

SPAIN

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

| Parameter | Value |
|--|--|
| Population 2013 (Eurostat) | |
| Total (inhabitants) | 46.727.890 |
| Waste generation 2013 (Eurostat) | |
| Total (thousand tons) | 20.931 |
| Total (kg/cap/y) | 449 |
| Waste management 2013 (Eurostat) (kg/cap/y) | |
| Total waste treatment | 449 |
| Recycling | 88 (20%) |
| Composting | 46 (10%) |
| Incinerated | 44 (10%) |
| Landfill | 270 (60%) |
| Balance (unaccounted) | 0 |
| Compliance with targets (Autonomous Communities and Eurostat) | |
| Data on compliance with landfill directive targets, or distance to target remaining (if target not met) ¹ | Target 2016: Max. 4.2 Mt tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste landfilled (equivalent to 35% of the amount landfilled in 1995) Performance 2012: 5.6 Mt landfilled (47% of the amount landfilled in 1995) |
| 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: 30% |

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

Analysis

Statistics show that landfill rates in Spain remain very high (60%) and recycling rates are still too low (30%). Additional efforts are needed to comply with the waste hierarchy and with the 50% set in the EU Waste Framework Directive (WFD) which has to be met by 2020.

Spain met the landfill diversion targets for 2006 and 2009. However, in 2010 the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste disposed of in landfills grew to 6,200,000 tonnes, exceeding the 2009 target by 200,000 tonnes. By 2012 this amount had fallen to 5,600,000 tonnes. On average, since 1995, the disposal of BMW to landfills has decreased by ~315,000 tonnes per year.

In order to meet the 2016 target a reduction of ~400,000 tonnes per year would be needed between 2012 and 2016.

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;
- Lack of co-ordination between the different administrative levels;
- Insufficient extended producer responsibility (EPR) systems;
- Insufficient management of biowaste.