

During 2019, municipal waste generation increased by 7.3 per cent over the previous year to a total of 349,576 tonnes.

## Municipal Waste: 2019

### Municipal waste generation

By the end of 2019, municipal waste generation reached 349,576 tonnes; up by 23,825 tonnes or 7.3 per cent over 2018. Main increases originated from kitchen and canteen bio-waste amounting to 20,165 tonnes, followed by mixed packaging at 9,402 tonnes and bulky waste at 9,175 tonnes. On the other hand, the generation of mixed municipal waste went down by 21,372 tonnes (Table 1).

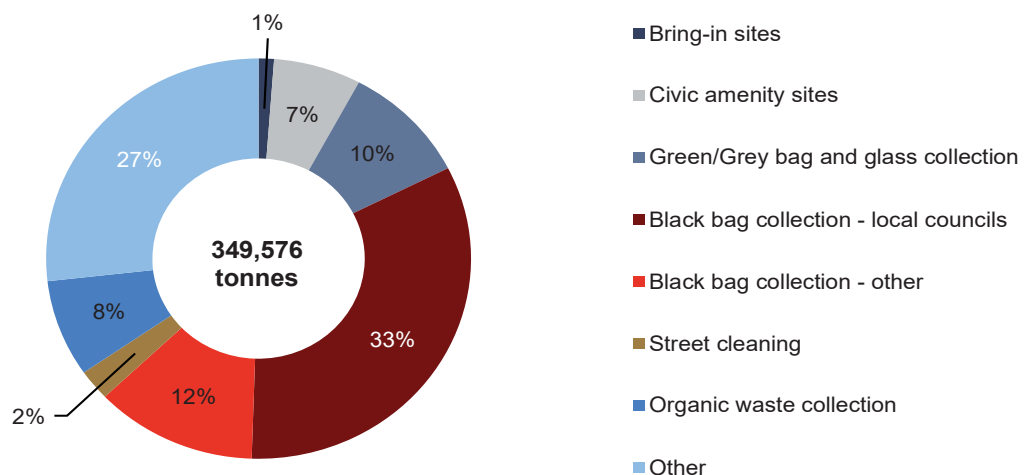
Data comprising the origins of municipal waste generation indicates that the organic waste collection increased by 3.7 times or 19,975 tonnes over the amount collected in 2018. This development resulted since 2019 was the first full calendar year during which the organic waste collection took place following the nationwide rollout at the end of October 2018. As a direct consequence, the black bag collection of waste that falls within the remit of local councils dropped by 25,466 tonnes. Another notable increase of 9,031 tonnes or 36.3 per cent was also recorded in the grey/green bag and glass collection (Table 2).

### Municipal waste treatment

During 2019, the total amount of municipal waste treatment increased by 52,791 tonnes or 17.6 per cent over 2018; reaching a total of 352,018 tonnes. The share of landfilling from the total municipal waste treated stood at 91.1 per cent; up from the 89.4 per cent level recorded a year before. The combined amount of digestate and rejects that originated as secondary waste from pre-treatment operations amounted to 42.9 per cent of all landfilled municipal waste in 2019 (Table 3).

When compared to 2018, the share of municipal waste recycling dropped by 1.7 percentage points to 8.9 per cent of the total municipal waste treatment. Almost two thirds (62.8 per cent) of municipal waste recycled in 2019 was made up of paper and cardboard, followed by glass and plastic at 11.0 per cent and 9.0 per cent respectively (Table 3) ■

**Chart 1. Municipal waste generation by collection source: 2019**



**Table 1. Municipal waste generation by waste type**

Municipal waste type	tonnes				
	2015 <sup>1</sup>	2016 <sup>1</sup>	2017 <sup>1</sup>	2018 <sup>1</sup>	2019
Paper and cardboard	19,173	18,927	17,699	20,273	20,920
Plastic	3,102	4,425	3,830	2,525	3,737
Metals	1,747	2,000	1,655	1,489	1,493
Glass	4,447	7,210	4,850	8,008	8,709
Wood	14,601	9,605	6,902	8,575	8,632
Waste electrical and electronic equipment <sup>2</sup>	1,787	2,537	3,716	3,939	3,300
Mixed packaging	14,469	16,992	19,156	21,750	31,152
Mixed municipal waste	182,672	174,760	184,952	179,847	158,475
Bulky waste	32,182	43,802	53,962	58,909	68,084
Bio-waste - garden and park	6,660	4,334	5,002	4,228	5,562
Bio-waste - kitchen and canteen	734	2,188	3,625	8,664	28,829 <sup>3</sup>
Clothes/textiles	145	323	977	1,194	1,813
Other <sup>2</sup>	3,779	5,163	5,332	6,352	8,871
<b>Total</b>	<b>285,499</b>	<b>292,268</b>	<b>311,659</b>	<b>325,751</b>	<b>349,576</b>

<sup>1</sup> revised (see methodological note 2)

<sup>2</sup> includes hazardous waste.

<sup>3</sup> first full calendar year during which nationwide organic waste collection took place.

**Table 2. Municipal waste generation by waste collection source**

Municipal waste collection source	tonnes				
	2015 <sup>1</sup>	2016 <sup>1</sup>	2017 <sup>1</sup>	2018 <sup>1</sup>	2019
Bring-in sites	2,652	3,486	3,852	4,218	4,093
Civic amenity sites <sup>2</sup>	16,994	18,236	16,559	19,415	23,283
Green/Grey bag and glass collection	14,926	17,113	20,735	24,887	33,918
Black bag collection - local councils	144,993	136,619	139,246	140,740	115,274
Black bag collection - other	37,679	38,141	45,707	39,107	43,200
Street cleaning	3,649	4,962	5,302	6,247	8,724
Organic waste collection	179	2,162	3,054	7,381	27,356 <sup>3</sup>
Other <sup>2</sup>	64,427	71,549	77,204	83,756	93,728
<b>Total</b>	<b>285,499</b>	<b>292,268</b>	<b>311,659</b>	<b>325,751</b>	<b>349,576</b>
Total population <sup>4</sup>	450,415	460,297	475,701	493,559	514,564
Municipal waste generation per capita - kilograms	634	635	655	660	679

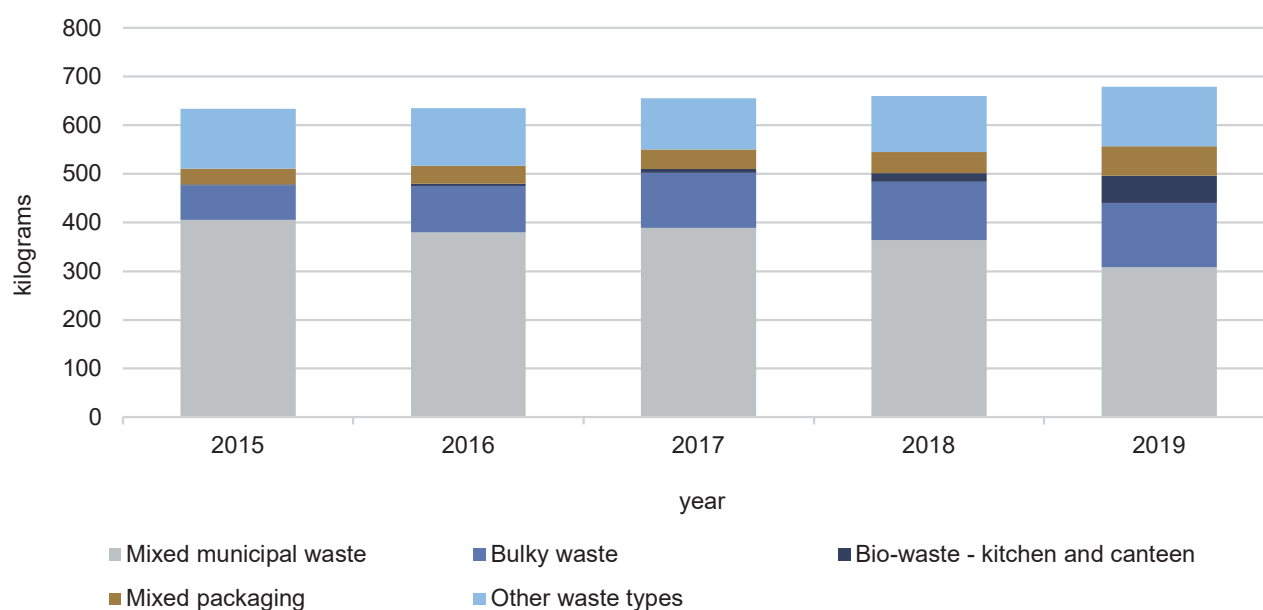
<sup>1</sup> revised (see methodological note 2)

<sup>2</sup> includes hazardous waste.

<sup>3</sup> first full calendar year during which nationwide organic waste collection took place.

<sup>4</sup> Source: World population day News release 114/2020

**Chart 2. Municipal waste generation per capita**



**Table 3. Municipal waste treatment**

tonnes

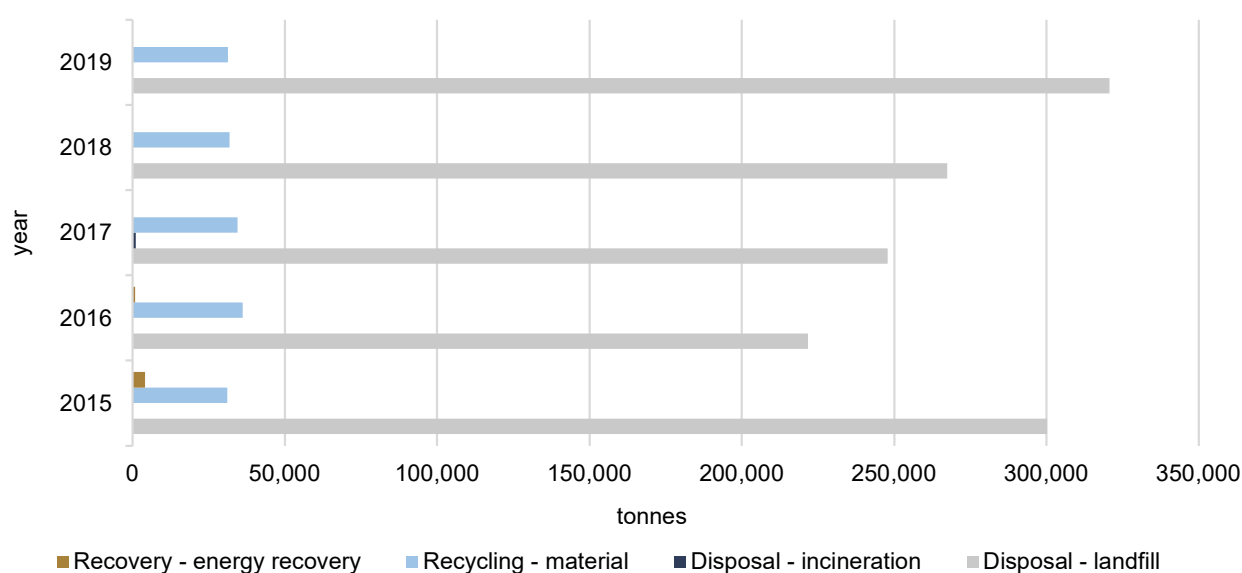
Waste treatment by waste type	2015 <sup>1</sup>	2016 <sup>1</sup>	2017 <sup>1</sup>	2018 <sup>1</sup>	2019
<b>Disposal - landfill</b>	<b>300,242</b>	<b>221,744</b>	<b>247,815</b>	<b>267,387</b>	<b>320,631</b>
Wood	73,324 <sup>3</sup>	8,487	5,593	8,575	8,632
Mixed municipal waste	142,063	81,704	83,957	74,038	92,300
Bulky waste	32,108	42,014	53,727	58,732	68,084
Bio-waste - garden and park	6,660	3,977	3,584	4,178	5,007
Street-cleaning residues	3,650	4,625	5,302	6,119	8,537
Digestate from Anaerobic Digestion	2,798	7,118	9,516	9,931	11,402
Rejects from mechanical treatment of waste <sup>2</sup>	39,389	73,450	85,774	105,444	126,206
Other	250	370	362	369	463
<b>Disposal - incineration</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
Rejects from mechanical treatment of waste	-	-	1,073	-	-
Other <sup>2</sup>	41	97	19	16	17
<b>Recycling - material</b>	<b>31,046</b>	<b>36,130</b>	<b>34,429</b>	<b>31,824</b>	<b>31,369</b>
Paper and cardboard	21,762	25,109	21,109	21,055	19,714
Plastic	3,709	3,393	3,003	1,623	2,818
Metals	1,633	3,027	3,479	2,825	2,000
Glass	2,651	3,297	3,878	5,240	3,452
Waste electrical and electronic equipment <sup>2</sup>	1,113	1,090	1,413	897	1,794
Other	177	214	1,547	184	1,591
<b>Recovery - energy recovery</b>	<b>4,140</b>	<b>806</b>	-	-	-
Rejects from mechanical treatment of waste	4,140	806	-	-	-
<b>Municipal waste treatment - Total</b>	<b>335,469</b>	<b>258,776</b>	<b>283,336</b>	<b>299,227</b>	<b>352,018</b>

<sup>1</sup> revised (see methodological note 2)

<sup>2</sup> includes hazardous waste.

<sup>3</sup> wood that was landfilled in 2015 is made up of wood which was generated from 2010 to 2015 that was being held in storage.

**Chart 3. Municipal waste treatment**



## Methodological Notes

1. Data for this news release is sourced from WasteServ Malta Ltd. and the Environment and Resources Authority. Data for 2019 should be considered as provisional.
2. Data presented in this news release is based on the methodology that is applied for the Municipal Waste data reporting which is submitted on an annual basis by NSO to Eurostat. The data in this news release has been revised in order to comply with the definitions provided by the Eurostat document 'Guidance for the compilation and reporting of data on municipal waste according to Commission Implementing Decisions 2019/1004/EC and 2019/1885/EC, and the Joint Questionnaire of Eurostat and OECD' version of 20/10/2020.
3. Eurostat data on municipal waste generation and treatment which is expressed in kilograms per capita, is based on data regarding the total population as at 1<sup>st</sup> January. In this news release the municipal waste generation per capita is calculated according to the total population as at 31<sup>st</sup> December.
4. Table 3 presents data for the four final treatment categories under which municipal waste that was treated from 2015 to 2019 can be classified. Data is inclusive of waste exports to overseas final treatment facilities, occurring due to the limited waste treatment capacity in Malta.
5. The difference between municipal waste generation and municipal waste treatment occurs mainly as a result of moisture gains and losses in organic waste, variations in stocks of waste that are held in storage prior to the final treatment operation and waste that is exported for pre-treatment operations (consequently the final treatment operation is not known).
6. Definitions:
  - **Municipal waste:** Waste that is generated from households as well as waste that is similar in nature and composition to household waste that is generated by businesses and institutions. This waste is collected by or on behalf of municipal authorities and disposed of through the waste management system.
  - **Bring-in sites:** Collection depots for clean source segregated recyclable materials. Four types of materials are collected: glass, metals, plastic and paper/cardboard.
  - **Civic amenity sites:** Collection depots for the separate disposal of household bulky waste and recyclables. Up to 2019 there were six sites operated by WasteServ Malta Ltd.
  - **Green/Grey bag collection:** Door-to-door collection of mixed paper, metals and plastics from households on pre-determined weekdays. As from 2014 door-to-door collection of glass is also taking place.
  - **Black bag collection:** Door-to-door collection of mixed waste primarily from households but also including waste from businesses and institutions on pre-determined weekdays. As from the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 households are expected to refrain from disposing of organic waste in this bag.
  - **Organic waste collection:** Door-to-door collection of organic waste from households on pre-determined weekdays. This collection started as a pilot project covering a limited number of localities in 2015 and was extended nationally from the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 onwards.
  - **Disposal - landfill:** Disposal of waste into or onto land, including specially engineered landfill, covered by Disposal codes D1, D5 and D12.
  - **Disposal - Incineration:** Incineration without energy recovery refers to the thermal treatment of waste and is considered as a disposal operation classified under code D10.
  - **Recycling - material:** Any waste recovery operations by which disposed materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes, except for use as fuel. These recovery operations are classified under codes R2 to R9 and R11.
  - **Recovery - energy recovery:** Incineration with energy recovery is considered as a recovery operation whenever both the conditions and energy efficiency thresholds which are provided in the 'Guidelines on the energy efficiency formula for incineration facilities' related to the Waste Framework Directive are met. This treatment operation is classified under code R1.

7. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:  
Statistical Concepts: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>  
Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=23>  
Classification: [List of recovery and disposal operations](#)
8. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
9. A detailed news release calendar is available on:  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)

**European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:**

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](#)

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