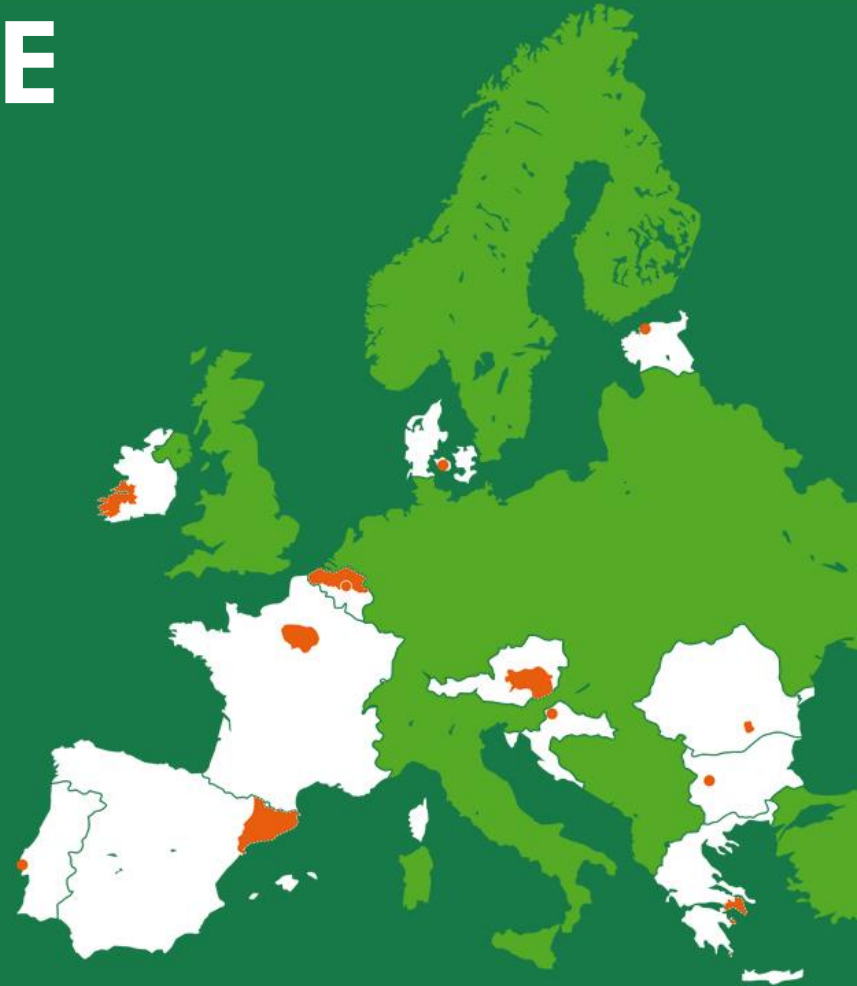


# MUNICIPAL WASTE CONSULTANTS IN AUSTRIA

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Waste Prevention  
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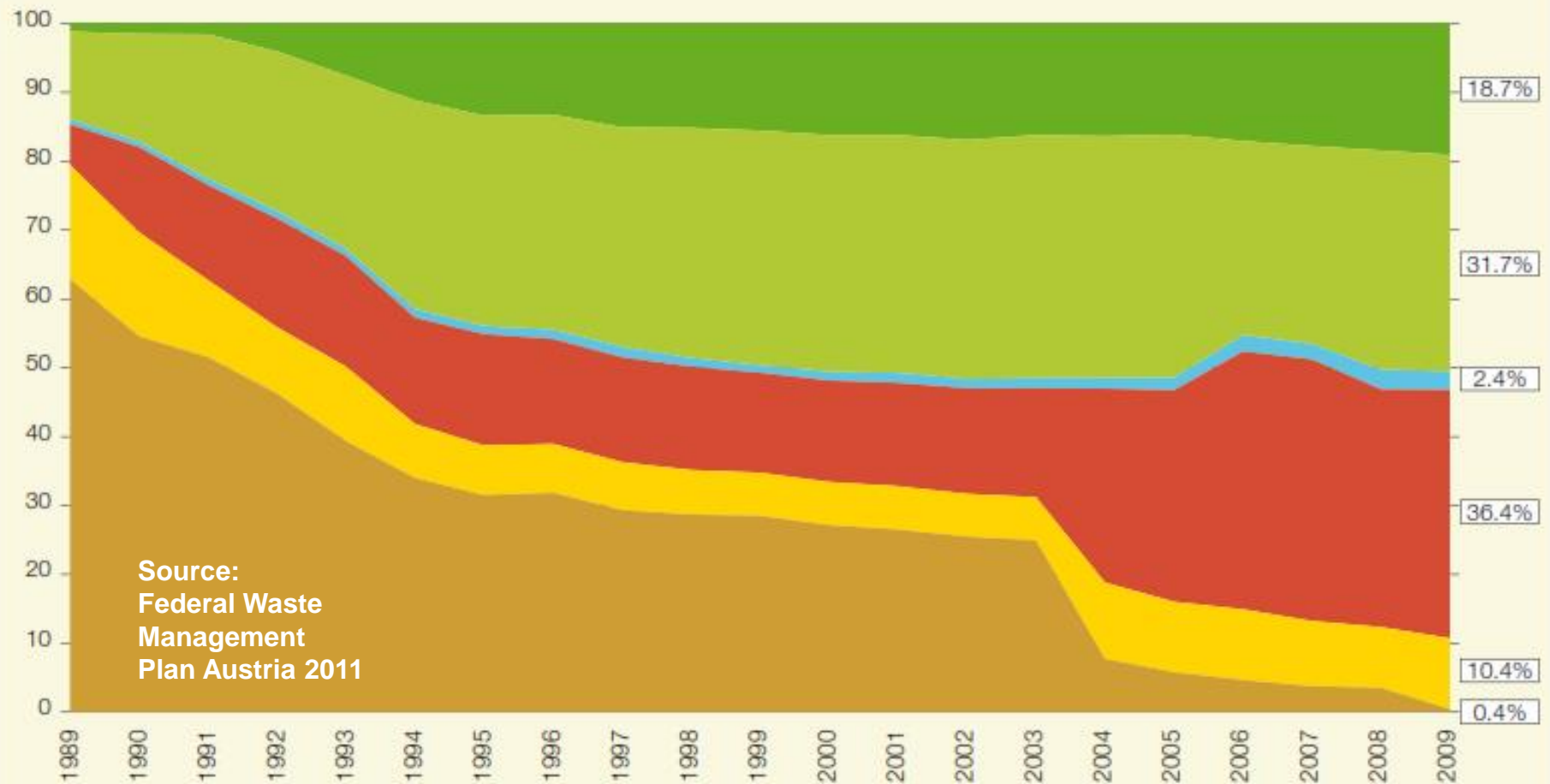
# Waste from households and similar establishments

## Quantity generated, recovery and disposal between 1989 and 2009

in % by mass

First treatment pathways:

- recovery of biogenic waste, particularly from separate collection and from green waste
- recovery of recoverables, especially from separate collection
- treatment of hazardous household waste and waste electrical and electronic equipment from separate collection
- thermal treatment (incineration or co-incineration)
- biotechnical treatment in (mechanical-)biological treatment plant
- landfilling



Source:  
Federal Waste  
Management  
Plan Austria 2011

# Background

- 1980ies: severe waste problems in Austria: rising amounts, rapidly shrinking landfill capacities
- ARGE-Association for Waste Prevention, founded in 1982, introduced waste prevention strategies

# Solution

- Prevention instead of „end of pipe technology“
- The Way: educating/training the people
- The Tool:
  - Municipal Environment & Waste  
Consultants in every region
- The Offer:
  - concept and training course
- National Employment Service financed the start!

# What is a municipal environment and waste consultant?

- Public employee
- Main field of employment = municipal waste management
- Main tasks: public relations, communication, marketing, management, organization



# „formula for success“ = public relation

Waste avoidance, waste separation,  
sustainable consumption patterns and  
regional appropriate collection systems  
need qualified, specialized and  
locally based experts

# Where waste consultants are employed:

- Municipalities / local authorities
- townships with more than 3000 inhabitants
- cities
- associations of towns / districts
- provincial authorities
- associations (under public contract)
- communal waste management entities

# Purpose of waste consultants:

- Reduction of waste for treatment
- Optimizing the amount of waste for Recycling
- Stabilization or reduction of the overall amount of waste
- Establishment of regional collecting systems that are customer-friendly and cost-saving
- Creation of public acceptance for necessary steps, like treatment plants, less convenience, higher fees



# Qualification of a Waste Consultant:

- High motivation to serve the „common welfare“
- intelligent, responsible work
- Experience in any profession (not „fresh from college“)
- Talent for communication
- Organizing talent
- Holistic thinking in cross-linked systems (environmental topics)
- positive attitude towards ecology and sustainability

# Everyday-work of Waste Consultants I

- Public awareness for environmental protection, PR, promotion of collection systems
- service-hotline
- on-site advising (e. g. home-composting)
- conception, planning, organizing collection-systems
- supervision & support of collection-centres
- Consulting of public decision-makers
- events / activities
- educational work (schools, kindergardens)

## Everyday-work of Waste Consultants II

- consultation of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)
- waste management concepts for towns, SMEs, schools,...
- environment-magazines / newsletters
- energy consulting
- water- and waste-water consulting
- participating in the development of innovative strategies and concepts („sustainable development“)
- networking for local actors in the fields of sustainability, environment

# Everyday-work of Waste Consultants III

- motivate, train and supervise the waste-management personnel of the local authority
- Waste controls and -analysis
- documentation, statistics, evaluation
- controlling of waste management finances
- Management of all relevant activities and contracts
- „crisis management“
- environmental „pastoral care“

# Financing of Waste Consultants I

- **1984 – 1986:** Initial funding of concept, development of training, dissemination by National Employment Service, Ministry of Environment, Province of Styria
- **1986 – ~2000:** Initial funding of implementation of the first ~200 consultants (6 months training costs, 100% staff costs during training, 50 – 75% staff costs for initial 12 – 24 months of work) by National Employment Service

# Financing of Waste Consultants II

today:

- Public waste-fee of municipality  
(Styria: ~50 - 70 %)
- Co-Funding by private packaging-collection system  
(ARA) (Contract between ARA and single authorities)  
(Styria: ~30 - 50%)
- only in Styria: co-funding by Provincial authority:  
~10 - 30 %

# Results I

- Today ~340 permanent consultants in Austria
- ~ 1 waste consultant per 25.000 inhabitants (target: 1 per 10.000 inhabitants)
- separate waste collection rate raised from near zero to over 70% within 15 years in many regions (for example Styria)
- recovery rate (including energy recovery): 70% in all Austria
- Disposal rate: less than 3%!
- recovery-income reduces costs for municipalities and waste fees for households

## Results II

- 30.000 jobs in Austrian waste management (public and private) = 20.000 more compared to countries with very low separate collection
- 1 job in Waste Management for 270 inhabitants
- 1 municipal waste consultant per 88 employees in Waste management
- 1,5% of Gross National Product = Waste Management



# Lessons learnt

- Investment in human resources in the form of supporting behavioural change towards wasting less material and costs creates new jobs and added value for regions and states
- Investment in the change of human behaviour is cheaper than investment in technologies / strategies, that have to compensate the results of unwanted human behaviour

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

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