

HOUSEHOLD WASTE STATISTICS FOR IRELAND

EPA Waste Data Release, April 2020

Latest reference year, 2017

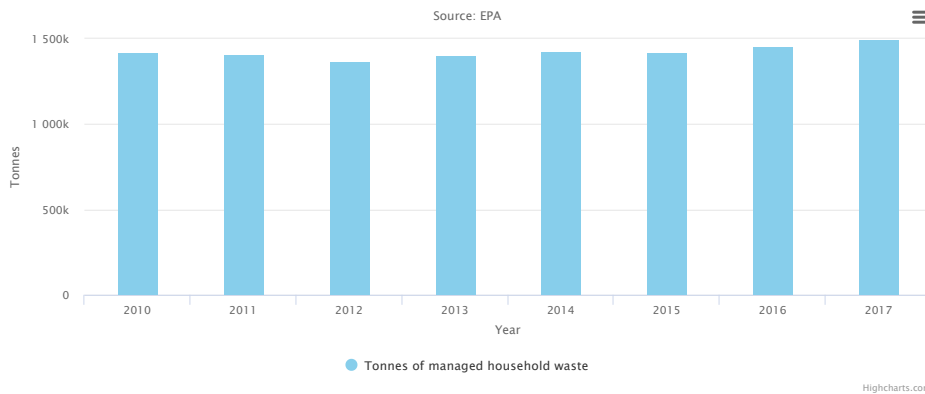
Household waste includes residual waste, recyclable waste and organic waste collected directly from households and waste brought by householders to waste collection centres such as bring banks, civic amenity sites, pay to use compactors and landfills.

Ireland generated approximately 1,539,710 tonnes (t) of household waste in 2017; 1,495,210 t of household waste was managed and an estimated 44,500 t was unmanaged.

This data release presents key statistics on the generation and management of Irish household waste in 2017. The accompanying [Household Waste Infographic](#) highlights the key household waste facts, trends and what you can do to reduce household waste generation.



Figure 1: Irish household waste, 2010 - 2017



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KEY STATISTICS

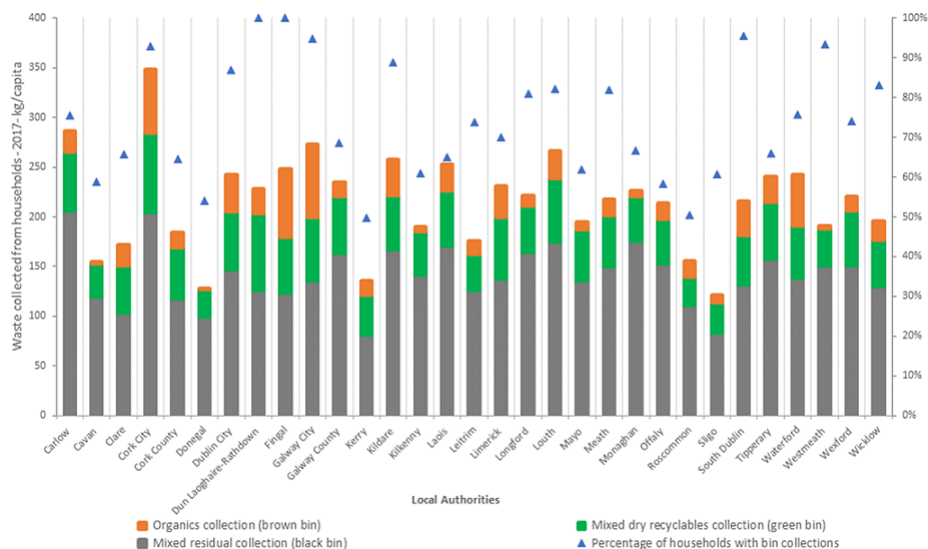
- ▶ 1,495,210 t of managed household waste was produced in Ireland in 2017. This is a three per cent increase since 2016 (refer to the Figure 1 above). Managed waste is waste that is collected from households or brought to waste collection centres.
- ▶ The EPA estimates that a further 44,500 t of household waste was unmanaged in 2017. Unmanaged waste is waste that is not collected from households or brought to waste collection centres and is therefore likely to cause pollution in the environment because it is fly tipped or disposed of through backyard burning.
- ▶ Each household in Ireland produced an average of 907 kg of household waste in 2017; and an average of 321 kg of household waste was produced per capita (compared with 314 kg per person in 2016).
- ▶ Most of the waste (44 per cent) from households was placed in the residual waste (black) bin. This waste was generally incinerated for energy recovery or landfilled.
- ▶ The amount of residual waste could be reduced by over 50 per cent if households used the correct bin or collection centre for recyclable, organic or hazardous waste¹.
- ▶ Over 30 per cent of the waste placed in household recycling (green) bins was not recyclable and should have been placed in the residual (black) or organic (brown) waste bins to reduce cross-contamination of recyclables.
- ▶ Irish households put approximately 253,000 t of food waste into household bins in 2017.
- ▶ Organic waste placed in household brown bins was generally composted, or anaerobically digested to make biogas in 2017. However, most household organic waste (over 60 per cent) was placed in the residual (black) or recycling (green) bins and was therefore not recycled.

Additional Data

More data on the amount of waste collected from households or brought to waste collection centres within each local authority area are presented in Figure 2 and Table 1 below.

There are significant variations between counties across Ireland in the overall quantity of household waste collected per person, as well as differences in the amount of waste collected by bin type (see Figure 2 and Table 1). While further analysis into these trends will be undertaken, variations are likely to be linked with differences in the waste collection services and infrastructure provided (e.g. prevalence of 2-bin versus 3-bin systems in rural versus urban areas), large variations between counties in the share of the population using authorised waste collectors (as shown in Figure 2), and behavioural factors (such as bin sharing).

Figure 2: Bin waste collected from Irish households (per capita) - 2017



Future Focus

As discussed in [Ireland's Waste Story](#), our focus for the future needs to be on achieving a circular economy and waste prevention so we can make the most of our resources while protecting the environment.

Improperly segregated household waste results in the cross - contamination of recyclables and inefficient waste management. Due to the nature of residual household waste, it is difficult to segregate recyclables once they are placed in the residual waste bin; and therefore most of Ireland's household waste continues to be incinerated or landfilled. The brown bin roll out to households has increased the composting rate of organic waste. However, the majority of Ireland's organic waste, including food waste, is not composted as it is placed in the wrong bin.

If Ireland is to meet the EU municipal waste recycling target of 55% in 2025 and eventually achieve a circular economy, we need to do more to support householders to use bins and waste collection centres correctly. Food waste produces 8 to 10 per cent of all global carbon emissions. To conserve our natural resources and reduce greenhouse gases, we must generate less waste through the promotion of reuse and sustainable consumption initiatives such as [stop food waste](#).

¹The statistics on improperly segregated household waste were calculated by applying the results of the EPA 2018 Waste Characterisation Study to the tonnage of household waste managed in 2017

Show Table 1 Household waste collected and brought

Local Authority or Private Facility	Waste Stream (tonnes)											
	Mixed residual waste collection (black bin)	Mixed dry recyclables collection (green bin)	Organic waste collection (brown bin)	Segregated glass collection	Bring banks	Civic amenity sites	Civic amenity sites	Skip collections from households	Other Collections ¹	Household waste delivered directly to landfill ²	Pay to use compactors	Total household waste per local authority
Dublin City	81311	32457	20879	0	11998	4228	0	22198		0	0	173072
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	27498	16750	5501	0	2284	7703	0	9564		0	0	69300
Fingal	36551	16587	20369	0	4920	9883	0	13621		0	0	101933
South Dublin	36798	13701	9759	0	4565	16727	0	8389		0	0	89939
Meath County	29223	10013	3180	254	2223	3869	0	9965		0	0	58726
Louth County	22470	8320	3473	64	2061	7590	0	4874		0	0	48853
Kildare County	37101	12267	8067	373	3775	4225	0	2483		0	0	68290
Wicklow County	18510	6592	2776	0	1807	2800	0	6755		0	0	39240
Laois County	14476	4713	2201	47	1211	1145	0	1226		0	0	25019
Offaly County	11946	3488	1231	46	1130	2806	0	1864		0	0	22512
Longford County	6702	1905	453	0	780	0	0	1154		0	0	10994
Westmeath County	13351	3384	253	52	1835	2107	0	2592		0	0	23574
Private Civic Amenity Sites							13350				0	13350
Eastern and Midlands Region	335937	130178	78144	835	38590	63083	13350	84685	3440	0	0	748242
Cavan County	9073	2598	134	90	1877	2699	0	1097		0	0	17569
Monaghan County	10790	2770	339	125	1184	1556	0	246		0	0	17008
Galway City	10696	4974	5844	326	1813	409	0	2911		0	0	26973
Galway County	29247	10242	2696	73	3646	1191	0	3167		0	0	50261
Leitrim County	4028	1175	435	0	671	446	0	930		0	0	7684
Mayo County	17728	6752	966	0	2566	4167	0	936		0	0	33115
Donegal County	15787	4437	135	0	3087	640	0	121		0	0	24207
Roscommon County	7141	1842	1067	0	1128	1239	0	1216		0	38	13671
Sligo County	5415	2033	475	0	1473	3204	0	1139		0	0	13738
Private Civic Amenity Sites							10585				0	10585
Connacht-Ulster Region	109904	36822	12090	614	17445	15550	10585	11764	746	0	38	215558
Carlow County	11730	3362	1186	0	910	875	0	925		1488	0	20477
Clare County	12225	5699	2459	134	1938	4880	0	1575		0	0	28910
Kerry County	11982	5982	2123	23	3533	5877	0	3047		0	211	32777
Limerick City and County	26741	12215	6030	409	2993	3608	0	5480		0	283	57761
Cork City	25614	10156	7988	1739	1161	2494	0	2006		0	98	51257
Cork County	49055	21435	6378	1908	6203	22298	0	10645		0	109	118032
Kilkenny County	14067	4350	425	8	1608	3958	0	1629		0	0	26044
Tipperary County	25149	9099	4065	97	2910	3481	0	2504		0	86	47392
Waterford City and County	16072	6094	6002	96	2246	2287	0	2459		0	41	35297
Wexford County	22623	8265	2192	152	3341	2790	0	4896		0	0	44258

Private Civic Amenity Sites							18340					18340
Southern Region	215260	86657	38847	4567	26842	52549	18340	35166	2610	1488	829	483155
Batteries ³												1328
WEEE ⁴												46928
Total Household Waste Wasts ⁵ (t)	661101	253658	129081	6016	82877	131182	42275	131614	6796	1488	867	1495210

Table Notes:

1. Other Collections estimated tonnage of house clear outs, bulky waste collections, christmas trees (where not reported at CAS), chemcar collections
2. Household waste delivered directly to landfill by householders (t)
3. Waste portable batteries collected by compliance schemes at civic amenity sites, retail premises and one-off collection days
4. Household WEEE collected by compliance schemes at retail premises, one-off collection days & civic amenity sites.
5. Household Waste included municipal & non-municipal

t=tonnes