

WASTE MANAGEMENT

GRI Standards :

306-2, 306-4: Effluents and Waste

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The earth's resources are limited and waste is causing direct and indirect pollution and greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate disruption. As a pharmaceutical company, we believe it is important to reduce both environmental and health impacts of waste and to improve resource efficiency. As part of its Planet Mobilization program, Sanofi considers that waste management is a key approach to take actions about resource depletion and Sanofi is committed to reduce the impact of its waste on the environment.

Sanofi takes a multifaceted approach to address the industrial waste challenges, which generates substantial costs to the environment and to our business, since waste must be collected, sorted and transported before being treated. Proper waste management requires appropriate reuse, recycling and energy recovery in order to optimizing resource efficiency.

Each Sanofi site is in charge of its own waste management initiatives based on a global waste strategy, which entitles avoiding waste in all our activities, controlling waste flows at all steps and recycling.

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1. STRATEGIC APPROACH



Our objectives

Reduce, recycle and recover more than 90% of our waste by 2025

100 % of our sites will be landfill free by 2025

Global Performance 2020

73% of our waste is reused, recycled or recovered

59% of our sites are landfill-free

Sanofi takes a multifaceted approach to waste management, designed to limit the amount of waste generated by our activities and to encourage appropriate sorting, reuse and recycling to minimize the need to extract additional natural resources. As a pharmaceutical company, we believe it is important to reduce both environmental and health impacts of waste and to improve resource efficiency.

Our direct waste stream generally includes:

- Hazardous waste (including solvents), solid and liquid residues mainly from the chemical synthesis of active pharmaceutical ingredients, and other production and research activities;
- Non-hazardous waste generated by production (industrial) and administrative activities.

One of our indirect waste streams consists of unused and expired medicines, which contain active pharmaceutical ingredients with a potential environmental impact.

Each Sanofi site is in charge of its own waste management initiatives based on the following waste hierarchy:

- Avoid waste production and reduce waste flow at the source;
- Reuse, recycle and recover on-site or with selected validated providers;
- Incinerate, with energy recovery wherever possible;
- Send waste to authorized landfills as a solution of last resort, provided that the landfill complies with local regulations and control systems. Landfills should be audited on a yearly basis for hazardous waste landfilling, and audited every three years for non-hazardous waste landfilling.

We have designed three waste management programs:

- One “**Be landfillfree**” program to avoid landfill with targets of less than 3% in 2020 and less than 1% in 2025.
- One “**3R (Reuse-Recycle-Recover)**” program with a target >90% of volumes recycled or recovered. We include in this program the avoidance of waste and especially hazardous waste.
- One “Performance & digitalization” program to simply/standardize our processes, use partnerships with major waste companies and implement on sites apps, softwares..

2. HIGHLIGHTS

2.1. Our results in 2020

2.1.1. Table 1: Total waste in tons

	2020	2019	2015 (reference year)
Waste recycled	116730	118358	119033
Waste energy recovered	81719	81475	57511
Waste incinerated without energy recovery	55841	45939	118570
Landfill	18503	20107	20186
TOTAL waste	272793	265879	315300

Despite a slight increase in 2020 compared to 2019, the decrease for waste compared to 2015 (-14%) is mainly due to different investments in chemistry (internal biological treatment for slurry in a chemical site, internal distillation of solvents) and activities variances.

Hazardous Waste disposed of in a landfill represents 2% of the total quantity of hazardous waste emitted by the company. This ultimate treatment is only used when local incineration treatment infrastructure is not available.

2.2. Optimizing solvent use for better waste management

At different steps of manufacturing our products we use solvents, which may contribute to emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and result in the output of hazardous waste. Sanofi has developed tools and performance indicators to optimize the use of solvents in our industrial processes (chemical synthesis, cleaning equipment, etc.) while minimizing their environmental impact. It is crucial to make sound choices at the earliest stages of product development, since it is often difficult to change processes later on. To help our teams make decisions on a daily basis, we update our internal standards with the aim of providing guidance to choose the most appropriate solvents:

- Selecting the least toxic solvents;

- Reducing the quantities of solvents used;
- Promoting the use of recycled solvents whenever possible.
- Making the best use of blister packaging materials

To reduce waste at the source, we seek to optimize the utilization of blisters made of PVC/aluminum and aluminum/aluminum, which provide the packaging for many of our products. This optimization initiative concerns 46 Sanofi production sites. We carry out studies to limit package sizes in order to decrease the consumption of cardboard, PVC and aluminum. Another aspect of our optimization approach involves increasing the number of boxes per pallet transported and filling trucks, barges and other means of transportation to maximize occupancy.

We also perform life cycle analysis of packaging approaches using specially-designed software. An expert third party reviews the resulting analysis to help quantify the environmental impact of our packaging materials.

2.3. Actions to combat food waste

In France, many sites (tertiary, R & D and industrial) have already starting taking action to avoid food waste. They implemented organizational initiatives that can be classified into three categories:

- Reduction of waste at the source, in particular by respecting precise weights set out in contracts and by regular surveys, particularly during low attendance periods;
- Responsible food management and more closely adapting quantities to needs, establishing a “just in time” flow for certain stands, asking people pay for bread to avoid routinely taking bread that then goes to waste, reducing offerings at the end of the service and introducing payment by weight (salad and fruit self-service);
- Management of leftovers and waste at the end of the chain by reusing vegetables from the day before, installing sorting bins for better waste recovery, and setting up contracts for food donations with approved associations for people in need.

For more information, see our [Document Center](#):

- *HSE Policy*
- *HSE Management System*
- *Pharmaceuticals In the Environment factsheet*
- *Ecodesign Factsheet*
- *A responsible and Sustainable Chemistry Factsheet*
- *Responsible Packaging Factsheet*
- *Protection of the Atmosphere Factsheet*
- *Water Stewardship Factsheet*