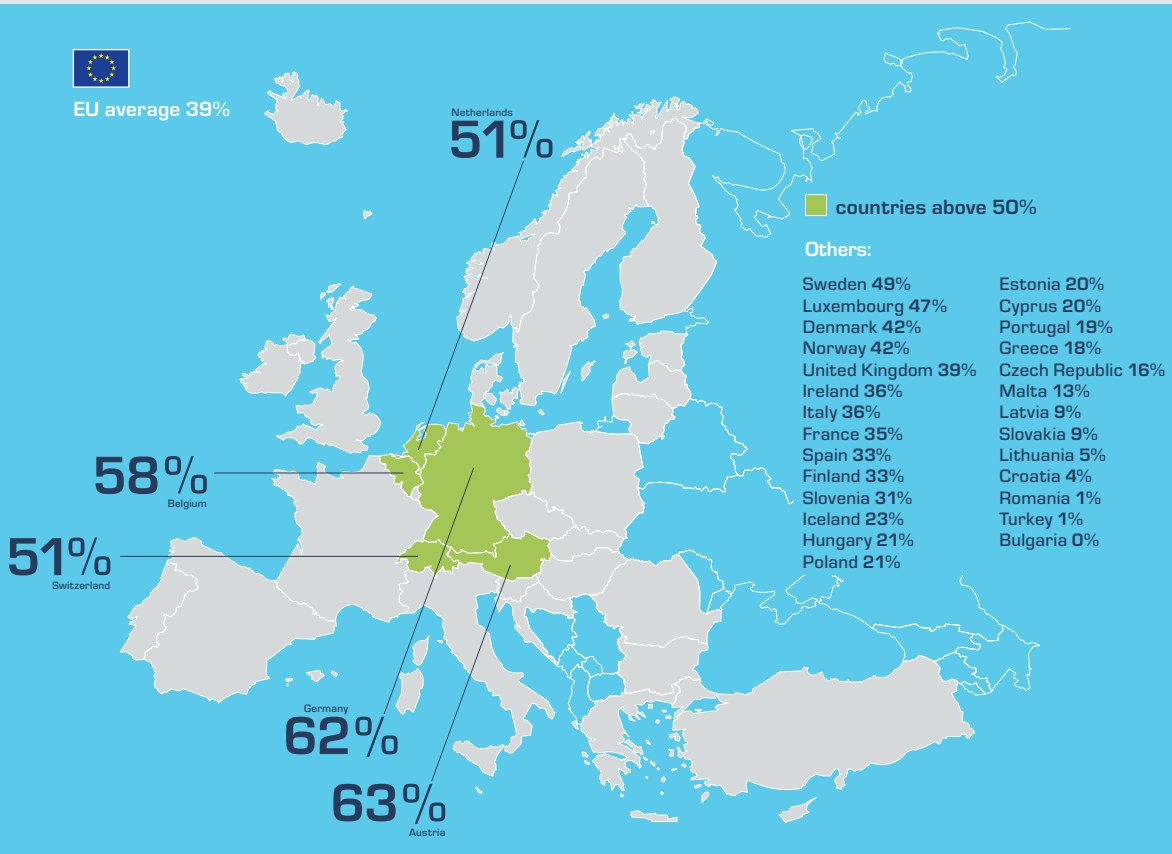
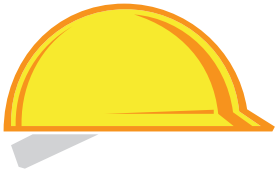
European Environment Agency

Recycling rates in Europe

Much of the waste we throw away can be recycled. Recycling benefits the environment by diverting waste away from landfills and by providing raw materials for new products. Recycling can also encourage innovation and create jobs.





In Europe, employment related to recycling increased by 45 % between 2000 and 2007

50/20

EU countries should recycle at least 50% of their municipal waste by 2020.

Recycling an aluminium can saves around 95% of the energy needed to make a new one from raw material.

Sources: EEA, European Commission, Eurostat