

The Balearic Islands' law for waste and polluted land

Waste Prevention Legislation

[Ley 8/2019, de 19 de febrero, de residuos y suelos contaminados de las Illes Balears](#)

In January 2019, the Regional Government of the Balearic Islands approved a pioneering law on waste prevention that contained various measures and targets designed to solve the islands' waste problem. Through a combination of measures on general waste generation and for specific streams, such as single-use plastics or food waste, the legislation offers a strong example of how to adopt a law that takes a comprehensive approach to the issue of pollution occurring from waste generation.

THE BALEARIC ISLANDS

The Spanish Balearic Islands constitute an archipelago of Islands in the Mediterranean Sea, of which Mallorca is the biggest island and one of Spain's most popular tourist destinations.

Level: Regional (Autonomous government of the Balearic Islands)

Population: 1.1 million inhabitants

Density: 220/km²

Key characteristic: Highly touristic

THE ISSUE WITH WASTE FROM TOURISTS

Due to being a popular tourist destination, the Balearic Islands have the highest waste generation in Spain: **763 kg per inhabitant per year** compared to 475 kg for the country average. The levels of waste generation greatly vary during the year, with peaks in the high season for tourists from May to October.

THE LAW'S OBJECTIVES

The law's primary objective is to tackle the issue of waste generation through prevention and improved recycling. It aims to boost waste prevention and reuse through specific measures and binding targets, which also aim to tackle the most problematic and visible waste streams, such as single-use items, plastic packaging and food waste. Through the revision of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, further pressures are put on producers to fully support the transition.



Zero Waste Europe Factsheet

MAIN MEASURES

| Article | Measures |
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| Article 23: waste prevention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding waste reduction targets: 10% by 2021 and 20% by 2030 • Promotion of bulk products, reusable containers, and durable goods and services • Green Public Procurement for public administration and events, including the obligation to use natural and ecologically certified cleaning products |
| Article 24: single-use products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition of several single-use plastic items (straws, cutlery, food sachets, plastic rings for drinks, lighters, printing toner, shaving razors and more...) • Prohibition of distribution and sale of products containing micro or nanoplastics • Single use capsules (for coffee or tea) must be made of compostable materials or be easily recyclable. Costs of this will be covered by an EPR scheme. |
| Article 25: packaging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of water fountains and a ban on single-use plastic bottles and cups within administration • Public events/parties must offer refillable drinks, tap water and deposit return scheme |
| Article 26: food waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding food waste reduction target: 50% by 2030 • Restaurants and hotels are obliged to make it easier for customers to take their food leftovers away in compostable containers |
| Article 27 & 28: EPR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full cost coverage for packaging (including non sorted waste and clean-ups) • Deposit return scheme for beverage containers on trial • Reuse objectives for the Horeca sector |

LINK TO THE EU LEGISLATION

- [Directive \(EU\) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment](#)
- [Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Waste Framework Directive\)](#)
- [Directive \(EU\) 2018/852 amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste](#)



Binding waste reduction targets



Reuse objectives for the Horeca sector



Full cost-coverage EPR for packaging

For more good practices, check the [Zero Waste Europe website](#) or the [European Environmental Bureau brief on the economic incentives to reduce waste](#).

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Zero Waste Europe is the European network of communities, local leaders, experts, and change agents working towards the elimination of waste in our society. We advocate for sustainable systems and the redesign of our relationship with resources, to accelerate a just transition towards zero waste for the benefit of people and planet.



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