

IRELAND

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

Parameter	Value
Population 2013 (Eurostat)	
Total (inhabitants)	4.591.087
Waste generation 2013 (Eurostat)	
Total (thousand tons)	2693
Total (kg/cap/y)	586
Waste management 2013 (Eurostat) (kg/cap/y)	
Total waste treatment	531
Recycling	180 (34%)
Composting	34 (6%)
Incinerated	93 (18%)
Landfill	223 (42%)
Balance (unaccounted)	55
Compliance with Targets	
Data on compliance with landfill directive targets, or distance to target remaining (if target not met) ¹	<p>Target for 2013: Max. 610,000 tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste landfilled.</p> <p>Achieved: 589,000 tonnes were landfilled in 2012.</p>
Data on compliance with waste framework directive targets or distance to target remaining (if target not met)	<p>Target 2020: 50% (calc. method 4) ²</p> <p>Performance 2013: 40%</p>

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 2013 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 Ireland remain high (42%). Ireland has a recycling rate of 40% indicating that it is on the right track to meeting the recycling target for 2020.

Future investments in incineration (energy recovery) or in MBT plants based on mixed waste input should not hinder Ireland from meeting the recycling target for 2020.

Ireland secured a **four year derogation** from the landfill directive targets, meaning that the target years are 2010, 2013 and 2016.

Ireland achieved the landfill diversion target of biodegradable waste of 50% by 2013. By 2013, 589.000 tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste were going to landfill (being below the target 610.000 tonnes). Residual Waste sent to landfill experienced a considerable decline over the years 2011-13, driven by the recent increases in the cost of the landfill levy.

Underlying problems

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

- Insufficient (door-to-door) separate collection of waste;
- Insufficient incentives to manage waste according to the waste hierarchy;
- Insufficient extended producer responsibility (EPR) systems.