

# Waste prevention country profile

# Cyprus

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European Environment Agency



## Country profile: Cyprus

### General information

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Name of the country/ region  | Cyprus  |
| Geographical coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/ regional)                                   | National  |
| Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan or into the circular economy strategy) | Stand-alone programme   |
| Title of programme and link to programme   | Waste prevention programme 2015-2021 (ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΠΡΟΛΗΨΗΣ ΔΗΜΙΟΥΡΓΙΑ ΑΠΟΒΛΗΤΩΝ 2015-2021)<br><a href="http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environmentnew.nsf/page20_gr/pag e20_gr?OpenDocument">http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/environment/environmentnew.nsf/page20_gr/pag e20_gr?OpenDocument</a> |
| Duration of programme  | 2015-2021   |
| Language   | Greek   |
| Contact person in the country/region   |   |
| Development process of the programme/ revision   | A new programme is currently being revised by the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) through technical assistance from the Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS).  |
| Foreseen budget for implementation of the programme  |   |

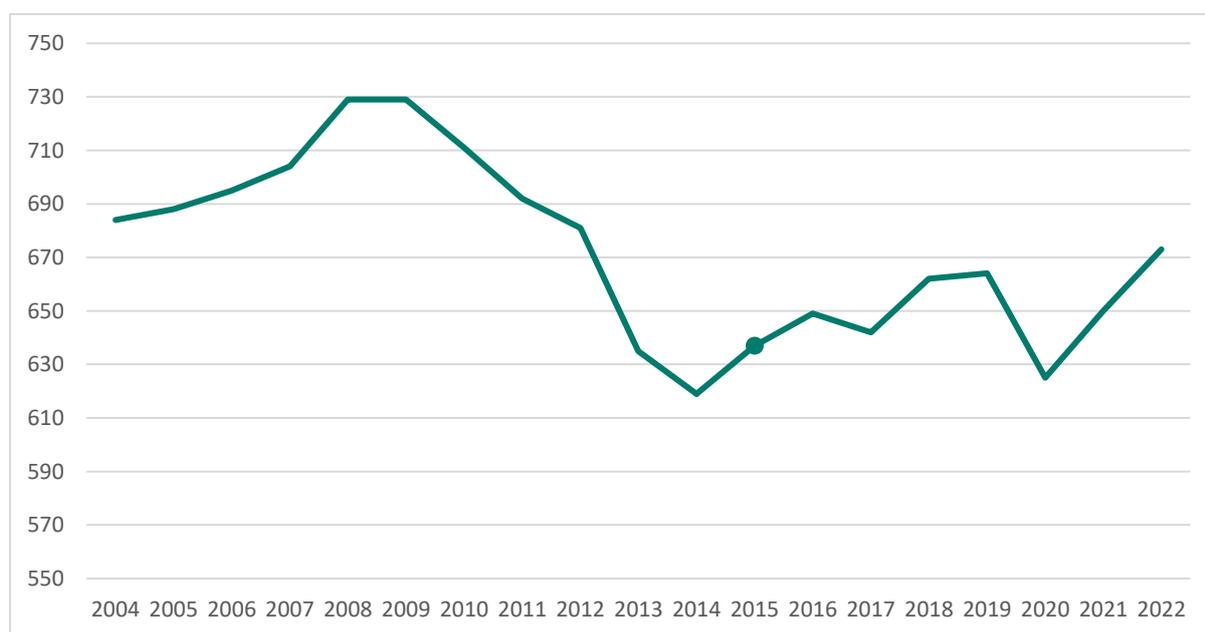
## WASTE GENERATION

The following figures illustrate the progress towards waste prevention and decoupling of waste generation from economic growth in Cyprus.

### Municipal solid waste (MSW)

Municipal waste generation per capita in Cyprus slightly decreased between 2010 and 2022 (Figure 1). In 2022, the country generated 673 kg/cap of municipal waste, which is significantly above the estimated EU27 average of 513 kg/cap.<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 1 Municipal waste generation in Cyprus (kg per capita), 2004-2022**



**Source:** Eurostat [ENV\_WASMUN].

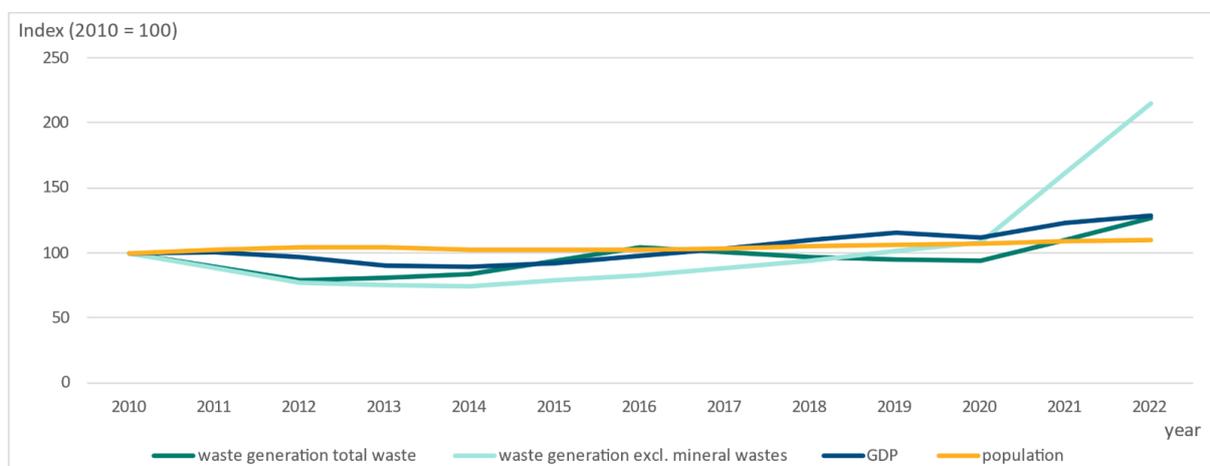
**Note:** As of reference year 2020, new reporting rules apply for calculating recycled municipal waste pursuant to the targets laid down in Article 11.2(c-e) of Directive 2008/98/EC. However, it is unclear based on the information available whether these new reporting rules have been implemented in Cyprus yet.

<sup>1</sup> The EU average might be influenced by the situation that not all Member States already fully apply the definition of municipal waste as defined in the Waste Framework Directive as amended in 2018.

## Total waste

The total amount of waste generated in Cyprus follows a slightly fluctuating trend with an increase in 2022 which becomes more pronounced when excluding major mineral wastes (Figure 2). Within wastes excluding major mineral wastes, mixed wastes and animal and vegetal wastes are the largest waste categories. For mixed waste a steady increase in the generated amounts could be observed and this category more than doubled since 2010. Animal and vegetable wastes strongly increased in 2022, being the main driver for the steep increase observed for generation of waste excluding major mineral wastes. Cyprus' GDP showed a steady growth throughout the considered time frame, with a drop in 2020, most likely due to the Covid-19 outbreak. While a longer time series is needed to confirm decoupling, waste generation appears not to have decoupled from economic growth.

**Figure 2 Generation of waste (total and excluding major mineral wastes), population and economic development, 2010-2022**



**Source:** Eurostat [ENV\_WASGEN, NAMA\_10\_PC, DEMO\_GIND]

**Note:** Waste generation data for odd years are interpolated.

## WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

### Objectives and priorities

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|---|--|
| 1. Waste prevention objectives of the Programme<br>- quantitative objectives (waste reduction)<br>- qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/ environmental impacts) | The aim of the programme is to decouple economic growth from environmental impacts associated with the generation of waste. The main focus is consumer behaviour change, promotion of reuse and the reduction of the generation of specific waste streams.   |
| 2. Sectors covered  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agriculture;</li><li>• Construction and infrastructure;</li><li>• Manufacturing;</li><li>• Sale, retail, transport;</li><li>• Households;</li><li>• Private service activities, hospitality;</li><li>• Public services.</li></ul>  |
| 3. Priority waste types   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food/organic;</li><li>• Construction and demolition waste;</li><li>• Hazardous waste;</li><li>• Household/municipal waste;</li><li>• Paper, cardboard, paper products;</li><li>• Packaging (including plastic bottles, bags);</li><li>• Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)/batteries;</li><li>• Manufacturing waste;</li><li>• Other (e.g. textiles, clothing, plastic toys, bulky waste).</li></ul> |
| 4. Target groups  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Households;</li><li>• Local government;</li><li>• SMEs;</li><li>• tourism,</li><li>• Agricultural and construction sector;</li><li>• TV and radio media;</li><li>• Educational institutions;</li><li>• Supermarkets and shopping centres;</li><li>• Public sector;</li><li>• Private sector.</li></ul>   |

## Targets, indicators and monitoring

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|    |                                       |   |
|----|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Indicators used to monitor progress   | <p>The indicators include the following:</p> <p>Consumer behaviour change</p> <p>Biodegradable waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• amount of biodegradable waste per inhabitant sent to the landfill (kg/year);</li><li>• amount of biodegradable waste per inhabitant (kg/year); amount of compostable biodegradable industrial waste (kg/year);</li><li>• amount of organic waste collected separately (tonnes/year);</li><li>• share of households participating in home composting, in relation to the all households.</li></ul> <p>Reuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• quantity of materials (WEEE, clothes, furniture) re-introduced into the market (number of pieces);</li><li>• repair of WEEE, clothing, furniture and toys (percentage).</li></ul> <p>Hazardous waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• quantity of hazardous waste collected separately (tonnes/year).</li></ul> |
| 2. | Quantitative targets                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 40% separate collection on the total municipal collection solid waste by 2021 with an ultimate target of 50% by 2027.</li><li>• 50% of the recyclable material in municipal waste to be recycled preparation for reuse by 2020</li><li>• 15% of the organic municipal waste to be collected separately until 2021</li><li>• Since July 2016, the maximum quantity of biodegradable material that can be forwarded for burial is 95.000 tons (Chapter 6, p.15)</li></ul>   |
| 3. | Monitoring mechanism of the programme | <p>The programme states that measures will be monitored on an annual basis, using specific indicators.</p>  |
| 4. | Evaluation of the programme           | <p>The national waste prevention programme 2015-2021 is the first waste prevention programme established in Cyprus. The programme states that measures will be evaluated on an annual basis, using specific indicators. The aim is to assess the progress of the waste prevention programme and to collect data that will help competent authorities to set realistic targets. Table 5.1 in the programme shows a detailed schedule of the implementation of measures between the years 2015 and 2021. The table includes schedules for meetings, the development of educational programmes, legislative measures, financial measures and incentives, the implementation of programme measures, the evaluation of measures and the evaluation of the programme.</p>   |

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## Prevention measures

Implemented prevention measures according to Article 9

The waste prevention programme includes the following measures that are proposed to avoid waste generation (Chapter 1.5):

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured according to Art 9 WFD

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| <p>Promote and support <b>sustainable consumption</b> models</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic instruments, such as incentives for net purchases or making consumers pay for specific items or packaging elements (Chapter 2, p.21)</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Encourage the design, manufacturing and use of products that are <b>resource-efficient, durable</b> (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), <b>reparable, re-usable</b> and <b>upgradable</b>.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of eco-design (systematic integration of environmental considerations into product design, aiming to improve the environmental performance of the product throughout its life cycle). (Chapter 2, p.20)</li> <li>• Promote reliable eco-labels in a single labelling scheme. (Chapter 2, p.21)</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Target products containing <b>critical raw materials</b> to prevent that those materials become waste.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase of the degree use of recyclable materials as raw materials in Cyprus (Chapter 6, p.10)</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Encourage the re-use of products and the setting up of systems promoting <b>repair and re-use activities</b>, including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products.</p>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the re-use and/or repair of appropriate discarded products or their components, in particular through the use of educational or economic measures, logistical measures or other measures such as support for or the establishment of accredited repair and re-use networks, in particular in densely populated areas. (Chapter 2, p.21)</li> <li>• Organising public awareness campaigns on prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling, home composting. (Chapter 6, p.24)</li> </ul> |
| <p>Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights, the <b>availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information</b>, or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and re-use of products without compromising their quality and safety.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information on waste prevention techniques to facilitate the implementation of best available techniques by industry. (Chapter 2, p.20)</li> </ul>  |

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|--|--|
| <p>Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information on waste prevention techniques to facilitate the implementation of best available techniques by industry. (Chapter 2, p.20)</li> <li>• Agreements with industry, such as the use of product panels, to provide information on waste prevention and products that have less impact on the environment (Chapter 2, p.21)</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Reduce the generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services as well as in households as a contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030.</p>   |  |
| <p>Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and the reprocessing into non-food products.</p>  |  |
| <p>Promote the reduction of the content of hazardous substances in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at Union level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of the network of green points - the aim of the project is the construction and operation of a number of waste collection and sorting points to serve local authorities and citizens in the separate collection of specific waste streams such as bulky, hazardous waste (motor oils, lamps and other waste electrical and electronic equipment, etc.), green waste, waste from construction and demolition and other specific types of waste from households and similar sources. (Chapter 6, p.21)</li> <li>• Minimising the presence of hazardous substances and materials as components of the packaging material or any component of the packaging (Chapter 2, p.11)</li> <li>• Restrictions on the type and presence of specific, potentially hazardous - harmful constituents in the waste and the resulting effluents,</li> <li>• Limitations on the potential and expected leachability of specific, potentially hazardous - harmful</li> </ul> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>components; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrictions on the ecotoxicological properties of the waste and the resulting effluents. (Chapter 2, p.14)</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for re-use or recycling.</p>  |  |
| <p>Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural and marine environments, and take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter from such products, where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they shall ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory.</p> |  |
| <p>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds.</p>   |  |
| <p>Develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging in awareness-raising campaigns or providing support to businesses through financial, advisory or other means. These measures can be particularly effective in cases involving small and medium-sized enterprises operating through established business networks. (Chapter 3, p.20)</li> <li>• Use of awareness-raising and information campaigns aimed at the general public or specific consumer groups. (Chapter 3, p.21)</li> <li>• Organising public awareness campaigns on prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling, home composting. (Chapter 4, p.24)</li> </ul> |

## FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

### Food waste generation

According to estimates, the food waste occurring in households accounts to 95 kg per capita, which equals to more than 113 thousand tonnes per year in Cyprus. (UNEP 2021)

### Measures to prevent food waste

The project "LIFE - FOODPRINT" addresses the environmental problem of food waste in Cyprus. The project aims to bridge the gap between awareness and behaviour of key stakeholders regarding the environmental problem of food waste.

The core measures of the project FOODPRINT are:

- Development of a cooperation network for social food donations
- Workshops and consultations with stakeholders: Target groups are F&H sector companies, professionals, students, local authorities, NGOs as well as students.
- Development of project material: Specific project material with practical information targeting the project's key audiences and in particular businesses and households/consumers to provide knowledge on food waste prevention.
- An awareness campaign on food waste prevention and management among consumers, the food industry and the hospitality sector, from 2020 to 2023.<sup>2</sup>
- Introduction of the "FOODPRINT" award introduced by the Federation of Employers and Industrialists OEB. The award promotes companies that actively work to reduce food waste and the competition targets directly involved with food sectors, such as the hotel sector, restaurant sector and food retail.<sup>3</sup>

The AKTI Project and Research Centre is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation that has launched the "Sincerely, Food Cyprus" project.

The main activities of the project are:

- The Food for Peace Campaign: a bi-communal action that will focus on culinary arts students at two universities.
- Presentations in schools to raise awareness.
- Door-to-door awareness raising in two communities.
- Cooking competition focusing on reducing food waste during preparation.
- Guidelines such as a small information brochure and a notebook on measures to prevent food waste.<sup>4</sup>

The Waste Mapping Guide for Hotels in Cyprus is primarily designed to meet the needs of hotel operators and other organisations in the Cyprus tourism industry. The Waste Mapping Guide enables the identification of the sources, types and quantities of waste generated, as well as the investigation of where and how waste is generated. The process helps prioritise areas where simple actions can be taken to minimise waste, save money and achieve sustainable waste management.<sup>5</sup>

Volunteer initiatives such as Zero Food Waste Cyprus collect food waste from local markets and redistribute it to those in need.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.foodprintcy.eu/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.foodprintcy.eu/oeb-foodprint-awards-for-reducing-food-waste/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.akti.org.cy/portfolio/sincerely-food-cyprus/>

<sup>5</sup>

[https://www.tourism.gov.cy/tourism/tourism.nsf/All/A9F84CCB90BC8BEFC225849D003A4B90/\\$file/Waste\\_Mapping\\_Guidance\\_Hotels.pdf?OpenElement](https://www.tourism.gov.cy/tourism/tourism.nsf/All/A9F84CCB90BC8BEFC225849D003A4B90/$file/Waste_Mapping_Guidance_Hotels.pdf?OpenElement)

<sup>6</sup> <https://zfwcy.org/>

## **REUSE OF PRODUCTS**

### Data

Cyprus has not reported any data for reuse of textiles, furniture, electrical and electronic equipment and construction and building materials according to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/19 for the year 2021 by the reporting deadline (EEA, 2024)

### Measures to support reuse

The Waste Prevention Programme 2015 - 2021 stipulated that 50% of recyclable materials (paper, plastic, metal, glass) in municipal waste should be processed for reuse by 2020. (Chapter 2, p.9)

In addition, the waste prevention programme developed and implemented a three-year integrated public information and awareness campaign. The LIFE KNOW WASTE campaign successfully promoted the concepts of prevention, reduction, reuse and recycling in Cyprus. The integrated communication strategy used television, radio, print and electronic press, social media, education and training activities, and public participation in actions in their community. (Chapter 6, p.12)  
The campaign published posters, publication and leaflets. <sup>7</sup>

## **Best practice examples**

### Food Waste Prevention

Zero Food Waste Cyprus is an initiative by young volunteers to reduce food waste by collecting "food waste" from local markets and redistributing it to those in need. The bi-communal initiative has two projects. One market in Nicosia and one in Kyrenia, reaching more people in need and involving more young volunteers to support our cause.<sup>8</sup>

The Rescued Box Initiative aims to combat food waste and actively contribute to solving the problem by buying seasonal produce from local farmers who are all certified and comply with EU directives. Each week they receive a recyclable box of the freshest fruit and vegetables on the island. This avoids food waste from excess produce and the use of plastic, and reduces the environmental footprint by optimising delivery routes. Rescued Box donates 10% of the proceeds each week to charities fighting hunger.<sup>9</sup>

### Reuse of Products

Let's Make Cyprus Green is a non-profit organisation which aims to raise public awareness towards the environmental pressure humans cause, especially on the damage caused by excessive and improper waste disposal and the use of plastic. Let's Make Cyprus Green is committed to replacing single-use plastic with reusable products to avoid the millions of tonnes of oil needed to produce plastic and the increasing greenhouse gas emissions caused by its production and disposal. The website offers reusable products such as glass straws, reusable shopping bags, bamboo toothbrushes and other environmentally friendly alternatives.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n\\_proj\\_id=4926](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=4926)

<sup>8</sup> <https://zfwcy.org/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://rescuedbox.com/our-mission/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.letsmakecyprusgreen.com/about-us/>

## Links to circular economy

Waste prevention is an integral part of the comprehensive transformation towards a circular economy. It reduces the input of natural resources into the economy as well as the necessary efforts to collect and recycle waste.

Approaches for improving circularity are often highly interlinked with successful waste prevention. The following table shows which circular strategies are explicitly integrated into Cyprus's waste prevention programme.

| Topic                                   | Addressed in the programme | Comments  |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| Eco-design                              | Yes                        | Promotion of eco-design (systematic integration of environmental considerations into product design, aiming to improve the environmental performance of the product throughout its life cycle). (Chapter 2, p.20)   |
| Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture | Yes                        | Promote the re-use and/or repair of appropriate discarded products or their components, in particular through the use of educational or economic measures, logistical measures or other measures such as support for or the establishment of accredited repair and re-use networks, in particular in densely populated areas. (Chapter 2, p.21) |
| Recycling                               | Yes                        | Strengthening recycling activities<br>The strategy aims to reduce the negative environmental impacts of waste throughout its life cycle, from production to final disposal (cradle to grave), through prevention and recycling (Chapter 2, p.1)   |
| Economic incentives and finance         | Yes                        | Use of planning measures or other economic instruments that promote the efficient use of resources (Chapter 2, p.20)<br>Economic instruments, such as incentives for net purchases or making consumers pay for specific items or packaging elements (Chapter 2, p. 21)<br>Finance measures and incentives (Chapter 6, p.16)                     |
| Circular business models                | No                         |   |
| Eco-innovation                          | Yes                        | Businesses, organisations and consumers should develop and adopt patterns of production and consumption with the least possible impact on the environment. Targeted public policies with clear long-term objectives for investment planning and innovation are also needed (Chapter 2, p.3)   |
| Governance, skills and knowledge        | No                         |   |