

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and United Nations Environment Programme
QUESTIONNAIRE 2020 ON ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

Section: **WASTE**

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Waste statistics: UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics – results and uses of the data collection and relevance to SDG indicators

Prepared by Environment Statistics Section,
 UNSD for:

**Seventh Meeting of the Expert Group on
 Environment Statistics, 10-19 November 2020**



Outline

- Current status of the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics (waste section)
 - E-waste
- Dialogues with international partners
- SDG indicators related to this Questionnaire
- Observations and future steps

UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics



- Since 1999, UNSD has collected water and waste data 9 times biennially, from 160-170 UN member states.
- Questionnaire are sent to National Statistical Offices and Ministries of Environment.
- Questionnaires are not sent to Eurostat and OECD members and candidate members.
- Response rate typically hovers around 50% (2018, 52%).
- The 10th round of questionnaires were sent in Nov 2020 with a deadline of 31 Jan, 2021.
- No imputation, no estimation.
- Outputs are: the UNSD Environmental Indicator Tables, Country Snapshots, and Country Files. Available at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/index.cshtml>
- Questionnaires are available at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/questionnaire>

Data

Data collection is implemented through the biennial Questionnaire on Environment Statistics. Data collection started in 1999. UNSD environmental indicators derived from these data, as well as for the eight other themes, are now available.

- [UNSD environmental indicators](#)
- [Country Snapshots](#)
- [Country Files](#)
- [Questionnaires](#)



UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics - Waste



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Latest Development: Electronic Waste (e-waste)

- Following liaisons with United Nations University (UNU), and a pilot exercise with 42 countries in 2017, UNSD added e-waste to the Questionnaire in 2018.
 - Total e-waste generated
 - Total e-waste collected
- This is expanded in 2020 to include disaggregation (per UNU-KEYS classification) by both generated and collected for the below variables:
 - Large equipment
 - Screens, monitors, and equipment containing screens
 - Temperature exchange equipment - cooling and freezing equipment
 - Small E-waste
 - Lamps
 - Small equipment
 - Small IT and telecommunication equipment
- National recycling rate of e-waste is considered a level 2 indicator as part of SDG 12.5.1 (National recycling rate)

E-WASTE



UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics - Waste

- The 2018 Questionnaire (below) included just two variables on electronic waste which followed the 2017 pilot on e-waste.

Table R6: E-Waste Generation and Collection

Line	Category	Unit
1	Total E-waste generated	1000 t
2	Total E-waste collected	1000 t

Table R6: E-Waste Generation and Collection

Line	Category	Unit
1	Total E-waste Generated	1000 t
2	Amounts going to: Large equipment	1000 t
3	Screens, monitors, and equipment containing screens	1000 t
4	Temperature exchange equipment (cooling and freezing equipment)	1000 t
5	Small E-waste (=6+7+8)	1000 t
6	of which: lamps	1000 t
7	of which: small equipment	1000 t
8	of which: small IT and telecommunication equipment	1000 t
9	Total E-waste collected	1000 t
10	Amounts going to: Large equipment	1000 t
11	Screens, monitors, and equipment containing screens	1000 t
12	Temperature exchange equipment (cooling and freezing equipment)	1000 t
13	Small E-waste (=14+15+16)	1000 t
14	of which: lamps	1000 t
15	of which: small equipment	1000 t
16	of which: small IT and telecommunication equipment	1000 t

- The 2020 Questionnaire (right) includes expanded variables on electronic waste which are breakdowns per UNU-KEYS.
- While providing responses to the 2018 Questionnaire, some countries mentioned data availability for breakdowns of e-waste.

Dialogue with international partners

- Regarding SDG indicator 12.3.1 (b): Food waste index, in the 2020 cycle of the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire, the variables, “organic material”; and “food waste and garden waste” were very nearly modified, but remain unchanged. UNSD is engaging in dialogue with UNEP, OECD, Eurostat on this question.

Table R4: Composition of Municipal Waste

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Line	Category	Unit	1990
1	Paper, paperboard	%	
2	Textiles	%	
3	Plastics	%	
4	Glass	%	
5	Metals	%	
6	Other inorganic material	%	
7	Organic material	%	
8	<i>of which</i> : food waste and garden waste	%	
10	TOTAL	%	100



Dialogue with international partners

- Regarding SDG indicator 11.6.1: Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal solid waste generated by cities, UN-HABITAT has been expressing interest to UNSD on modifying variables that agree with SDG indicator language: “municipal waste managed in controlled facilities”. This may be considered per further conversation, especially if a link between the variables and statistics to policy can be made.

Table R5: Management of Municipal Waste — City Data

Line	Category	Unit	1990
6	Total amount of municipal waste collected (=4+5)	1000 t	
7	<i>Amounts going to:</i> Recycling	1000 t	
8	Composting	1000 t	
9	Incineration	1000 t	
10	<i>of which: with energy recovery</i>	1000 t	
11	Landfilling	1000 t	
12	<i>of which: controlled landfilling</i>	1000 t	
13	Other, please specify in the footnote	1000 t	





Waste Statistics and the SDG Indicators

The UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire is the preferred data source for these indicators:

- Indicator 11.6.1 (Tier II): Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal solid waste generated, by cities.
 - Custodian agencies: UN-HABITAT, UNSD
 - Metadata [\[link\]](#)
- Indicator 12.4.2 (Tier II): Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment.
 - Custodian agencies: UNEP, UNSD
 - Metadata [\[link\]](#)
- Indicator 12.5.1 (Tier II): National recycling rate, tons of material recycled.
 - Custodian agencies: UNEP, UNSD
 - Metadata [\[link\]](#)



Observations and future steps

- UNSD will be most grateful to the 165 or so member states for making effort to provide a coordinated response to the 2020 UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics.
- In addressing demand pertaining to SDG indicators 11.6.1, and 12.3.1(b), could your country work with UNSD on:
 - a “municipal waste managed in controlled facilities” pilot questionnaire in 2021?
 - a food, garden, organic, biodegradable and related waste pilot questionnaire in 2021?

Thank you

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