



Environmental Protection Agency

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MUNICIPAL WASTE STATISTICS FOR IRELAND

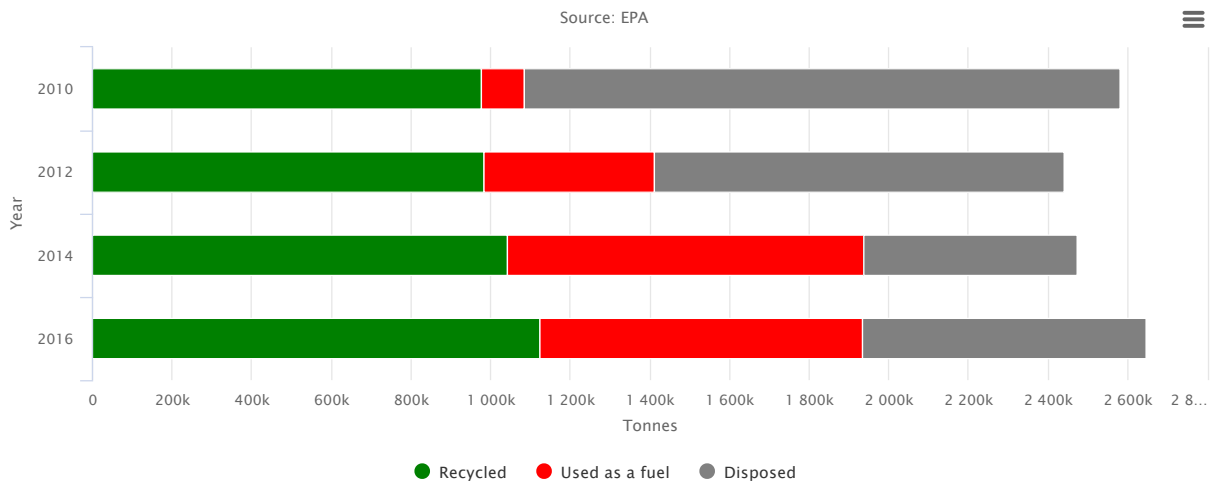
EPA Waste Data Release, 31 October 2018

Latest Reference Year 2016

Municipal waste is made up of household waste and some commercial waste that is similar to household waste. The EPA reports data on how much municipal waste is generated and how it is treated. In 2016, Ireland generated 2,763,166 tonnes (t) of municipal waste and recycled 41% of this.



Municipal waste recycled, used as a fuel and disposed to landfill (tonnes), 2010 to 2016


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KEY TRENDS

Municipal Waste includes these waste streams

Residual or black bin waste e.g. waste that cannot be recycled

Recyclable or green bin waste e.g. glass, plastic, paper & board, metals

Organic or brown bin waste e.g. food and garden waste

Bulky waste e.g. waste that cannot fit in a wheelie bin such as broken furniture, carpets, toys etc.

WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment)

The EPA reports on municipal waste generation and treatment methods

Generated – Ireland produced 2,763,166 t of municipal waste in 2016, this is a six percent increase since 2014. This means that each person living in Ireland generated 580kg of municipal waste in 2016

Managed – Waste collected and treated by the waste industry. In 2016, a total of 2,718,298 t of municipal waste was managed

Unmanaged –Waste that is not collected or brought to a waste facility and is therefore likely to cause pollution in the environment because it is burned, buried or dumped. The EPA estimates that 44,868 t was unmanaged in 2016

Recovered – the amount of waste recycled, used as a fuel in incinerators, or used to cover landfilled waste. In 2016, almost three quarters (74%) of municipal waste was recovered, this is a decrease from 79% in 2014

Recycled – the waste broken down and used to make new items. Recycling also includes the breakdown of food and garden waste to make compost. The recycling rate in 2016 was 41%, the same as 2014

Disposed – the waste landfilled or burned in incinerators without energy recovery. Just over a quarter (26%) of municipal waste was landfilled in 2016

Future Focus

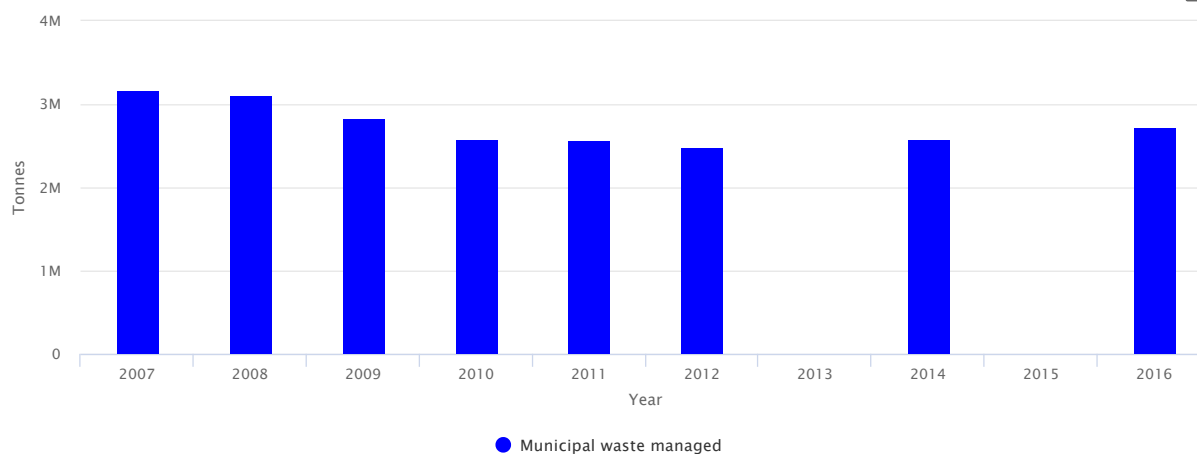
Municipal waste generation in 2016 rose in line with economic growth. The future focus must now be on prevention of waste generation, increase preparation for reuse (e.g. waste electrical and electronic equipment) and increase recycling.

Ireland's recycling rate has not changed significantly between 2012 and 2016. There are more challenging recycling rates proposed under the Circular Economy Package, so Ireland will need initiatives and policies to improve municipal recycling rates.

The EPA uses guidance on municipal waste data collection, which is available on the Eurostat website (the European Union's statistical Office), to compile municipal waste data.

Municipal waste managed (tonnes), 2007 to 2016

Source: EPA



Highcharts.com

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Show Table 1 Municipal waste generated, managed and treated - 2012 to 2016

Treatment type	Recovery code(s)	2012 (tonnes)	2014 (tonnes)	2016 (tonnes)
Material recycling	R2-R11 (excluding part of R3)	828,492	863,172	935,250
Composting and digestion	Part of R3	156,212	180,017	189,874
Incineration / energy recovery	R1	427,093	893,030	810,612
Other recovery	Backfilling	38,914	102,376	71,686
	Total recovery	1,450,711	2,038,596	2,007,422

Treatment type	Disposal code(s)	2012 (tonnes)	2014 (tonnes)	2016 (tonnes)
Incineration / disposal	D10	49	92	72
Landfill / disposal	D1-D7, D12	1,027,577	536,530	710,805
	Total disposal	1,027,626	536,621	710,877

Total municipal waste managed	2,478,337	2,575,218	2,718,299
Total municipal waste generated (generated = managed + estimate household unmanaged waste) (see note)	2,692,537	2,619,023	2,763,167

Note: The methodology for estimating household unmanaged waste was revised for 2014 reference year.

	2012	2014	2016
% Recovery (of managed)	59%	79%	74%
% Recycling (of managed)	40%	41%	41%
% Disposal (of managed)	41%	21%	26%

Open in Excel: [Table 1 Municipal waste generated, managed and treated in 2012 to 2016 \(XLS 11KB\)](#)

Show [Table 2 Municipal waste generated by origin and by type in 2016](#)

Municipal waste generated by origin, 2016	Tonnes
Waste generated by households	1,483,642
Waste generated by other sources	1,279,524

Municipal waste generated by type of waste, 2016	Tonnes
Generation of household and similar waste	2,353,349
Generation of bulky waste	365,118
Generation of waste electrical and electronic equipment	44,699

Open in Excel: [Table 2 Municipal waste generated by origin and by type in 2016 \(XLS 9KB\)](#)

Show [Table 3 Municipal waste managed 2007 to 2016](#)

Reference Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Municipal waste managed (tonnes)	3,174,565	3,103,820	2,824,977	2,580,435	2,558,345	2,478,337	Note 1	2,575,218	Note 1	2,718,298

Note 1: 2013 & 2015 are interim reporting years and municipal waste managed data were not collected

Open in Excel: [Table 3 Municipal waste managed 2007 to 2016 \(XLS 10KB\)](#)

BIODEGRADABLE MUNICIPAL WASTE DISPOSED TO LANDFILL

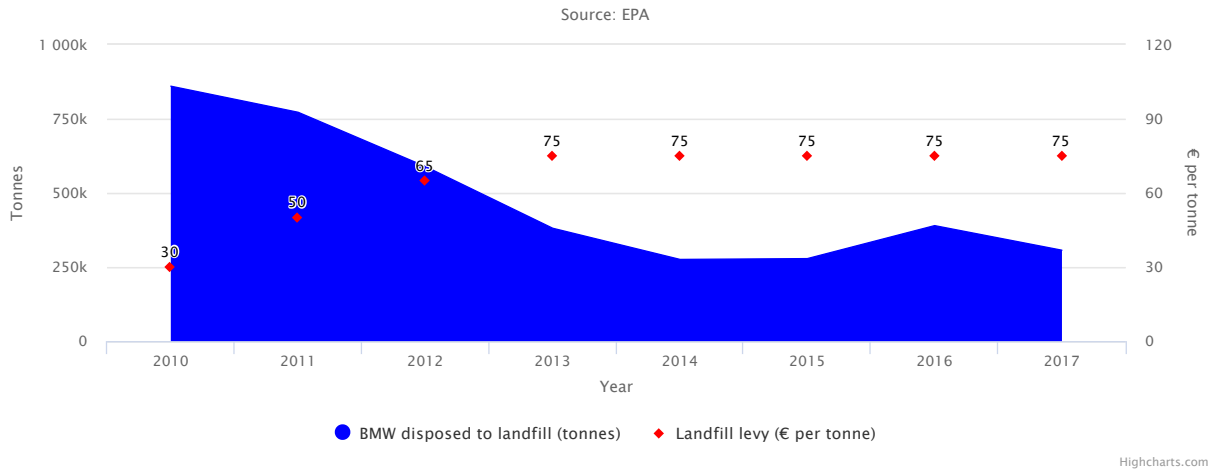
EPA Waste Data Release, 15 March 2018

Latest Reference Year 2017

Biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) comprises those elements of the municipal waste streams that will rot or degrade biologically, for example food waste, garden & parks waste and paper & cardboard. Under the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) there are targets for the diversion of BMW from disposal to landfill. Diversion of BMW from landfill will assist mitigation of odour nuisance, reduce the aftercare burden for landfills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The quantity of BMW disposed to landfill in 2017 was 307 ktonnes, compared to 390 ktonnes in 2016 (27 per cent decrease).

BMW disposed to landfill (tonnes) and landfill levy (€ per tonne), 2010 to 2017

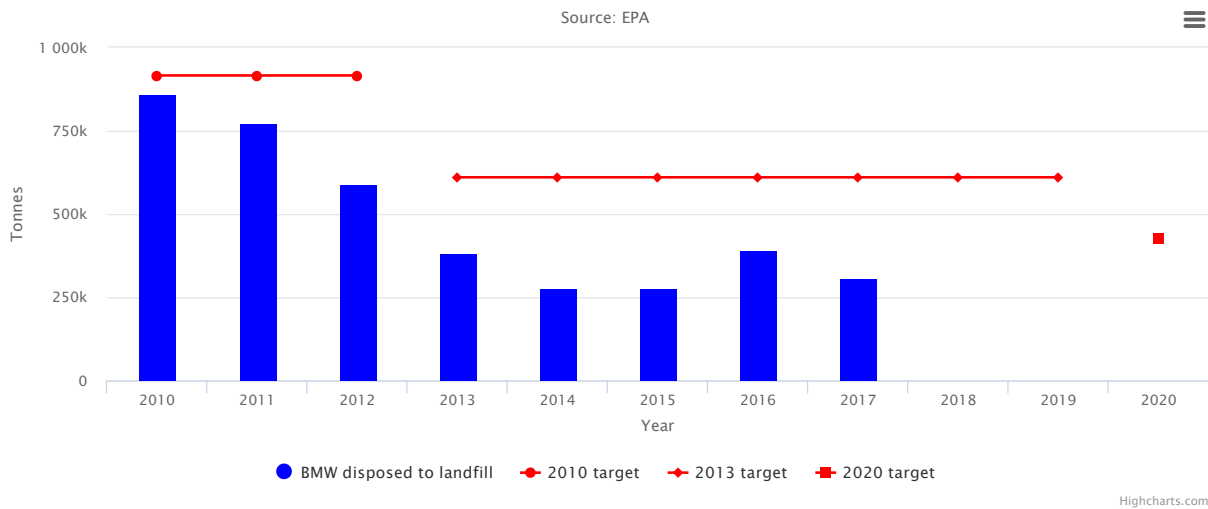


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KEY TRENDS

- ▶ Ireland has met all Landfill Directive targets for diversion of BMW from disposal to landfill to date.
- ▶ Five landfills accepted municipal waste for disposal in 2017 compared to twenty-five in 2010.
- ▶ The tonnage of BMW disposed to landfill decreased year on year up to 2014 but increased in 2015 and again in 2016. In 2016 the amount of municipal waste exported for waste-to-energy recovery decreased and this resulted in an increase in municipal waste disposed to landfill.
- ▶ A second municipal incineration plant came into operation in Q2 2017 and this additional waste-to-energy capacity has resulted in a decrease in municipal residual waste disposed to landfill.
- ▶ It is very important that there is adequate treatment infrastructure in the State to manage the increasing diversion from landfill of biodegradable waste and that recovery of waste is favoured over disposal, in line with the EU waste hierarchy.

BMW quantity disposed to landfill compared to Landfill Directive limits, 2010 to 2020



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Show Table 1 BMW quantity disposed to landfill, 2013 to 2017

Waste stream	BMW tonnes 2013	BMW tonnes 2014	BMW tonnes 2015	BMW tonnes 2016	BMW tonnes 2017
2-bin residual commercial waste	52,847	31,227	27,318	54,228	35,306
2-bin residual household waste	75,311	57,143	36,423	64,834	53,285
3-bin residual commercial waste	43,679	28,081	40,518	30,501	23,229
3-bin residual household waste	51,648	31,989	45,089	98,775	72,558
Bulky waste from sorting of municipal waste skips	30,130	26,736	39,663	50,155	44,319

Fines residues from municipal bin collections (wet waste)	162	0	23	53	703
Fines residues from municipal waste skips	3,914	18	77	48	591
Other	60,625	25,859	44,230	50,009	48,081
Oversize residues from municipal waste bin collections (wet waste)	13,112	6,696	8,465	10,087	5,347
Oversize residues from municipal waste skips	32,300	54,755	32,563	24,677	18,753
Residual municipal waste from civic amenity facility	6,672	6,901	2,921	1,124	1,168
Residues from source separated recyclable waste (clean materials recovery facility)	6,748	4,175	553	4,807	2,233
Untreated 1-bin commercial waste	1,077	497	0	0	2
Untreated 1-bin household waste	68	0	0	0	8
Untreated cleansing waste (fly-tipping, street bins, road sweepings etc.)	1,912	1,533	507	325	1,053
Untreated municipal waste skip waste	555	0	0	0	0
Total	380,761	275,609	278,349	389,623	306,636

Open in Excel: [Table 1 BMW quantity disposed to landfill, 2013 to 2017 \(XLS 12KB\)](#)