The treatment of non-recyclable waste

Products which are not fit for reuse or recycling are called “non-recyclable waste”.

In Europe in 2018, 116 million tons were non-recyclable waste, out of a total of 220 million tons of municipal waste generated.

There are two options for this kind of waste: Waste-to-Energy or Landfilling.

The advantages of Waste-to-Energy

- Recovery of energy and materials
- Avoidance of methane emissions
- Abatement of odor nuisance
- Over 90% reduction of volume
- Saving of valuable land
The treatment of non-recyclable waste

Non-recyclable waste can be quite diverse items, for a variety of reasons:

- **Polluted waste**
- **Degraded waste** (e.g. after several rounds of recycling)
- **Waste made up of composite materials**

Waste generation will greatly increase worldwide by 2050. **Our duty is to manage it in a sustainable way.**

Projected waste generation by region: 2016, 2030, 2050

![Graph showing projected waste generation by region](https://www.eswet.eu/assets/images/graph.png)

Source: World Bank report "What a Waste 2.0"