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Food Waste Management Market Forecasts to 2032 – Global Analysis By Waste Type (Fruits & Vegetables, Cereals & Bakery Waste, Dairy Products, Meat, Fish & Seafood, Processed Food, and Other Waste Types), Source, Service, Scale & Deployment, End Product, and By Geography

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Abstracts

According to Stratistics MRC, the Global Food Waste Management Market is accounted for $82.5 billion in 2025 and is expected to reach $121.6 billion by 2032, growing at a CAGR of 5.7% during the forecast period. Food waste management involves collecting, processing, and recycling leftover or discarded food to minimize environmental harm. It focuses on reducing waste generation, redistributing edible food, and converting inedible waste into useful products like compost, animal feed, or bioenergy. Effective management helps lower greenhouse gas emissions, conserve resources, and promote sustainability across the food supply chain, encouraging both businesses and consumers to adopt responsible disposal and consumption practices.

According to FAO/UN analyses, global food loss & waste remains large (historic FAO estimate ~1.3 billion tonnes lost/wasted annually.

Market Dynamics:

Driver:

Rising urbanization and food consumption

The accelerating pace of global urbanization, coupled with rising disposable incomes, is

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directly increasing the volume of food waste generated. Dense urban populations and busier lifestyles promote greater reliance on packaged foods, food delivery, and large-scale food service establishments, all of which contribute significantly to food waste streams. This creates a consistent and growing demand for professional waste management services to handle the logistical and environmental challenges posed by this escalating waste volume, thereby propelling the market forward.

Restraint:

Lack of standardized waste segregation and collection systems

A significant barrier to market efficiency is the inconsistent implementation of waste segregation protocols at the source, particularly in residential and commercial settings. The absence of uniform regulations and infrastructure for separating organic waste from other refuse leads to contamination, making subsequent processing stages more complex and costly. This inefficiency discourages investment in advanced recycling and recovery facilities, ultimately restraining the market's potential by limiting the quality and quantity of processable food waste.

Opportunity:

Technological advancements in food waste processing

Innovation presents a substantial opportunity for market growth. Advancements in anaerobic digestion technology, which efficiently converts waste into biogas and biofertilizers, are enhancing process yields and economic viability. Furthermore, the emergence of AI-powered smart bins and IoT-enabled logistics platforms optimizes waste collection routes and monitoring. These technologies reduce operational costs and improve the value proposition of recycling, creating new revenue streams and making food waste management a more attractive and sustainable investment for municipalities and corporations.

Threat:

Competition from alternative waste disposal methods

The market faces persistent competition from traditional and often cheaper waste disposal methods, primarily landfilling and incineration without energy recovery. In many

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regions, landfill tipping fees remain low, providing a cost-effective, albeit environmentally damaging, alternative for waste generators. This economic advantage can deter the adoption of more sustainable management solutions, posing a threat to market expansion unless stricter environmental regulations or carbon pricing mechanisms are implemented to level the economic playing field.

Covid-19 Impact:

The pandemic initially disrupted the food waste management market through lockdowns, which halted operations in the hospitality sector, a major waste source, and caused labor shortages in collection and processing. Supply chain disruptions led to increased farm-level spoilage. However, the crisis also heightened consumer awareness about food scarcity and waste at home. Furthermore, it accelerated the adoption of digital platforms for waste tracking and collection, potentially driving long-term operational efficiencies as the market recovers and adapts to a new normal.

The fruits and vegetables segment is expected to be the largest during the forecast period

The fruits and vegetables segment is expected to account for the largest market share during the forecast period due to their highly perishable nature and significant volume of loss occurring across the entire supply chain, from production and handling to retail and consumption. A substantial portion of this produce is often deemed unfit for sale due to cosmetic standards, leading to consistent waste generation. This creates a continuous and sizable feedstock for waste management services, solidifying the segment's dominant position in the market landscape.

The retail & wholesale segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the forecast period

Over the forecast period, the retail & wholesale segment is predicted to witness the highest growth rate. This is primarily driven by increasing regulatory pressures and corporate sustainability mandates that compel large supermarkets and distributors to minimize their environmental footprint. Additionally, rising consumer awareness is pushing retailers to adopt transparent waste management practices. To comply, these entities are increasingly investing in advanced solutions like waste-to-energy systems and organic recycling, fueling rapid segment expansion.

Region with largest share:

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During the forecast period, the Europe region is expected to hold the largest market share. This leadership is largely attributed to the European Union's stringent regulatory framework, including the Landfill Directive and Circular Economy Action Plan, which actively discourage landfilling and promote waste valorization. Strong governmental support for recycling infrastructure, coupled with high public awareness and advanced technological adoption, creates a mature and consolidated market environment, ensuring Europe's continued dominance in terms of market value.

Region with highest CAGR:

Over the forecast period, the Asia Pacific region is anticipated to exhibit the highest CAGR. This accelerated growth is fueled by rapid urbanization, expanding middle-class populations, and increasing volumes of municipal waste in countries like China, India, and Japan. Furthermore, growing governmental focus on developing waste management infrastructure and implementing new policies to tackle urban pollution is creating a fertile ground for market expansion. The region presents significant untapped potential, driving its status as the fastest-growing market.

Key players in the market

Some of the key players in Food Waste Management Market include Veolia Environnement S.A., Suez SA, Waste Management, Inc., Republic Services, Inc., Clean Harbors, Inc., Stericycle, Inc., Remondis SE & Co. KG, Biffa Limited, Renewi plc, Cleanaway Waste Management Limited, Waste Connections, Inc., GFL Environmental Inc., FCC Servicios Medio Ambiente Holding, S.A.U., Urbaser S.A.U., S?ch? Environnement S.A., Casella Waste Systems, Inc., and Covanta Holding Corporation.

Key Developments:

In November 2025, Waste Management published its 2025 Climate/Organics brief reporting it processed 3.8 million tons of organic material in 2024 and announced expanded organics capacity and new organics technologies.

In March 2024, SUEZ was awarded a €31 million contract to expand food-and-non-food waste sorting and recovery capability at the Rungis International Market.

In January 2024, Renewi announced a partnership to supply more than 7.5 million m?/year of green gas made from food waste to Vattenfall (green-gas offtake from

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Renewi’s organics plant).

Waste Types Covered:

- Fruits and Vegetables
- Cereals and Bakery Waste
- Dairy Products
- Meat, Fish, and Seafood
- Processed Food
- Other Waste Types

Sources Covered:

- Foodservice
- Hospitality
- Retail & Wholesale
- Food Processing & Manufacturing
- Institutions
- Agriculture & Primary Production

Services Covered:

- Collection
- Transportation
- Processing / Disposal

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Scale & Deployments Covered:

- On-site (Decentralized) Systems
- Community/Municipal (Mid-scale)
- Centralized (Industrial/Utility-scale)

End Users Covered:

- Energy Generation
- Fertilizers and Soil Amendments
- Animal Feed & Feed Ingredients
- Bio-Refinery Products
- Recovered Edible Food (via Donation)

Regions Covered:

- North America
  - US
  - Canada
  - Mexico
- Europe
  - Germany
  - UK

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- Italy
- France
- Spain
- Rest of Europe

Asia Pacific

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- China
- India
- Australia
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- Rest of Asia Pacific

South America

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- Brazil
- Chile
- Rest of South America

Middle East & Africa

- Saudi Arabia

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UAE

Qatar

South Africa

Rest of Middle East & Africa

What our report offers:
- Market share assessments for the regional and country-level segments
- Strategic recommendations for the new entrants
- Covers Market data for the years 2024, 2025, 2026, 2028, and 2032
- Market Trends (Drivers, Constraints, Opportunities, Threats, Challenges, Investment Opportunities, and recommendations)
- Strategic recommendations in key business segments based on the market estimations
- Competitive landscaping mapping the key common trends
- Company profiling with detailed strategies, financials, and recent developments
- Supply chain trends mapping the latest technological advancements

Free Customization Offerings:

All the customers of this report will be entitled to receive one of the following free customization options:

Company Profiling

Comprehensive profiling of additional market players (up to 3)

SWOT Analysis of key players (up to 3)

Regional Segmentation

Market estimations, Forecasts and CAGR of any prominent country as per the client's interest (Note: Depends on feasibility check)

Competitive Benchmarking

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Benchmarking of key players based on product portfolio, geographical presence, and strategic alliances

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Note: Tables for North America, Europe, APAC, South America, and Middle East & Africa Regions are also represented in the same manner as above.

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