

Overview of plastic recycling in Poland

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24-25 June 2025, Dresden



Stowarzyszenie
Polski Recykling



Polish Recycling Association

Established in 2015

The Association's main goal is to be a credible and responsible voice of the recycling industry by representing the common problems and interests of the industry before government bodies, institutions and governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The association's membership includes leading recyclers of plastics and rubber waste from various industry sectors:

- Packaging
- Building and construction
- Automotive
- Cosmetics
- Food and agriculture
- Waste of electrical and electronic equipment

- Member of Plastics Recyclers Europe
- The biggest polish recycling organization brings together waste recycling companies. It responds to the need to create representation for the sector in public life.



Polish Recycling
Association



Simon P. Dziak-Czekan

**Polish Recycling Association,
SPDC Holding sp. z o. o.,
Hans Andersson rPET sp. z o. o.,
PRO R3 Packaging Recovery Organization S. A.**

- Graduated the College of Business Administration at Kent State University and University of Warsaw.
- Author of over 200 articles on recycling, regular guest on national television and radio programs.
- Author of the podcast "Simon Says Recycling".
- Co-founder and initiator of the **Polish Recycling Association** /In 2015-2023 President of the board/.
- In 2021, he was appointed as an expert in recycling, in the advisory team of the Minister of Climate and Environment.
- President of the Management Board of the SPDC Group, which manufacture and trader recycled plastics from PE, PP and PET.
- President of the Management Board of Hans Andersson rPET, a leader in PET recycling waste management.
- Since 2023, co-owner and president of the management board of PRO R3 Packaging Recovery Organization S. A.



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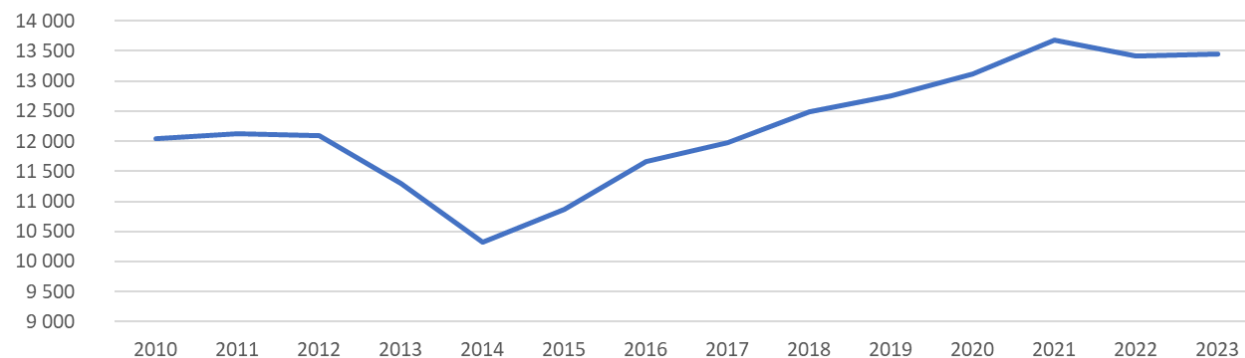
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Current situation of recycling industry

Municipal waste generated (thousands tons)



- Officially whole recovery and recycling industry registered 8808 entities (according to Statistics Poland).
- Actually c.a. 300-400 plastics recycling plants exist (a significant number have not yet received a new permits for recycling operations).
- 88% entities hire up to 9 employees
- 8,8% have 10-49 employees
- The remaining 3.2% entities hire more than 49 employees

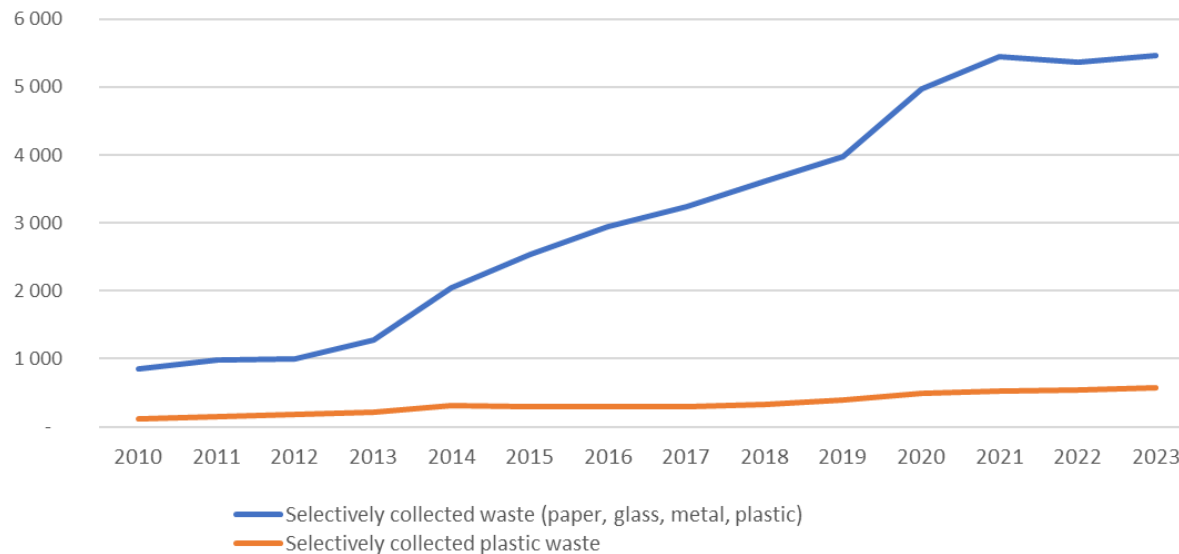
Source: Statistics Poland



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Overview of waste market in Poland

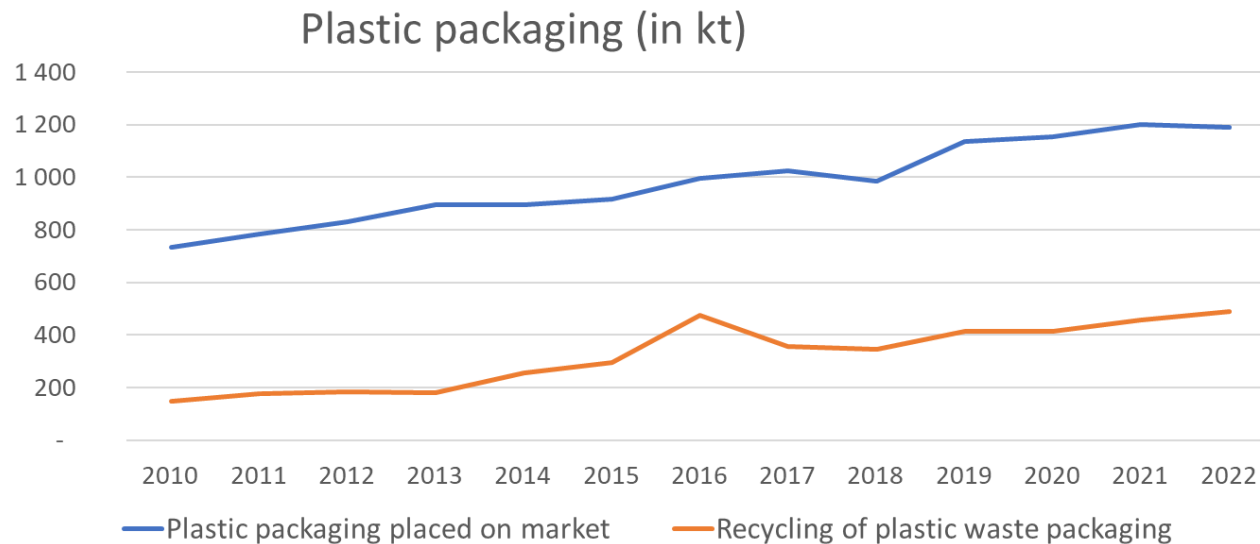
Selective collection of waste (in kt)



- 13.4 million tons of municipal waste generated annually.
- 5.5 million tons of selectively collected waste (paper, glass, metal, plastic)
 - Including almost 0.6 million tons of separately collected plastic waste.

Source: Statistics Poland

Recycling of plastic packaging waste

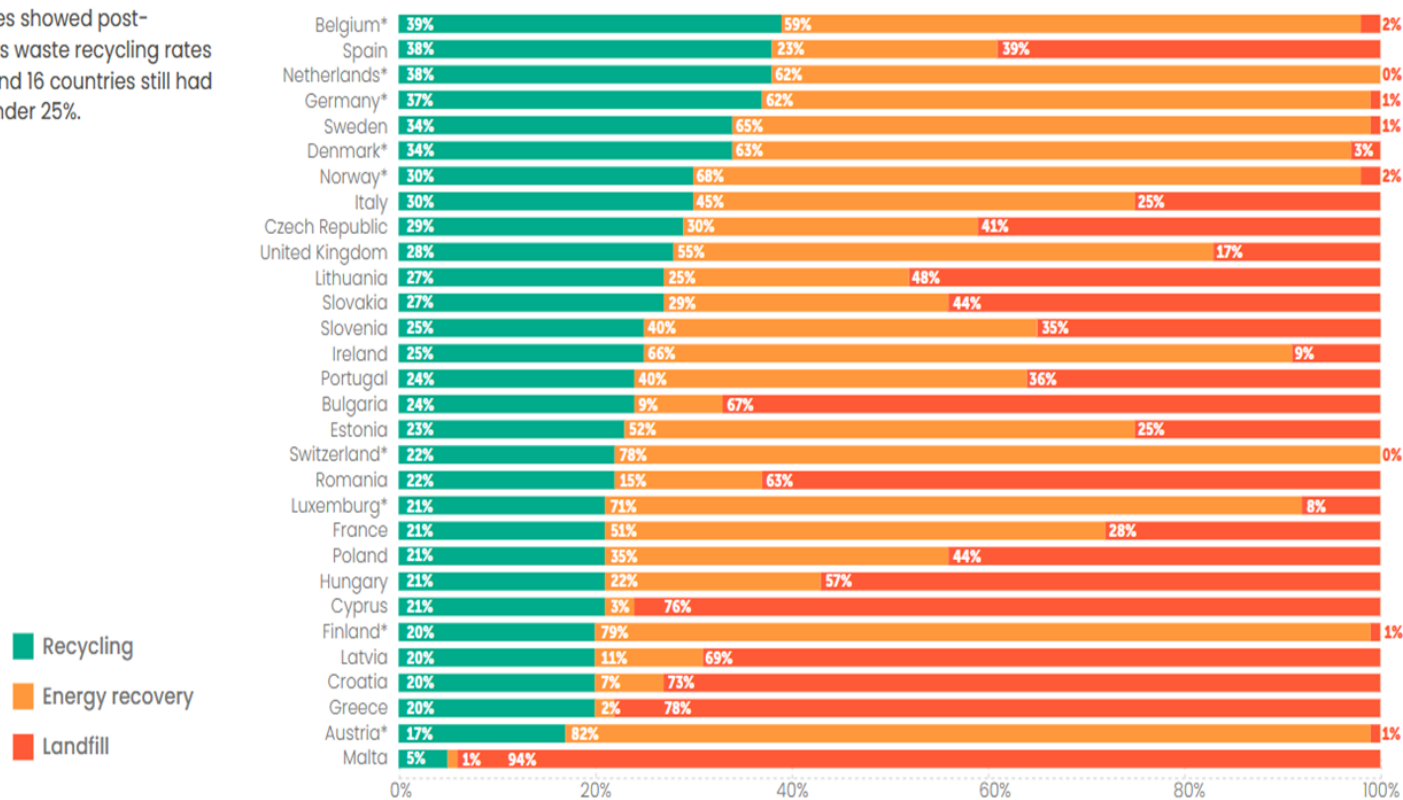


➤ Between 2010 and 2022 recycling rate for plastic waste packaging increased from 20% to almost 42%

Source: Statistics Poland

Plastics waste treatment by country

In 2022, 4 countries showed post-consumer plastics waste recycling rates exceeding 35%, and 16 countries still had recycling rates under 25%.



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How does it look in Europe?

SOURCE: PLASTICSEUROPE

- Packaging waste
 - LDPE, LLDPE, PET, PP, HDPE, PS, PET-G, SAN, SMMA, ASA
- B&C waste (building&construction waste)
 - PVC, HDPE, LDPE, EPS, XPS, PUR, MDPE,C-PCW, PVDF,PPS, PPSU, PSU, PC, PMMA, ASA/PC, ASA/PVC
- Agriculture waste
 - HDPE, LDPE, LLDPE, PP
 - PP i PA (filled and strengthened with MF lub GF), ABS, PC/ABS, PC, PMMA, POM, PBT, PVC
- WEEE (waste of electric and electronic equipment)
 - PS, ABS, PC/PBT, PA, PP, PC/ABS, PBT,PC, POM, PMMA etc.
- Mixed municipal waste
 - All kind of polymers

What kind of polymers are recycled in Poland

Poland's Deposit Return System (DRS) for beverage packaging will launch on October 1, 2025.



Key Dates:

October 1, 2025: Official launch date for the DRS in Poland. Poland will be the second largest country in Europe to introduce a deposit system, after Germany.

Covered Packaging:

Plastic bottles: Up to 3 liters.

Reusable glass bottles: Up to 1.5 liters.

Metal cans: Up to 1 liter.

The deposit for plastic bottles and cans will be PLN 0.50, and for reusable glass bottles PLN 1. Shops with an area of over 200 m² will be obliged to accept packaging covered by the system and return the deposit.



DRS in Poland

October 1, 2025



BARRIERS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RECYCLING INDUSTRY IN POLAND

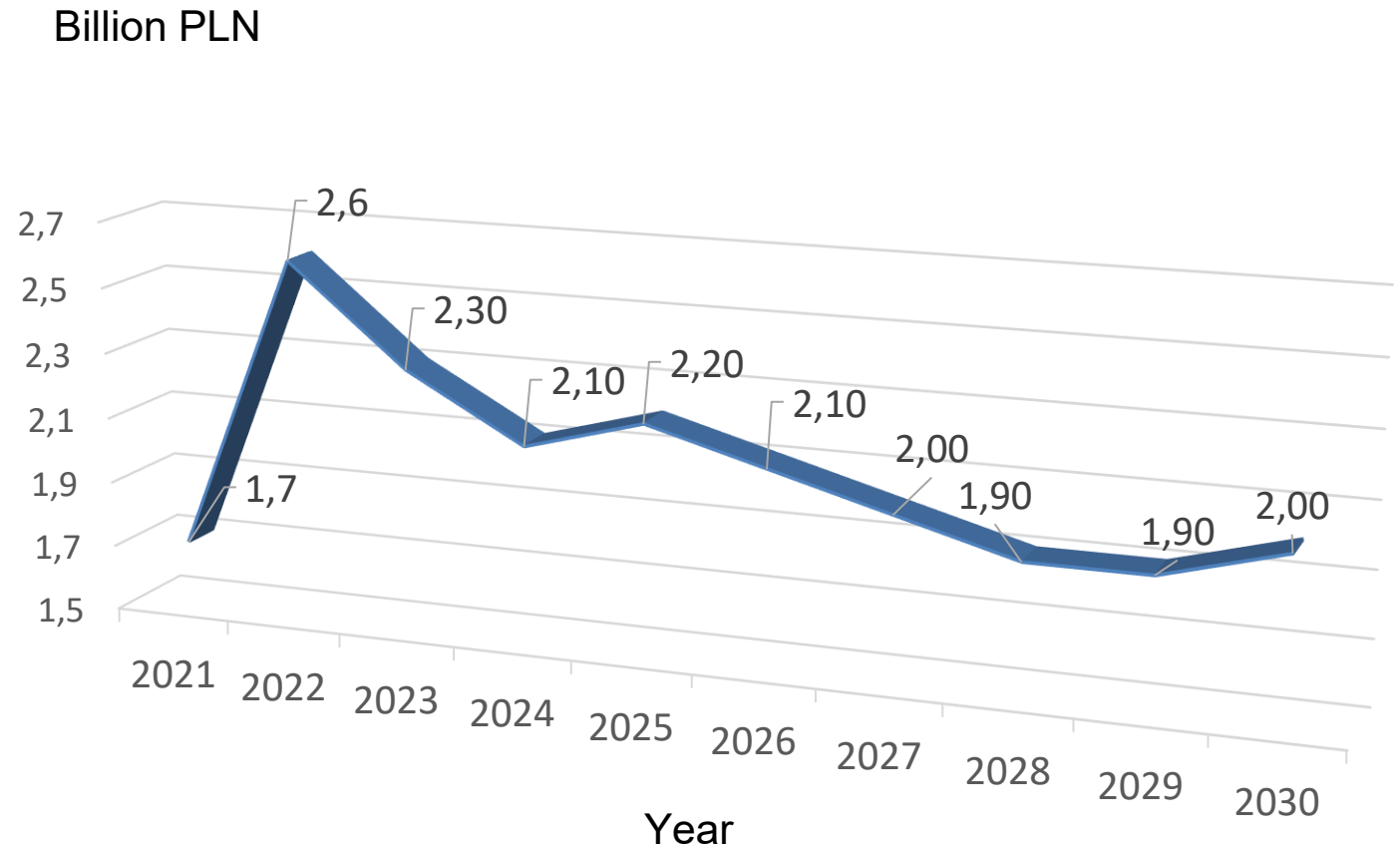
1. Amending the 2018 regulations (fire operatives, security of claims security, decisions and environmental permits) in terms of removing unnecessary formal and financial burdens on the industry.
2. Introduction of fair EPR model, which should guarantee funds going directly to recycling plants.
3. Low prices of virgin plastic (mainly from countries in the Far East) and high electricity prices do not create sufficient incentive to produce plastic recyclates and generate the margins necessary to invest in new technologies and production lines.
4. The progressive degradation of the industry will mean that there will be no recycling in Poland, and it is only their activity that guarantees that Poland will achieve the recycling levels required by EU law and can prevent the waste of public funds from the fines (plastic levy) imposed on Poland for non-recycled plastic packaging waste - we estimate that by 2030 this amount may reach 21 billion PLN.



Plastic levy a burden on the Polish budget

Source: Ministry of Finance data for 2021-2024, subsequent years are projections by the Polish Recycling Association

The cost to the state budget from the plastic levy for 2021 - 2030 is about 21 billion PLN





EU PACKAGING REGULATION

Future of Polish Recycling with PPWR

Thank you for your attention



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