

WASTE PREVENTION – the best waste is the one that is not produced.

The amount of waste currently produced is still too high. In particular in the field of municipal waste, further efforts towards a resource efficient consumption are needed to prevent waste from arising.

In the interests of conserving resources, waste prevention aims to reduce both the volume of waste and its pollutant content. To this end, in 2013, the German government and the Federal States (Bundesländer) launched a programme of public-sector measures designed to reduce waste volumes. The Waste Prevention Programme will be revised and updated in 2019.

There are also many other ways for producers and consumers to reduce their waste: by focusing on durable, lean, repairable products; by avoiding unnecessary and short-lived items; by purchasing services rather than goods; and last but not least by using rather than owning, for example. The message is that by acting considerably, each and every one of us can do our bit to protect the environment.

Raising awareness and sensitising the general public to effective waste prevention is therefore crucial. Each year in November,

Germany stages its own series of events to mark the European Week for Waste Reduction, promoting the implementation of awareness-raising actions about sustainable resource and highlighting what can be achieved through individual activities, ideas and commitment. This year's edition will take place from 16 to 24 November 2019.



Waste management in Germany is characterised by a good development in the last 30 years, but some problems are still to solve and new challenges are coming up. The prices for waste treatment vary greatly. Overcapacities of waste-treatment plants lead to falling prices. It arises always problems in financing the collection and recycling of waste from the yellow bin. These wastes are not funded by a waste fee. Still too many wastes are incinerated (thermal recycling) although material recycling would be ecologically beneficial.

However, the German approach to plastic bags is a good example for waste reduction. Although Germany's consumption of plastic bags was already below the European average, at around 72 bags per person, per year, the voluntary introduction by retailers of a plastic bag charge has reduced this further to around 38 bags, proving that conscious behavior by individuals can have a big impact.

9 REASONS TO REFUSE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

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1 Made from fossil fuels
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2 Huge carbon footprint
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3 Will still be here in hundreds of years
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4 Only a tiny percentage is recycled
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5 Leaches toxins into food & drink
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6 Causes hormone disruption & cancers
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7 Pollutes our oceans
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8 Kills marine animals and birds
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9 Enters our food chain