

SEPA experimental official statistics

29 September 2020



2019 Pollutant emissions and waste transfers from SEPA regulated industrial sites

An Experimental Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

The Lead Statistician released figures that show emissions of pollutants to air and water and off site waste transfers reported by operators of industrial sites under the Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) for the 2019 calendar year. Some historic data is included for comparison. For the 2019 calendar year 1,327 sites were required to report to SPRI.

Emissions of carbon dioxide and methane from the SEPA-regulated industrial sites which report to SPRI continue the decrease seen over the past decade. Carbon dioxide emissions fell by 57% between 2010 and 2019; methane fell by 44%.

Emissions to air from sites in the Waste and waste-water management sector show the opposite trend, with carbon dioxide releases up by 76% since 2010. This is partly due to the increase in incineration of waste. However, their emissions of greenhouses gases remain small relative to the energy sector.

Background

Experimental statistics are a subset of newly developed or innovative official statistics that are undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders at an early stage in assessing their suitability and quality.

The SPRI is a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) and has the primary purpose of making publicly available officially reported annual releases of specified

pollutants to air and water from SEPA-regulated industrial facilities. It also provides information on off-site transfers of waste and waste-water from these facilities.

Operators of sites carrying out specific activities (67 activities covering 10 major sectors) above defined capacity thresholds are obliged to report to SPRI on an annual basis. The activities and thresholds are largely determined by European reporting requirements but some thresholds have been lowered to be relevant to pollutant releases in the UK and Scotland.

The full statistical publication is available from SEPA's website: sepa.org.uk/spri

Experimental official statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Statistics.