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Technology

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Search

Search

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Search

Search

Categories

All

Insights

Technology & Innovations

Customer Success Stories

Partner Success Stories

# What waste data is telling us about COVID-19

Posted on 5/14/2020 in Insights





**Waste behavior is human behavior.** What we consume and what (and how) we dispose of says a lot about us and what we are experiencing. In this unique time in history, we're taking a look at our **proprietary waste data** to gain a better understanding.

Our specialized smart waste technology monitors waste behavior to create optimized waste solutions — decreasing costs and environmental impact. Our patented sensor monitors container fill levels and collections. Sensor data feeds proprietary analytics software, this software analyzes and predicts waste behavior to create custom collection schedules and advanced solutions.

**With more than 40,000 sensors active worldwide, we have unique and powerful insight into waste behavior across industries and across the globe.**

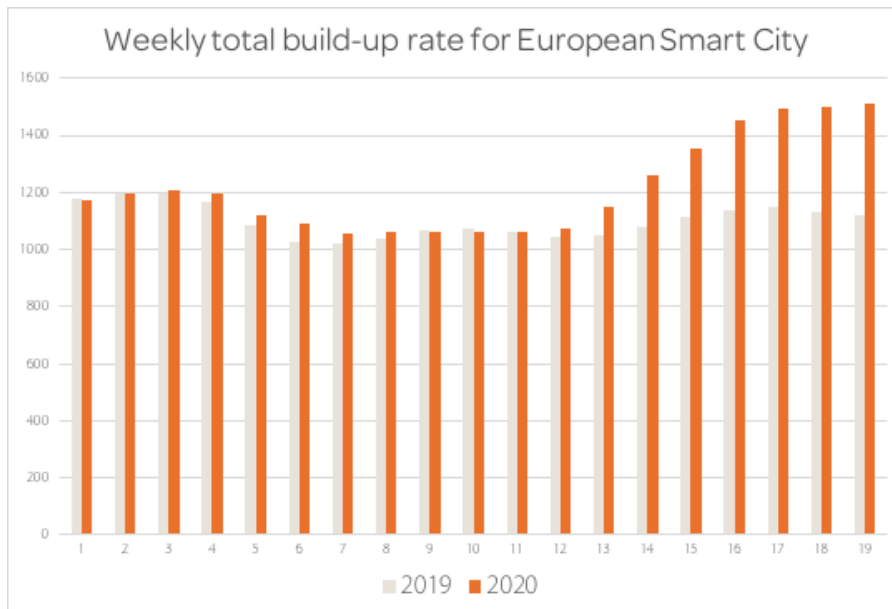
While we are all feeling the effects of the quarantine, we are not experiencing it the same. We'll anonymously highlight three of our customers: a major **European smart city**, a chain of convenience stores in the **American northeast**, and a top university in **Texas**.

We've compared their waste from March and April 2019 and 2020. Here's what we found:

## Smart City



This city in the Netherlands has experienced a **42.5% increase in residential waste volume** since March. This seems to be a logical side effect as the Dutch are still avoiding public places and staying home more.



**42.5%**  
increase in  
**residential waste**  
volume

Moreover, it's evidence that these citizens are taking public health measures to heart and putting them into action.

The decrease in commercial waste has had a strain on waste operations and has required additional resources and services to manage this spike in residential waste. With sensors monitoring neighborhood containers in real-time, waste operators were able to adjust services, knowing exactly how many resources to add, and where to focus the services — controlling cost during a time of extreme waste increase.

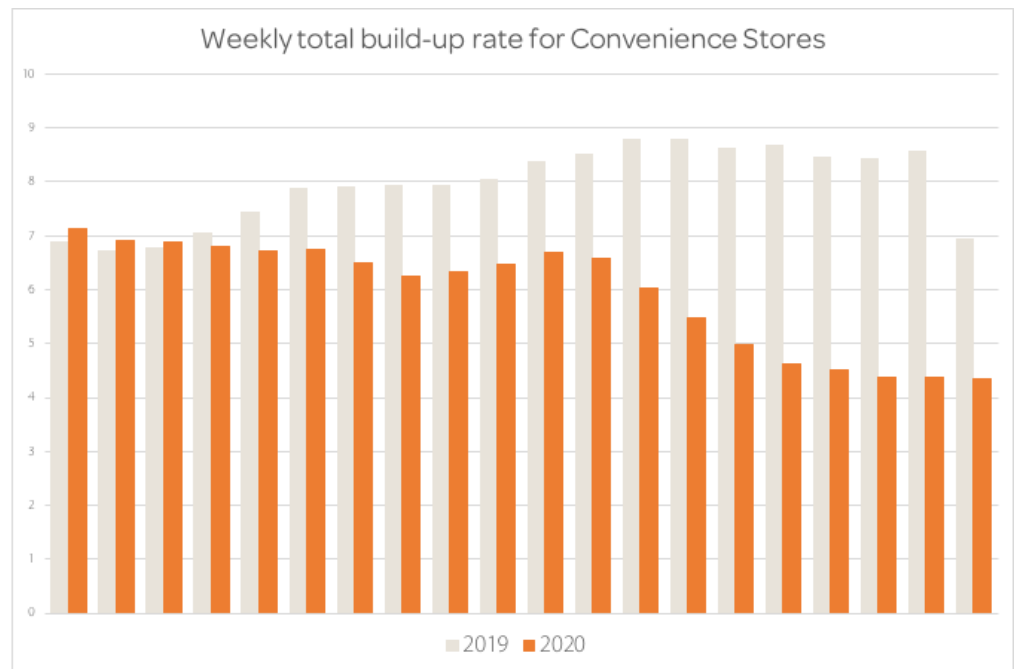
Additionally, Enevo's dynamic routing software uses sensor data to create collection schedules that drive the fewest number of miles while avoiding container overflow. While more of us are working from home, limiting interruptions is welcome and necessary.

## Convenience Stores

This chain of prominent convenience stores in the American Northeast experienced a **37% decrease in waste** compared to 2019. This is notable, given this is typically a time of year that historically sees a gradual increase of waste coming out of winter.



**37%**  
decrease in  
waste



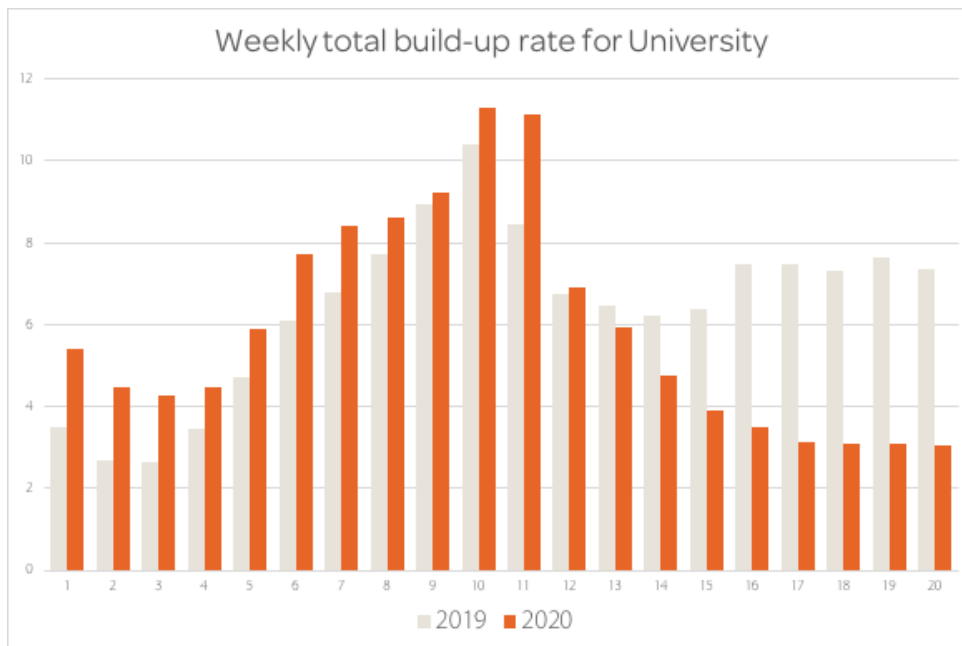
Decreased waste at gas stations and convenience stores echoes the effects of extraordinarily low oil prices. Fewer commuters are driving to work and less are engaging in leisure travel as the weather warms. This is a further demonstration of following neighborhood orders and a shift in work life.

With essential employees still on the road and limited travel in effect, waste is still being generated. Enevo tech is continuing to monitor their waste and automatically adjusting services in all the right places. This reduction in waste services keeps waste costs low as they face a decrease in sales while also ensuring cleanliness and the health of customers and employees.

## University

A top university in Texas experienced a drastic **58% reduction in campus waste** as in-person classes were suspended. This steady decrease in waste demonstrates that the university was efficient in sending students away from campus and reducing on-campus staff.





**58%**  
reduction in  
campus waste

Remaining faculty and staff are still producing some waste. Rather than guessing where essential employees are still performing duties on campus and generating waste, they are able to use Enevo's technology to pinpoint exactly what containers need service, and which do not.

The combination of our sensor and analytics software has automatically adjusted collection operations to reflect this new waste production, keeping the campus clean while reducing collections and allowing facilities staff with the time needed to execute services safely.

It is still unclear when regular classes will resume, but Enevo tech will be ready to adjust services whenever that comes.

In an unpredictable time, knowledge is power. Waste is a powerful indicator of what we are experiencing.

We only have this information to share because it is our mission to optimize waste services.

As a general practice, waste collection operations rely on past experience and information to balance efficiency and ensure proper levels of service. Real-time and predictive insights paired with detailed historical data is key to navigating the new normal as businesses and communities prepare for a new normal — and new waste services to match it.

Cities and operators utilizing Enevo's technology are able to proactively provide essential, efficient, and services, supporting citizens and businesses during this most difficult time.



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