

Glossary: Recycling of waste

Statistics Explained

Recycling of waste is defined 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.

The differentiation between the terms **reuse** , **recycling** and **recovery** is important for the understanding and application of the targets stated in **EU** waste legislation.

Definitions for **recycling** and **reuse** in waste specific Directives partially deviate from the corresponding definitions of the **Waste Framework Directive** :

1. The term **recycling** specified in waste specific Directives does in particular not include backfilling operations.
2. **Reuse** as defined in the **Packaging Directive 94/62/EC** and the **WEEE Directive 2002/96/EC** comprises specifications, the Waste Framework Directive does not include.

Further information

- Eurostat's European Data Centre 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 2002/96/EC**

Related concepts

- **Incineration**
- **Landfill**
- **Recovery of waste**
- **Reuse of waste**
- **Waste** (including disposal of waste)

Statistical data

- [Waste statistics](#)