

MALTA

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

Parameter	Value
Population 2013 (Eurostat)	
Total (inhabitants)	421.364
Waste generation 2013 (Eurostat)	
Total (thousand tons)	241
Total (kg/cap/y)	570
Waste management 2013 (Eurostat) (kg/cap/year)	
Total waste treatment	464
Recycling	32 (6%)
Composting	29 (6%)
Incinerated	2 (0%)
Landfill	464 (88%)
Balance (unaccounted)	44
Compliance with Targets	
Data on compliance with landfill directive targets, or distance to target remaining (if target not met) ¹	Target 2013: Max. 70.679 tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste landfilled Performance 2013: 119.452 tonnes
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: 12%

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 a reference year (2002 in the case of Malta). 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

Municipal waste generation in Malta is significantly higher than the EU average (570 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.

Statistics show that landfill rates in Malta remain very high (88%) and recycling rates are still too low (12%) 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.

Malta has four-year derogation on the due date for achievement of the landfill diversion targets for biodegradable waste. The targets for the maximum amount of biodegradable waste to be landfilled are, 2013 and 2020 targets are 106,019 tonnes (2010), 70,679 tonnes (2013) and 49,476 tonnes (2020) respectively.

Data on biodegradable waste in the WMP indicate that 130,198 and 110,253 tonnes of biodegradable waste were landfilled in 2010 and 2011, respectively, and additional data suggest the quantities were 120,773 and 119,452 tonnes for 2012 and 2013, respectively. This confirms that Malta has not been able to meet the first and second targets.

Underlying problems

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

- Insufficient (door-to-door) separate collection of waste;
- Insufficient extended producer responsibility (EPR) systems;
- No developments in infrastructure and collection systems to divert biodegradable waste from disposal;
- Lack of incentives to manage waste according to the waste hierarchy;
- Lack of co-ordination between the different administrative levels.