

Global Waste Management Facts

Waste Management · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. In what year was the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal adopted?

- A) 1989**
- B) 1992
- C) 1995
- D) 2001

2. According to the World Bank's 'What a Waste 2.0' report, approximately how many billion tonnes of municipal solid waste are generated annually worldwide?

- A) 1.01
- B) 2.01**
- C) 3.01
- D) 4.01

3. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), which governs the disposal of solid and hazardous waste, was enacted by the U.S. Congress in which year?

- A) 1970
- B) 1976**
- C) 1980
- D) 1984

4. What percentage of plastic waste is estimated to have been recycled globally as of 2015, according to studies published in Science Advances?

- A) 9%**
- B) 15%
- C) 22%
- D) 31%

5. The 'Great Pacific Garbage Patch' is estimated to cover an area of approximately how many square kilometers?

- A) 800,000
- B) 1,600,000**
- C) 2,400,000
- D) 3,200,000

6. Which country, as of 2020, held the highest municipal solid waste recycling rate in the world at approximately 60%?

A) Germany

B) South Korea

C) Japan

D) Sweden

7. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) entered into force in which year?

A) 2001

B) 2004

C) 2008

D) 2010

8. Approximately how many years does it take for a standard plastic bottle to decompose in a landfill?

A) 50 years

B) 150 years

C) 450 years

D) 1000 years

9. In 1999, which European Union Directive was adopted to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfills?

A) 1999/31/EC

B) 2000/53/EC

C) 2002/96/EC

D) 2008/98/EC

10. What is the approximate average weight in kilograms of electronic waste (e-waste) generated per capita globally as of 2019?

A) 3.3 kg

B) 7.3 kg

C) 12.3 kg

D) 17.3 kg

11. The Montreal Protocol, which influences waste management of ozone-depleting substances, was signed in what year?

A) 1985

B) 1987

C) 1989

D) 1991

12. By weight, what is the largest component of municipal solid waste in the United States according to EPA data?

- A) Plastics
- B) Paper and paperboard**
- C) Food waste
- D) Metals

13. Which organization released the 'Global Waste Management Outlook' report in 2015?

- A) WHO
- B) UNEP**
- C) OECD
- D) Greenpeace

14. As of 2021, what is the approximate number of years the United States has been operating the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for nuclear waste?

- A) 15 years
- B) 22 years
- C) 32 years**
- D) 42 years

15. What fraction of the total food produced for human consumption is estimated by the FAO to be lost or wasted globally each year?

- A) One-sixth
- B) One-third**
- C) One-half
- D) Two-thirds

16. The Plastic Pollution Coalition was founded in which year to advocate for a world free of plastic pollution?

- A) 2005
- B) 2009**
- C) 2013
- D) 2017

17. In landfill gas recovery, methane typically makes up what percentage of the total gas produced?

- A) 10-20%
- B) 30-40%
- C) 45-60%**
- D) 70-85%

18. The first city in the world to implement a modern 'pay-as-you-throw' waste system in 1975 was located in which country?

A) United States

B) Switzerland

C) Japan

D) Germany

19. The Minamata Convention on Mercury, which regulates waste containing mercury, was adopted in what year?

A) 2009

B) 2013

C) 2015

D) 2017

20. Roughly how many kilograms of waste does the average person in high-income countries generate per day?

A) 0.5 kg

B) 1.5 kg

C) 2.5 kg

D) 3.5 kg