

Measuring up

First edition of ZWE's municipal manual for circular textile systems

Guidance for local actors
November 2025
zerowasteurope.eu



Executive summary

With the start of the mandate for separate collection for textiles at the beginning of 2025 and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes mandated across the EU from March 2028, we are in a moment of time where the way we have previously managed textile waste will change monumentally.

With many actors working on the collection and sorting of textiles [highlighting the imminent crisis they face without further funding](#), the issue of how to implement effective systems that are properly financed, and also follow the prioritisation outlined in the waste hierarchy, is absolutely critical for European municipalities today, who play a frontline role in these systems.

This paper aims to provide an overview of the different collection models and infrastructure on offer for municipalities in Europe regarding textile waste. It showcases that the past approach by many local authorities in the EU to textile waste—which was largely ‘out of sight, out of mind’—can no longer be justified.

Municipalities must take greater control and oversight over the way textiles are managed and prevented from becoming waste, through stronger procurement processes and deeper collaboration with existing actors in sorting, reuse, repair, and recycling.

This includes offering more frequent and accessible door-to-door collection of textiles, and possibly revamping the system to ensure recyclable and reusable textiles are two different waste streams with different collection methods—each therefore receiving a higher quality of material which is more likely to be reused or recycled, respectively. Having greater data collection models in place will not only benefit the performance of local systems but also help ensure that EPR schemes will financially reimburse local actors based on the full costs incurred.



Zero Waste Europe (ZWE) is the European network of communities, local leaders, experts, and change agents working towards a better use of resources and the elimination of waste in our society. We advocate for sustainable systems; for the redesign of our relationship with resources; and for a global shift towards environmental justice, accelerating a just transition towards zero waste for the benefit of people and the planet. www.zerowasteurope.eu



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