

Bin2Bean

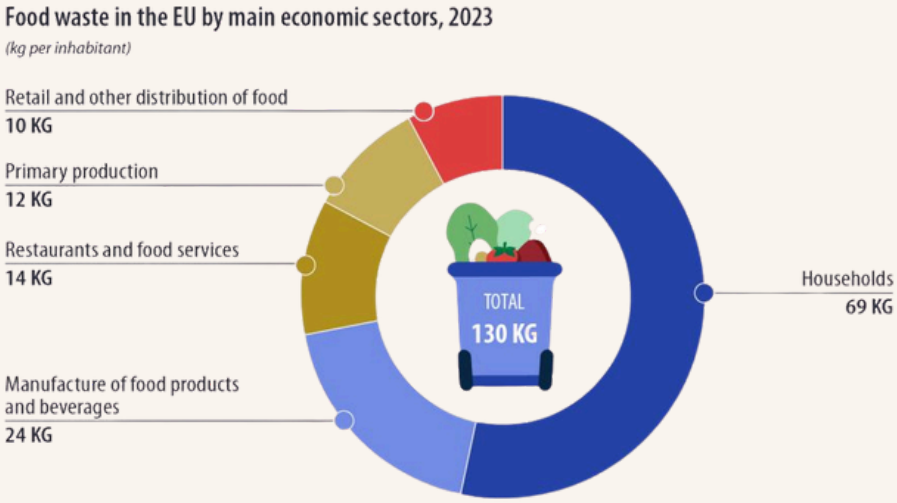
SCAN ME!

Practice abstract 16

Bio-waste collection and processing guidelines
EU collection situation

Bio-waste matters!

Biodegradable organic waste makes up about 34% of municipal waste in the EU, 86 million tons annually. To meet EU recycling goals (65% by 2035) and landfill reduction requirements (maximum 10% of municipal waste landfilled by 2035), municipalities are increasingly required to separately collect bio-waste (mandatory since 2024) and enhance its recycling.



Food waste statistics EU 2023 (Source: EUROSTAT 2025]

Recycling bio-waste into compost, soil improvers, fertilisers, and biogas delivers significant environmental benefits and is a central focus of the **Bin2Bean project**, which aims to close the loop between urban bio-waste streams and soil health. Diverting organic waste from landfills prevents methane emissions, a greenhouse gas with a global warming potential approximately 25 times higher than CO_2. Incinerating waste, on the other hand, destroys valuable organic material and releases additional CO_2.

The need for such solutions is particularly acute in Europe, where many regions suffer from declining soil fertility, loss of humus, and increased erosion. Through its **Living Labs**, Bin2Bean assesses how improved bio-waste collection systems and economic incentives can enhance the availability and quality of compost and soil improvers, contributing to soil regeneration and climate resilience.

Despite these pressing environmental needs and policy ambitions, progress remains limited. **In 2018, only 17% of municipal waste in the EU was composted or anaerobically digested**, highlighting a significant gap between potential and practice.

Project partners

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