



FACTSHEET

General Landfill Waste

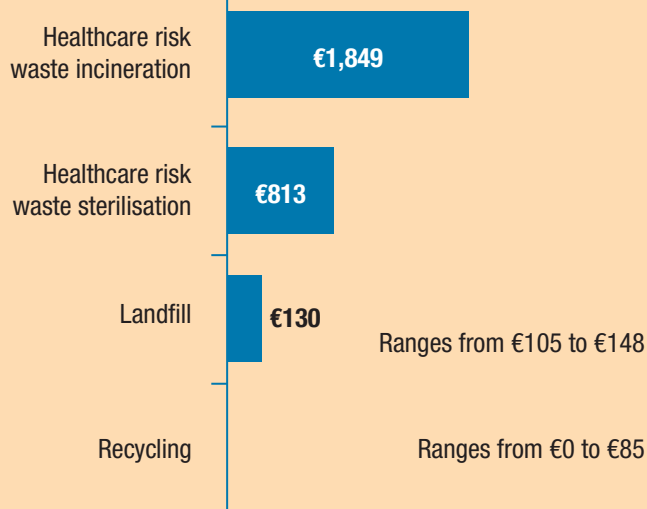


This factsheet outlines what is in the general landfill waste (also known as household or domestic waste) generated in Irish hospitals. This information is based on a series of waste surveys carried out under the EPA's Green Healthcare Programme.

Some simple facts about general landfill waste produced in Irish hospitals:

- It is estimated that all hospitals in Ireland combined produce 17,000 tonnes of general landfill waste per year.
- General landfill waste accounts for 61% of all waste (excluding food waste) generated in acute hospitals in Ireland, while it accounts for 69% in Primary, Community and Continuing Care (PCCC) facilities.
- On average in acute facilities 32% of the general landfill waste bags was found to be recyclable material. In PCCC facilities 16% of the waste is recyclable material. This is despite segregated recyclable collection being carried out in the majority of hospitals.

Approximate costs for different waste disposal routes (€/tonne, 2012)



You can save on your waste disposal costs by separating recyclables from the general landfill stream and segregating for recycling. It is nearly always cheaper to dispose of materials as mixed dry recyclables rather than as landfill waste (as shown in the figure above).

The Green Healthcare Programme found, that on average, the acute hospitals participating in the programme could make savings of up to €7,500 by diverting commonly accepted recyclables from the landfill stream. If the waste contractor accepts additional recyclable material, commonly generated in the healthcare sector, the potential average savings increase to €11,500 per annum. For community hospitals the savings could be in the region of up to €1,000 to €1,500 per annum.

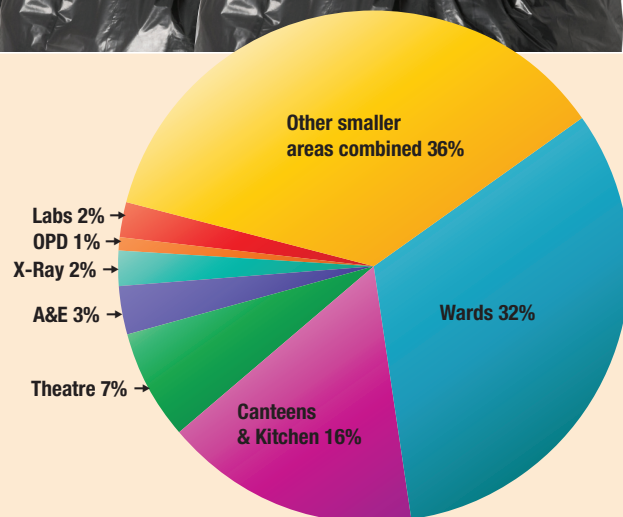
€ Nationally, savings of between €380,000 and €550,000 per annum could be made in acute hospitals, by ensuring that recyclables are kept segregated from general landfill waste.



Main sources of general landfill waste

Combined, the in-patient wards, catering (canteen & kitchen), theatre and A&E account for nearly 60% of the general landfill waste produced in acute healthcare facilities.

So its important to focus waste improvement options on these areas.



What happens to general landfill waste when it leaves your healthcare facility?

The majority of general landfill waste from hospitals is sent to landfill, although in recent times waste contractors have been required to process waste through materials recovery facilities. This separates some materials for recycling or energy recovery.

Remember landfill charges per tonne still apply to all of the waste placed in your landfill/general waste compactor or wheelie bin.



Food waste is the most preventable of all types of waste.

General landfill waste bags contain on average 15% food waste. This waste should be segregated for composting or other recovery.

For more information on food waste prevention visit the food waste section on the Green Healthcare website.

Want to determine if you produce more general landfill waste than other acute hospitals or PCCC facilities? Have a look at the waste generation benchmarks in the **FACTSHEET: Overview of Programme & Main Findings**





What makes up general landfill waste?

These graphics outline the five most common items found in general landfill waste bags

ACUTE HOSPITALS

Recyclables (combined materials) 32%

Tissues 18%

Food waste 15%

Nappies & Incontinence wear 6%

Plastic disposable gloves 5%



PCCC FACILITIES

Nappies & Incontinence wear 29%

Tissues 18%

Food waste 17%

Recyclables (combined materials) 16%

Non risk clinical type materials 4%