). The tax rates for municipal waste increased over time (1.78 €/tonne during the time period from 1 July 2009 to 31 December 2009 to 4.28 €/tonne during the period from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010 to 10.00 €/tonne during the time period from 1 January 2012). The tax is also applied for hazardous waste and is based on tonne disposed [EC 2012]</p> <p>The fee for municipal waste management is compiled of fee for municipal waste collection, shipment, reload, storage, maintaining of waste management infrastructure, tariff for municipal waste landfilling which is approved by Public Utilities Commission and natural resource tax for landfilling. The fee is determined by municipalities and it varies in different regions of Latvia. The variation of fees is based also on the distance of waste shipment till the landfill site [EC 2012].</p> <p>The taxpayer receives an individual landfill permit. 40 % of the revenue goes into the State’s basic budget and the remaining 60 % goes into the special environmental protection budget, which can support the municipalities where the landfills are located [LV EEA 2012].</p> <p>Incineration tax: Some years ago Latvia had a tax on incineration but it is not applied anymore [EC 2012].</p> <p>Pay as you throw schemes (PAYT): No incentive systems to favor prevention and participation to separate collection (PAYT schemes) are in place [EC 2012].</p> <p>Deposit refund systems: Article 18 of the Law on Packaging stipulates that a goods manufacturer using re-usable packaging have to establish a packaging deposit-and-return system. Application of the system is voluntary and is aimed at glass bottles and plastic crates for storing bottles. Cabinet Regulation No 414 of 22 July 2003 on the application of a deposit-and-return system for re-usable packaging describes the conditions of application of the deposit-and-return system in more detail [EC 2012c]; [LV Packaging 2007-2009].</p> <p>The voluntary deposit system was introduced in 2004, but it has not been applied in practice [LV MoE 2012]. The manufacturer of packaged goods (further – manufacturer) or importer willing to introduce a voluntary deposit system for reusable packaging needs to specify the amount of a deposit payment for the particular packaging and submit to state institutions the substantiation for determining it in accordance with the calculations performed in the undertaking. The retailer or merchant with whom a contract regarding the collection of deposit packaging has been entered into shall pay in full to the consumer the deposit payment for the deposit packaging returned. The manufacturer or importer shall pay in full to the retailer or merchant the deposit payment for the returned deposit packaging. The</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

manufacturer of importer shall reimburse to the retailer or merchant for the collection of deposit packaging (including the acceptance from the customer, inventory, storage, loading) in accordance with mutual agreement. The manufacturer or importer and retailer or merchant shall include procedures for the circulation of mutual accounts and documented substantiation in relation to deposit packaging in the supply contract of the good or other specific contract. All costs for the system shall be covered by the packaging manufacturer or importer [EC 2012].

The natural resource tax is imposed on several types of resources in LV, thus promoting well-considered use of resources in order for producers to reduce their expenses. It is regulated by the Natural Resources Tax Law. The purpose of the natural resource tax is to promote economically efficient use of natural resources, restricting pollution of the environment, reduce manufacturing and sale of environment polluting substances, promote implementation of new, environmentally-friendly technology, support sustainable development in the economy, as well as to ensure environment protection measures financially [EEA 2010].

The tax on natural resources is levied on each unit weight of packaging, creating an incentive for packagers to reduce the weight of packaging. Given that the rate of the tax is differentiated according to the type of packaging material, packagers are also encouraged to use materials that are more environmentally friendly and recyclable. In addition, amendments were adopted which set significantly higher environmental tax rates for plastic shopping bags which traders provide for the buyers' convenience or the placement of advertising along with a packaged or unpackaged set of goods or products, irrespective of whether or not the bags are separately priced. This approach was aimed at reducing consumption of single-use plastic bags, which would also result in less packaging waste being generated. Once the amendments to the Law entered into force, the number of plastic shopping bags used fell rapidly and the number of people using reusable textile shopping bags for their daily purchases increased [EC 2012]; [EC 2012c]; [LV Packaging 2007-2009].

Latvian legislation sets out further that economic operators selling or in the pursuit of their economic activity using goods in re-usable packaging do not pay a tax for packaging, provided that the type and weight of the re-usable packaging material can be justified with documentary evidence. An economic operator may be also exempted from paying the environmental tax on packaging if certain provisions are fulfilled, including the establishment and application of a packaging waste management system and completion of a contract with the competent authority subordinate to the MoE, namely the Latvian Environmental Protection Fund or the completion of a contract with a packaging manager on participation in the packaging waste management system (if the manager is registered with the Environment State Bureau and has concluded a contract with the administration of the Latvian Environmental Protection Fund on the application of the packaging waste management system) [EC 2012]; [EC 2012c]; [LV Packaging 2007-2009].

The packaging and disposable tableware charge is applied for packaging and disposable tableware made from metal, glass, plastic (polymer) source materials with different rates of bioplastic, oxy-degradable and polystyrol source materials, wood, paper, carton or other natural fiber materials. It was introduced in 1995 and replaced by new law as of 01.01.2006 (latest version in 2010).

Packers, who enter into a contract with a packaging manager to ensure packaging management, pay them license fee. The license fees are currently set per kg according to different types of packaging tableware. The fees differ among all companies but they are set based on the principle to cover collection and recycling costs and will be revised if the costs change. There are indicated fees of those companies that have inserted their fees in the internet. There are three companies that provide packaging management for producers (i.e. Latvijas Zaļais punkts, Zaļā Josta and Zaļais centrs). There are also several individual packaging management schemes that deal with their own created packaging [EC

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| | <p>2012].</p> <p>The waste disposal charge is applied for hazardous waste, construction and demolition waste (including untreated soil from polluted areas), asbestos fibers and dust, industrial waste. It was introduced in 1995 and replaced by new law as of 01.01.2006 (latest version 2010).</p> <p>Administrative fines and penalties</p> <p>Fines for administrative offences in waste management are differentiated with regard of natural persons and legal persons. Fines for natural persons are lower, in range from 50 to 500 lats, while for legal persons fines are in a range from 100 lats to 2000 lats. For polluting of environment with waste or illegal transportation of waste also confiscation of vehicle involved in illegal act is foreseen as penalty.</p> <p>Criminal penalties</p> <p>For criminal offences causing serious damage, penalties are such as imprisonment up to 10 years, arrest, forced labor or fine up to 200 minimal wages (40 000 lats).</p> <p>Fines for reduction of Natural Resource Tax Base</p> <p>A fine shall be collected from the taxpayer in twofold amount of the unpaid Natural resource tax pursuant to basic rates in the following cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) for the extraction or use of natural resources or the amount of pollution emitted into the environment not indicated (hidden) in reports; 2) for the amount of goods harmful to the environment, packaging, coal, coke and lignite (brown coal), disposable tableware and accessories or radioactive substances sold or used for ensuring economic activities thereof not indicated (hidden) in reports. |
| <p><i>Administrative instruments</i></p> | <p>Cooperation agreements between municipalities: Municipalities may co-operate to carry out their tasks and are allowed to prepare local waste management plans [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> <p>[LV MoE 2012]</p> <p>Agreements with MEPRD: Another kind of administrative instruments is introduced by Natural Resource Tax Law. In accordance with Natural Resource Tax law, tax payers may obtain exemption from payment of Natural resource tax for vehicles, packaging and non-reusable tableware, environmentally harmful goods (packaging, electric and electronic equipment, batteries and accumulators, mineral oil, tyres, end-of-life vehicles) if they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) have established and apply a waste management system for taxable object and has entered into an agreement with the institution subordinated to the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development and specified in regulatory enactments about application of this system; or 2) has entered into an agreement with a waste manager for the taxable object regarding participation in the waste management system for spent goods harmful to the environment (if the manager has entered into agreement with the institution subordinated to the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development and specified in regulatory enactments regarding application of management system of goods harmful to the environment). <p>So far Administration of Environmental Protection Fund (institution subordinated to the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development)and specified in regulatory enactments) has signed relevant contracts with 3 waste management companies regarding packaging and non-reusable tableware, 9 contracts for management of environmentally harmful goods (except electric and electronic waste) and 6 contracts for management of electric and electronic waste.</p> <p>MoE has signed an agreement with Latvian Electrical Engineering and Electronics Industry Association about running of register of producers of electrical and electronic equipment, and of producers of</p> |

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| | batteries and accumulators (www.electroregistr.lv). |
| <i>Informative instruments</i> | <p>Eco-labeling scheme: Consumption of products obtained from recycled packaging waste is encouraged with the help of green public procurement. Article 17(2) and (3) of the Law on Public Procurement states that environmental protection requirements and goods packaging and labeling requirements may be incorporated into public supply or service contracts. Article 17(7) and (8) of the Law states that a contracting authority may also apply detailed specifications as defined by European, multinational or any other eco-labels. The contracting authority may indicate that the goods or services bearing the eco-label are presumed to conform to the technical specifications and the requirements laid down in the contract document [EC 2012c]; [LV Packaging 2007-2009].</p> <p>Eco shopping guide/information: Under the auspices of the MoE, a series of recommendations to promote green public procurement by central government and local authorities, and another to promote environmentally friendly construction, were drawn up in 2008. Three proposals also include the use of recycled paper, including paper derived from paper packaging. The use of products derived from recycled packaging is also indirectly stimulated through the educational activities organized by the MoE and packaging managers on the consumption of resources to produce new products [EC 2012c]; [LV Packaging 2007-2009].</p> <p>Information campaigns addressing certain target groups (e.g. households, the public, businesses, schools, tourists, industry etc.)</p> <p>For example, producer responsibility organizations like the Green Dot Latvia are showing several incentives for reducing the packaging waste and educate people on waste issues [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> <p>For example, the landfill management (i.e. Daibe landfill, Zieme Vidzeme region) conducts different educational projects to address the public. Besides, waste collection campaigns, seminars, excursion for schools and preschools are carried out. They are working closely together with the Green Dot Association, with TV stations and newspapers [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 16 of the Law on Packaging, the packager and packaging waste manager are obliged to inform the public of possibilities for separate collection of packaging waste, reuse of packaging, recycling and recovery as well as the meaning of labels on packaging. Information on the implemented activities may also be found online (www.zalais.lv; www.zalajosta.lv). Information on the meaning of markings on packaging and the meaning of and practical instructions for the separate collection of packaging can be found on the MoE website [EC 2012c]; [LV Packaging 2007-2009].</p> <p>All companies which have signed contracts with regard of exemption of Natural Tax payment are obliged to provide information and educational activities at least four times in a year to the general public regarding environmentally sound management of waste [LV MoE 2012].</p> <p>Awarding:</p> <p>As an example the separate collection system of waste in the Zieme Vidzeme region is organised by means of 9 collection points (ECO-fields), where the inhabitants can bring bulky waste, hazardous waste or separated waste as green waste, glass, etc. To support the separate collection amongst inhabitants, a stamp system was introduced giving discount prices to household waste after delivering a certain amount of separated waste to the ECO-fields [BiPRO 2007-2011]; [LV MoE 2012].</p> <p>Big Clean-up:</p> <p>The project is based on voluntary participation to keep our environment tidy, bring people together and promote positivism and satisfaction with the achievements. The Big Clean-up Day tradition in Latvia started 4 years ago, in September 13, 2008 and was intended as a preparation for the 90th Anniversary of Latvia's Statehood. Big Clean-ups followed also in April 18, 2009, April 24, 2010, April 23, 2011 and April 21, 2012. It is estimated that these 4 events have gathered about 310.000 enthusiasts. [http://www.talkas.lv/?lng=en]; [LV MoE 2012]</p> |

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| | <p>Green Procurement:</p> <p>In 2008 MEPRD has developed „Guidelines on promotion of green procurement in state and municipal institutions“ and „Guidelines on promotion of environmentally friendly construction“. These guidelines are available at home page of MEPRD:</p> <p>(http://www.varam.gov.lv/lat/darbibas_veidi/zalais_publiskais_iepirkums/?doc=8011) and Public Procurement Bureau (http://www.iub.gov.lv/node/63); [LV MoE 2012]</p> <p>Network platform;</p> <p>Reco Baltic 21 Tech (RB21T) – Sustainable Waste Management in the Baltic Sea Region: http://www.recobaltic21.net/</p> <p>RB21T is partly funded by the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 and is running from October 2010 to December 2013. It aims at fostering sustainable waste management in the Baltic Sea Region. The project aims at strengthening the capacity of Baltic Sea countries to climb the waste hierarchy and meet the various EU directives. The project includes exchange of good practice and information on Best Available Technologies.</p> | |
| Others (to be specified as required) | <p>Support inspections on illegal waste dumping</p> <p>LV installed at the level of Environmental Inspectorate a phone number where anonymous phone calls can be conducted concerning reporting on illegal dumping of waste [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> | |
| Municipal waste generation [EUROSTAT 2012b] | MS | EU 27 |
| Total amount of MW generated (in kt) ² | 680 826 in 2010 [Reco 2012] Estimation from WMP: 838 in 2012 [LV EEA 2012] | 252,095 |
| Total amount of MW generated per capita (in kg) | 304 367 in 2010 [Reco 2012] | 502 |
| Collection infrastructure (municipal waste including bio-waste and packaging waste) | | |
| Collection coverage for MW (in %) | 85 [BiPRO 2012b] 100 [Bendere 2012] ~100 % in cities and towns and ~85 % in rural areas [Reco 2012] | 96.6 |
| <p>Collection systems and related infrastructure</p> <p>Collection coverage of urban, rural and remote areas: 80 % of the urban population is connected to the collection system. It is planned to increase the connection rate of inhabitants to a waste collection system from about 60 % in 2005 to 90 % in 2013 (see table below) [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> <p>Organisational aspects (involvement of private/public operators): The waste collection system is served either by privately owned companies or by the municipalities, both serving around 50 % of the population. Private companies are working for financial reasons especially within the bigger cities and higher concentrated areas [BiPRO 2007-2011]; [LV WMP 2006-2012].</p> <p>Municipal waste collection schemes [LV MoE 2012]:</p> <p>In accordance with Waste Management Act, collection schemes for municipal waste are set by binding regulations on waste management issued by relevant municipality, determining the division of such territory into municipal waste management zones, the requirements for the waste collection, also for the minimum frequency of municipal waste collection, transport,</p> | | |

² Uncertainties in the reporting [LV EEA 2012]:

- Some uncertainties or differences in the reporting of MSW can result in different levels of recycling. One example of such differences which might influence the recycling rate of MSW in Latvia is to what extent packaging waste from households and similar packaging from other sources is included in the reported recycling of MSW. Most Member Countries, including Latvia, have producer responsibility schemes on packaging waste and therefore packaging waste is not always regarded or reported to Eurostat as MSW.
- Significant amounts of sorted municipal waste are exported from Latvia for recovery in other Member States (in particular metals). Currently this issue is reviewed by the MoE of Latvia, as it seems that waste exported for recycling to other MS has not been included in the amounts of recycled MSW that Latvia has reported to Eurostat.
- There is currently no information available on which method Latvia uses for the reporting of MSW treatment to Eurostat as regards the MSW treated in the existing MBT plant.

reloading and storage, as well as the procedures by which payments for such waste management shall be made. Currently municipal waste collection schemes are running in parallel with packaging waste collection schemes and collection schemes of environmentally harmful goods.

The infrastructure for separate collection of municipal waste is still in the developing phase. Waste management infrastructure with the separation needs to be developed further and expanded to all regions. One of the main priorities of the Government is to improve conditions for separate collection by information campaigns and infrastructural investments including adopted collection schemes [BiPRO 2007-2011].

Statement on sufficiency/insufficiency of waste collection:

Considering the collection coverage of 85 %, approximately 15 % of the Latvian population is not included in the waste collection system [BiPRO 2012b].

Information on collection and recovery systems for packaging waste:

In LV, Article 18 of the Packaging Law stipulates that manufacturers of goods using re-usable packaging have to establish a packaging deposit system. Application of the system is voluntary and focuses on glass bottles and plastic crates for storing bottles. A person that sells or in the pursuit of their economic activity uses goods in re-usable packaging does not pay a tax for this packaging if the type and weight of the re-usable packaging material can be justified with documentary evidence [EC 2012c].

In Latvia, economic operators may be exempted from paying the environmental tax on packaging provided that the implementation of provisions on the recovery of packaging waste contained in environmental protection legislation is ensured. In addition, such economic operators need to fulfil one of the following conditions: 1) having established and applying a packaging waste management system and having concluded a contract with the Latvian Environmental Protection Fund on the application thereof; 2) having concluded a contract with the packaging manager on participation in the packaging waste management system. Resources from the European Union Structural Funds were mobilised to establish separate waste collection points in order to set up a deposit and return system for packaging waste and to develop reuse or recycling systems [EC 2012c].

Planned investments for the realisation of the Municipal Waste Management Plan: Collection system, capacity 380–530 000 t per year (planned investment: 65 mill. EUR), [Bendere 2012]

| | | |
|---|--|------|
| <i>Map with indication of collection coverage and eventual systems in place</i> | Not available | |
| Treatment infrastructure for municipal waste | | |
| <i>Self-sufficiency for disposal of total waste (in %)</i> | LV reported data regarding non-hazardous MSW, and provided projections up to 2025. Based on this data it can be concluded that sufficient disposal capacity for non-hazardous municipal waste exists [EC 2012b]. | |
| Treatment rates [EUROSTAT 2012b] | | |
| <i>Recycling rates of municipal waste (in %)²</i> | 8.8 | 24.9 |
| <i>Composting rates of municipal waste (in %)</i> | 0.6 | 14.7 |
| <i>Recovery rates of municipal waste including incineration with energy recovery (in %)</i> | 0.0 | 17.2 |
| <i>Disposal rates of municipal waste (in %)</i> | 90.7 | 38.2 |
| <i>Rate of biodegradable waste going to landfills</i> | 84.3 % ³ | n.a. |
| Information on treatment facilities, compliance/BAT and capacity | | |
| <i>Pre-treatment facilities</i> | MBT: 1 operational, 9 planned [Moora 2011] | |

³ figure provided by the European Commission DG Environment (calculation based on official EUROSTAT data)

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Sorting stations</i> | Sorting Stations: One sorting station (40,000 t/y) under construction and 6 further sorting stations with a capacity of 40,000 t/y each are in planning [Reco 2012]. |
| <i>Recycling facilities</i> | <p>Limited number of facilities for processing of packaging material is available in LV [LV WMP 2006-2012].</p> <p>Composting: 5 operational composting large scale, centralised facilities [Moora 2011]</p> <p>Planned investments for the realisation of the Municipal Waste Management Plan: composting, capacity 120–160 000 t per year (planned investment: 32.5 mill. EUR), [Bendere 2012]</p> <p>Anaerobic digestion: 1 operational (sludge, biowaste/food waste), [Moora 2011]</p> <p>Energy production from biogas: 3 operational plants with a total capacity of ~1,360,000 t/y [Reco 2012]</p> <p>Waste collection, sorting and composting centres: 1 in operation (100,000 t/y), 1 under construction (80,000 t/y) and 1 planned (100,000 t/y), [Reco 2012]</p> <p>Paper recycling: LV has a well developed recycling of paper and cardboard packaging waste [LV WMP 2006-2012]. There is one large paper and cardboard recycling facility in Latvia (Ligatne).</p> <p>Glass recycling: There are several companies dealing with preparation of glass for re-use, but there are no recycling facilities for glass in Latvia [LV MoE 2012].</p> <p>Plastic recycling: Several polymer recycling facilities (recycling of PET, LDPE, HDPE) [LV WMP 2006-2012].</p> <p>Metal recycling: The level of metal packaging waste collection and recycling is low, while collection and recycling of metal-containing waste is very well developed, taking into account existence of metallurgical plant. [LV WMP 2006-2012].</p> |
| <i>Incinerators with energy recovery</i> | <p>There is no infrastructure for waste incineration [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> <p>Waste is co-incinerated at cement production plant owned by company “CEMEX”. There are incinerated waste oils, tyres and other combustible wastes which are suitable for cement production process and are included in IPPC permit issued for the operation of that plant [LV MoE 2012].</p> <p>“CEMEX” Facility: capacity 250,000 t/y RDF [Reco 2012]</p> |
| <i>Incinerators without energy recovery</i> | <p>There is no infrastructure for waste incineration [BiPRO 2007-2011].</p> |
| <i>Landfills for non-hazardous waste</i> | <p>[LV MoE 2012] stipulates that currently 11 landfills for municipal waste are in operation. It is not planned to build any new landfills, but only to extend existing ones, so they would reach their designed capacity. In time from 1998 more than 500 dumpsites were closed, which are gradually being recultivated.</p> <p>Planned investments for the realisation of the Municipal Waste Management Plan: Sanitary landfills, capacity 380–530 000 t per year (planned investment: 155 mill. EUR), [Bendere 2012]</p> |

Map with all major installations

The main treatment option for municipal waste is landfilling. An overview on existing landfills in LV is given below [LV MoE 2012]:



Infringement procedures and court cases related to WFD and Landfill Directive

Number of infringement procedures and cases brought to the CJEU

Nr

0 (regarding the WFD and Landfill Directive) [BiPRO 2012b]

Fulfilment of targets related to biodegradable waste going to landfills

Fulfilment of target of the Landfill Directive on biodegradable waste going to landfills

First target not fulfilled, reduction target status: 84.3 % in comparison to 1995 [EC 2012a], [LV EEA 2012]; extended 2016 deadline for Latvia

Latvia does not comply with EU requirements concerning the reduction of biodegradable municipal waste disposed in landfills [Ernst & Young 2011]

Statistics on packaging waste [EUROSTAT 2012d]

| | Plastic packaging waste | | Paper packaging waste | | Metal packaging waste | | Glass packaging waste | | Total packaging waste (also incl. wood packaging waste and other packaging waste) | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------|---|--------|
| | MS | EU | MS | EU | MS | EU | MS | EU | MS | EU |
| Total amount generated (in kt) | 31 | 14,590 | 58 | 29,783 | 9 | 4,544 | 44 | 16,006 | 186 | 76,593 |
| Total amount generated per capita (in kg) | 13.9 | 29.2 | 25.7 | 59.5 | 3.8 | 9.1 | 19.7 | 32 | 82.6 | 153.1 |
| Share of total packaging waste (in %) | 16.8 | 19 | 31.1 | 38.9 | 4.6 | 5.9 | 23.8 | 20.9 | 100 | 100 |
| Recycling rates (in %) | 20.3 | 32.2 | 74.6 | 83.4 | 51.7 | 69.5 | 44.4 | 67.6 | 44.9 | 62.5 |
| Recovery rates including incineration with energy recovery (in %) | 32.7 | 59.7 | 74.6 | 90.7 | 51.7 | 69.9 | 44.4 | 67.6 | 51.5 | 74.6 |

European Commission

Country Factsheet for Latvia

Support to Member States in improving waste management based on assessment of Member States' performance

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|-------------------------------|------|
| <i>Disposal rates (in %)</i> | 67.3 | 40.3 | 25.4 | 9.3 | 48.3 | 30.1 | 55.6 | 32.4 | 48.9 | 25.4 |
| Fulfilment of target of the Packaging Directive on recycling [EC 2012c] | yes | n/a | yes | n/a | yes | n/a | yes | n/a | yes | n/a |
| Next steps planned by CA | Measures planned | | | | | | | | Implementation likely? | |
| <i>Treatment (facilities)</i> | Closure of non-compliant landfills and elimination of illegal dumpsites [BiPRO 2007-2011]; Improvement of technical conditions for waste processing and recycling [BiPRO 2007-2011]; | | | | | | | | Yes [LV MoE 2012] | |
| <i>Collection (separate collection)</i> | Improve conditions for separate collection by information campaigns and infrastructural investments including adopted collection schemes [BiPRO 2007-2011]; | | | | | | | | Yes [LV MoE 2012] | |
| <i>Minimise landfilling</i> | Minimize landfilling of municipal waste by improving alternative waste management infrastructure and use of financial tools [BiPRO 2007-2011]; Elaborate an appropriate tax and fee system starting with a basic approach to minimise landfilling, promote separate collection and prevent littering [BiPRO 2007-2011]; | | | | | | | | Yes [LV MoE 2012] | |
| <i>Polluter Pays Principle</i> | Fully implement the polluter pays principle [BiPRO 2007-2011]; | | | | | | | | Yes [LV MoE 2012] | |
| <i>Information and awareness campaigns</i> | Information and awareness campaigns for the public to stop littering and improve env. protection related to waste issues [BiPRO 2007-2011]; | | | | | | | | Yes [LV MoE 2012] | |
| <i>Waste management data</i> | Further improve the quality (reliability) of waste management data [BiPRO 2007-2011]; | | | | | | | | Yes [LV MoE 2012] | |

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