

Glossary: Recycling of waste

Statistics Explained

Recycling of waste is defined in the [Waste Framework Directive](#) as any recovery operation by which [waste](#) materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes.

It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations.

Recycling can be split into the subcategories 'Material recycling' and the organic recycling 'Recycling - composting and digestion'. The latter is only possible for separately collected organic waste.

Article 11 (2) a of the [Waste Framework Directive](#) requires the calculation of the the recycling rate as the sum of 'Recycling' and 'Preparing for reuse' divided by waste generated.

Further information

- [Eurostat's dedicated website on Waste](#)
- [Waste Framework Directive:](#)
 - [Directive 2008/98/EC](#) of 19 November 2008 on waste, Article 3 (17)
 - [Waste specific Directives:](#)
 - Batteries: [Directive 2006/66/EC](#)
 - End-of life vehicles: [Directive 2000/53/EC](#)
 - Packaging and packaging waste: [Directive 94/62/EC](#)
 - Waste electrical and electronic equipment [Directive 2012/19/EC](#)

Related concepts

- [Recovery of waste](#)
- [Preparing for reuse](#)
- [Incineration](#)
- [Landfill](#)
- [Waste](#) (including disposal of waste)

Statistical data

- [Waste statistics](#)