

Ireland's End-of-life vehicles

Why do we need to recycle ELVs?

What is an End of Life Vehicle (ELV)?

ELVs are cars and vans that have reached the end of their life and their owners scrap them.



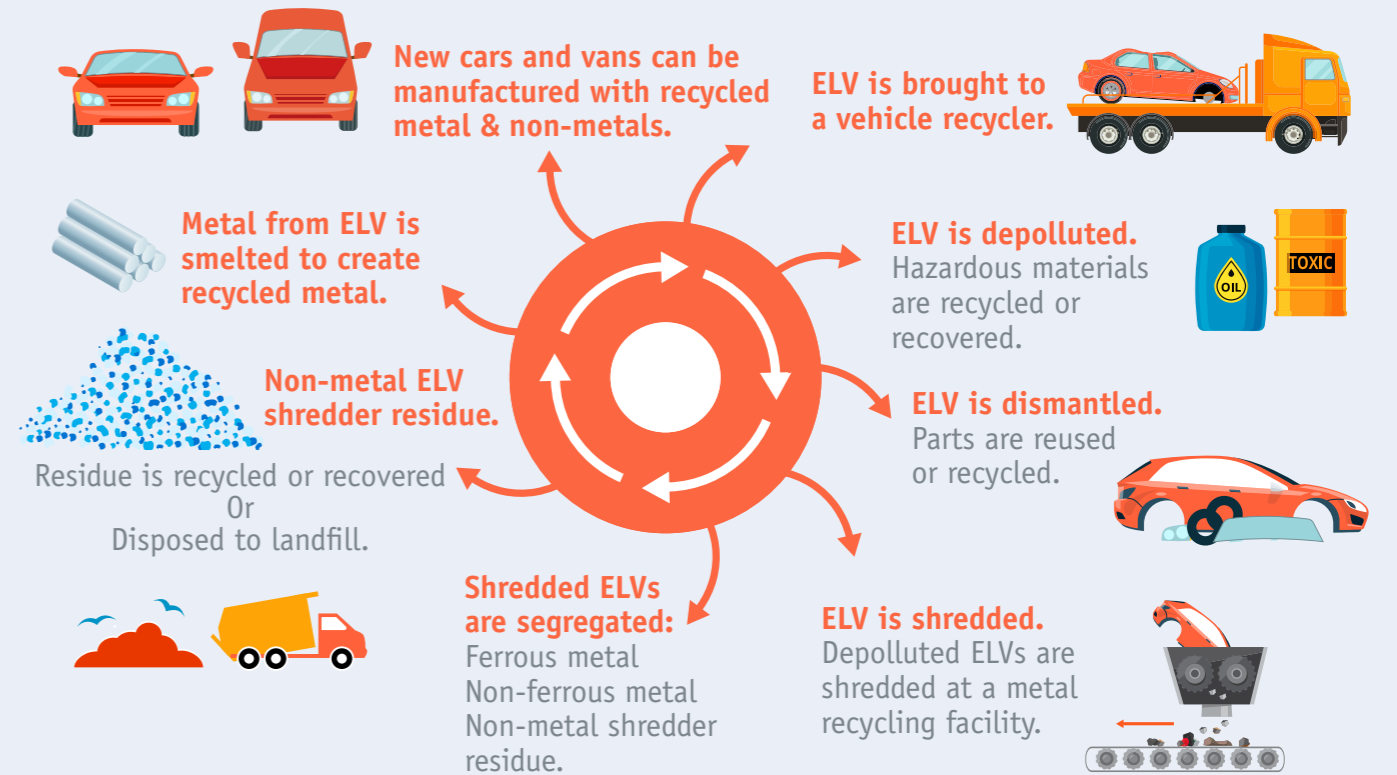
ELVs generate 8-9 million tonnes of waste in the European Union each year.

If ELVs are not treated at an authorized facility, hazardous materials (e.g. oils, fluids) can pollute land, rivers and groundwater.

If ELVs are not recycled, the European economy loses millions of tonnes of valuable resources such as metals that can be reused, recycled and recovered as part of the circular economy.



ELV treatment & the circular economy

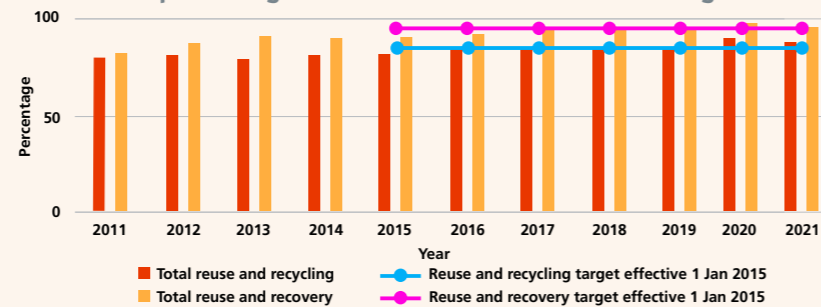


ELV Statistics for Ireland – 2021

An estimated **145,628 ELVs** were treated in Ireland in 2021. That is enough cars to span the distance from Mizen Head to Malin Head.



Figure 1. End-of-life vehicles reuse, recycling and recovery percentages 2011-2021 and distance to target



Ireland achieved full compliance with the EU ELV targets in 2021.

We achieved a reuse and recycling rate of 87.8%.

And a reuse and recovery rate of 95.7%.

The remaining (4.3%) was disposed to landfill.



Key Actions

What Can You Do?

Bring your old car or van to an Authorised Treatment Facility (ATF) to ensure it is properly recycled.



Report fly tipped/abandoned cars. You can report illegal dumping using the EPA 'See it? Say it!' app.

What Can Government/Industry Do?



Car and van manufacturers need to improve vehicle design to make recycling easier and use more recycled materials in new vehicles.

To achieve a circular economy, further investment and targeted measures are needed to improve the recycling and recovery of non-metal material from ELVs.

