

CYPRUS

Municipal waste generation and management: current situation and distance to target

Parameter	Value
Population 2013 (Eurostat)	
Total (inhabitants)	865.878
Waste generation 2013 (Eurostat)	
Total (thousand tonnes)	542
Total (kg/cap/y)	624
Waste management 2013 (Eurostat) (kg/cap/y)	
Total waste treatment	624
Recycling	77 (12%)
Composting	57 (9%)
Incinerated	0
Landfill	491 (79%)
Balance (unaccounted)	0
Compliance with Targets (Eurostat)	
Data on compliance with landfill directive targets, or distance to target remaining (if target not met) ¹	Data not available for 2013
Data on compliance with waste framework directive targets or distance to target remaining (if target not met)	Target 2020: 50% (calc. method 4) ² Performance 2013: 21%

Analysis

Municipal waste generation in Cyprus is significantly higher than the EU average (624 kg/y/inhabitant compared to around 481 kg/y/inhabitant on average). This might be due to the high number of tourists visiting the country.

¹ The Landfill Directive sets out specific targets regarding bio-waste and how it should be disposed of in landfills. Specifically, by 2006, biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill must have been reduced to 75 % of the total amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) generated in 1995. This share is required to be further reduced to 50% and 35% by 2009 and 2016, respectively.

² According to Commission Decision 2011/753/EU of 18 November 2011 establishing rules and calculation methods for verifying compliance with the targets set in Article 11(2) of Directive 2008/98/EC.

Statistics show that landfill rates in Cyprus remain very high (79%) and recycling rates are still too low (21%) to comply with the 50% set in the EU Waste Framework Directive (WFD) which has to be met by 2020.

Cyprus must invest in municipal waste recycling in the next coming years in order to reach the recycling target of 50% by 2020. More efforts are needed to develop separate collection at source combined with the required facilities to ensure a high level of recycling/composting.

The 2010 target for the diversion of biodegradable waste from landfills was not met, and the minimum quantity allowed to be disposed was exceeded by 64%. This is also likely to be reflected in the year 2013, and to an even greater extent, since, as stated in the national waste management plan, no developments in infrastructure and collection systems took place that would divert biodegradable waste from disposal.

Improvements are expected in 2016, since the planned initiatives (development of treatment facility in Limassol, implementation of selective collection for paper and organic waste) should have been completed in 2016. The target for 2016 is expected to be achieved late, with at least a couple of years' delay.

Underlying problems

The underlying causes for the current distance to EU waste targets are:

- Lack of incentives to manage waste according to the waste hierarchy;
- Insufficient (door-to-door) separate collection of waste;
- Extended producer responsibility (EPR) systems are not efficient and do not cover sufficient waste streams;
- No developments in infrastructure and collection systems to divert biodegradable waste from disposal;
- Lack of co-ordination between the different administrative levels;
- Lack of capacity at local level.