

End-of-Life Vehicle Statistics for Ireland

Introduction

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) produces national statistics on waste generation and management to meet legislative reporting obligations and inform policy.

This release reports information on the reuse, recycling and recovery of Irish End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) in 2015. There are targets for ELV reuse, recycling and recovery under the EU ELV Directive. ELVs are cars accommodating up to eight passengers plus driver and commercial vehicles no greater than 3.5 tonnes that have reached end of life.

Key points relating to 2015 reference year

- Approximately 75,000 ELVs were treated in Ireland in 2015, 14% fewer than in 2014.
- Higher ELV Directive targets came into effect 1 January 2015. For all ELVs, reuse and recovery shall be a minimum of 95% by an average weight per vehicle, and reuse and recycling shall be a minimum of 85% by an average weight per vehicle.
- Despite an upward trend in the reuse, recycling and recovery of ELVs in recent years, Ireland failed to meet the 2015 ELV Directive targets, achieving 92% reuse and recovery and 83% reuse and recycling.
- More reuse of ELV components at ATFs and/or increased recycling and other recovery along the waste recovery network will be needed to meet the higher targets.
- Vehicle manufacturers and importers have obligations to meet the ELV Directive targets (producer responsibility initiative). A new compliance scheme, ELV Environmental Services (ELVES), was launched in 2017 to work on behalf of vehicle manufacturers to meet the targets.

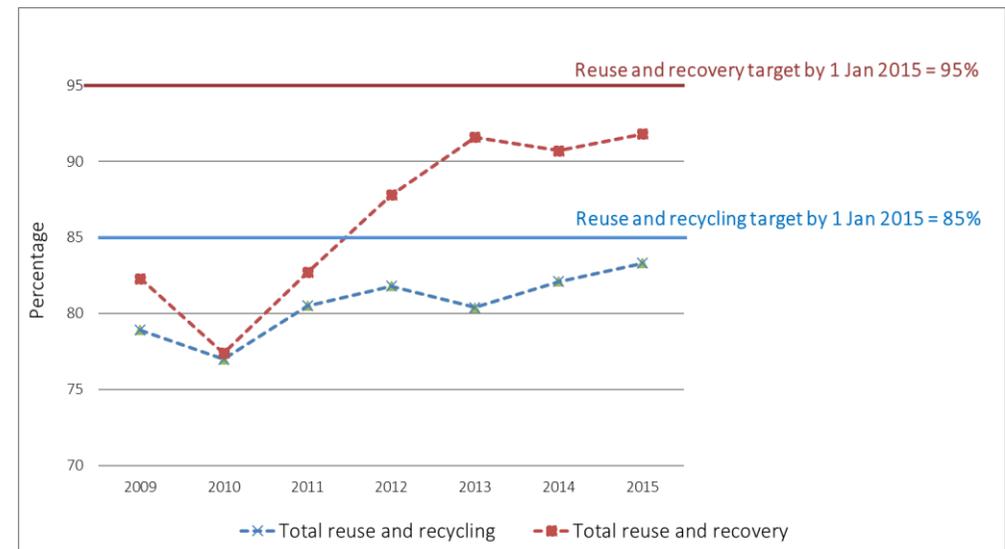
Treatment of ELVs

In a first treatment step, ELVs are depolluted (e.g. draining waste oils, removal of batteries) at Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATFs). ATFs are waste facilities permitted to accept and depollute ELVs and to issue certificates of destruction for ELVs they accept. Apart from depollution, treatment at ATFs often includes removal of parts, such as mirrors and tyres, for reuse or for recovery. Treated ELVs are then sent to metal shredding facilities to recover ferrous and non-ferrous metals. The residue of the shredding process is sent for post-shredder recovery of materials or for disposal.

Data collection

The EPA surveyed all 168 operational ATFs and the three ELV shredders for 2015 reference year data and achieved an 81% response rate. The facilities provided information on the number of ELVs they accepted and depolluted; on spare parts taken off for reuse and on the waste materials sent for recycling and other recovery in Ireland and abroad. Certain specified waste ceases to be waste (end-of-waste) when it has undergone a recovery operation and complies with specific criteria. End-of-waste criteria exist for iron, steel and aluminium scrap, and some scrap metal from ELV shredding meets the end-of-waste status in Ireland.

Figure 1. ELV reuse, recycling and recovery percentage from 2009 – 2015 compared to ELV Directive targets effective 1 January 2015.



More information

See <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/stats/> for the data table linked to this release.