Packaging Waste in Ireland in 2019
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Generation

For the third year in a row, **OVER 1 MILLION TONNES** of packaging waste was generated in Ireland.

Packaging accounts for one-third of all waste collected at kerbside.

Treatment

The share of packaging waste going for incineration with energy recovery increased to 33% in 2019.

The increase in plastic packaging going for incineration has implications for carbon emissions.

129,670 tonnes plastic packaging treated at municipal incinerators in 2019

Equivalent to annual CO₂ emissions from a town the size of Kilkenny

350,100 tonnes CO₂
62% OF IRELAND’S of packaging waste was recycled in 2019.

There were big differences in the rate of recycling across packaging waste types in 2019.

Key actions for Government & Industry
Ireland needs timely implementation of the policy measures in the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.

PREVENT WASTE
strengthen measures to minimise the quantity of single use packaging placed on the market.

DESIGN FOR CIRCULARITY
identify packaging types prime for replacement with reusable alternatives, begin phase-in of alternatives

SUPPORT THE INCREASED USE OF RECYCLED MATERIALS
in packaging including the possible introduction of a levy on virgin plastic.

INCENTIVISE RECYCLING OVER INCINERATION WITH ENERGY RECOVERY
in line with the waste hierarchy and circular economy

IMPROVE SEPARATE COLLECTION
of recyclables including roll out of a deposit-return scheme and expand Ireland’s recycling list

IMPLEMENT BANS and RESTRICTIONS
including those required by the Single Use Plastics Directive.

For more information, check out the EPA website.
Check out www.mywaste.ie for more advice & tips on how you can manage & prevent waste.