

Highlights and challenges of waste management policies in Finland

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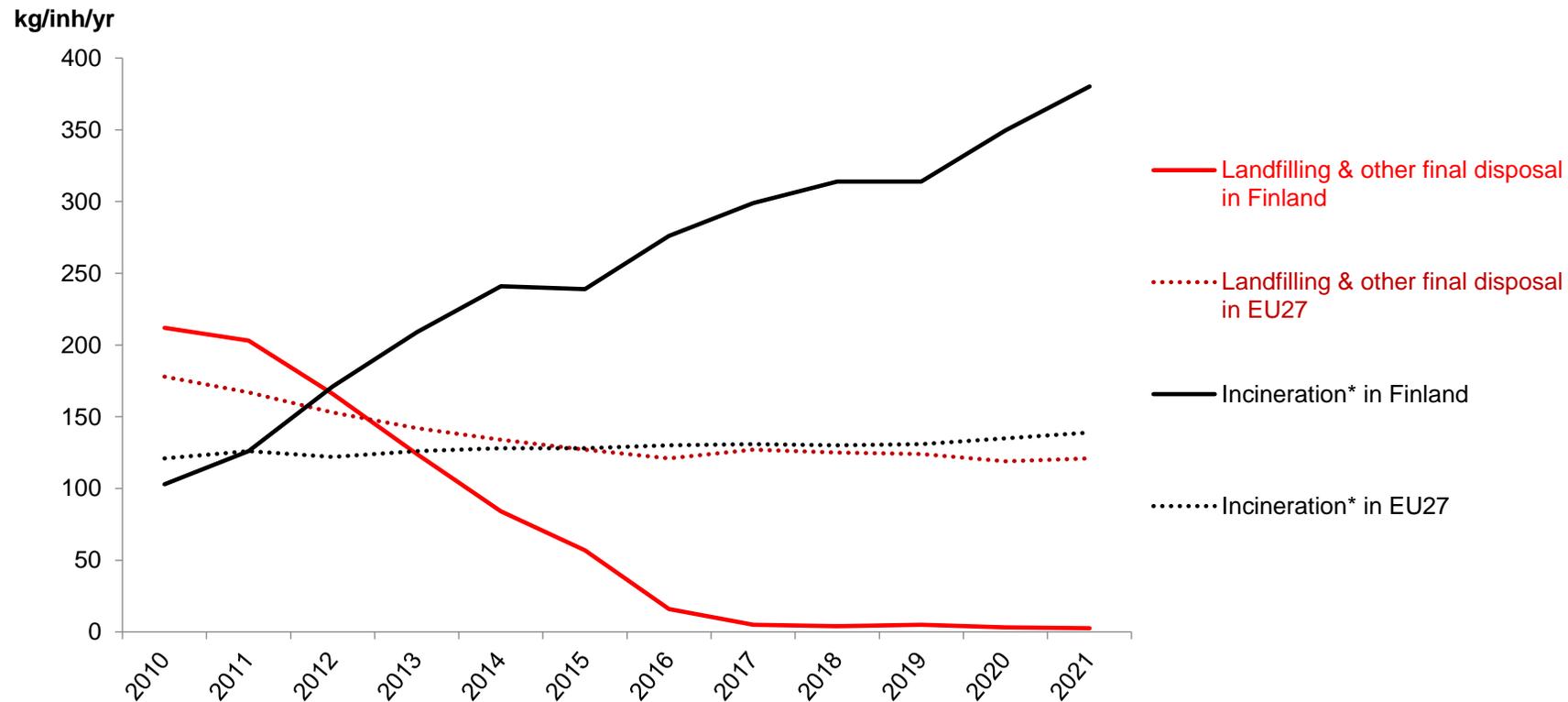


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- A person wearing a pink beanie and a bikini is sitting in a hot spring. The hot spring is a pool of dark water surrounded by snow. The background is a vast, flat, snowy landscape under a grey sky.
- **Finland is a frontrunner in the strategic promotion of circular economy.**
 - **We were the first country to draft a national circular economy roadmap in 2016 and among the first countries to set targets to curb our use of natural resources.**
 - **Finland scores well in eco-innovation comparisons. Resource efficiency is high in many sectors.**

BUT.....

Trends of landfilling and incineration of municipal waste

Final disposal and energy recovery of municipal waste in Finland and in EU 27, kg/inhabitant/year (Source: EUROSTAT ja Statistics Finland; Figure: Finnish Environment Institute)

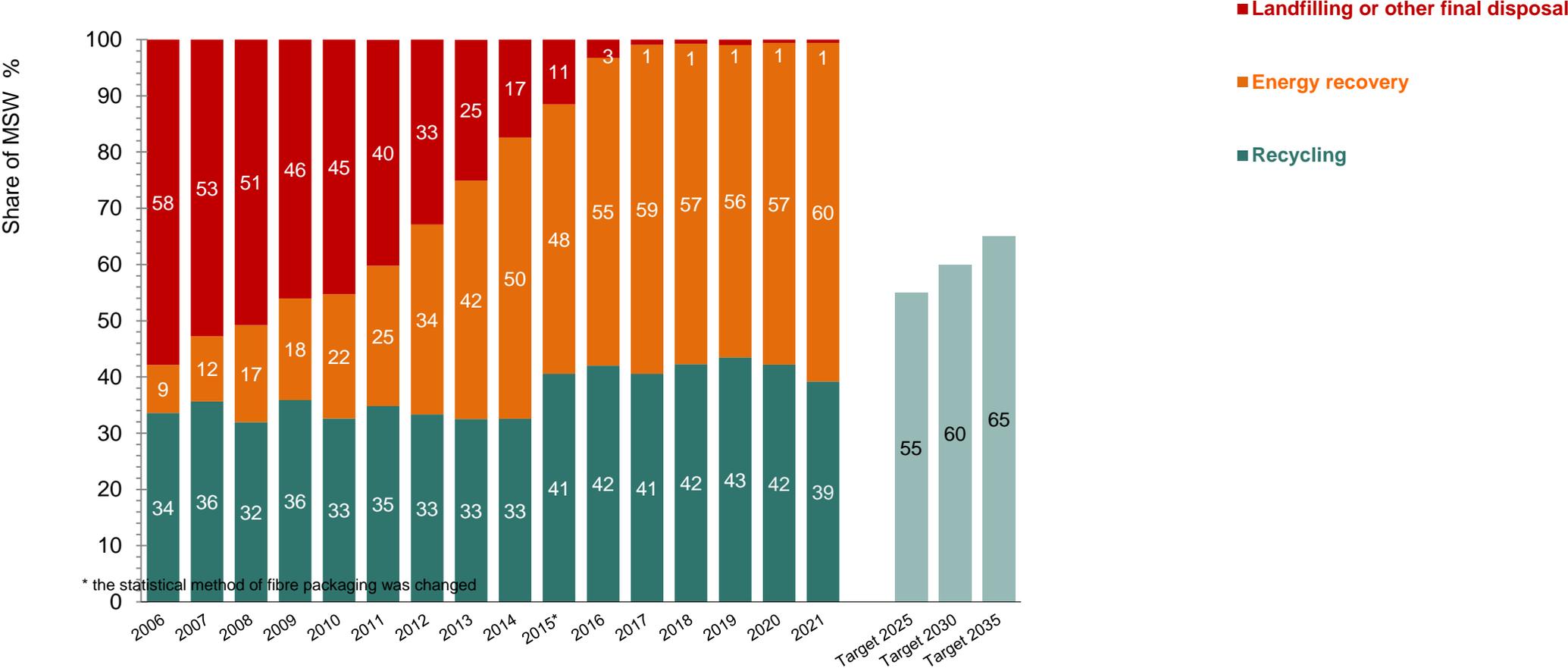


* Incineration= incineration with and without energy recovery

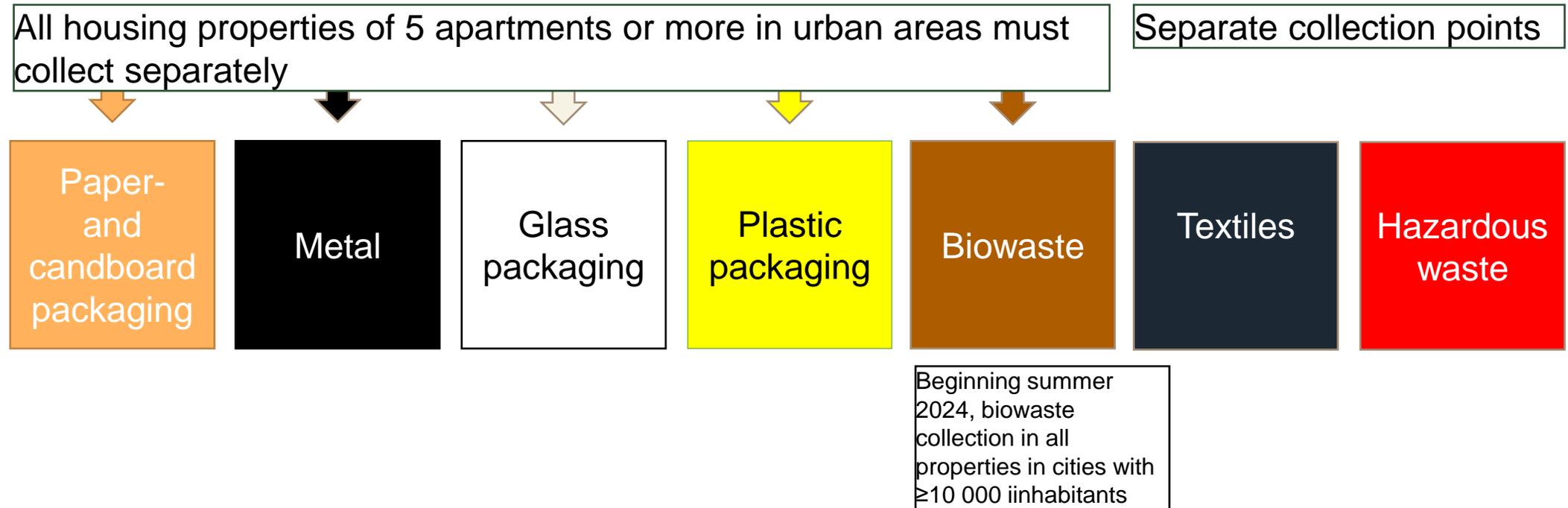


Treatment of municipal waste in 2006-2021 and target levels set for recycling

(Source: Statistics Finland and VALTSU-monitoring; Figure: Finnish Environment Institute)



Separate collection of municipal waste in residential properties



- In addition, the producer is responsible for **separate collection points** for WEEE, packaging waste and batteries and **property-specific** paper collection.
- Naturally, there are also separate collection obligations in administrative and service functions and in companies.

Burdening you with basics:



The circular economy plays a crucial role in ecological reconstruction

ROOT CAUSE

**Overconsumption
of natural resources**

CONSEQUENCE

Climate change

Biodiversity loss

SOLUTION

**Carbon neutral circular
economy**

Sufficiency thinking

The circular economy plays a crucial role in construction



“The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed.”
— Mahatma Gandhi

ROOT CAUSE

Overconsumption of natural resources

Climate change

Biodiversity loss

SOLUTION

Circular

any

thinking



Highlights of circular economy compatible waste policies in Finland

- Bottle packaging refund system
- Circular economy programmes and emphasis on CE promotion
=> WCEF (World Circular Economy Forum) a case in point: <https://www.sitra.fi/en/projects/wcef/>
- Well-functioning public-private partnership in municipal waste management – despite differing opinions on some issues, there are numerous good examples of cooperation in, e.g., biowaste management and producer responsibility issues



However, CE incompatibility prevails...

- Recycling rates for municipal and construction waste are lagging behind, despite legislative efforts
one of the anticipated results: too much burning of wood and other recyclable materials (as explained in previous slides...)
(releasing ourselves off the hook: possible explanations also Russian invasion of Ukraine, Covid pandemia, etc.)
- One domestic reason is the continuous legislative turbulence in municipal waste management responsibilities. This creates an unpredictable investment environment and, thus, discourages investments. On practical level, the public-private cooperation works well, but there is a constant cabinet fight about political priorities, which creates tensions.

... and as a result:

Waste prevention, the first and foremost phase of the waste hierarchy, is neglected

A New Hope

- However, the **CIRCWASTE is a succesful project** that has managed to take steps in the right direction
- In this context, I would specifically like to mention the Reuse network RENET
- Also, there are some smaller projects under CIRCWASTE on, e.g., monitoring material efficiency locally or regionally



The screenshot shows the homepage of the RENET Uudelleenkäyttöverkosto. The header features the RENET logo (two interlocking circles) and the text 'Uudelleenkäyttöverkosto'. A search bar with the text 'Hae' and a magnifying glass icon is located in the top right corner. The navigation menu includes links for 'Etusivu', 'Uudelleenkäyttö', 'Tule jäseneksi', 'Yhteystiedot', and 'Jäsensivut'. The main heading is 'RENET yhdistää uudelleenkäytön tekijät'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'RENET Uudelleenkäyttöverkosto kokoaa yhteen uudelleenkäyttöalan vastuulliset toimijat. Uudelleenkäyttöala on keskeinen osa kiertotaloutta ja paitsi toimijoiden, myös yhteiskunnan, tavoitteena on uudelleenkäytön nostaminen seuraavalle tasolle. Seuraavalle tasolle pääsemiseksi tarvitaan yhteistyötä, tietoa ja paljon työtä.'

Our take of CIRCWASTE

- A good project that has remarkably developed new waste policy models
 - A case in point are the regional cooperation and regional networks that were created under CIRCWASTE and now continue as stand-alone entities or as part of the compulsory regional cooperation group of the National Waste Plan
 - As we know, good policies are never hindered by too much cooperation...
- CIRCWASTE has also influenced the monitoring of municipal waste streams, for which there is a growing need with a developing waste and circular economy legislation
- This work is also meant to continue
- So, with all these good things CIRCWASTE has achieved, it's easy to end this presentation with the word...



Thank you!



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