



# Waste management in Finland

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# The history of waste disposal in Finland

- In the early 1900s there were no landfills in Finland because most waste was biodegradable.
- Manure was collected and used to fertilize fields
- The First World War stopped the improvement of new waste disposal methods.
- After the Second World War consumption increased due to population growth. The first landfills were established.
- During these times there were both official and unofficial landfills in Finland. In some areas, valuable groundwater was destroyed because of this.
- Incineration was started in the 1960s.




# Who is responsible for waste disposal in Finland

- In Finland product manufacturers and importers are obligated by the law to arrange waste disposal for their products when they are removed from use. Neglecting this law will result in a fee.
- This law is supervised by the ELY-center located in Pirkanmaa.



# Waste management in Finland nowadays

- Every Finn produces approximately 342 kilograms of waste a year.
  - Roughly 99% of Finnish waste is utilized as either energy or material.
  - In Finland 43% of all municipal waste is recycled and the rest is converted into energy through burning.
  - Burning creates big amounts of slag and ash as leftovers. These leftovers are collected and sent to a waste treatment center where they are examined for any excess metals. After that they are used as materials in soil engineering.
  - Biowaste is turned into fertilizers and soil improvers. It is also used to create biogas.
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# Sending waste overseas

- Approximately 100 000 tons of mixed waste is sent overseas from Finland per year.
- This waste is mostly sent to Sweden and Estonia.
- Waste is sent overseas because we don't have enough incineration capacity.

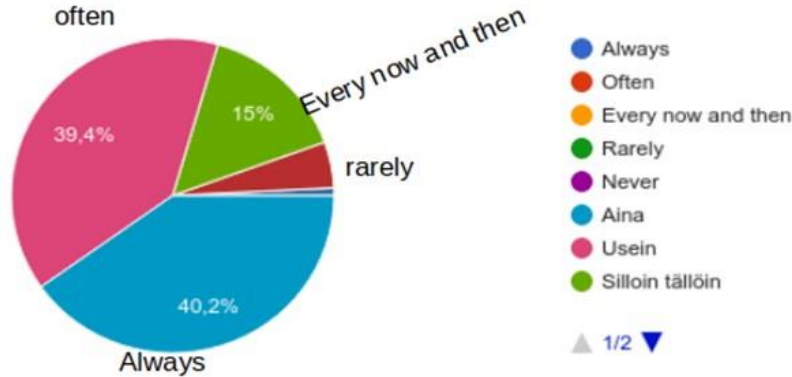


# The public opinion on recycling

- Most Finnish people recycle frequently and take it quite seriously.
- In our school we did an inquiry about recycling and the result was that 89% of the students recycle plastic, cardboard etc.
- Only 58% of the students have a compost bin in their home.

How often do you recycle at home ?

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Do you have biocompost at home ?

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