

Packaging Waste in Ireland in 2019

September 2021



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Generation

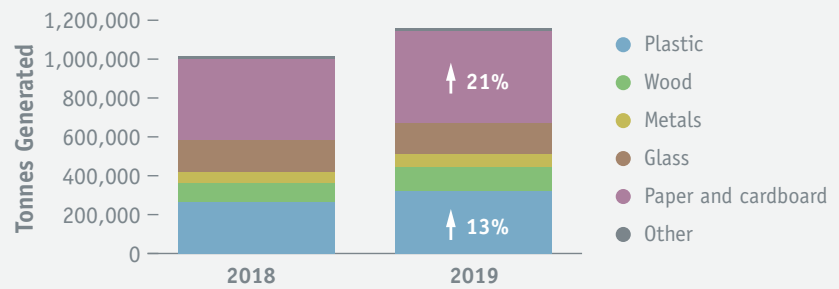
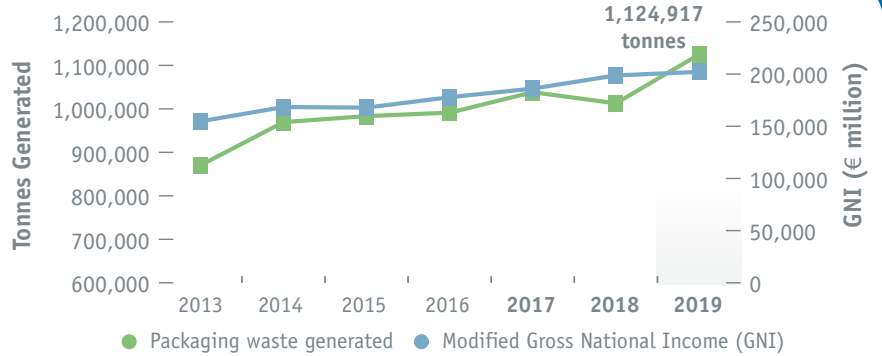


For the third year in a row, **OVER 1 MILLION TONNES** of packaging waste was generated in Ireland.

↑
11% in 2019



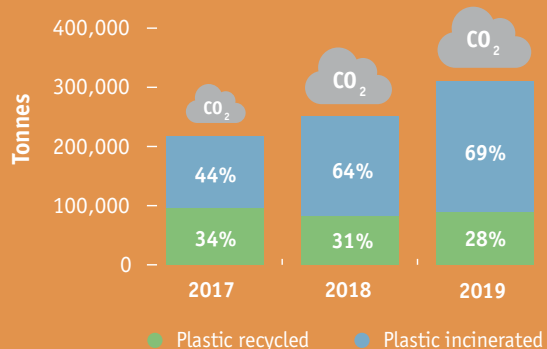
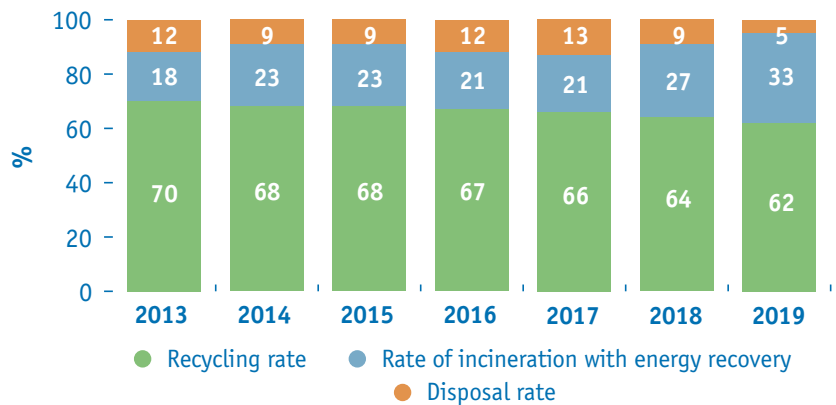
Packaging accounts for **one-third** of all waste collected at kerbside.



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.



350,100 tonnes CO₂

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

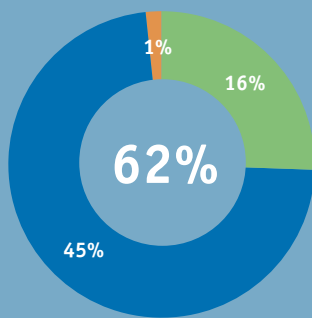
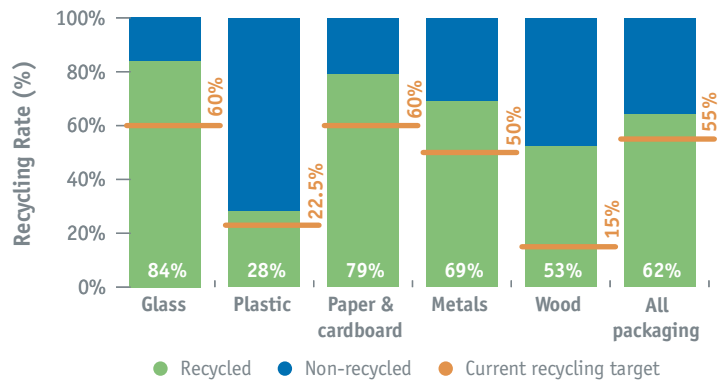
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Equivalent to annual CO₂ emissions from a town the size of Kilkenny

Recycling

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.



- Recycled in Ireland (%)
- Exported for recycling (%)
- Repaired (wooden packaging)



Exported for Recycling: mainly paper (33%) and plastic (7%).



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.



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