



Environmental Protection Agency

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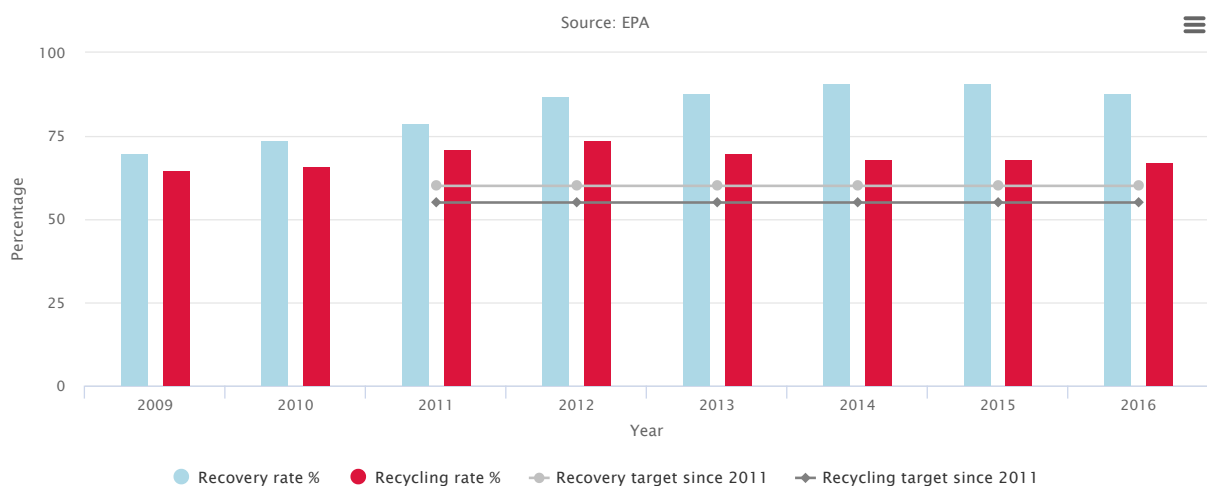
## WASTE PACKAGING STATISTICS FOR IRELAND

EPA Waste Data Release, 26 October 2018

Reference Year 2016

Ireland met all EU targets for recovery and recycling of packaging waste in 2016.

Percentage recovery and recycling rates, 2009 to 2016

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## KEY TRENDS

Packaging is used to contain, protect and present goods, and it is made from materials such as glass, paper & cardboard, metals, plastic, wood, and composite materials. The EU Packaging and Waste Packaging Directive promotes the recovery and recycling of packaging waste to reduce its environmental impact and encourage resource efficiency. Each Member State is obliged to meet targets for the overall recovery of waste packaging and recycling targets for glass, plastic, paper & board, metals and wood.

- It is estimated that more than 990,000 tonnes of packaging waste was generated.
- The majority, by weight, of packaging waste was recycled.
- Of the total generated, an estimated 88% were recovered. This includes 67% of waste packaging that was recycled.

The amount of black bin (residual) waste sent for incineration with energy recovery has increased in Ireland, particularly since 2012. Some waste management facilities mechanically process waste and produce Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) and Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF). Much residual waste, RDF and SRF is sent for energy recovery rather than disposal to landfill and this is reflected in the increase in packaging waste recovery in Ireland. The prevention, preparation for reuse and recycling of waste packaging is preferable to energy recovery. New ambitious recycling targets for waste packaging are proposed under the European Commission's Circular Economy Package and will be challenging for Ireland to achieve.

[Show Table 1 Waste packaging generation and treatment, 2016](#)[Show Table 2 Waste packaging exported for recovery, 2016](#)

Material	Packaging waste sent to other Member States or exported outside the Community for:				
	Material recycling	Other forms of recycling	Energy recovery	Other forms of recovery	Incineration at waste incineration plants with energy recovery
Glass	131,000				
Plastic	83,000				46,000
Paper & board	318,000				17,000
Metals	Aluminium				
	Steel				

	Total	40,000				
Wood						
Other						
Total		572,000				63,000

Data table for 2016 reference year as submitted to the European Commission

Data in tonnes

Open in Excel: [Table 2 Waste packaging exported for recovery, 2016 \(XLS 11KB\)](#)

[Show Table 3 Waste packaging recycling, 2016](#)

Material	Packaging Directive recycling target	Recycling rate, 2016
Glass	60% by weight	86%
Plastic	22.5% by weight, counting exclusively material that is recycled back into plastics	36%, counting all material recycling
Paper & board	60% by weight	79%
Metals	50% by weight	70%
Wood	15% by weight	75%

Open in Excel: [Table 3 Waste packaging recycling, 2016 \(XLS 9KB\)](#)