



The waste management company Tallinn Waste Recycling Centre AS (Tallinna Jäätmete Taaskasutuskeskus AS) was established in 1998 and is owned by the City of Tallinn.

In 2003, waste reception ended at the Pääsküla Landfill, which had been in use since the 1970s, and the process of shutting it began.

In the same year a new waste management centre was opened in Jõelähtme, to develop the waste management principles of the new era in the capital.

A modern waste treatment plant is no longer a place for dumping waste, but rather a factory and a scientific institution that uses the objects and substances thrown away by people to make new products while reducing the potential for harmful waste to harm the environment.

FOR A CLEANER CITY

Since 1998

WHAT DO WE DO?

The most visible part of our work is waste transport. But even more important is what actually happens to this waste later on.

Recyclable materials – such as cardboard, metal, and various types of plastics, as well as film and organic matter – are marketed as **raw materials for new products**.

High energy waste become an **energy source** in cement industries and combustion plants.

Separately collected bio-waste, landscaping waste, and other organic waste are cleaned and **composted**. We are Estonia's largest composting plant, and produce certified compost that anyone can buy.

Waste, from which recoverable material can no longer be separated and therefore must be disposed of, is used to produce **fuel**.



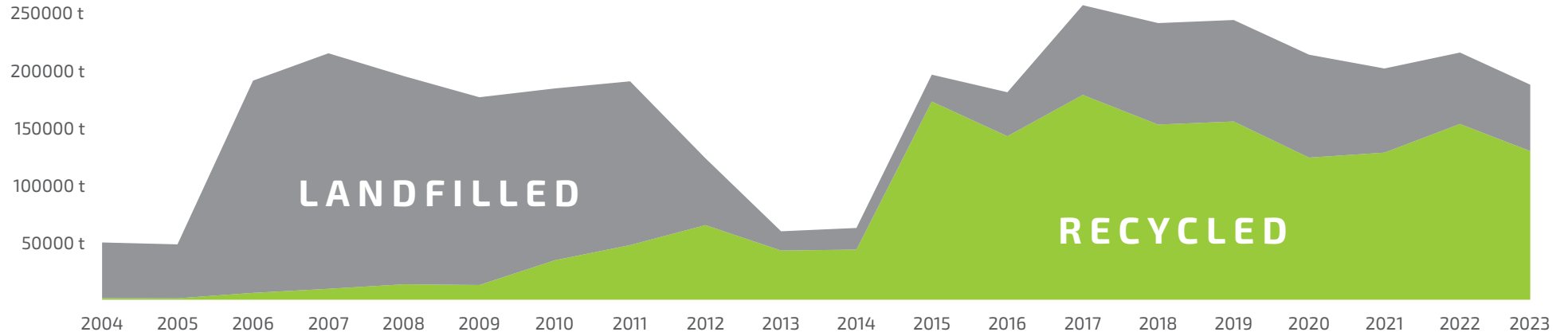
AN EVER GREENER CITY

At the Tallinn Waste Recycling Centre, the share of recyclable waste is steadily increasing. We can only imagine how much waste would be generated in a city that has swelled over all these years if it were all deposited indiscriminately in one large mountain.

Fortunately, both waste management and awareness of citizens are moving in a direction that ensures that this will not happen. The figure below shows the

share of waste deposited and recycled at the Tallinn Waste Recycling Centre over the years.

Our goal is to only send 10,000 tonnes of waste (6 times less than in 2023) to the landfill by 2030. A big thank you to everyone who sorts waste and in doing so contributes to our goal!



SORTING OF WASTE

In order for everything that can be recycled to reach a new round, sorting must be done where the waste was generated – for example, in the household.

It's a small gesture on the part of the resident, but a big step for the environment.

Here you will find examples of what can and cannot be placed in different types of containers. However, batteries, textiles, medicines, construction

YES: waste that cannot be collected separately, such as cat litter, greasy and hard-to-clean packaging (e.g., pizza boxes), diapers, sanitary pads and tampons, cosmetics, baking paper, foil, cooled ash, vacuum cleaner bags, chewed gum, rubber items, CDs, empty and broken pens, empty markers, broken mugs and plates, disposable masks.

NO: bio-waste, liquid waste, clean packaging, clean paper and cardboard, medicines, chemicals, batteries, accumulators (take these to collection points or sales points), small electronics (take to sales points), furniture.

YES: spoiled food and food waste, solid spoiled fruits and vegetables and their peels, meat and fish waste, fish bones, egg and nut shells, household paper, paper napkins, coffee grounds, coffee filters, cut flowers, potted plants without the pot, tea bags, pulp egg cartons.

NO: cat litter, liquid food waste, regular plastic bags, food packaging, laminated or waxed surface or plastic windowed paper bags, envelopes and cardboard, expired medicines, vacuum cleaner bags, used disposable tableware, other non-biodegradable waste, hazardous waste, cigarette butts, plastic, metal, glass, ash, packaging.

debris, electronics and furniture are not suitable for any of them – they must be taken to the appropriate collection box or waste station.

We stress, once again, that batteries must definitely be disposed of separately! Batteries that are almost dead can also form a short circuit with other waste when deposited in mixed waste and cause a fire!

YES: cardboard boxes, paper bags, wrapping paper, clean and dry food cardboard and paper packaging, newspapers, magazines, writing and copy paper, non-laminated printed materials, catalogs and advertising materials, workbooks, paper and cardboard notebooks, printed and clean writing and drawing paper, office paper, cardboard and kraft paper, envelopes without plastic windows, books (without hard covers).

NO: very dirty and soaked cardboard and paper, soft paper, paper napkins, household paper, used paper tableware, stickers, tape, candy wrappers, ice cream wrappers, laminated or plastic-coated paper and anything that contains materials other than paper and cardboard, such as foil or plastic (e.g., juice cartons, book covers).

YES: plastic beverage bottles (with caps), plastic packaging boxes, margarine and dairy product boxes, polystyrene packaging boxes and trays, films and plastic bags, bread and bakery bags, cheese and ham packaging, dry food plastic packaging, personal care and detergent bottles (e.g., shampoo bottles), food plastic bottles (e.g., oil, ketchup, and mayonnaise bottles), plastic canisters, plastic packaging crates, metal cans, aluminum and tin beverage cans, metal caps and lids from food and beverage packaging, cardboard milk, juice, wine, and yogurt cartons (so-called Tetra Paks). Packaging should be rinsed with a little water, but not washed.

NO: (semi-)full plastic bottles and boxes, dirty packaging, plastic toys, rubber products, hazardous substance packaging and bottles, diapers and sanitary pads.



SEWERAGE

Although the sewerage system, as if by magic, transports waste away from your home, there are things that should never be disposed of here! Troublesome and costly problems can be brought about by ordinary food waste, if handled incorrectly.



HOUSEHOLD PAPER

Only toilet paper, which is designed to decompose in water, may be discarded in the sewer. Tissues, household paper, and other hygiene products will clog the pipe.



COFFEE GROUNDS

Insoluble in water, creates a clogging layer on pipe walls, especially if the pipe is covered inside with grease. Coffee grounds should be placed in a biowaste container.



COOKING OILS AND FATS

Insoluble in water, creates a clogging and filth-binding layer on pipe walls. Small quantities should instead be placed with mixed waste.



MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Extremely dangerous! Even water treatment plants are unable to completely filter them out!

DECOMPOSITION IN NATURE

Every time we throw waste into nature, we leave a mark that can last for decades or even centuries. Different types of waste have different decomposition times: for example, a plastic bottle can decompose in nature for up to 450 years, while a banana peel can disappear within a few weeks. During the decomposition process, harmful chemicals are released into the environment, contaminating the soil, water, and air, damaging ecosystems, and threatening living organisms.

NB! Decomposition does not necessarily mean safety! Plastic waste and chewing gum decompose into microplastics over a very long period due to physical factors, which continue to pollute nature invisibly, as no bacteria are willing to break them down. It is also important to remember that plastics are made from petroleum, a limited resource. Recycled plastic, however, saves about 70% of resources in production!

Sorting waste at home and at work helps reduce the amount of waste that ends up in nature, enabling the recycling and processing of materials. Every properly sorted plastic bottle, paper, or glass jar reduces the risk of these items ending up in nature and remaining there for a long time. Sorting is not only environmental protection but also a part of sustainable development, helping to keep our planet clean and liveable for future generations.



RECYCLING OF MATERIALS

The things that people leave at waste stations get a new life, but not necessarily always what they were originally born as.





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