

# Waste Tyre Statistics for Ireland

## Introduction

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) produces national statistics on waste generation and management in Ireland to meet legislative reporting obligations and inform policy. This release reports on waste tyres managed in 2014.

## Key Trends

Waste tyres can go through more than one treatment activity (see Figure 2 next page for waste tyre flows). Note: all percentages below refer to the total amount of waste tyres managed.

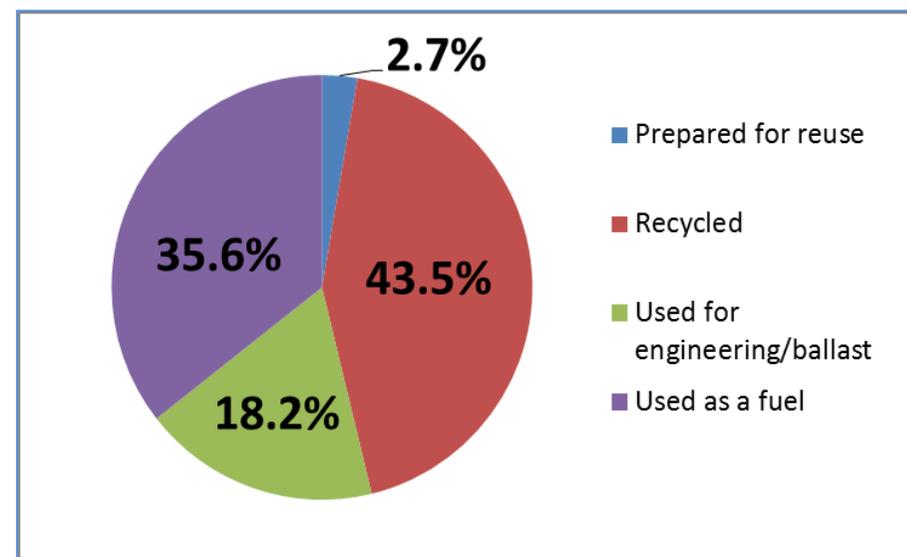
- 27,989 tonnes<sup>1</sup> of waste tyres were managed in Ireland in 2014. This compares to 24,165 tonnes in 2012<sup>2</sup>.
- 35% (9,880 tonnes) were exported and used as fuel, in comparison to 33% (7,942 tonnes) during 2012.
- 36% (10,000 tonnes) were crumbed to reclaim tyre constituents during 2014; whereas 41% of waste tyres were crumbed during 2012.
- 14% (3,913 tonnes) were baled for use in engineering or as ballast.
- 4% (1,092 tonnes) were untreated and used for engineering and ballast.
- 6% (1,679 tonnes) were shredded and then exported.
- <1% (100 tonnes) were prepared for reuse in the State.
- Total combined exports amounted to 12,688 tonnes (45% of total managed in 2014). This compares to 9,757 tonnes (40% of total managed) in 2012.
- The majority of exports were used as fuel (35%) with the remainder recycled (8%) or prepared for reuse (2%).
- 3% of tyres managed were exported without any treatment in the State.

Figure 1 illustrates final treatment of waste tyres: 44% recycled, 36% used as a fuel, 18% used for engineering/ballast and 3% prepared for reuse/reused.

<sup>1</sup> All tonnages are approximate.

<sup>2</sup> Last reference year for which data were reported by EPA.

Figure 1. Final treatment of waste tyres, 2014



## Legislation

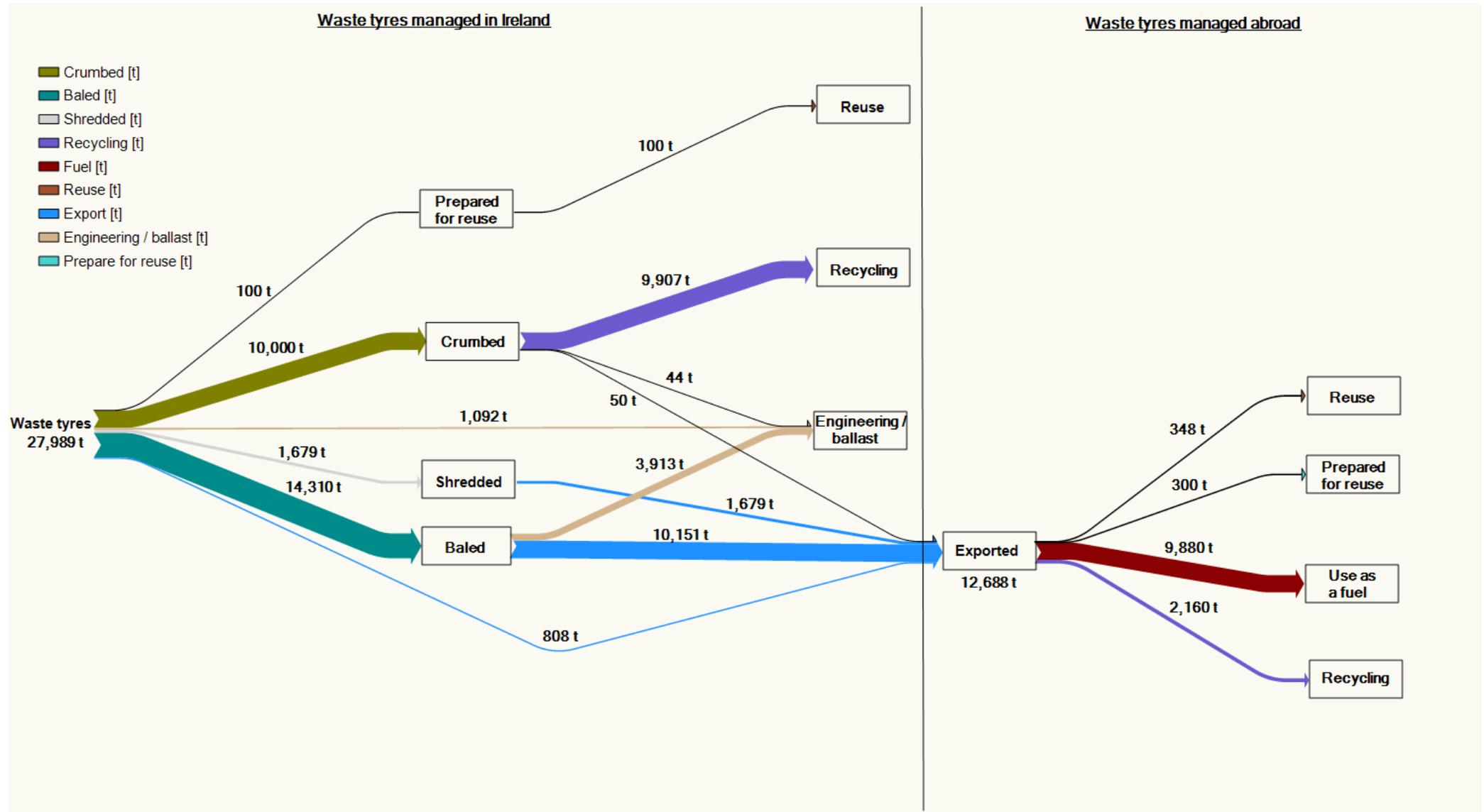
The Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyres) Regulations 2007<sup>3</sup> impose obligations on persons supplying tyres to the Irish market. The Regulations were designed to track waste tyre flows and maximize their reuse and recovery. A Department of Environment led review of the tyre producer responsibility initiative found that there was insufficient information on tyres in the distribution, collection and waste treatment network. Repak End of Life Tyres (<https://repakelt.ie/>) was appointed as a compliance scheme for tyres in 2015. The scheme is currently collecting data and the Department is progressing Regulations to establish a full compliance scheme in 2017 which will be funded by a visible environmental management charge on tyres placed on the market by producers.

## Data collection

Information on waste tyres managed was compiled using survey returns from waste tyre handlers and other waste management organisations, transfrontier shipment of waste records and waste collection records.

<sup>3</sup> Statutory Instrument No. 664 of 2007.

Figure 2. Waste tyre flows, 2014 reference year <sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> Figure 2 does not account for movement of waste tyres into and out of storage by waste handlers during 2014.