

Waste and pollution

Why is it important?

We have a responsibility to reduce our emissions to air and water and to dispose of our waste carefully – and look for ways to reduce it at source. This will help minimise our environmental impact, prevent the depletion of natural resources, reduce pollution and protect human health and the health of our ecosystems.

Our commitments

We recognise that we need to identify and responsibly manage the environmental impacts and dependencies related to waste and pollution in our entire value chain.

Short-term objective for 2025

- Reduce total waste per tonne by 5% (versus 2022)

Associated policies

Environment Policy

Water Management Policy

Risk Management Policy

[Our Group policies are all available on our website.](#)

Our approach

We are committed to continuously improving our environmental performance, in terms of the waste we produce – and how we manage it – and the pollution that occurs as a result of activities across our entire value chain. As well as meeting all our compliance obligations in different parts of the world, we focus on:

- Minimising the quantity of waste our own operations produce, and increasing how much we reuse and recycle, reducing hazardous waste disposal, and lowering the quantity of waste we send to landfill as much as possible
- Putting systems and controls in place to prevent incidents at our sites that could lead to waste- and pollution-related environmental consequences, and ensure we minimise the potential impact if these incidents occur
- Working with customers and suppliers to accelerate the design and introduction of products with increased environmental benefits and fewer hazards over their entire lifecycle

- Implementing and continuously improving our operational management systems, which set our environmental standards, and are aligned with our Vision 2030 roadmap targets.

We manage several different types of waste, such as filtered solids from reactor and tank cleaning and waste packaging. We also have one-off waste streams associated with construction and demolition. Some speciality sites manage specific waste streams that are not saleable and require treatment and disposal. Our adhesives plants manage a relatively high level of hazardous waste that must be incinerated.

We define 'waste' as all material classified as waste at Synthomer locations, whether its process waste, municipal waste, construction/demolition or on-off special waste (e.g. contaminated ground/soil disposal). We define 'hazardous waste' as waste classified as hazardous in line with relevant local / regional regulations.

Waste data is included based on Group Operational Control boundaries and for any sites acquired before the last quarter of the year. However, it excludes office locations with no material impact on waste totals and no process waste, and sites divested during the first half of the financial year.

Many of our sites also produce permitted levels of emissions to air and water, which are managed by specific regulations aimed at minimising their impact. We are committed to meeting our compliance requirements and driving continuous improvement into our processes as required by our ISO 14001-certified environmental management system.

Our Safety, Health and Environment Management System (SHEMS) and the controls we have in place to keep equipment working efficiently help us reduce the risk of unplanned waste and emissions. For example, we ensure our operational teams understand their role in helping to prevent unexpected releases, including of hazardous chemicals. And we carry out routine inspections and maintenance to address issues before they become a problem.

Our performance in 2025 and next steps

Our three-year rolling waste intensity metric was 5% worse over the 2023-2025 period, versus 2021-2023. This was due to a series of significant one-off events in 2025, including construction waste from demolition at our site in Marl, Germany, and a change in how we report the bromide effluent waste stream at our Harlow site.

We now have 11 sites (six manufacturing sites, three offices and two technical centres) – representing 22.9% of our production volumes – that send no waste directly to landfill.

Many of our sites are working on projects to improve the efficiency of our manufacturing processes, which can be a common cause of waste. They also look for opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle material. For example, our site in Ribécourt, France, reduced wastewater treatment sludge by 30% by changing its filter cleaning procedures and addressing quality issues in process solution make-up. Also in 2024, our site in Jefferson, USA, optimised the way it manages its hazardous waste stream, reducing this waste by more than 1,000 tonnes and saving more than \$1.2 million in disposal costs.

While reporting total waste generation is important, the impact of one-off waste disposals often hides underlying performance trends. In 2026, we will therefore revise the definition of our waste intensity metric to focus on manufacturing waste instead of total waste.

Through our Manufacturing Excellence programme, all sites will develop emissions and waste improvement plans and demonstrate good waste management practices, as we expect from our environmental policy. Alongside work to reduce waste generated at our sites, we continue to focus on product quality, right-first-time production, and stock management to help drive underlying improvements.

Sustainability insights: Waste and pollution

	Unit	2025	2024	2023	2019	Variance 2025 vs 2024	Variance 2025 vs 2019
Group waste management							
Group waste (total)							
Absolute	tonnes	79,470	61,919	60,356	66,558	28.3%	19.4%
Specific	kg/tonne production	61.29	45.20	45.58	35.50	35.6%	72.6%
Group waste (landfill)							
Absolute	tonnes	12,720	12,739	11,980	18,891	-0.1%	-32.7%
Specific	kg/tonne production	9.81	9.30	9.05	10.08	5.5%	-2.7%
Group waste (hazardous)							
Absolute	tonnes	29,071	28,721	27,070	35,036	1.2%	-17.0%
Specific	kg/tonne production	22.42	20.97	20.44	18.69	6.9%	20.0%
Group waste (non-hazardous)							
Absolute	tonnes	50,399	33,198	33,286	31,522	51.8%	59.9%
Specific	kg/tonne production	38.87	24.24	25.14	16.81	60.4%	131.2%
Hazardous waste by source							
Recycled – energy recovery		11,297	7,030	8,608	9,034	60.7%	25.0%
Recycled – separated – reprocessed		5,117	9,546	7,221	7,195	-46.4%	-28.9%
Incinerated – no energy recovery		4,156	3,675	4,124	6,508	13.1%	-36.1%
Disposed by landfill		2,022	1,730	1,350	1,200	16.9%	68.5%
Other		6,478	6,740	5,767	11,100	-3.9%	-41.6%
Non-hazardous waste by source							
Recycled – energy recovery		2,646	3,246	3,200	8,219	-18.5%	-67.8%
Recycled – separated – reprocessed		35,195	17,676	17,255	2,729	99.1%	1189.7%
Incinerated – no energy recovery		97	90	76	1022	7.8%	-90.5%
Disposed by landfill		10,697	11,010	10,630	17,692	-2.8%	-39.5%
Other		1,763	1,177	2,126	1,860	49.8%	-5.2%
Sites that are zero production waste to landfill							
Number		6	6	10	–	0.0	n/a
Proportion of Group revenue		17.8	17.0	27.7	–	4.6	n/a
Proportion of Group production volume		22.9	22.5	30.7	–	1.6	n/a
Other emissions to air							
Other emissions to air – absolute							
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	tonnes	18.41	23.42	14.36	126.28	-21.4%	-85.4%
Nitrous oxides (NO _x)	tonnes	207.23	192.18	159.29	198.57	7.8%	4.4%
Particulate matter (PM)	tonnes	47.67	47.66	35.50	n/a	0.0%	n/a
Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)	tonnes	466.85	475.56	299.67	231.34	-1.8%	101.8%
Other emissions to air – specific							
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	kg/tonne production	0.014	0.02	0.01	0.07	-17.6%	-80.0%
Nitrous oxides (NO _x)	kg/tonne production	0.16	0.14	0.12	0.11	12.7%	44.1%
Particulate matter (PM)	kg/tonne production	0.037	0.04	0.02	n/a	5.7%	[n/a]
Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)	kg/tonne production	0.36	0.35	0.21	0.13	3.7%	183.5%
Manufacturing effectiveness							
Right-first-time rate	%	98.8	98	98.5			