

Global Waste Management Outlook 2024

Commemorating Zero Waste Day
Accelerating Policy and Practice for Waste Management Systems and Resource Circularity

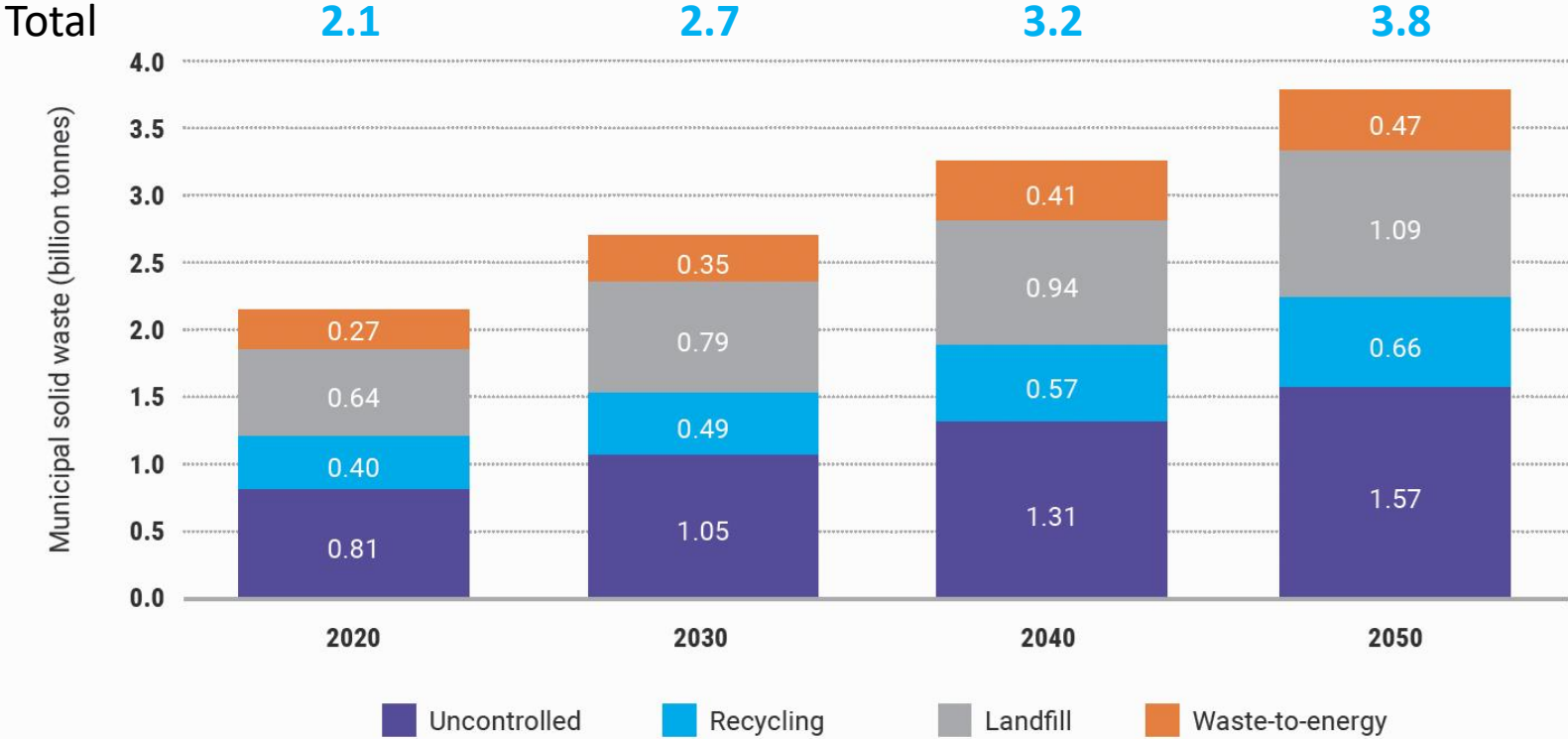
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The Global Waste Management Outlook 2024



- Developed in response to Resolution 2/7 from the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2)
- Reaffirmed in Resolution 4/7 from at UNEA-4
- GWMO 2024 provides:
 - updated assessment of global waste management and an analysis of data concerning municipal solid waste management
 - Forecasting waste's impact on society, the environment, and the global economy.
 - strategies for waste reduction and enhanced management

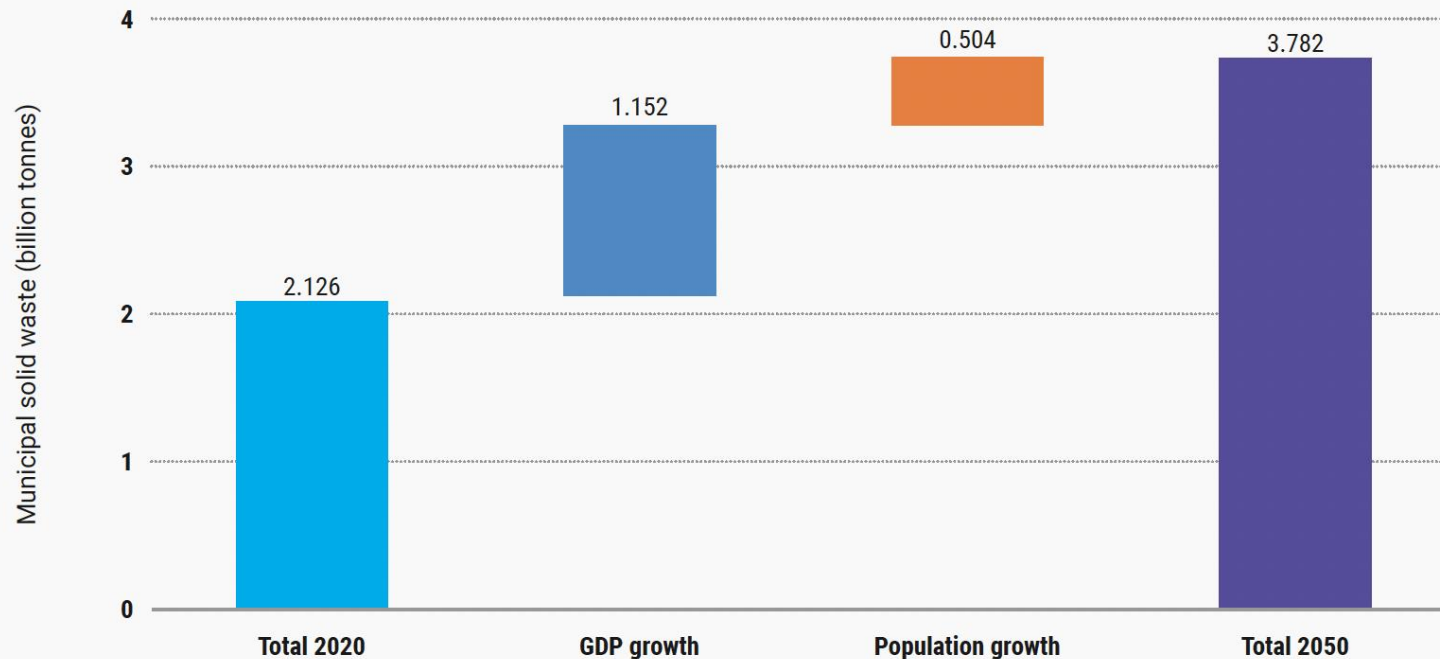
Projected global municipal solid waste destinations (baseline: 2020)



In a business-as-usual scenario we will end up with **1.57 billion tonnes** annually being openly dumped and/or burned

Main cause for projected growth in waste

Contribution of gross domestic product growth and population growth to the projected increase in global municipal solid waste generation in 2050.



Increased consumption through higher income has more than double the impact on waste generation compared to increase in population

The three scenarios and their assumptions

Waste Management as Usual (WMU)

Practices continue as today,
with waste generation
projected to grow fastest in
regions without adequate
waste management capacity.

Waste Under Control (WUC)

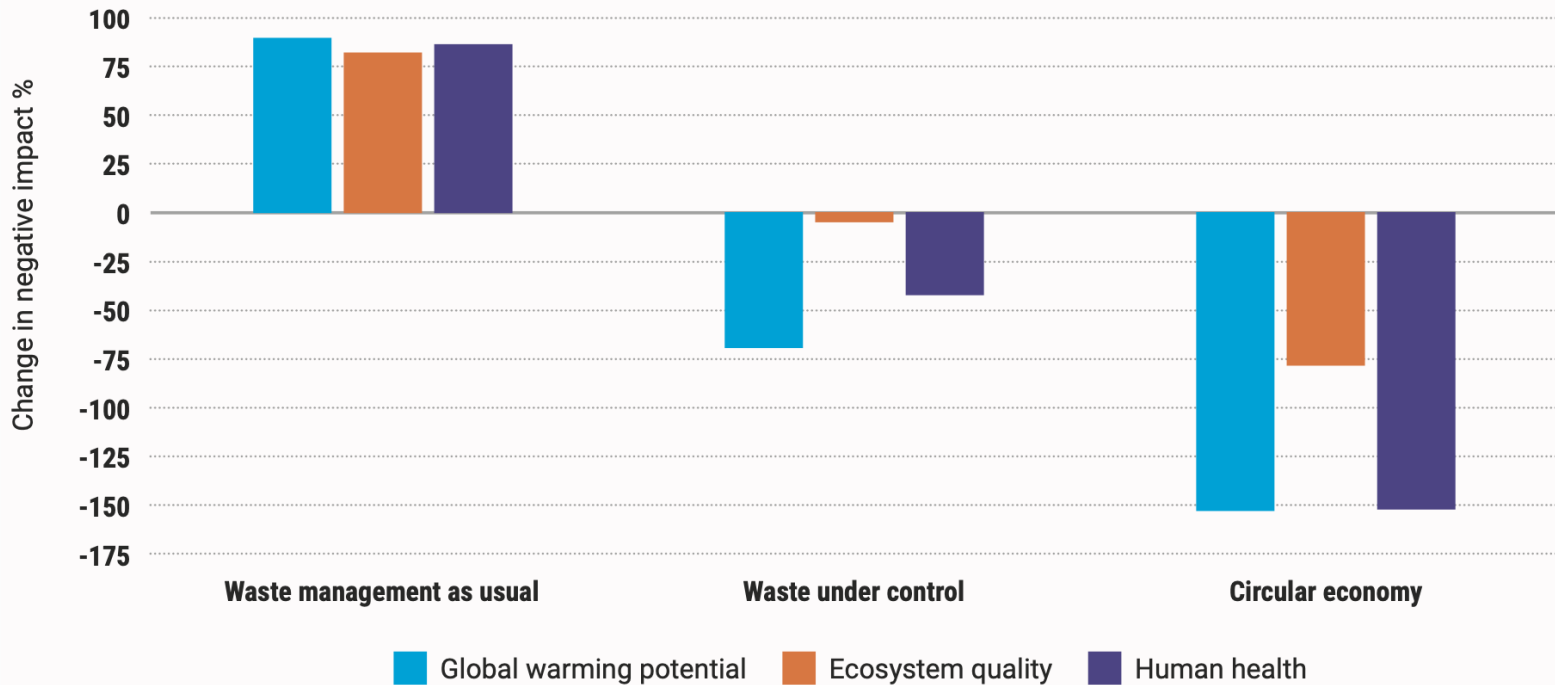
A midway point, with some
progress made towards
preventing waste and
improving its management.

Circular Economy (CE)

Waste generation decoupled from
economic growth, with the global
MSW recycling rate reaching 60
per cent and the remainder
managed safely.

Increase in negative impact by 2050

Projected change in negative impacts by 2050 according to the three modelled scenarios



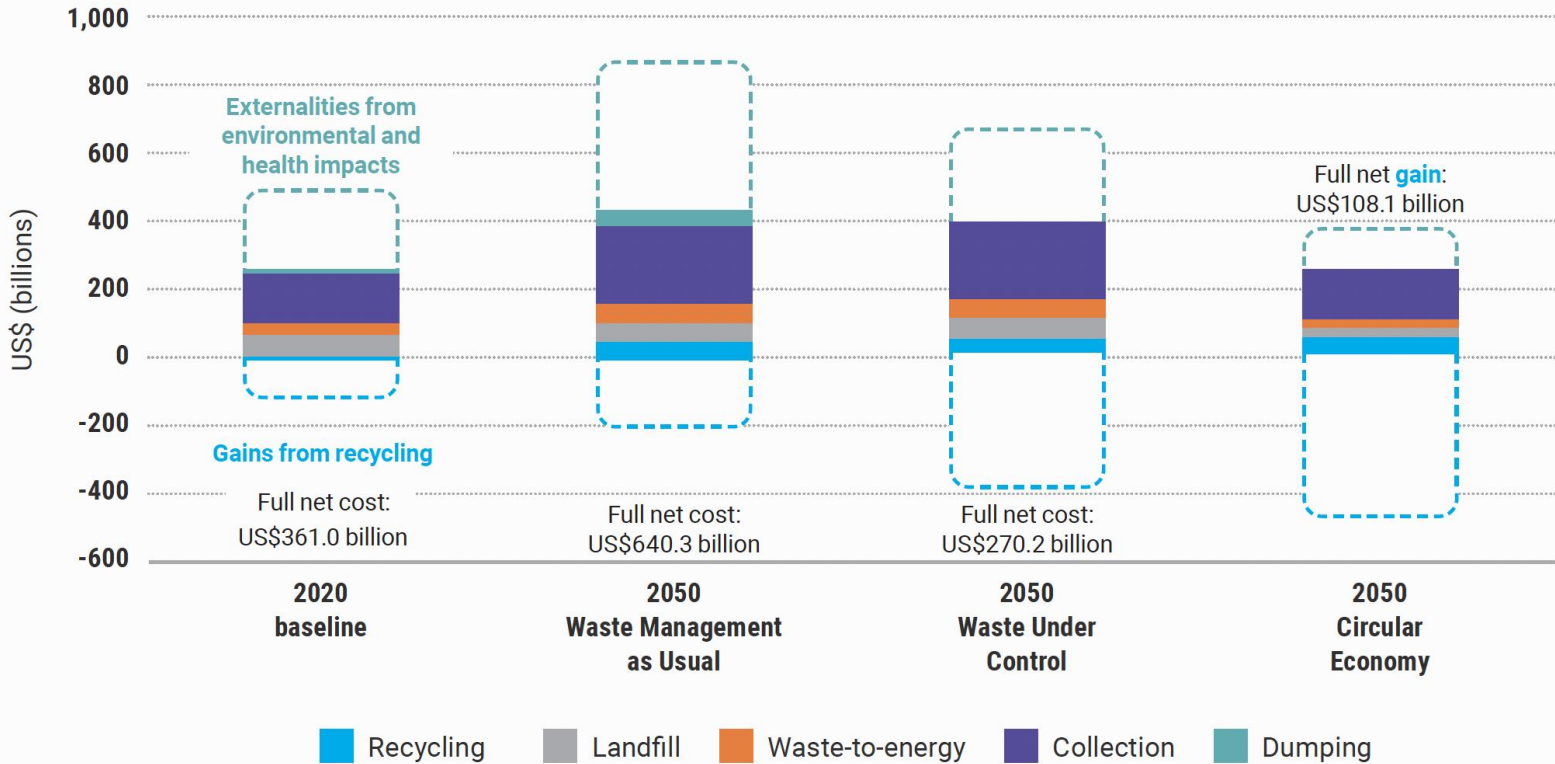
Waste Management as Usual:
Negative impacts almost double by 2050

Waste Under Control:
Small net improvements are happening

Circular Economy:
Improvements even on 2020 baseline

Projected costs of the three scenarios

Overall cost of global waste management under the three scenarios (US\$ 2020).



Why is progress so slow?



- Health and climate impacts are overlooked
- Women and informal workers are neglected
- Enforcement and penalties are weak
- Polluters are not paying... or changing

Recommended pathways



- Harness data and **digitalisation**.
- Introduce mandatory schemes to ensure that **polluters pay**.
- Adopt **inclusive** approaches to engage citizens.
- Integrate the principles of a **just transition** into decision-making.
- Build **national expertise**.

Concluding remark

Pollution from waste **knows no borders**, so it is in everyone's interests to commit to waste prevention and invest in waste management where it is lacking. The solutions are available and ready to be scaled up. What's needed now is **strong leadership** to set the direction and pace required, and to ensure no-one is left behind.

Thank you



Report and executive summary is available at:
unep.org/resources/global-waste-management-outlook-2024

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