

# GARBAGE DUMP OR GOLD MINE?

Landfill is the oldest and most common form of waste disposal. Landfill sites have many negative effects on the environment, including production of greenhouse gases and pollution of soil and water.

The total number of  
**landfill sites** in the EU  
is

**500,000**

**€5250  
mil.**

worth of materials are  
sent to landfill every  
year in the EU

## ENHANCED LANDFILL MINING

Landfills are often filled with wastes which can now be recycled due to legislation changes. **Enhanced landfill mining (ELFM)** is the process of excavating landfill sites to recover these resources to produce new materials and energy.



### Electrical equipment

WEEE is the fastest growing waste stream  
Many valuable rare earth metals can be recovered from discarded electronics



### Aluminium cans

Can be reprocessed numerous times without loss of quality



### Glass/aggregates

Can be used as materials for construction



### Organic matter

Energy can be generated by the incineration of less valuable, carbon-containing waste materials



### Plasma gasification

New technology which can produce high-added-value products from organic waste



### Soil

Can be repurposed as fertiliser