

Project Research

Eurostat provides statistics about waste generation and treatment in the European Union (EU) and several non-member countries as well as its development. The data was collected in “accordance with Regulation (EC) 2002 of the European Parliament and Council on waste statistics” (Waste Statistics). Waste, in their definition is defined by “any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard”, which potentially represents an enormous loss of resources in the form of both materials and energy. This description of waste is relatively comprehensive; however I think today people need to reevaluate what they consider as waste and what could be waste or potentially be upcycled or reused.

In terms of user interface, this website is extremely text heavy and text dependent. Although it provides lots of good information, I think it would be more helpful for the average curious person to be able to view a visual representation of the statistics so infographics that summaries and highlights the important points would be more helpful and leave a greater impact on visitors of the site. Visual impact should not be underestimated and also it will be supportive to provide resources on how people can cut their waste and further resources for them to be able to make real changes in their lives.

Overall this website provides very specific facts about waste and how much trash we generate in more simple terms. The quickly growing numbers resonate with users the most because it has an aspect of movement and shows the speed that waste is being generated. There are also notes about how much the waste is translated to terms like how many container ships can be filled, which paints an even more bleak picture. Several topics are explored such as

amount of waste, speed of waste growing, where waste goes, and what to do. Each of these points are briefly touched upon to provide users with information without overloading the page with text only.

Simmons begins by acknowledging the fact waste threatens public health and pollutes the environment. As “each year, nations generate 1.3 billion tons of waste,” the problem actually bigger than that in the United States (Simmons). The color-coded map, highlights the countries that are producing the most waste each day. Because most Americans do not actually see their waste and landfills, they may not realize the full scope of the problem. As these problems are not directly impacting their lives and there are few resources to make daily waste amounts aware to people on a daily basis. Also, the article notes ideas such as making people pay for the amount of waste they generate instead of a flat fee on waste. The threats of this global waste issue also poses many health risks. Pollution runs into rivers and contaminates bodies of water and those who go through waste expose themselves to hazardous waste.

Works Cited

Simmons, Ann M. "The World's Trash Crisis, and Why Many Americans Are Oblivious." Los Angeles Times. Los Angeles Times, 22 Apr. 2016. Web. 09 Feb. 2017.

"Tons of Waste from Households - Globally, This Year." The World Counts. The World Counts, n.d. Web. 09 Feb. 2017.

"Waste Statistics." Waste Statistics - Statistics Explained. Eurostat, Oct. 2016. Web. 09 Feb. 2017.