# National factsheet on separate collection

## Sweden

Note: This 'National factsheet' has been prepared within the EC study "Assessment of separate collection schemes in the 28 capitals of the EU". The document represents the status-quo of the EU Member State (MS) in September 2015. The information included in this document has been elaborated for all 28 EU-MS based on publically available documents, i.e. national legislation, Waste Management Plans, Waste Prevention Programmes, strategies, implementation reports, and statistics. All information is cited in the factsheet, a complete list of information sources can be found at the end of this document.

For quality assurance purposes the 'National factsheet' has been sent to the EU Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members on waste for verification and commenting, the comments received are included in this final version.

# 1 General requirements on separate collection based on national legislation

The Swedish Miljöbalken, the Avfallsförordning, implemented in 1998 and 2011 respectively, and their associated ordinances, transpose the requirements of the WFD into domestic law.

Most of the transposed requirements differ from their WFD counterparts. Except for Article 11(1) on separate collection for at least paper, metal, plastic and glass, the Swedish law does not implement the WFD requirements directly or with additional requirements. The reason for this deviation is that the initiatives taken within the area of waste management and separate collection is only partly regulated by national law. Instead, Swedish municipalities have a very extensive legal ground for regulating requirements on source separation and separate collection of household and household-similar waste (([SE 808 1998], 15, 9 and 11 §§). In many cases, the national legislation therefore becomes very general in order to prescribe specific regulations on separate collection of waste.

On national level it is to a greater extend national strategies and objectives, which guide the municipalities in shaping their practices around separate collection and handling of waste. As an example, the Swedish Parliament stipulate that at least 50% of all household waste would be recycled through material recovery, including biological treatment, and at least 35% of household food and similar waste would be separated at source and biologically treated [SE NR 2010, p. 49] and [SE REG 2014]. In addition, there is a target for increasing the recycling levels of household waste by making it easier for households to deliver their waste for recycling, e.g. through collection in residential areas [SE SWP 2012]. The national targets are thus guiding whereas the municipal waste plans describe how these targets are reached in practice.





Table 1: Overview of national law(s) that implement separate collection

Year and Abbreviation	Title of the law (translation)
[SE 808 1998]	Miljöbalken 1998:808 (Environmental Law)
[SE 927 2011]	Avfallsförordning 2011:927 (Waste Ordinance)
[SE 1073 2014]	Förordning om producentansvar för förpackningar 2014:1073 (Ordinance on
	producer responsibility for packaging)
[SE 1074 2014]	Förordning om producentansvar för returpapper 2014:1074 (Ordinance on
	producer responsibility for returpaper <sup>1</sup> ).
[SE 220 2005]	Förordning om retursystem för plastflaskor och metallburkar 2005:220
	(Ordinance on return system for plastic bottles and metal cans)

**Table 2: Overview on evaluation categories** 

Evaluation	Explanation
additional	The requirements of the WFD have been transposed and additional information or requirements are set out in the national legal requirement, i.e. additional definition, precision of requirement that goes beyond the text of the WFD
one:one	The requirement of the WFD has been transposed exactly / literally or transposed analogously. No additional requirements or explanations are set out.
deviating	The requirements of the WFD have been implemented into national legal requirements but have been adjusted, left out or deviated
not included	The requirement of the WFD is not transposed into national law

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  The term **returpaper** covers newspapers, magazines, direct mail, telephone directories, mail order catalogues, and similar paper products





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Table 3: Assessment on national transpositions

Law & Article	Evaluation	English text	Original text	
1. Article 3 (11) WFD: Definition separate collection: "'separate collection' means the collection where a waste stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate a specific treatment"				
	not included			
2. Article 10 (2) WFD: "was	ste shall not be mixe	d with other waste/material with other properties"		
[SE 927 2011] § 74 (2)	deviating	<ul><li>§ 74 The municipality may issue regulations on</li><li>2. that certain types of waste must be stored and transported separately from other waste,</li></ul>	§ 74 Kommunen får meddela föreskrifter om  2. att vissa slag av avfall ska förvaras och transporteras skilt från annat avfall,	
3. Article 11 (1) WFD: "mea	sures to promote hi	gh quality recycling"		
[SE 1073 2014] § 39	deviating	§ 39 A collection that requires a permit under § 38 [a collection system for packaging] shall be suitable and nationwide.  For a system to be considered suitable,  2. collection in a way that does not impair recycling,  3. the packaging waste that is collected is treated in a health and environmentally sound manner;  4. operations conducted so as to contribute effectively to reach the targets for the recycling of this Regulation,	§ 39 Ett insamlingssystem som kräver tillstånd enligt 38 § ska vara lämpligt och rikstäckande.  För att ett system ska anses lämpligt ska  2. insamlingen ske på ett sätt som inte försvårar materialutnyttjande,  3. det förpackningsavfall som samlas in behandlas på ett hälso- och miljömässigt godtagbart sätt,  4. verksamheten bedrivas så att den effektivt bidrar till att nå målen för materialutnyttjande i denna förordning,	
4. Requirement WFD: 11 (1		on if technically practicable"		
E Poquiroment WED: 11./1	not included	See statement in the box above  if economically practicable		
5. Requirement WFD: 11 (1		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
	not included	See statement in the box above		



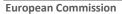


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6. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) "separate collection if environmentally practicable"					
	not included	See statement in the box above			
7. Article 11 (1) WFD: "separate	7. Article 11 (1) WFD: "separate collections () appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors"				
[SE 808 1998] Chapter 15 §19	deviating	§ 19 If required for reusable or recyclable reason or other health or environmental reasons, the Government may issue regulations under which a particular type of waste must be stored and transported separately from other waste and issue the additional regulations required for the purpose. The Government may delegate to an agency or to the municipalities to issue such regulations.	§ 19 Om det behövs av återanvändnings- eller återvinningsskäl eller andra hälso- eller miljöskäl, får regeringen meddela föreskrifter som innebär att ett visst slag av avfall skall förvaras och transporteras bort skilt från annat avfall samt meddela de ytterligare föreskrifter som behövs för ändamålet. Regeringen får överlåta åt en myndighet eller åt kommunerna att meddela sådana föreskrifter.		
8. Article 11 (1) WFD "by 2015	separate collect	ion shall be set up for at least the following: paper, metal, p	plastic and glass"		
[SE 927 2011] §24 a	deviating	§ 24 a Those who have packaging waste which is not household waste shall sort out the packaging waste from other waste and leave the packaging waste to  1. a collection that is authorized by § 38 Ordinance (2014: 1073) on producer responsibility for packaging, or  2. someone who according to § 57 regulation on producer responsibility for packaging collect unsorted packaging waste. Regulation (2014: 1076).	§ 24 a Den som har förpackningsavfall som inte är hushållsavfall ska sortera ut förpackningsavfallet från annat avfall och lämna förpackningsavfallet till  1. ett insamlingssystem som har tillstånd enligt 38 § förordningen (2014:1073) om producentansvar för förpackningar, eller  2. någon som enligt 57 § förordningen om producentansvar för förpackningar samlar in utsorterat förpackningsavfall. Förordning (2014:1076).		
[SE 927 2011] § 24 b	deviating	24 b § Anyone who has used a package that become household will sort out the packaging waste from other waste and leave the packaging waste to a collection that is authorized by § 38 Ordinance (2014: 1073) on producer responsibility for packaging or to a collection system provided by the municipality on sorted packaging waste.  Anyone who according to § 24 a 2 leave packaging waste to someone who collects unsorted packaging waste may leave all its packaging waste to the collector, even the packaging waste is household waste.	24 b § Den som har använt en förpackning som blivit hushållsavfall ska sortera ut förpackningsavfallet från annat avfall och lämna förpackningsavfallet till ett insamlingssystem som har tillstånd enligt 38 § förordningen (2014:1073) om producentansvar för förpackningar eller till ett insamlingssystem som kommunen tillhandahåller för utsorterat förpackningsavfall.  Den som enligt 24 a § 2 lämnar förpackningsavfall till någon som samlar in utsorterat förpackningsavfall får lämna allt sitt förpackningsavfall till insamlaren, även det förpackningsavfall som är hushållsavfall.		







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Law & Article	Evaluation	English text	Original text	
[SE 927 2011] § 24 c		24 c § Anyone who has <i>returpapper</i> which is not household waste must sort out the waste paper from other waste and leave the wastepaper to	24 c § Den som har returpapper som inte är hushållsavfa ska sortera ut returpapperet från annat avfall och lämna returpapperet till	
	deviating	<ol> <li>a collection that is authorized by § 12 Ordinance (2014: 1074) on producer responsibility for waste paper, or</li> <li>someone who according to § 30 Ordinance on Producer Responsibility for waste paper collected unsorted waste paper.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>ett insamlingssystem som har tillstånd enligt 12 § förordningen (2014:1074) om producentansvar för returpapper, eller</li> <li>någon som enligt 30 § förordningen om producentansvar för returpapper samlar in utsorterat returpapper.</li> </ol>	
[SE 927 2011] § 24 d	deviating	24 d § Anyone who has used a newspaper that become household will sort out the waste paper from other waste and leave the wastepaper to a collection that is authorized by § 12 Ordinance (2014: 1074) on producer responsibility for waste paper or to a collection system provided by the municipality on sorted recycled paper.  Anyone who under 24 c § 2 leaves the waste paper to someone who collects unsorted waste paper may leave all their waste paper to the collector, although the recovered paper is household waste.	24 d § Den som har använt en tidning som blivit hushållsavfall ska sortera ut returpapperet från annat avfall och lämna returpapperet till ett insamlingssystem som har tillstånd enligt 12 § förordningen (2014:1074) om producentansvar för returpapper eller till ett insamlingssystem som kommunen tillhandahåller för utsorterat returpapper.  Den som enligt 24 c § 2 lämnar returpapper till någon som samlar in utsorterat returpapper får lämna allt sitt returpapper till insamlaren, även det returpapper som är hushållsavfall.	
9. Article 22 WFD: Bio-waste - composting and digestion of b		hall take measures, as appropriate () to encourage: "a) th	e separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the	
	Not included			





# 2 General requirements on separate collection based on main strategies

# Sweden

# 462 kg MSW/capita 47.62% recycling

#### **Definition of Municipal solid waste (MSW):**

According to Miljöbalken, household waste is waste from households like garbage, kitchen waste, latrine and sludge. With the household waste is also included bulky waste and hazardous wastes from households. Waste from industry and commercial entities, which is similar to these fractions (household-like), is also considered household waste [SE RP 1997].

#### Main strategies implementing separate collection

Two main pieces of Swedish legislation are related to waste management, namely the Environmental Law [SE 808 1998] and the Waste Ordinance [SE 927 2011]. In addition, a number of specific ordinances cover different waste streams and extended producer responsibility [SE NR 2010, p.11]. The current National Waste Management Plan (WMP) entered into force in 2012 and is valid until 2017 [SE SWP 2012, p.5].

In Sweden the responsibility for managing waste lies with municipalities. Since 1991, municipalities have to establish a WMP containing recycling targets based on national environmental objectives as well as strategies for reducing the amount and dangerous nature of waste [SE MWM 2013, p.13]. Municipalities are responsible for the collection and treatment of household waste, its transportation to recycling facilities and preparing for re-use, except for material under extended producer responsibility. The municipalities choose themselves how waste management has to be organised – by self-administration, joint boards or in cooperation with other municipalities etc. [SE SWM 2014, p.6-7].

Amendments to the Ordinances [SE 1073 2014] and [SE 1074 2014] are expected in the near future. These amendments will decide on how to regulate a municipal legal responsibility for the collection of packaging waste and waste paper within the extended producer responsibilities. The **existing regulation has meant that producers have failed to offer a sufficient level of service to the citizens** while the municipalities have had to deal with too high levels of packaging waste and waste paper in the residual waste, without having been reimbursed by producers." [SE AS 2015]

To fulfil the national environmental policy objectives, the Swedish Parliament adopted 16 environmental objectives, broken into 72 interim targets. Those related to waste stipulate that by 2010, at least 50% of all household waste would be recycled through material recovery, including biological treatment, and at least 35% of household food and similar waste would be separated at source and biologically treated [SE NR 2010, p. 49] and [SE REG 2014]. The Swedish WMP adjusted the latter into an objective of at least 50% of food waste, from households and other sources, sorted and biologically treated by 2018 [SE SWP 2012, p.89].

In addition to the EU objective of at least 50% reuse and recycling of certain household waste fractions, the **national aim**, expressed in the Swedish Waste Management Plan, is that **90% of households should be satisfied with the separate collection**. The plan has further set a target for increasing the recycling levels of household waste by making it easier for households to deliver their waste for recycling, e.g. through collection in residential areas [SE SWP 2012].





# 3 Implementation of separate collection

#### Overview on separate collection systems in place

Over the last two decades, the quantities of household waste materially recycled increased more than twice and those biologically treated have almost quadrupled, while almost no waste is landfilled (0.7% in 2014) [SE SWM 2014, p.3].

In Sweden non-binding environmental targets have already led to separate collection as well as to the **digestion or composting of food waste in currently 170 out of 290 municipalities** [SE AS 2015]. Altogether, Avfall Sverige reports that in 2013 34.5 kg/cap of paper, 13.4 kg/cap of paper packaging, 1.7 kg/cap of metal packaging, 4.6 kg/cap of plastic packaging and 19.5 kg/cap of glass packaging were separately collected for material recycling through bring points and civic amity sites[SE SWM 2014, p.17].

Household waste is usually collected as mixed non-separated waste for energy recovery. Sometimes food waste is sorted out at source. The waste is collected in bins and coloured bags of different sizes and different collection frequencies. In case of source separated food waste, the bags are placed together into one bin and afterwards automatically sorted at optical sorting facilities [SE SWM 2014, p.9].

In addition to this system, door-to-door co-mingled collection in two four-compartment bins with a different collection frequency is being introduced in an increasing number of municipalities. One bin contains packaging paper and newspaper, food waste, combustible waste and coloured glass, while the other one contains clear glass, metals, plastic packaging and newspaper and is emptied less frequently [SE SWM 2014, p.9].

**Extended producer responsibility covers packaging materials** such as paper, metal, glass and plastic. Under this scheme the producers have to ensure the availability of suitable collection systems and recycling of a certain amount of the materials [SE SWP 2012, p.18].

There are ca. 5 800 waste producer owned bring points, unstaffed, covering the country. In addition, staffed municipal civic amenity sites are available for collection these and other types of household waste [SE SWM 2014, p.10].

A **deposit-refund system is well established** in Sweden. A private company called "Returpack" is responsible for running the deposit refund system of cans and recyclable PET bottles, aiming to fulfil the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's objective of 90% of metal cans and PET bottles to be recycled in Sweden [SE Pantamera 2015]. Glass bottles with deposit are returned to the shops [SE Sopor 2015].





Table 4: Overview of main separate collection systems in Sweden

Collection type	Paper	Glass	Plas	tic	Metal	Bio-waste
Door-to-door collection						Primary
Co-mingled (door-to-door)	Tertiary (two four-compartment bins)					
Bring points	Primary	Primary	Primary		Primary	
Civic amenities	Secondary for packaging materials and other types of waste (municipal recycling centres)					
Producer/retail take-back		Return system in shops Deposit-refund system for cans and PET bottles				



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