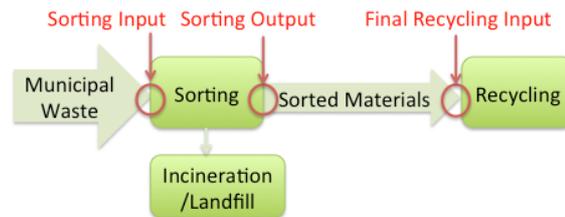


EU Recycling Rates for Municipal Waste: Point of Measurement January 2017

Current practices

Different Member States in Europe are using the following points of measurement along the recycling value chain to determine the weight of municipal waste recycled:



FEAD position

1. Reporting the output of sorting operations is necessary and should be an equal option

In many cases, the output of sorting operations can enter production processes without further treatment and is sold on global raw material markets – just like any other commodity. Recycling statistics would not be accurate if the exported output of sorting which enters final recycling operations outside the EU was not taken into account. Member States lacking final recycling capacities would not be able to fulfil their recycling targets.

Requests to delete this option are intended to confine the sale of the output of sorting operations to European producers only, to ensure their sole access to the material flows. Such a limitation of sales markets for secondary raw materials is contradictory to the aim of creating a favourable environment for the uptake of such materials in preference to primary raw materials and could even lead to treatment lower down the waste hierarchy if there is a lack of demand.

Moreover, measuring the input of final recycling operations can be very difficult even when the materials are not exported. The next stages *after* sorting often consist of *aggregating streams from different sources* (municipal/non-municipal, national/non-national), on the basis of commercial arrangements and the manufacturers input specifications.

Measuring the input into the final recycling operation is an appropriate option for waste streams which are not undergoing a sorting operation and are collected in “short loops” (e.g. certain separate collection schemes).

Waste which is considered to have ceased to be waste (EoW), shall be considered as recycled for the purpose of the calculation of the achievement of the targets.

2. Reporting separate collection or input into sorting operations should not count

This point of measurement overestimates recycling rates and reduces incentives to promote source separation by households because the amount of waste materials rejected by sorting operations is not deducted from the reported recycling rate.