Investments to Tackle Plastic Pollution

GERMANY

This country fact sheet presents the plastic material flow, policy, and investment landscapes, offering quick and easy access to a one-stop resource on tackling plastic pollution.

PLASTIC MATERIAL FLOW

This section provides an overview of the plastic material flow within the country, offering a snapshot of the plastic waste landscape.



PLASTIC PRODUCED

19.0 mn

tonnes per year

(Germany Trade & Invest, 2019)



PLASTIC CONSUMED

tonnes per year

(Innovative Brandenburg, 2015)



kilotonnes per year

(Trade Map, 2022)



PLASTIC WASTE GENERATED

7.0 mn

tonnes per year

(Environmental Investigation Agency, 2021)



PLASTIC RECYCLED



PLASTIC LEAKAGE

tonnes per year

(Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter, 2020)



PLASTIC WASTE IMPORTS



PLASTIC WASTE EXPORTS

kilotonnes per year

(Trade Map, 2022)

POLICIES

This section highlights selected policies impacting plastic pollution in the country. Details on the status of development of the policy where relevant are also provided.

UPSTREAM

Tax on Single-Use Virgin **Plastics**

Single-Use Plastic Fund Act introduced in 2024 with first payments imposed on single-use plastic products expected in 2025 (BDO Germany, 2024)

Ban on Single-Use Plastics

Ban on certain single-use plastic products for which environmentally friendly alternatives exist (CMS, 2024)

MIDSTREAM

Deposit Return System Legislation

First European country to initiate a deposit return system scheme in 2003 (Bloomberg NetZero Pathfinders, 2021)

DOWNSTREAM

Waste Segregation

Separate collection requirement for bio-waste, paper, metal, plastic and glass (European Environment Agency, 2016)

Extended Producer Responsibility

(CMS, 2024)

Plastic Waste Trade Restrictions

An EU-wide policy restricting plastic exports to non-OECD countries, except for clean plastic waste sent for recycling

(European Commission, 2021)

Recycled Content Mandates

Single-use PET beverage bottles to have at least 25% recycled plastic from 2025 (Ecosistant, 2021)

Mandatory Recycling Targets

65% of all municipal waste must be recycled (Umweltbundesamt, 2023)

Disposal Bans/Landfill Taxes

Landfill ban is only applicable for residual or biodegradable waste with a Total Organic Carbon content (TOC) above 3%

(European Environment Agency, 2022)

Implemented

In progress

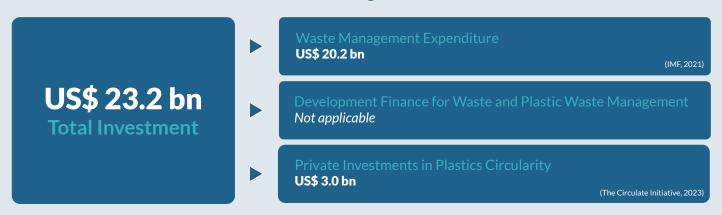
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INVESTMENTS

This section provides a summary of public and private investments in waste management, plastic waste management, and plastics circularity. Further breakdown of private investments in plastics circularity solutions by archetypes and investment categories is also provided.

Investments in Waste and Plastic Waste Management (2018 - 2021)



Private Investments in Plastics Circularity (2018 - 6M 2023)

