Waste incinerated in Scotland - 2016

This release provides a summary of all waste incinerated in Scotland for calendar year 2016. It exclude Scottish waste incinerated elsewhere. Further information including definition of terms is included in the methodology and glossary.

Key points

Waste incinerated in Scotland– 2016 calendar year

- The total quantity of waste incinerated in Scotland in 2016 was 683,112 tonnes. This was an increase of 28,315 tonnes (4.3%) from 2015, and an increase of 273,053 tonnes (66.6%) from 2011.

Summary data tables are also available to download in Excel format on SEPA's web site.

Enquiries on this publication to: Contact SEPA Communications Department: 01786 452546.

An Official Statistics publication. These statistics have been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which sets out eight principles including meeting user needs, impartiality and objectivity, integrity, sound methods and assured quality, frankness and accessibility. More information on the Official Statistics Code of Practice can be found here at http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html.

Table 1. Hazardous and non-hazardous waste incinerated in Scotland in 2016

Waste Category	Non hazardous waste incinerated (tonnes)	Hazardous waste incinerated (tonnes)	Total incinerated (tonnes)
Acid, alkaline or saline wastes	0	0	0
Animal and mixed food waste	365	0	365
Animal faeces, urine and manure	94,685	0	94,685
Batteries and accumulators wastes	0	0	0
Chemical wastes	0	0	0
Combustion wastes	0	0	0
Common sludges	2,027	0	2,027
Discarded equipment (excluding discarded vehicles, batteries and accumulators wastes)	0	0	0
Discarded vehicles	0	0	0
Dredging spoils	0	0	0
Glass wastes	0	0	0
Health care and biological wastes	1,385	58	1,443
Household and similar wastes	90,646	0	90,646
Industrial effluent sludges	9,991	0	9,991
Metallic wastes, ferrous	0	0	0
Metallic wastes, mixed ferrous and non-ferrous	0	0	0
Metallic wastes, non-ferrous	0	0	0
Mineral waste from construction and demolition	0	0	0
Mineral wastes from waste treatment and stabilised wastes	0	0	0
Mixed and undifferentiated materials	2	0	2
Other mineral wastes	0	0	0
Paper and cardboard wastes	38	0	38
Plastic wastes	0	0	0
Rubber wastes	2,940	0	2,940
Sludges and liquid wastes from waste treatment	0	82	82
Soils	0	0	0
Sorting residues	16,582	0	16,582
Spent solvents	0	0	0
Textile wastes	0	0	0
Used oils	0	0	0
Vegetal wastes	0	0	0
Waste containing PCB	0	0	0
Wood wastes	464,311	0	464,311
Total	**682,972**	**140**	**683,112**

Data and Trends

Waste Incinerated

- In 2016, there were 683,112 tonnes of waste was incinerated in Scotland. This is an increase of 28,315 tonnes (4.3%) from 2015. The increase is consistent with the longer term incineration trend, with 273,053 tonnes (66.6%) more waste incinerated in Scotland than in 2011.
- Wood wastes was the largest category of waste incinerated in Scotland in 2016 (464,311 tonnes, comprising 68.0% of all waste incinerated) followed by Animal faeces, urine and manure (94,685 tonnes, 23.1%) and Household and similar wastes (90,646 tonnes, 19.5%).
- Wood wastes incinerated has trended upwards since 2011 (see Figure 1 below) with 369,834 tonnes (391.5%) more Wood wastes incinerated in 2016 than in 2011. In 2016, 47.6% of Wood wastes incinerated in Scotland originated outwith Scotland. This compares with 4.1% that originated outwith Scotland in 2011.
- The Household and similar wastes incinerated has been generally steady from 2011 through 2016, although a dip in these wastes incinerated in 2012 and 2013 was due to the temporary closure of the Baldovie Waste to Energy Plant in Dundee during this period (see Figure 1 below).
- In 2016, 83.7% of incinerated waste was through co-incineration and 16.3% was incinerated by disposal. The waste recovered by co-incineration was 2.9 percentage points higher than the 80.8% recovered by co-incineration in 2015, and 16.2 percentage points higher than the 67.5% of waste recovered by co-incineration in 2011. There was no incineration by recovery as there are currently no municipal waste incinerators in Scotland that are accredited to the R1 energy efficiency standard.

Figure 1. Waste incinerated in Scotland by waste category 2011 - 2016

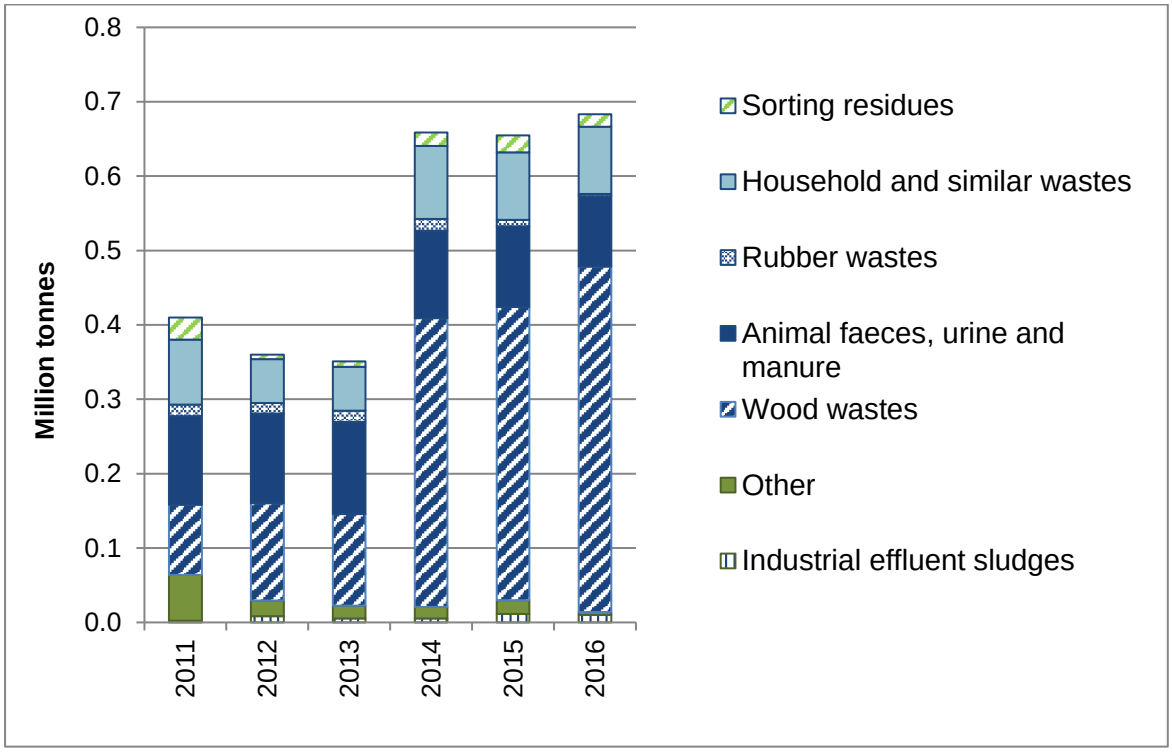


Table 2. Waste incinerated in Scotland by waste category 2011 - 2016

Waste Category	Year					
	2011 (tonnes)	2012 (tonnes)	2013 (tonnes)	2014 (tonnes)	2015 (tonnes)	2016 (tonnes)
Wood wastes	94,477	130,449	123,121	388,394	394,199	464,311
Animal faeces, urine and manure	119,309	120,509	123,748	117,431	108,194	94,685
Household and similar wastes	87,693	58,759	59,034	98,041	90,837	90,646
Sorting residues	29,648	6,270	7,578	17,836	22,912	16,582
Rubber wastes	15,235	14,539	15,025	16,183	8,594	2,940
Industrial effluent sludges	2,404	8,243	5,191	5,295	11,542	9,991
Other	61,293	21,364	17,448	15,326	18,518	3,957
Total	**410,059**	**360,132**	**351,145**	**658,506**	**654,797**	**683,112**

- As depicted in Figure 2 below, there was 140 tonnes of hazardous waste incinerated in Scotland in 2016, which amounts to 0.02% of all waste incinerated in Scotland. The hazardous waste incinerated comprised 82 tonnes of Sludges and liquid wastes from waste treatment and 58 tonnes of Health care and biological wastes.
- A longer term reduction in hazardous waste incinerated continued in 2016 with a decrease in the amount of hazardous waste incinerated by 1,418 tonnes (91.0%) from the 1,558 tonnes incinerated in 2015. The bulk of this reduction was due to one site which incinerated 1,476 tonnes of liquid combustible wastes containing dangerous substances (EWC 19 02 08*) in 2015, but only 82 tonnes of this waste in 2016.

Figure 2. Hazardous waste incinerated in Scotland 2011 – 2016

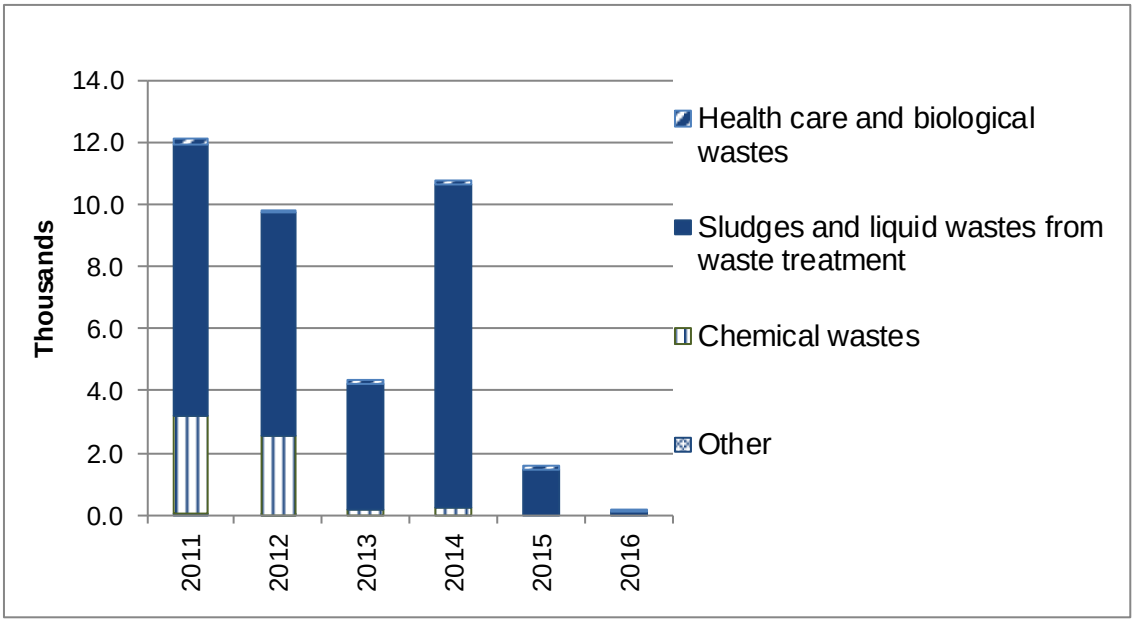


Table 3. Hazardous waste incinerated in Scotland 2011 – 2016

Waste Category	Year					
	2011 (tonnes)	2012 (tonnes)	2013 (tonnes)	2014 (tonnes)	2015 (tonnes)	2016 (tonnes)
Sludges and liquid wastes from waste treatment	8,745	7,150	4,082	10,410	1,476	82
Chemical wastes	3,134	2,567	172	244	0	0
Health care and biological wastes	172	90	94	107	82	58
Other	52	3	0	0	0	0
Total	**12,103**	**9,811**	**4,348**	**10,761**	**1,558**	**140**

DATA USES, FEEDBACK, REVISIONS POLICY, METHODOLOGY, GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND MEASURES, AND REFERENCES

User Statement

Data on waste generation and management is collected to monitor policy effectiveness, particularly the commitments in the Scottish Government's Making Things Last – A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland and to support policy development. The data is also used to supply data for the Waste Statistics Regulation (2002/2150/EC). The data is used extensively by local and central government, the waste industry, researchers and the public.

Feedback

We welcome feedback on the data from all users including how and why the data is used. This helps us to understand the value of the statistics to external users. Please see our contact details at the bottom of the first page of this notice or e-mail: waste.data@sepa.org.uk.

Revisions Policy

SEPA will provide information about any revisions made to this release and any associated datasets. Revisions could occur for various reasons, including when data from third parties is unavailable or provisional at the time of publishing or if there are subsequent methodological improvements or refinements.

The figures are accurate at the time of publication. However the data may be updated if further revisions are necessary. Normally these revisions will be published concurrent with the next release.

Methodology

Data is taken from permitted site returns or reports submitted to SEPA. Further details on the methodology used to produce the figures are provided in the annual Waste Data Quality Reports on SEPA's web site.

Glossary of terms

EWC Code – European Waste Catalogue waste code

Hazardous Waste – waste with hazardous properties which may render it harmful to human health or the environment. Hazardous waste is also called Special Waste in Scotland as defined in the Special Waste Regulation 1996 (and amendments)

WFAS – waste from all sources. This includes waste from commercial and industrial sources, construction and demolitions sources as well as from household sources.

Waste incinerated by co-incineration –wastes incinerated at an incineration facility in which the main purpose is the generation of energy or production or material products (e.g. cement) and which uses waste as an additional fuel.

Waste incinerated by disposal- wastes incinerated by at an incineration facility where the energy efficiency has not been demonstrated to meet the R1 criteria specified in the EU Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC).

Waste incinerated by recovery - wastes incinerated at an incineration facility where the energy efficiency has been demonstrated to meet the R1 energy efficiency criteria specified in the EU Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC).

Waste recovered by incineration - wastes incinerated by co-incineration and waste incinerated by recovery.

Waste incinerated –includes all WFAS that is incinerated in Scotland including waste incineration by disposal and waste incineration by recovery.