

# Combustion EfW (Energy from Waste) Sector 2016

## Overview

### Permitted sites



142 regulated sites

Main incinerator types:

55



Municipal waste

24



Biomass/wood

16



Clinical waste

### Industry facts



3,000 employees



£500 million turnover



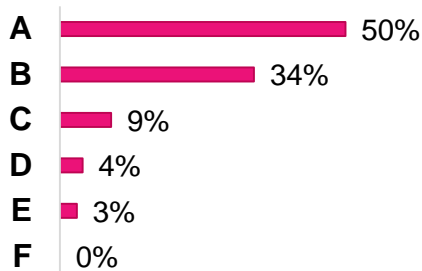
11.6 million tonnes of waste incinerated in 2016



10% of UK municipal waste is incinerated in energy from waste plants

## Performance

### Compliance ratings



2 persistently poor performing sites

### Pollution incidents



Serious 0  
Minor 36

### Permit breaches



Serious 9  
Minor 292

## Annual emissions

### Principal emissions to air\*

9.5 million t of **carbon dioxide**  
12,696 t of **nitrogen oxides**  
512 t of **sulphur oxides**  
42 t of **particulate matter**

### Waste produced by sites

#### Hazardous



1% recovered  
14% disposed

#### Non-Hazardous



74% recovered  
11% disposed

3.1 million tonnes

### Industry focus



The annual electricity-generating capacity of UK EfW plants



The number of operational plants which have R1 recovery status

\*Above the Pollution Inventory reporting threshold

# Combustion EfW (Energy from Waste) Sector

## Corporate outcomes 2016 to 2020

Our objective is for:

- A cleaner, healthier environment which benefits people and the economy;
- A nation better protected against natural threats and hazards, with strong response and recovery capabilities;
- A higher visibility, stronger partnerships and local choices

Our approach	How we will put this into practice
We will make sure more permit holders in the sector are complying with the regulations and we'll take tough action if they don't. We want to see more businesses performing at a consistently high level.	We will concentrate our resources on the permit holders that pose the highest risk. Among other methods, we will measure success by monitoring the reduction in the number of poor and persistently poor performers.
We will work to improve the public perception of the Energy from Waste Sector.	We will engage with communities on applications for new permits. We will listen to any concerns and provide information on how we permit and regulate incinerators to ensure the environment and human health are protected.  We will encourage applicants to engage with local communities throughout the process so they can take into account any concerns they may have.
We will encourage permit holders to use energy, water and waste more efficiently, follow the waste hierarchy, and achieve zero waste to landfill.	We will encourage permit holders to use energy, water and waste more efficiently and provide advice and guidance to consumers and waste producers. We will measure success by monitoring any decrease in the amount of waste sent to landfill and any increase in the recovery of waste.
We will support the development of innovative incineration technologies which minimise impacts on the environment.  We will promote the use of combined heat and power plants to power district heating schemes.	We will develop our staff in new and emerging technologies so they can continue to provide excellent advice and guidance to existing permit holders and new operators.  We will process applications for new permits, variations and transfers on time.
We will control and reduce the impact of industrial emissions on the environment. We will do this through implementing the Industrial Emissions Directive and following the associated Best Available Techniques Reference documents (BREFs).  We will ensure our permit holders are engaged in the BREF review so we can provide a robust input into the review.  We will continue to work within current EU legislation until such time new legislation implemented after the European Union exit.	We will set up a joint working group with our permit holders and industry stakeholders to ensure they're represented during the BREF review process.  We will continue to work with permit holders and trade associations to keep them updated of any changes and what this will mean for them.  Once the new BREF is published we will initiate a review of those permits affected within a year.  We will carry out a sector permit review using the revised BREF(s). We will measure success by monitoring the number of permits we've reviewed and the number of Best Available Techniques requirements permit holders have implemented.  We will keep permit holders and trade associations updated on how they may be affected.
We will make sure permit holders are more resilient to climate change.	We will provide advice and guidance on mitigating the effects of climate change.
We will implement the outputs of the Strategic Charges Review to ensure we recover the correct charges to fund our regulatory work.	We will keep permit holders and trade associations updated on how they may be affected.
We are transforming our information systems and supporting guidance to be more customer-focused to support businesses and make it as easy as possible for them to do the right thing.	We will listen to those we regulate and communicate clearly with them making our guidance and advice clear and easy to understand. We are digital by default, to make transactions with us as easy as possible, while recognising that some businesses prefer more traditional approaches.

### Data Sources:

The Environment Agency holds records for the number and type of regulated sites, the number of pollution incidents and permit breaches, and the compliance rating for each regulated site. The number of serious pollution incidents include both permitted and unpermitted sites in this sector.

Substance release and waste transfer data is collected from sites that operate under a Part A(1) environmental permit and form part of the Environment Agency's Pollution Inventory. See the [2016 datasets](#) that support this report.

Industry data has been collected from a variety of sources including industry trade organisations and publicly available resources.