

Recycling in Ireland

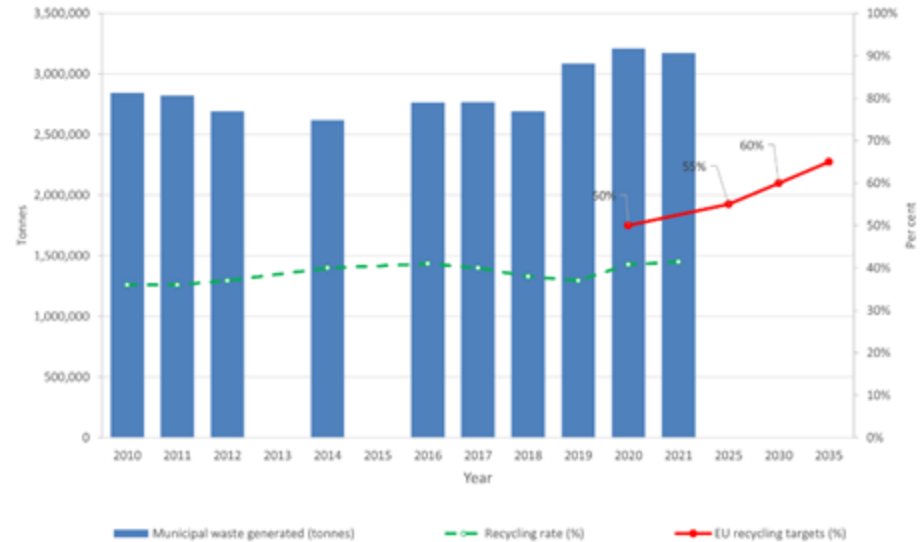
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41%

Some 1.3 million tonnes of municipal waste generated in Ireland was recycled in 2021, resulting in a recycling rate of 41 per cent (Environmental Protection Agency, 2023).

Municipal waste generation and recycling





The Waste Hierarchy

gives guidance on how we can reduce the impact of waste on our environment

We need to focus on how the first 4 out of the 5 R's to really make a difference to our carbon footprint.

Recycling our waste is great, however **it is still waste** (UCD Estate Services, 2020)!

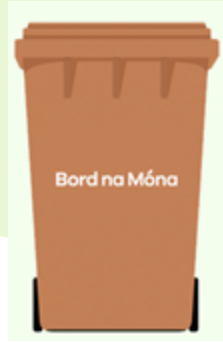


Where To Dispose Of Waste?



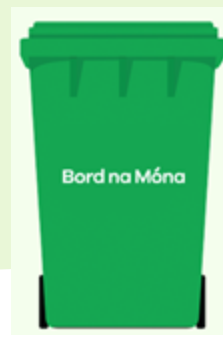
Recycling Bin

Recycling reduces the volume of waste sent to landfill and plays an important part in preserving the quality of the environment.



Organic Bin

The brown bin is for your organic and food waste. The great thing about your organic bin is it removes the need to put food and garden waste in the general waste bin.



General Waste Bin

Your general waste bin is for any waste that you cannot put into your recycling, organic* or glass* bins.

*where available



Glass Bin

Glass is completely recyclable and saves precious energy resources. Recycled glass is made into new beverage bottles, food jars, insulation and other construction materials.

Recycling Bin

Top Tips:

- Flatten your cardboard boxes, tins, cans or plastics and fold any paper – it will take up less space in your bin.
- Think outside the kitchen – shampoo bottles, bubble bath, lotions and potions all come in containers that can be recycled. Pop a small bin in your bathroom to remind you to collect all of them.
- It really helps if you thoroughly rinse all items before placing them in your bin, as dirty or unsuitable items could contaminate the entire contents.

What Can't Go in Your Recycling Bin:

- Hard plastics – toys etc
- Disposable barbecue trays
- No meat, poultry or fish (raw or cooked) wrappers, trays or packaging
- Ashes
- Vacuum cleaner bags and contents
- Rocks, bricks, gravel & timber
- Glass/ceramics
- Clothes/shoes
- Green waste (kitchen or garden)
- Dryer sheets and lint
- Personal hygiene products
- Medical waste
- Paint, motor oil, wax or petroleum
- Cigarette butts
- Animal Waste
- Polystyrene



Drink cans and food tins



Tetra-Pak cartons



Cardboard, paper, newspaper, leaflets, envelopes, books, magazines, paper bags



All plastic bottles



Cereal bags, pasta bags, toilet paper bags, bubble wrap, fruit, veg & bread bags, Ziploc bags



Plastic Packaging

A recycling bin with incorrect materials cannot be accepted on collection day.

Top Tips:

- The brown bin rule – If it once grew, it can go in the brown bin. Paper was once a growing tree, making all pizza boxes, paper food wrapping and wine corks an organic waste too.
- Wrap your leftovers and fruit or vegetable peelings in newspaper before placing them in your bin. It will keep the fruit flies away.
- Keep your organic bin clean by using compostable liners or bags, available in most major retailers. Regular and bio-degradable bin bags are not suitable for an organic bin.

What Can't Go in Your Organic Waste Bin:

- Chemically sprayed grass/weeds
- Ashes
- Rocks, bricks and gravel
- Vacuum cleaner bags and contents
- Dryer sheets and lint
- Clothes, shoes and rags
- Glass, metal and plastic
- Nappies and personal hygiene products
- Medical waste
- Paint, motor oil, wax or petroleum
- Cigarette butts
- Animal waste

An organic bin with incorrect materials cannot be accepted on collection day.

Organic Bin



Cooked and raw foods -
dairy, fruit, vegetables,
breads, etc



Napkins, paper plates,
paper food wrapping
and paper bags



Grass cuttings, clippings,
twigs, weeds, etc



Peelings and unwanted
leftovers



Teabags, tea leaves,
coffee grinds and coffee
filters

What Can't Go in Your General Waste Bin:

- Medical waste
- Paint cans, motor oil, wax or petroleum
- Rocks, bricks and gravel
- Electrical goods – please recycle through WEEE
- Hazardous waste

General Waste Bin

Using all of your bins to their full potential will decrease the amount of waste going to your general waste bin. This will reduce waste to landfill, as well as the impact your waste has on the environment.

Please rinse glass items and remove lids, tops and corks before placing in the glass bin.

What Can't Go in Your Glass Waste Bin:

- Window glass
- Light bulbs
- Ceramics
- Lids, bottle tops and corks

A glass bin with incorrect materials cannot be accepted on collection day.

Glass Bin



Glass bottles



Glass jars

(Bord na Móna, 2021)



WASTE AT UCD

Where does it end up?

MIXED DRY RECYCLABLES



(Thorntons Recycling, 2021)

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE



(Thorntons Recycling, 2016b)

COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING & FOOD



(Thorntons Recycling, 2016b)

TEXTILES



(Clothes POD, 2024)

References

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