

Glossary: Recovery of waste

Statistics Explained

Recovery of waste means any operation the principal result of which is **waste** serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy.

Annex II of the [Waste Framework Directive](#) sets out a non-exhaustive list of recovery 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](#)
- [Recovered products](#)
- [Recycling of waste](#)
- [Reuse of waste](#)
- [Waste](#) (including disposal of waste)

Statistical data

Waste statistics