



Extended Producer Responsibility in Finland

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Main principles

Producer responsibility means that the producer or importer has the obligation to organize the waste management for products that it has brought to the market, and cover the associated costs.

Financial responsibility

- costs of organizing re-use, recycling and waste management of end-of-life products
- costs of providing adequate information to waste holders
- costs of reporting system

Operational responsibility

- arranging for re-use and waste management which can also be outsourced

Informative responsibility:

- sharing information to consumers and authorities

Individual (individual producer) or collective (producer organizations) responsibility



History

1996: Tyres of motor vehicles

1997: Packaging (61 weight %)

1998: Newspapers and magazines

2004: Electrical and electronic equipment, Passenger car and vans

2008: Batteries and accumulators

2016: Packaging: (EPR of all packaging)

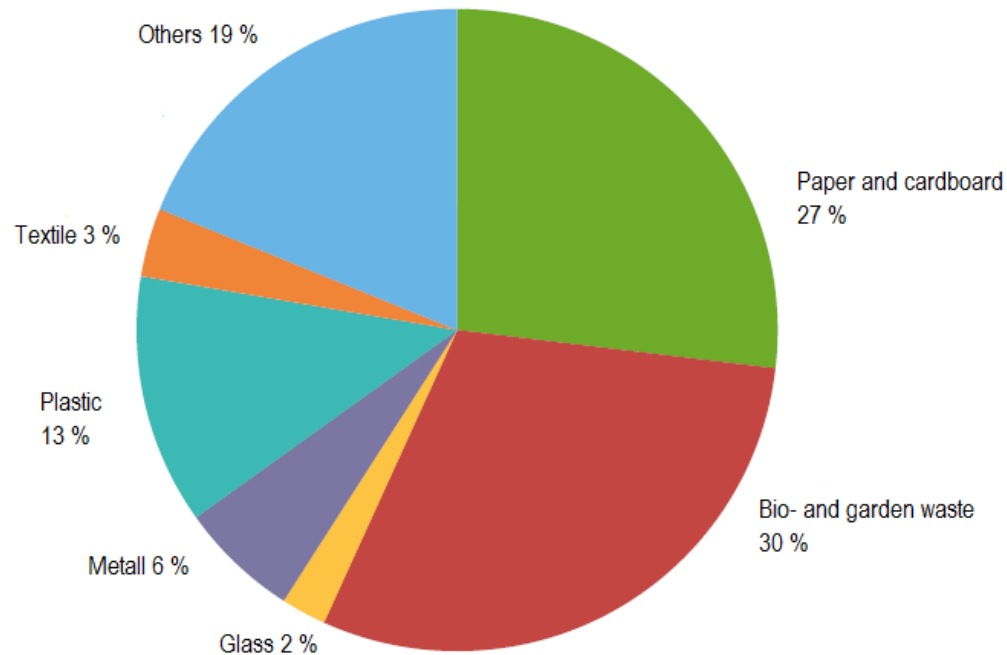
2021 >>> Certain Plastic products (EPR including certain cost responsibility for clean up):

- filtered tobacco products and filters, ready-to-eat food packaging, beverage packaging up to 3 litres, mugs, light carrying bags, wet wipes and balloons
- Separate collection for plastic fishery products



Composition of municipal waste

- Total amount ca 2,7 million tons (2015), ca 500 kg/capita
- The three biggest components of municipal waste are paper and cardboard (27%), biowaste and garden waste (30%) and plastic (13%).



Total amount of packaging:

- ca **113 kg/capita** in Finland;
- ca. 166 kg/capita in EU 28 on an average

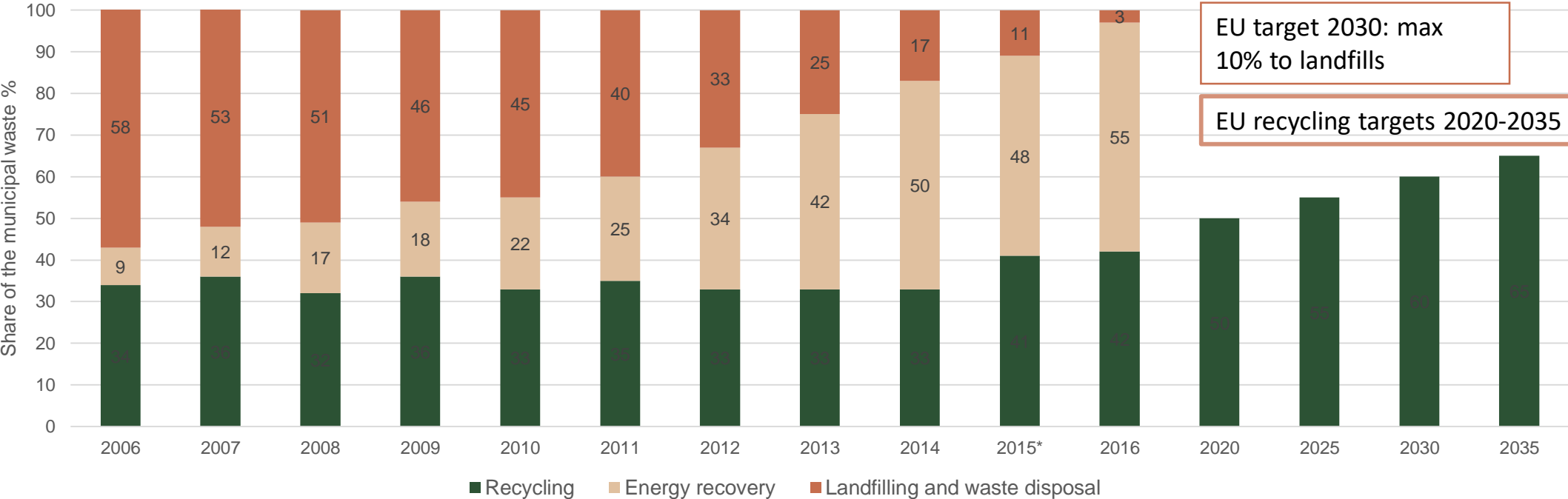
Glass packaging:

- ca. **14 kg/capita** in Finland 2015;
- ca. 31 kg/capita in EU on an average



MSW treatment and targets

Municipal waste treatment methods and recycling and landfilling targets to 2020-2035



EPR is one of policy instruments promoting recycling

- **Waste tax** (€70 per tonne of waste sent to a landfill) and **the ban of landfilling** organic waste (including plastic waste) at landfills
 - only 1 % of municipal waste is landfilled
- **Municipal waste fees** providing incentive to recycling and based on container size and emptying frequency
- **Producer responsibility (EPR)** for packages, paper, EEE, batteries, tyres, vehicles
- **Deposit-based return** system for beverage packaging
- **Requirements for separate collection** of paper, cardboard, glass, metal, plastic, biowaste, wastes falling under the EPR schemes
- **Property-specific sorting requirements** given by municipal waste management provisions
- **Enabling legislation (e.g. End of Waste)**
- **Green deals**

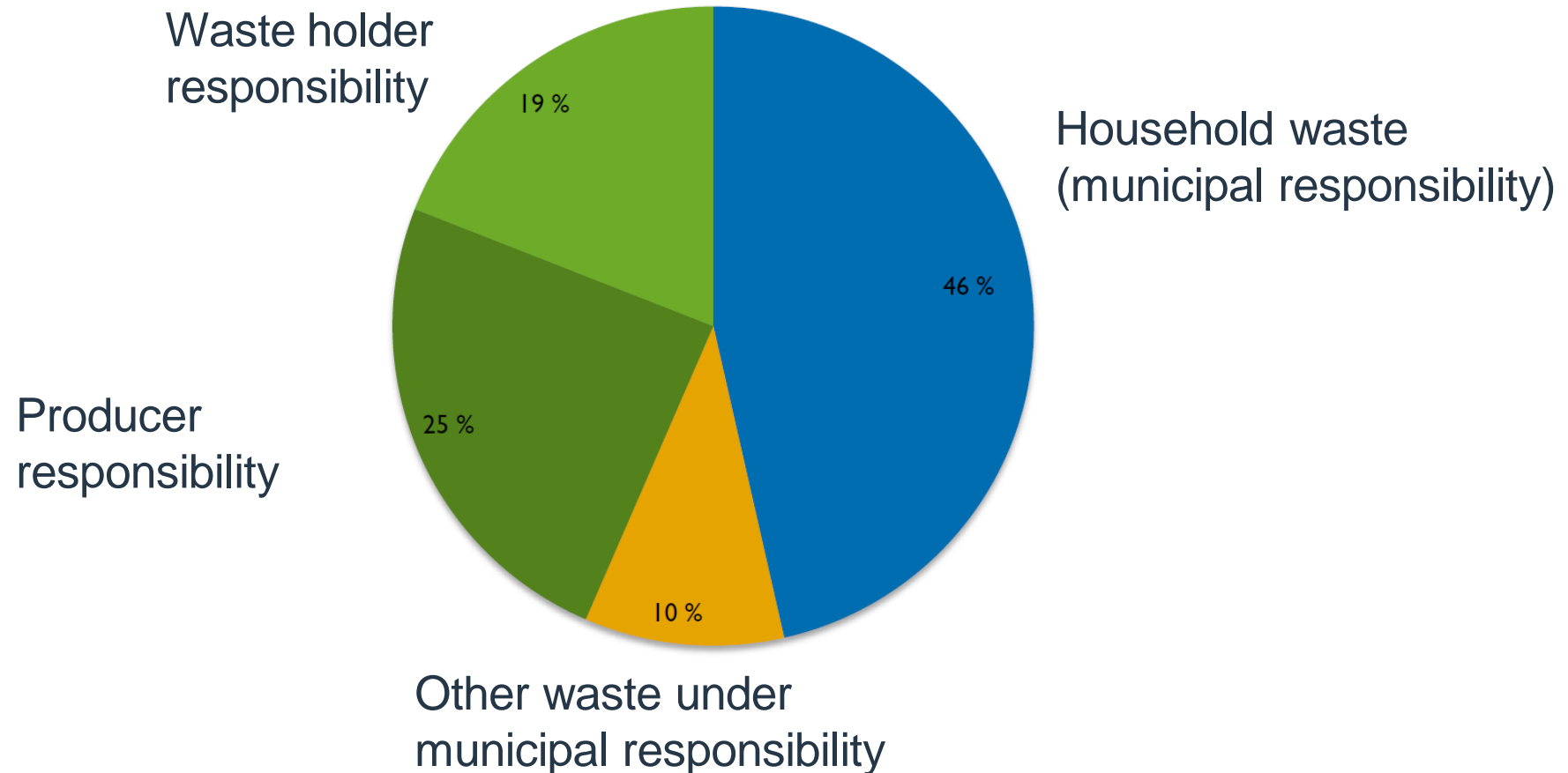


Deposit-based return system for beverage packaging

- An efficient and positive way to encourage consumers to return beverage containers: yields to high volumes of high-quality reusable/recyclable material
- Voluntary system: by joining a deposit system beverage manufacturers and importers are exempted from the beverage packaging tax (EUR 0.51 per litre).
- Covers a large spectrum of different beverage containers; water, lemonades, beer, wine, liquor
- Minimum values of different beverage package deposits (EUR 0.10 – 0.40) and other requirements are set out in Government Decree (526/2013).
- Each distributor selling beverages with deposit is obliged to accept empty containers and return a deposit.
- High return rates (biggest return system PALPA): Al containers 96 %, plastic bottles 92 %, reusable glass bottles 88 %, other glass bottles 97 %



Distribution of the responsibilities in municipal waste management in 2015



Organization of municipal waste management

- 33 local waste management companies serving over 90 % of the population
- Significant role of environmental education

Reuse



Source separation



Local recycling points



paper, cardboard, biowaste, glass, metal, plastic

Hazardous waste

- collection containers mostly at gas stations and sorting stations
- collection trucks

Door-to-door collection



Sorting stations





Share of packaging waste recycling accounted for about 40% of all municipal waste recycling

Shared costs:

- Package producers pay for Rinki collection points and reception terminals and recycling
- Households incur costs of transporting packaging waste to collection points
- Municipalities incur costs of planning and implementing additional collection >> most of those costs paid by households
- Companies that produce packaging waste deliver it to collection and recycling at their own expense
- Companies and in some cases also producer organizations pay for recycling



Product design

- **Ideally producer responsibility should influence product design**
 - Effect is still small: the design of the product is influenced by the intended use, price (+ shelf life of the product in case of packages), and only after that recyclability
 - Law obliges producers to take care of the certain amount of similar products
- **Ecodesign directive 2009/125/EY, Act on Requirements for Ecodesign and Energy Labeling of Products 2010/1009**
 - Ecodesign requirements aim to improve energy efficiency of energy-using products by integrating environmental considerations and life cycle thinking into the product design phase of products
- **Government Decree on packaging and packaging waste 2014/518**
 - Restrictions to use lead, cadmium, mercury and hexavalent chromium in packaging
 - Certain essential requirements for manufacturing, composition, reusability and recoverability of packaging (EU standards)
- **Circular Economy Action Plan 2020**
 - The Commission proposes legislative initiative on sustainable product policy as a basis for extending the Ecodesign Directive from energy-related equipment to other products.
 - The goal is to bring durable and repairable products to market



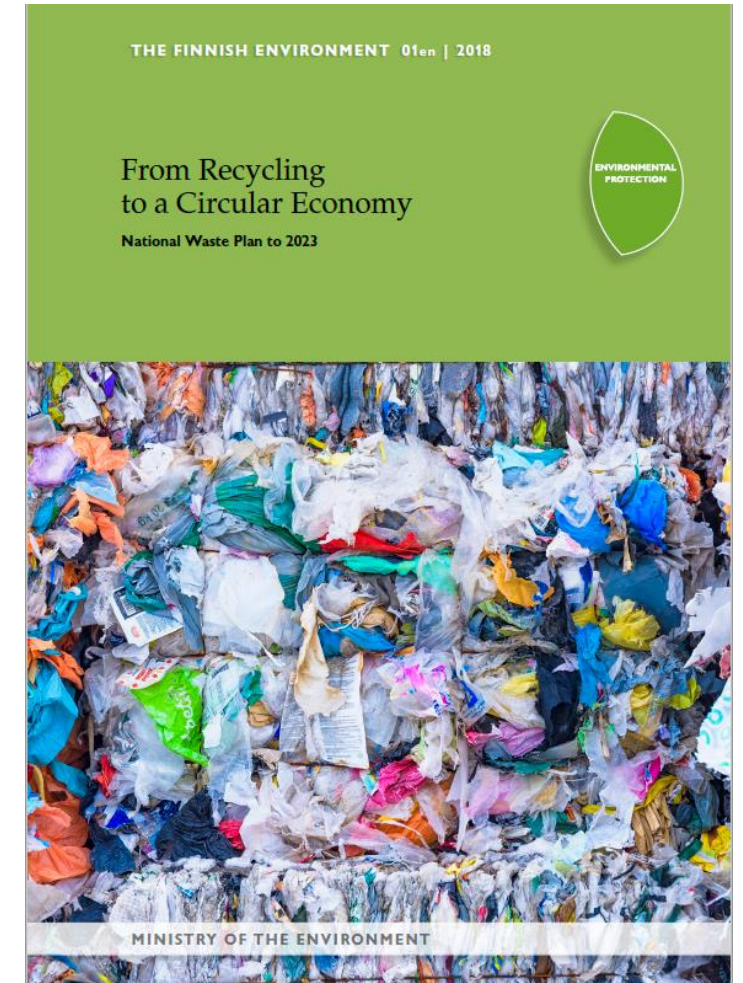
Waste prevention

- **DIRECTIVE (EU) 2008/98/EY on waste**
 - "Member States shall take measures to prevent waste generation"
 - Setting targets in line with the waste hierarchy
- **EU: Promoting of packaging re-use**
 - Proposed measures: deposit schemes, target setting, financial incentives, material-specific minimum percentages for reusable packaging placed on market, repair of wooden pallets to be included in the recycling target
- **Plastic Strategy of EU Commission**
 - Amendment to the Packaging Directive to ensure that all plastic packaging placed on the EU market by 2030 is reusable or recyclable
 - Ban on certain products starting from 3.7.2021: oxo-degradable plastic products, cotton buds, cutlery, beverage mixing sticks, plates, drinking straws, balloon stems, mugs made of foamed polystyrene, beverage packaging and ready-to-eat food packaging



National Waste Plan to 2023 of Finland

- **Slowing down the growth of municipal waste in relation to GDP and achieving relative decoupling**
 - Identification and implementation of financing guidance to accelerate product life extenton
 - Exploring opportunities of removing barriers to the sharing economy and supporting pilot projects
 - Preparation of a study in barriers to the reuse of packaging and a proposal for actions to strengthen reuse in key packaging groups
- **Increasing service life and utilization life of WEEE**
 - Direct research and experimental funding to extend life of SE equipmnet and enable re-use
 - Public authorithies are exploring the possibilities of sharing equipment and increasing usage rate
- **Food waste will be halved by 2030**



Changes in legislation: 2020

- Collection requirements becoming stricter
- Packages: cost responsibility of producers min. 80 %
- Requirement to producers to be part of producer associations
- One-stop-shop principle for different EPR products
- Producer payments must be modulated on the basis of the reusability, repairability, recyclability, durability of the products, content of hazardous substances etc.
- Extending producer responsibility to international distance trade



Looking forward

In the long run recycling goal of 55 % and 65 % can be economically viable

- Requires working recycling markets and better division of responsibilities in municipal waste management (>> new law).
- The economic importance of the costs and revenues associated with the end use of materials increases as the amount of separately collected waste increases and the recycling rate rises to well over 50%
- Holistic approach in development the system



Thank you for your interest!

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