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**Please
note**





Handling Resources Carefully — Acting Globally and as Partners

Lidl is pioneering the responsible use of natural resources and unites international partners for more efficiency and innovative solutions. As partners, we further develop standards, reduce the consumption of resources and close loops along the whole value chain.





Story

Food Belongs on a Plate, Not in the Trash

When food ends up in the trash, valuable resources are wasted. Lidl is actively tackling food waste — from the choice of supplier to providing information for the customer on storing food correctly in the home. The following story about a farmer and a tomato’s journey from the field to the plate shows what this looks like.



In the 2025 fiscal year, more than 110,000 tons of food were rescued by the “rescue bag” across Europe alone



It is a warm spring morning in southern Spain. The sun is rising as Diego enters his greenhouse. He and his family have been growing tomatoes for over 30 years — juicy, aromatic fruits that are prized throughout Europe. Today is harvest day. Diego inspects a particularly good-looking tomato — a firm, bright red specimen with an aroma like sunshine. But he cannot be sure whether this tomato will actually make it onto the plate. Because customer expectations are high and the road to meeting them is long.

This is a fate that the tomato shares with many other food products. Globally, more than a billion tons of food are wasted every year — with serious consequences for the environment, society and the economy. Food waste accounts for around ten percent of global carbon emissions. At the same time, many regions of the world lack sufficient food security: While edible food is being thrown away, many people are denied access to nutritious food.¹

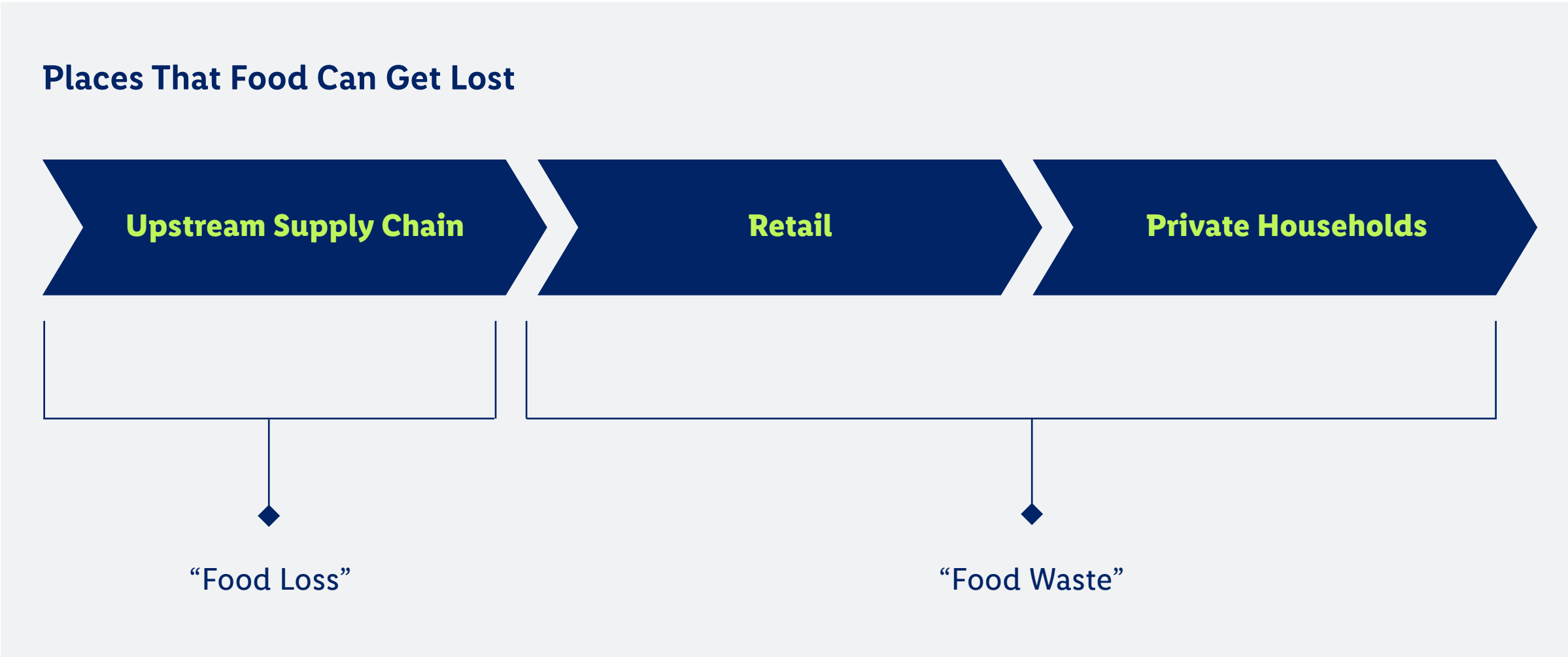
Lidl is facing up to this challenge. And the journey there takes us along the entire value chain.

¹ UNEP: Food Waste Index Report 2024. Think Eat Save: Tracking Progress to Halve Global Food Waste, 2024.

What Is Food Waste — And Where Does It Come From?

Food waste means throwing away food that is not consumed for various reasons — whether in retail, catering or private households. Most of it occurs at home, for example due to incorrect storage, lack of planning, or ignorance. However, this is different to “food loss”: Food loss occurs in the upstream supply chain, for example, during harvesting, storage or processing.

The causes of food waste in food retail include incorrect demand forecasts, improper storage and heavily standardized quality requirements.



LIDL III: Ensure responsible handling of food

Lidl Is Tackling Food Waste

Lidl employs a variety of measures to tackle food waste and loss along the entire value chain.

In the Field: Flexibility over Perfection

Selection may even occur at harvesting. Tomatoes that are too small, too ripe or deformed are often rejected during harvesting — not because they are bad, but because they do not fit the requirements. That is why Lidl is working directly with the farmers through the national companies and accepts these products anyway. Unusually shaped fruit and vegetables are used in soups and sauces or can be found on shelves as “rescue products.” In the Netherlands, for example, Lidl offers a tomato sauce that is made from “imperfect” tomatoes.

En Route: Freshness from Field to Store

Once the tomato has successfully left the field, its journey begins — and it is a risky one. Broken cold chains, damaged packaging, long transport routes — every hour on the road can determine whether food stays fresh or spoils. In order to reduce transport losses, Lidl has invested in its

logistics network in recent years — and these investments are paying off: In the Netherlands, for instance, where many suppliers are located nearby, freshly harvested products often arrive in the warehouse that very same day. This ensures that delicate products remain fresh — and prevents unnecessary losses from occurring in the first place.

On the Shelf: Valued, Not Thrown Away

On the shelf, first impressions often count. Customers usually reach for the freshest products, leaving older ones behind. Lidl uses a combination of intelligent planning, dedicated employees and creative, scalable solutions to prevent these unwanted products from ending up in the trash. Thanks to precise order processes, it is possible to accurately predict the quantities that will be needed based on real-time data on the weather, the day of the week and demand. But the real difference is made in the store: Employees who sort fruit and vegetables according to the freshness concept and thus actively reduce food waste. They identify which products are still good but need to be sold soon and give them a second chance,



for example, in the form of “rescue bags.” For more information on this, please see the section on the [☞ “Rescue Me” and “Rescue Bag” Initiatives](#) (p. 55) to tackle food waste.

Behind the Scenes: Using Surplus Food

Wherever possible, anything that does not end up in a “rescue bag” or can no longer be sold is donated to a nonprofit organization or put to good use. Most of our stores have been cooperating with food banks for many years. In 2025 alone, around 47,800 tons of food was donated to food banks. In 2024, Lidl Switzerland even trialled the donation of refrigerated products such as cheese or meat. Following a successful trial phase, the process was rolled out in the majority of Swiss stores from the start of 2025. In all national companies, products that cannot be donated to food banks are processed further, for example, as animal feed.

“
Food belongs on a plate,
not in the trash can — yet
we know: Sustainability is a
shared responsibility. From
the producer, via our logistics
and the store teams to our
customers: Every contribution
counts. Together we assume
the responsibility for the
appreciation of our products
and for less waste.



Ronny Sangkuhl
Head of Environmental Responsibility
Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG

At Home: Raising Awareness

More than the half of all food waste is generated in private households.² That is why Lidl focuses on raising customer awareness, employing a variety of measures to explain the difference between the best-before date and use-by date and encouraging customers to do their bit. During the reporting year, Lidl conducted awareness campaigns in several national companies. Moreover, Lidl offers practical storage tips and recipe ideas for leftovers and supports education programs for children in several countries.

Epilog: A Second Chance

Thanks to intelligent logistics, the tomato that had been carefully harvested by Diego arrived fresh on the shelf. However, it was still not customers’ first choice — perhaps there was a minor blemish or a more attractive specimen on offer? There could be any number of reasons. But thanks to the “rescue bag,” it avoided the trash and was given a second chance, ultimately making it into a shopping cart as a rescue product. Instead of getting lost, it turned up on a plate as a pasta dish with tomato sauce.

Good to know

Lidl Food Waste Strategic Areas

Lidl sees itself as a key player in the fight against food waste. Continuous dialog is the key to success — and Lidl relies on three central levers:

- The **reduction and avoidance of food waste** — for example, through price discounts or the use of the “rescue bag,”
- **the increase in quotas for food donations** to nonprofit organizations as well as
- the **increase in quotas for processing food waste into animal feed**, for example, by redistributing meat-free baked goods for pig feed.

Cooking together: The awareness for storing food correctly and using leftovers creatively begins in the home.



² Eurostat: Food waste and food waste prevention — estimates, 2024.



Sustainable Use of Resources GRI 3-3

In nature, there is no such thing as waste, only cycles. That is what we are aiming for. With our “Road to Zero Waste” concept, we are rethinking waste management: We want to achieve more by using recyclable materials and producing less waste.



Moving away from a throwaway society to a circular economy. We assume the responsibility.

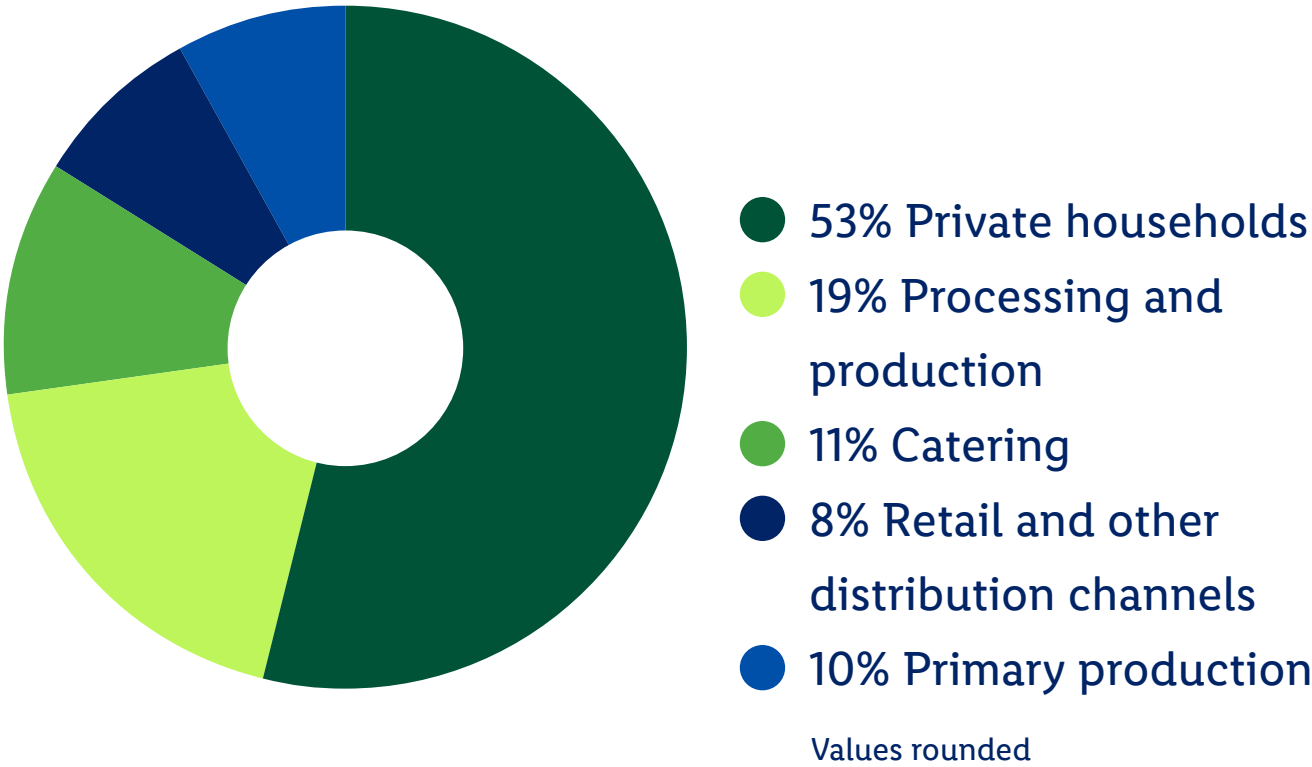
In the world’s major industrial nations, we currently operate as though the resources of three planet Earths were available to us. And the volume of waste is steadily growing. The impending shortage of natural resources and increasing environmental pollution are among the ten biggest global risks of the next decade.³ As a globally operating retailer, we recognize the responsibility we bear, as well as the opportunity we have to be part of the solution. That is why we are continuously driving the transformation from a linear throwaway economy to a circular economy.

To us, it is clear: Whoever puts resources like plastic into the loop is also responsible for recycling those resources. We fully accept this responsibility. At Lidl, we want to manage resources responsibly throughout the entire value chain, from the production and further processing of our products through to transportation and recycling.

We are also committed to tackling food waste. According to Eurostat, more than 58 million tons of food waste (fresh mass) was generated in the EU in 2023. Thus, scarce and valuable resources such as water and arable land are also being used for the production of food that is ultimately not consumed. The largest share of food waste in the EU is generated in private households (53%). The remaining share occurs during processing and production (19%), in catering (11%), in retail and other distribution channels (8%) and in primary production (10%).⁴

This calls for joint action, which is why we are working in collaboration with our partners to tackle food waste. Alongside waste generated in operations, private-label packaging, and sustainable and recycled non-food products, food waste is one of the four key topics within the “Conserving resources” field of action through which Lidl is addressing the challenges described.

Food waste in the EU requires joint action — together with our partners and customers:



³ Global Risks Report 2025, WEF
⁴ Eurostat: Food waste and food waste prevention — estimates, 2024.



Recyclate instead of new plastic — as part of the REset Resources strategy, we rely consistently on the circular economy. In the modern PreZero plants, recyclable materials are processed carefully.

-30%

plastics in private-label packaging

-10%

new plastic through material efficiency

At Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG, the strategic responsibility for streams of recyclables lies with the Operations & Real Estate business unit, in cooperation with GreenCycle. The Logistics departments in the respective national companies are responsible for operational implementation. GreenCycle also provides some support with the selection of waste management companies. The issue of food waste is managed by Value Stream Management in conjunction with CSR Environmental Responsibility.

Good to know

LIDL II: REset Resources
New REset Resources Strategy

In the reporting year, the companies of Schwarz Group expanded the jointly developed “REset Plastic” strategy into a holistic circular economy strategy. Being a member of the companies of Schwarz Group, Lidl uses the group’s unique network as the basis for a sustainable circular economy. REset Resources takes a holistic approach, encompassing all key topics of the circular economy: ranging from packaging, products and construction to food waste and recovery processes. As part of the REset Plastic strategy, Lidl has achieved its targets of reducing the use of new plastic in private-label packaging by 10 percent and using 30 percent less plastic overall by 2025. Recyclability has also been improved, and the proportion of recycled material in own-brand packaging is being continuously increased. One lever for this is minimum quotas, which define the proportion of recycled material in PET bottles. Find more information on REset Resources [here](#).

From Operational Waste to Recyclable Material GRI 301-2, 306-1, 306-2, 306-3

At Lidl, we want to drive the transformation from a linear “throwaway” economy to a circular economy globally. The waste generated in operations today is also tomorrow’s recyclable material. In collaboration with suppliers and customers, we are working hard to prevent waste and reuse more materials.

We record the resource flows in our operational processes in order to follow the ideal of the circular economy in our resource and waste management as far as possible. The efficient separation and proper disposal of the resulting materials enables the reuse or recycling of the resources used and minimizes the proportion of non-recyclable waste. After all, we see today’s waste as tomorrow’s recyclable material. In the 2025 fiscal year, we reused, recycled or recovered over 90 percent of the volume of waste generated in the companies. For information on the waste generated in the reporting year, see the section on [📄 Sorting by Type Wherever Possible with GreenCycle](#) (p. 52).

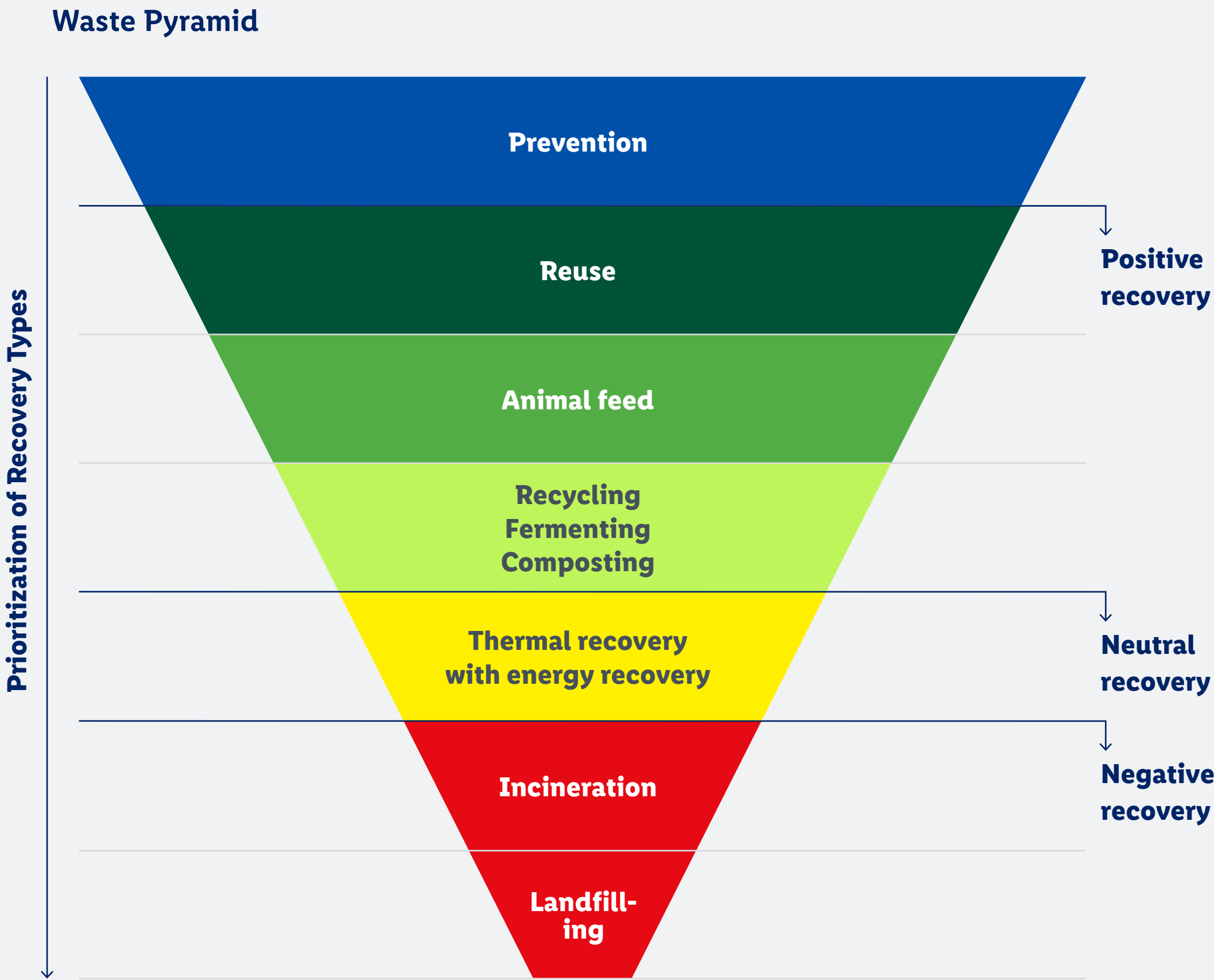
Despite our best efforts with our processes, it is not possible to completely avoid generating waste (e.g., cardboard, stretch film, wood, etc.). We dispose of these materials in accordance with the applicable regulations by various means of recovery. We are also working with our suppliers to raise awareness among our customers of how to handle waste responsibly.

Road to Zero Waste

We are committed to efficient resource and waste management and recycling. In doing so, we are reducing the use of resources and keeping valuable raw materials in the recycling loop. We record the resource flows in our operational processes and ensure the efficient separation and proper disposal of the resulting materials. With our “Road to Zero Waste” concept, we want to reduce our environmental impact and also secure strategic resources for the future. With the aid of our waste management system,

we are optimizing our recycling paths (reuse, animal feed, recycling, fermentation and composting) and minimizing non-recyclable waste, such as residual

waste. As well as introducing new disposal concepts, we are optimizing existing measures and promoting new concepts for waste prevention and separation.





Acting locally



Road to Zero Waste Certified to Gold Standard

On the road to zero waste, the national companies Lidl Netherlands, Lidl Czech Republic, as well as Lidl Ireland and Lidl Northern Ireland have reached a milestone: the “Road to Zero Waste” Gold certification from TÜV SÜD. This makes them the first retailers in their countries to be certified in accordance with the underlying DIN SPEC 91436 standard. This certification is the result of their long-standing commitment to waste prevention (using as little material as possible), reuse and recycling. Lidl Ireland was also recognized as Ireland’s most sustainable retailer in the Ireland RepTrak® Sustainability Index 2024, setting the standard in the industry once more.

Close Cooperation with PreZero

As the internationally active environmental division of the companies of Schwarz Group, PreZero delivers a comprehensive range of services in the area of waste and recycling management — both for external customers and within companies of Schwarz Group. GreenCycle, a PreZero company, takes care of internal waste and recycling management for Lidl.

The close collaboration with PreZero takes the form of workshops with employees and managers, training measures, advice shared in information letters and sorting instructions, to name a few examples. Other matters that the companies address together include separation concepts and changes in legislation. In addition, PreZero regularly evaluates relevant KPIs and discusses them with the responsible departments.

GRI 306-2, 306-4, 306-5

Sorting by Type Wherever Possible with GreenCycle

Since recyclable materials management differs greatly from country to country, the specifications, such as those concerning sorting and recycling rates, can differ nationally. As a general rule, waste in stores and logistics should be sorted and disposed of by the corresponding service providers or prepared for transport in accordance with defined specifications. GreenCycle supports our national companies with this, helping them to find suitable recyclers, establish separate streams of recyclables and share their experiences with one another. This allows recyclable materials to be reused, recycled, fermented or composted. Anything that is not recyclable or cannot be separated is disposed of by means of thermal recovery or incineration (without recovery) or sent to landfill.

Employees of the companies of Schwarz Group separate the collected waste at the annual Clean-Up Day.





Acting locally

Bringing the Circular Economy to Life

The TransforMAR program in Portugal has been part of the Lidl REset Plastic strategy since 2018. It was launched as a pioneering project by Lidl and the Portuguese waste management company Electrão — with the support of important partners such as Brigada do Mar (Portuguese NGO for coastal cleaning), the APA (Environmental Agency Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente) and ABAAE (Blue Flag Association for Environmental Education). The aim is to promote recycling awareness and to show how packaging waste can be turned into new, useful products. So far, over 270 tons of plastic and metal waste as well as fishing nets have been removed from Portuguese beaches, seas and rivers. TransforMAR also organizes fun, educational beach events to raise awareness of recycling and the circular economy among families.

Of the total 2,817,154 tons of recyclable materials, including residual waste, generated during the reporting period, we were able to reuse, recycle, ferment or compost around 2,563,431 tons. That is equivalent to more than 90 percent of our material volume. Despite our best efforts with our processes, it is not possible to completely avoid generating non-reusable and non-recyclable materials. As a result, 110,299 tons had to be thermally recovered, incinerated (non-recoverable) or landfilled. The share of thermal recovery was 3.9 percent, and incineration (non-recoverable) and landfill accounted for 5.1 percent.



Thanks to a number of measures, we are able to positively recover the majority of our waste.



More than **90%** positive recovery of our material volume



Acting locally

Award-Winning Waste Reduction

In 2023, Lidl Hungary initiated a comprehensive information campaign on waste separation on social media, aimed at followers, employees and — since 2024 — students. The goal was to raise awareness for environmentally friendly behavior and to provide practical tips on sorting waste. In recognition, Lidl received the 2024 CSR Hungary Award in the “Best CSR Communication” category. In addition, the national company offers its customers in-store collection containers to dispose of used cooking oils and fats. In 2025, customers safely disposed of their used oil at 124 stores throughout the country, which was passed on to be used in the production of biodiesel.

Tackling Food Waste GRI 301-3

Food loss and waste can arise anywhere along the entire value chain. At Lidl, we are tackling the issue at various points along the chain while also raising customer awareness of the need for responsible food consumption.

The main cause of food waste in the retail sector is the discarding of food that is no longer fit for sale. At Lidl, we want to avoid throwing away products with a limited shelf life as much as possible. We therefore rely on a demand-oriented materials planning system, an efficient supply chain with short transport routes, continuous compliance with cold chains, inventory monitoring and price reduction. Simultaneously, we also want to raise customer awareness of the need to appreciate food, see the section on [Raising Customer Awareness of the Need to Prevent Food Waste](#) (p. 56).

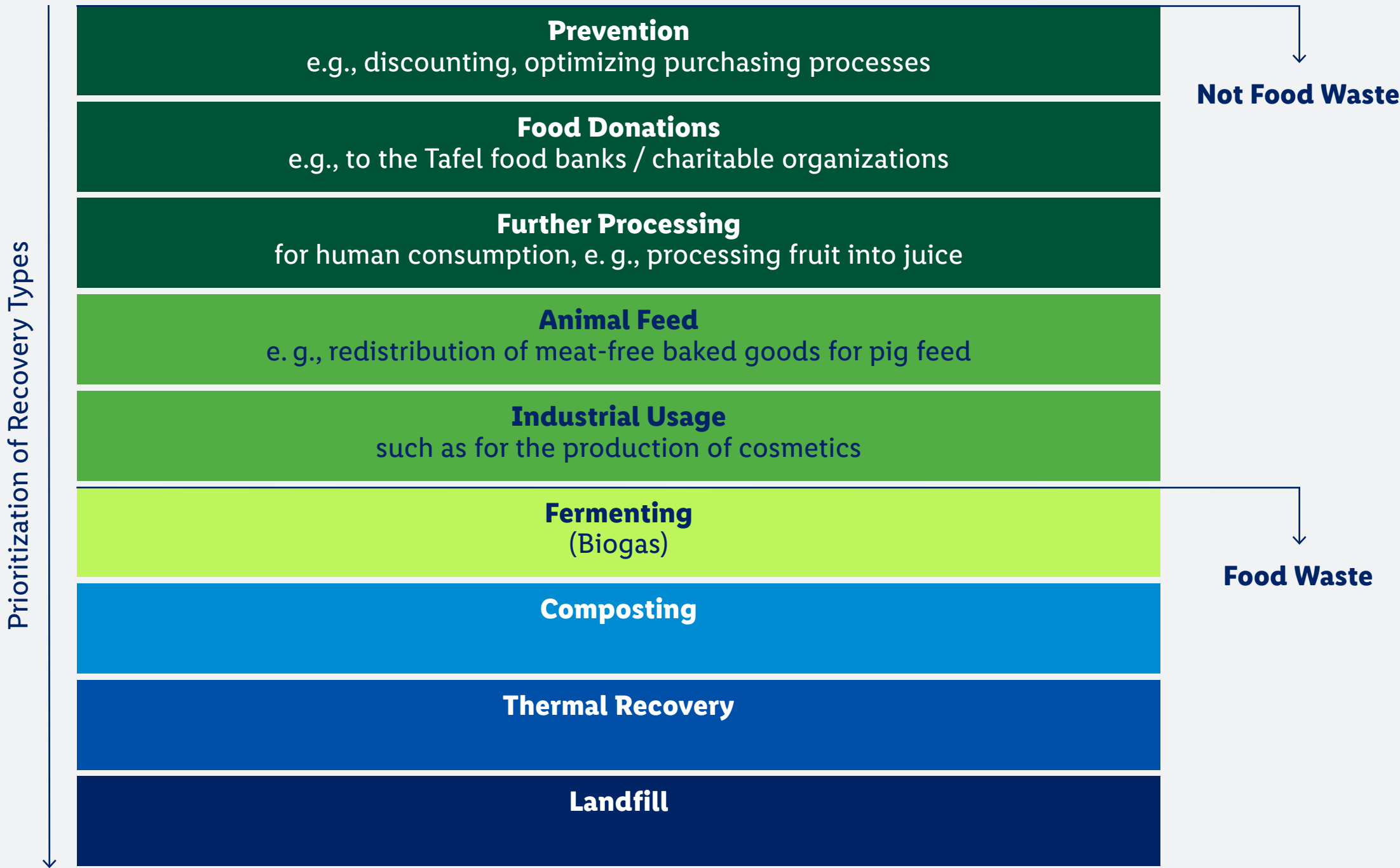
Innovative Solutions
In order to reduce food waste, we also rely on innovative procedures. This is how the larvae of the black soldier fly convert unavoidable food waste into valuable resources: They break down the organic waste and make its nutrients reusable again as high-quality protein flour and insect oil. This creates an innovative alternative to conventional animal feed. PreZero, our environmental service provider, is working on implementing this process on an industrial scale.



LIDL III: Ensure responsible handling of food

Our Approach to Tackling Food Waste

In accordance with our food waste hierarchy, we concentrate on avoiding food waste. Where it does occur, we want to recover it as sensibly as possible.



“Rescue Me” and “Rescue Bag” Initiatives
Tackle Food Waste

As part of the “Rette mich” (Rescue Me) initiative launched in 2022, Lidl offers perfectly good items from all relevant product groups that are approaching their best-before date or use-by date at a discounted price. The Lidl national companies also point out that food that is still edible but only slightly damaged or discolored, or has dirty or slightly damaged packaging. Baked goods, dairy products and sausage products from the self-service area are included in the initiative as well as products from the dry food assortment and frozen goods. Another measure is the Lidl “rescue bag” for fruit and vegetables that no longer entirely meet our quality standards, yet are still suitable for consumption. These items are sold as a mixed bag or cardboard box at a reduced fixed price.

24
national companies are
already successfully
implementing the concept



By means of this measure, fruit and vegetables that are still edible but perhaps do not quite meet the high Lidl quality criteria are saved from the trash can.



Good to know

A Good Choice — The "Lidl Rescue Bag"

The concept of the “Lidl rescue bag” has already been successfully implemented in a total of 24 national companies and is currently in the test phase in one more. In the reporting year, the sale of over 27 million rescue bags saved more than 110,000 tons of fruit and vegetables from ending up in the trash.

Over
27
million rescue
bags sold



Acting locally



Systematically Preventing Food Waste with Neighbourly & His Church

Since 2016, Lidl Great Britain has been working with charitable organizations Neighbourly and His Church to reduce food waste and support local communities. The Neighbourly platform connects each store and His Church connects each distribution center with local food banks. This ensures that surplus, edible food is delivered to social institutions every single day. In 2025 alone, almost 18.5 million meals were saved from disposal and distributed to those in need. Since these initiatives began, we have provided more than 50 million meals to charitable causes. This work remains a vital part of Lidl’s commitment to conserving resources, lowering carbon emissions and strengthening social cohesion across British communities.



Thanks to precise quantity planning and discount promotions as well as donations to the Tafel food banks, we avoid food waste.



Notes on our products inform our customers about their shelf life.

Donating Products to Charitable Causes

Despite the use of predictive quantity planning and the discount measures described above, food does still occasionally have to be written off at Lidl. If leftover food cannot be avoided, it can be put to good use, for example by donating it to charitable organizations. In compliance with the applicable regulations, we give goods that can still be enjoyed but are no longer fit for sale to charitable organizations that distribute the food to those in need. Our Lidl national companies work with local food banks to do this. We also work with companies that specialize in converting food waste into animal feed: They take baked goods and fruit and vegetables that are no longer fit for sale and reprocess them into animal feed.

Raising Customer Awareness of the Need to Prevent Food Waste

More than half of all food waste in Europe is produced in private households.⁵ That is why we encourage our customers to value food and reduce food waste. Since February 2020, we have been actively educating customers on this topic and providing relevant recommendations. By means of a note on products with best-before dates, we urge our customers to use their own judgment to assess the shelf life of food before disposing of it too soon.



Acting locally



“Hranozavest” Against Food Waste

Together with partners, Lidl Slovenia launched the “Slovenian Day Without Food Waste,” which has been officially recognized by the Slovenian state as a national day of action to be observed every April 24. The aim is to create broad awareness of how food should be handled responsibly and to promote a society that treats food with more respect. In this context, the term “Hranozavest” was coined — a new Slovenian word that Lidl Slovenia and its partners developed for the project, representing food awareness. Lidl has been investing in measures to change behaviors around food for years now, organizing a range of expert discussions, competitions and school projects to mark this annual day of awareness. For the accompanying campaign, Lidl received the 2024 Gold Quill Award of Excellence from IABC.

⁵ Eurostat: Food waste and food waste prevention — estimates, 2024.

The Drive Toward Recyclable Private-Label Packaging GRI 301-3, 306-2

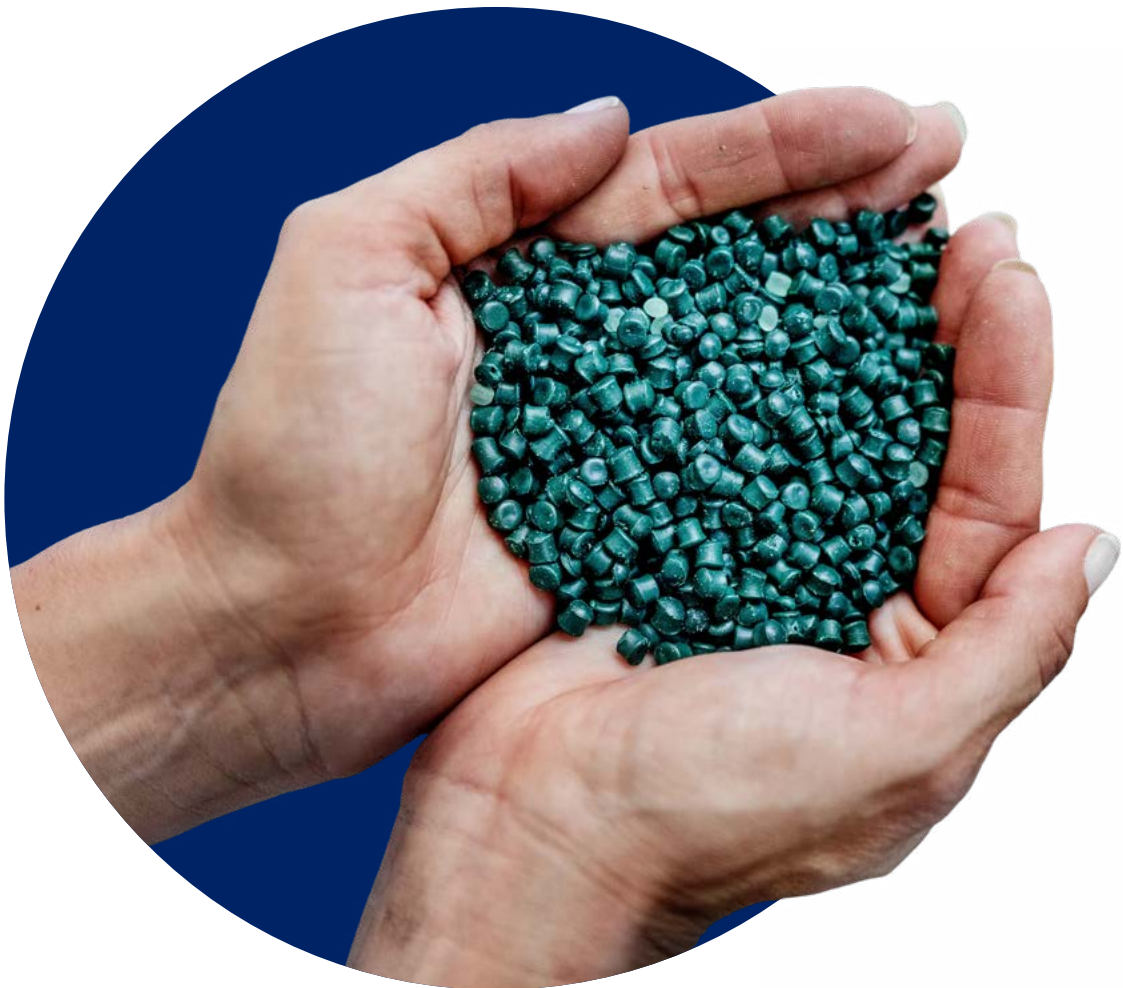
When it comes to our ability to influence the packaging of products in our assortment, we have the most control over our private labels. We are working with our suppliers to advance the use of recyclable packaging through various pilot projects. We want to establish bottle deposit systems throughout Europe and are trialing the universal introduction of these systems in pilot stores.

At Lidl we work together closely with other companies of Schwarz Group to make the packaging of our private labels suitable for recycling. Specific responsibilities for individual measures and process steps are assigned on a division-specific basis. For example, under the PreTurn brand of PreZero, intelligent multi-use pallets and pooling services are developed in cooperation with Schwarz Beschaffung.

Using More Recycled Material

Whenever possible, we use recyclete in our private-label packaging.⁶ The recycled plastic comes from sources including plastic packaging disposed of in private households. By means of innovative washing and sorting processes, we have managed to prepare the recyclable material in such a way that it fulfills the high statutory requirements for food packaging and is food safe.

We are also focused on the use of recycled material in packaging for laundry, cleaning and household products, as well as shampoos and shower gels, in cooperation with GreenCycle. In 2025, we were able to increase the proportion of recycled material in private-label packaging made of plastic from 19 percent to 25.8 percent. But our commitment to recycling extends beyond plastic: We also prioritize the use of recycled material in our paper and cardboard packaging. And if fresh fiber is used, it must be either certified by FSC® or PEFC. In the 2025 fiscal year, the proportion of certified pulp and paper contained in pulp and paper products and packaging was 69.1 percent.



More than **25 % recyclete**
More and more Lidl private-label packaging is made of recycled plastic



Loop Closed for Yogurt Pots Made of Recycled Material

The use of recycled material in non-PET packaging that comes into contact with food is currently still very restrictive. So far, recyclete has been used mainly in non-food and near-food, but less so in the food area. However, we have succeeded in closing another loop for yogurt pots thanks to the work carried out in a project launched in 2022 involving recycled polystyrene. It uses polystyrene that is disposed of by customers in their recycling bag or container and is then sorted and cleaned, before being processed into pellets and finally made into new yogurt pots. The project was carried out in collaboration with partners PreZero, supplier T.M.A., INEOS and Lidl, and marks an important milestone on the journey toward our targets for (plastic) packaging. In March 2025, we successfully concluded the pilot project, which also marks an important step in our preparations for the European Packaging Regulation (PPWR).

⁶ By recycled materials we mean 100 percent PCR (post-consumer recycled materials), i.e., recycled plastic from household waste, coloring (color pigment) and filler for the referenced product category.



Deposit Return Systems as a Core Element of the Circular Economy

Lidl Bulgaria has been carrying out a pilot project for the voluntary acceptance of deposit returns since March 2023. The national company is thus playing a pioneering role in the voluntary acceptance of deposit returns in the country. By the end of February 2026, Lidl Bulgaria was offering deposit returns in 37 stores in 22 cities all over the country, each equipped with two reverse vending machines. These return stations are not only open to customers, but enable all consumers to return PET bottles and cans, regardless of the original point of purchase. In the first month alone, around 300,000 PET bottles and cans were returned. From March 2023 to November 2025, a total of over 121 million PET bottles and cans were collected and recycled.



In the PreZero plant, plastic is sorted, cleaned and processed into high-quality recycled material for new bottles.

Plastic Recyclate for Personal Care Products

We are also driving forward the use of recycled material with innovative new ideas. One example is the high-density polyethylene loop, where we are able to use a plastic recyclate for personal care products thanks to state-of-the-art recycling technology. The used hard polyethylene (HDPE) bottles are collected from private households and sorted by PreZero according to type. The sorted HDPE packaging is then pressed into bales to optimize transport utilization. At the PreZero recycling plant, the packaging is first sorted by color, shredded into flakes and washed. The flakes are then cleaned and re-sorted before being processed into high-quality recyclate, which can be used to make new HDPE bottles.

Driving Forward Bottle Deposit Systems in Europe

The PET recycling loop also depends on consumer commitment. By using the bottle deposit system, the customers provide the basis for a functioning recycling loop. As a company of Schwarz Group, we support the development of single-use bottle deposit systems in all European countries in which no such systems currently exist. This also counteracts littering in public areas. In a trial project in selected stores, Lidl already allows customers to return single-use PET bottles and beverage cans via reverse vending machines in countries that do not require this by law. By collecting this packaging, we enable our internal partners to then process the material into high-quality recyclate, ensuring that the raw material stays in our value creation system. This project demonstrates that we at Lidl take responsibility even without statutory requirements and invest in economically viable circular economy solutions.

New Strategies with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Lidl is paving the way to a functioning circular economy, working in collaboration with partners and going beyond the statutory driving forces. Since signing the Global Commitment of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, companies of Schwarz Group made a commitment in 2018 to actively work toward the more sustainable use of resources. This agreement was launched by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme. In October 2025, the companies of Schwarz Group signed the Global Commitment once again. We hereby confirm the continuation of the partnership until 2030 and commit to reducing virgin plastic in the primary plastic packaging of our own brands by five percent by 2030 compared to 2018. We are developing new strategies and solutions together with the companies involved, as well as governments, NGOs and initiatives, to promote the circular economy, especially for plastics. The Plastics Pact Network of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation includes national plastics pacts in countries such as the UK, the USA and Poland as well as regional pacts such as the European Plastics Pact. The companies of Schwarz Group participate globally and support national implementation wherever possible on a company-specific or cross-company basis.

The Circular Economy in Non-Food GRI 301-3

Lidl is also actively committed to waste prevention and recycling in relation to its non-food products. Our focus here is on increasing the use of recycled raw materials in products such as textiles, household goods and electrical goods.

One of the ways in which Lidl supported the circular economy in the non-food area during the reporting year was through the use of shopping baskets made of recycled plastic. Lidl is rethinking its roller and hand-held baskets: In the future, hand-held baskets will be made from 93–95 percent recycled material, roller baskets from 80 percent recycled material and XXL roller baskets from 87 percent recycled material. Shopping baskets already in circulation are being replaced gradually so that baskets that are still in good condition are used for as long as possible. This measure minimizes resource consumption. The new models will then be delivered to stores in all of the countries where Lidl has a presence.

The recycled material used is post-consumer recycled material. The entire recycling and manufacturing process is handled in Europe.

In addition, Lidl uses protective strips made from 99 percent recycled material to conserve further resources and minimize its ecological footprint. Working in collaboration with PreZero, Lidl also uses recycled materials for the packaging of various laundry, cleaning and household products as well as shampoos and shower gels, also see the section on [The Drive Toward Recyclable Private-Label Packaging](#) (p. 57).

Furthermore, Lidl processes unsold textiles and other non-food items that are distributed via service providers in countries where Lidl is not represented. Around 3,951 tons  of textiles were reused in this way in the reporting year.

← Lidl continues to make progress on the topic of recycling: Recycled material conserves resources and lowers emissions.



Donating Goods to Charity

Several Lidl national companies donate textiles and near-food to charity, including in Austria, Hungary, Latvia, Estonia and Romania. Lidl Austria and the HUMANA People to People Association have already collected almost 105 tons of textiles with clothing donation bins at 33 stores — with plans for more. Lidl Austria donates the rental fees collected for providing the bin locations to Pro Juventute, supporting children and young people. In Switzerland, Lidl has been cooperating with Tell-Tex AG since 2017: Used clothing and footwear are collected in containers in store parking lots, for which a donation is made to Children’s Cancer Aid Switzerland. In Latvia, own-brand electronic devices returned while still under warranty are repaired, if possible, and donated to SOS Children’s Villages.



Quantities According to Material and Movement Type GRI 306-5

Material in Tons	Movement Type	2023	2024	2025
PCC (paper, cardboard, cartons)	Reuse	–	23.9	–
	Recycling	1,436,041.0	1,498,074.3	1,561,277.5
	Thermal recovery	243.5	191.3	311.0
	Incineration	–	–	–
	Unknown ⁷	7,731.3	245.5	516.8
Organics	Reuse	28,190.5	31,413.8	36,830.3
	Fermenting	361,068.1	397,417.5	431,279.2
	Composting	11,826.6	15,077.6	21,002.5
	Recycling	50,363.7	22,145.9	13,004.5
	Thermal recovery	972.2	1,083.8	1,153.1
	Landfilling	7,203.3	5,012.1	5,587.6
	Animal feed ⁸	–	38,343.2	44,162.9
	Incineration	5,239.4	1,602.5	645.7
	Unknown ⁷	13,239.7	14,336.9	12,567.5
PET	Recycling	102,082.4	134,857.7	148,209.2
	Thermal recovery	7.8	–	–
	Incineration	–	–	–
	Landfilling	–	–	–
	Unknown ⁷	235.4	65.7	–
Plastics	Recycling	52,940.6	57,300.2	59,520.0
	Thermal recovery	3,995.0	4,150.7	2,958.2
	Incineration	1.6	10.1	31.2
	Landfilling	228.6	256.1	91.2
	Unknown ⁷	1,419.3	165.6	868.7

Material in Tons	Movement Type	2023	2024	2025
Wood	Reuse	27,156.4	32,995.1	35,363.7
	Recycling	48,606.4	50,448.4	54,541.8
	Composting	404.4	821.3	315.7
	Thermal recovery	3,122.8	3,532.6	2,487.2
	Incineration	67.1	116.2	61.6
	Landfilling	1,527.4	1,618.2	1,494.7
	Unknown ⁷	11.3	28.3	54.4
Textiles	Reuse	2,643.5	3,268.2	3,951.4
	Recycling	31.4	20.4	50.3
	Thermal recovery	14.8	23.2	35.1
	Incineration	23.4	26.2	69.4
	Landfilling	5.6	4.8	24.8
	Unknown ⁷	19.7	0.2	–
Glass	Recycling	18,823.5	46,472.2	73,527.0
	Landfilling	–	–	1.5
	Unknown	2.3	–	41.8
Scrap	Recycling	28,222.6	38,230.7	44,626.8
	Landfilling	20.9	10.0	6.8
	Unknown ⁷	64.7	22.8	7.0
Residual waste	Recycling	–	7,497.7	8,139.5
	Thermal recovery	88,892.8	93,198.8	101,385.8
	Incineration	1,849.5	1,902.9	2,198.6
	Landfilling	103,450.2	107,041.0	101,623.7
	Unknown ⁷	24,743.5	17,460.2	13,988.6

⁷ The category “Unknown” is a compound category which also includes volumes that cannot be positively assigned to the above-mentioned categories.

⁸ The KPI for animal feed was reported under recycling in the 2023 fiscal year, but has been reported separately since the 2024 fiscal year.

Quantities According to Material and Movement Type GRI 306-5

Material in Tons	Movement Type	2023	2024	2025
Other non-hazardous recyclables	Reuse	8,467.9	11,874.8	11,788.1
	Recycling	5,215.9	7,216.4	7,886.7
	Thermal recovery	3,477.2	1,730.2	1,631.9
	Incineration	75.2	127.9	389.7
	Landfilling	990.4	839.3	1,516.4
	Unknown ⁹	73.2	189.2	466.9
Non-hazardous recyclables	Reuse	66,458.4	79,575.8	87,938.2
	Recycling	1,742,327.5	1,862,263.9	1,970,783.2
	Composting	12,231.0	15,898.9	21,318.2
	Thermal recovery	100,726.2	103,910.6	109,962.3
	Incineration	7,256.2	3,785.8	3,396.1
	Landfilling	113,426.4	114,781.6	110,346.6
Hazardous recyclables ¹⁰	Reuse	1,159.4	1,390.6	92.3
	Recycling	6,418.7	6,363.0	7,857.2
	Thermal recovery	387.7	445.7	336.9
	Incineration	530.8	996.6	994.9
	Landfilling	310.8	148.6	165.8
	Unknown ⁹	55.5	42.0	9.1

⁹ The category “Unknown” is a compound category which also includes volumes that cannot be positively assigned to the above-mentioned categories.

¹⁰ This includes, for example, old paints/varnishes, household/industrial batteries, energy-saving light bulbs, electrical waste, fluorescent tubes, (neon) toner, cleaning products, acids and lye, solvents, spray bottles, and old fire extinguishers.

Material in Tons	Movement Type	2023	2024	2025
Total	Total recyclables (including residual waste)	2,459,897.2	2,657,877.9	2,817,154.4
	Reuse	67,617.8	80,966.4	88,030.6
	Recycling	1,748,746.2	1,868,626.8	1,978,640.4
	Thermal recovery	101,113.9	104,356.2	110,299.1
	Incineration	7,787.0	4,782.3	4,391.0
	Landfilling	113,737.2	114,930.1	110,512.4
	Fermenting	361,068.1	397,417.5	431,279.2
	Composting	12,231.0	15,898.9	21,318.2
	Animal feed	—	38,343.2	44,162.9
	Unknown ⁹	47,596.0	32,556.4	28,520.7

Material Volume by Type¹¹

GRI 306-3

Material in Tons	2023	2024	2025
Non-Hazardous			
PCC (paper, cardboard, cartons)	1,444,015.9 58.7%	1,498,535.0 56.4%	1,562,105.3 ✓ 55.5%
Organics	478,103.6 19.4%	526,433.3 19.8%	566,233.3 ✓ 20.1%
PET	102,325.6 4.2%	134,923.4 5.1%	148,209.2 ✓ 5.3%
Plastics	58,585.1 2.4%	61,882.7 2.3%	63,473.9 ✓ 2.3%
Wood	80,895.8 3.3%	89,560.0 3.4%	94,319.0 ✓ 3.4%
Textiles	2,738.4 0.1%	3,342.9 0.1%	4,130.8 ✓ 0.2%
Glass	18,825.8 0.8%	46,472.2 1.8%	73,570.3 ✓ 2.6%
Scrap	28,308.2 1.2%	38,263.5 1.4%	44,640.5 ✓ 1.6%
Residual waste	218,935.9 8.9%	227,100.6 8.5%	227,336.2 ✓ 8.1%
Other non-hazardous recyclables	18,299.9 0.7%	21,977.9 0.8%	23,679.7 ✓ 0.8%
Hazardous			
Hazardous recyclables ¹²	8,862.9 0.3%	9,386.3 0.4%	9,456.1 ✓ 0.3%
Total	2,459,897.2	2,657,877.9	2,817,154.4 ✓

¹¹ Proportion of the particular material in the total material volume.
¹² This includes, for example, old paints/varnishes, household/industrial batteries, energy-saving light bulbs, electrical waste, fluorescent tubes, (neon) toner, cleaning products, acids and lye, solvents, spray bottles, and old fire extinguishers

Use of Plastic and Paper

GRI 301-1, 301-2

Material in Tons	2023	2024	2025
Paper			
Household leaflet advertising material/customer magazine/other	251,008.1	228,110.8	221,828.5
Printing paper consumption	2,349.2	2,655.4	2,264.8
Consumption of paper bread bags	17,016.5	18,894.3	17,231.5
of which recycled material			
Household leaflet advertising material/customer magazine/other – recycled fibers	157,347.7	171,188.8	164,194.6
Printing paper consumption – recycled fibers	1,339.6	1,665.5	1,369.4
Consumption of paper bread bags – recycled fibers	—	—	—
Plastic			
Plastic weight/garbage bags	5,752.3	6,775.3	7,626.3
Plastic weight/stretch film (packaging material)	8,207.4	9,062.7	9,802.5
Sold F&V reusable nets	3,213,720	3,069,800.0	5,223,176.0