

Landfill and Deposit for Recovery Sector 2016

Overview

Permitted sites



2,284 regulated activities

Main activities:

1,309



Closed Landfills

291



Non-hazardous and hazardous waste landfill and other installations

391



Deposit for Recovery

293



Inert waste landfill and other waste operations

Industry facts



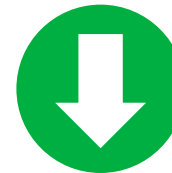
£841 million landfill tax generated



44.7 million tonnes – waste received in this sector



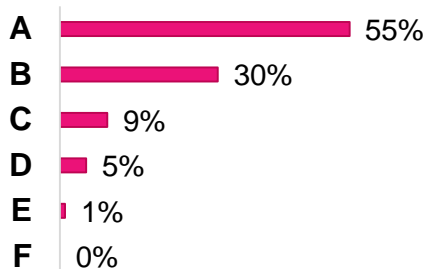
Remaining landfill void space in England is 465 million cubic metres



Landfill inputs have reduced 44% since 2000

Performance

Compliance ratings[†]



49 persistently poor performing sites

[†]Operational sites only

Pollution incidents



Serious 7
Minor 165

Permit breaches



Serious 58
Minor 2,339

Annual emissions

Principal emissions to air*

4.58 million t of **carbon dioxide****
1,700 t of **nitrogen oxides**
4 t of **sulphur oxides**
184,691 t of **methane**

Waste produced by sites

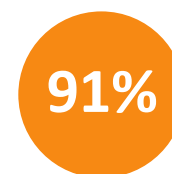


2 Million tonnes of leachate removed from sites



2.1 Billion cubic metres of landfill gas collected

Industry focus



91% Of landfill gas collected is used to generate electricity



5,000 GWh electricity generated through burning of landfill gas (enough to power 440,000 homes)

*Above the Pollution Inventory reporting threshold

**This includes 2.3 million t of carbon dioxide from renewable sources (burning landfill gas to generate electricity)

Landfill and Deposit for Recovery 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 maximise compliance ensuring consistent high performance across the sector and take tough action where permit conditions are not met.	We will use a risk based and intelligence led approach for undertaking our compliance and enforcement activities. We will take appropriate steps to address non-compliance using a range of interventions including timely enforcement action where necessary.
We will improve our environment by working with permit holders to reduce the number of accidents and incidents at their sites.	We will investigate incidents and accidents at permitted sites and work with operators to identify the root cause. We will ensure plans are in place and followed with the aim of reducing the risk of incidents and accidents at permitted sites. We will focus our efforts on those permitted sites whose incidents and accidents have been most frequent, were of a large scale and caused the most environmental impact. We will work with our trade associations and permit holders to share lessons learned and develop targeted campaigns.
We will protect the environment and prevent harm to health with a consistent and proportionate regulatory approach.	We will develop an annual compliance assessment plan for each site to focus our inspections and audits. We will review permitted site monitoring and emissions data to help inform our regulatory approach and identify sites that are high risk. We will work with permit holders to ensure each facility has a Technically Competent Manager with the appropriate qualifications. We will develop our guidance on dealing with landfill abandonment. We will actively recover unpaid subsistence charges so that our compliance assessment work is fully funded. We will regularly review our permits to ensure they meet current regulatory standards and Best Available Techniques where applicable. We will carry out risk based assessment of landfill engineering plans and validation reports.
We will protect the environment and prevent harm to health by having accurately described and characterised waste. We will ensure waste goes to the correct permitted sites.	We will provide advice and guidance to permit holders on how waste should be characterised and described using the Duty of Care Code of Practice. We will promote the Right Waste Right Place initiative with our permit holders. Where waste is not managed appropriately we will take prompt action. We will actively engage with our staff, permit holders and trade associations about how hazardous waste should be accurately characterised and described. We will advise permit holders about the importance of keeping accurate and safe records. We will assess waste recovery plans for the deposit of waste for recovery so we can be sure they're genuine recovery activities.
We will further improve our environment by implementing a long term strategy for the regulation of closed and closing landfills that are in aftercare.	We will complete the review programme for sites not permitted under the Landfill Directive that have ceased accepting waste, to ensure closure procedures are followed and the sites are progressed into aftercare. We will use our data intelligence to identify and review high risk closed landfills. We will work with permit holders to agree action plans to deliver environmental improvements at these sites and we will seek to vary permits to include modern standards where necessary. We will work with industry groups to develop standardised monitoring requirements for sites in aftercare period.
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 continue to work within current EU legislation until such time new legislation is implemented after the European Union exit.	We will keep permit holders and trade associations updated on how they may be affected.
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.