ETC/WMGE working paper

Methodology for the EEA's input to the 'Early warning' Assessment – Landfill of municipal waste target

11/12/2020

European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy

Authors:
Almut Reichel (EEA), Ann Van der Linden (VITO), Tom Duhoux (VITO), Malin zu Castell-Rudenhausen (VTT)

ETC/WMGE consortium partners: Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO), CENIA, Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP), Research Institute on Sustainable Economic Growth of National Research Council (IRCrES), The Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM), Sustainability, Environmental Economics and Dynamic Studies (SEEDS), VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Banson Communications Ireland (BCI), The Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy (WI), Slovak Environment Agency (SEA)

Contents

Abbreviations and explanations 2
Introduction 3
1 Current situation and past trends 4
SRF LF-1.1 Distance to target 4
SRF LF-1.2 Past trend in municipal solid waste landfill rate 4
SRF LF-1.3 Diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill 5

Abbreviations and explanations

BMW	Biodegradable municipal waste
MS	(EU) Member States (European Union)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SRF	Success/risk factor
Questionnaire	One of the key sources for collecting information mentioned in the methodology is a questionnaire. This questionnaire will be sent out to Member States in early 2021.
WFD	Waste Framework Directive

Introduction

This document describes the methodology for to assessing the 27 Member States' prospects of meeting the target to landfill not more than 10% of municipal waste generated by 2035.

Art. 5b of the Landfill Directive foresees an early warning report to be produced by 2030, therefore the methodology used here is based on a shorter and simplified methodology compared to the early warning assessments for the municipal waste recycling target and the packaging waste recycling targets.

The methodology uses a basic set of three 'success/risk factors' (SRFs). An SRF is assumed to influence the probability of meeting the target.

The assessment of each SRF is done through threshold values or qualitative assessment categories that categorize each factor into green, amber or red:

on track target reached favorable	additional effort needed medium uncertain	unfavorable highly uncertain no information

The risk assessment should indicate whether a country is at low, medium or high risk of not meeting the target. The 'total risk' categorization is the result of the sum of the individual scores of each SRF, where the assessment of each SRF results in a score of 2 points (green), 1 point (amber) or 0 points (red), depending on the assessment of the SRF. As the 'distance to the target' is considered to have a higher impact on meeting the target, this SRF gets the weight of 5, the other two SRFs are weighted with factor 1. A MS is considered to be 'not at risk' if its score is more than 66% of the maximum score, and 'at risk' if its score is less than 33% of this maximum score.

1 Current situation and past trends

SRF LF-1.1 Distance to target

Description and relevance
The distance to the target - max. 10% of municipal waste generated is landfilled by 2035 – is assessed. The actual distance to the target for the most recent data point is a key factor determining the likelihood of meeting/not meeting the target. The closer the Member State (MS) is to the target already, the more likely it becomes that the MS will meet the target. MS already meeting or exceeding the target will be excluded from the further assessment.

Source
Reported data according to the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC as amended by Directive 2018/850/EU) and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1885.

Assessment

Distance to target < 10 percentage points, or target exceeded	Distance to target 10 – 20 percentage points	Distance to target > 20percentage points, or no data reported

Weight
5

Considerations for the assessment
MS may apply for a derogation from the landfill target if they meet the conditions set out in Art. 5(6) of the Landfill Directive (Estonia, Greece, Croatia, Latvia, Malta, Romania and Slovakia). For those MS that actually have applied for a derogation, the interim target of 25% defined in Art. 5(8) of the amended Landfill Directive will be used as the target to assess that Member States' progress in this methodology.
Until data becomes available, preliminary assessments will be based on data reported to Eurostat according to the Eurostat-OECD questionnaire, published by Eurostat in the dataset env_wasmun.

SRF LF-1.2 Past trend in municipal solid waste landfill rate

Description and relevance
Has the landfill rate (landfilled MSW as share of generated MSW) over the past five years been stagnating or increasing, and how does it relate to the current landfill rate? The closer the country is to the target, the lower the pace toward the target will probably be. This SRF will help to better understand the dynamics of the landfill rate in a Member State.

Sources
- Historical trend: Municipal waste generation and landfilled amounts reported to Eurostat (dataset env_wasmun).
- Current situation: Landfill rate for the reference year 2020 as reported in 2022 according to the rules of the 2018 WFD and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1885.
- European Commission for information on derogations

Assessment

Landfill rate in 2020 < 20% and decrease in last 5 years > 5 percentage points, or Landfill rate in 2020 < 25% and decrease in last 5 years > 10 percentage points or Landfill rate in 2020 < or = 10%	Landfill rate in 2020 < 20% and decrease in last 5 years < 5 percentage points, or Landfill rate in 2020 < 25%, and decrease in last 5 years < 10 percentage points, or Landfill rate in 2020 > 25% and decrease in last 5 years > 15 percentage points	Landfill rate in 2020 > 25% and decrease in last 5 years < 15 percentage points

Weight
1

Considerations for the assessment
MS may apply for a derogation from the landfill target. If this is the case we will apply 5ppt higher thresholds for the landfill rate while the same decrease rates are used in the assessment.

SRF LF-1.3 Diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill

Description and relevance
Delay in meeting previous targets generally increases the risk for not meeting future targets.
This SRF therefore assesses compliance with the target laid down in Art. 5(2)(c) of the EU Landfill Directive to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 35 % of biodegradable municipal waste generated in 1995. The target had to be met in 2016, but the following MS have been granted an extension of the target deadline to 2020: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Source
Member States' reporting to the European Commission.

Assessment

Target for reducing the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) landfilled to 35% of BMW generated in 1995 has been achieved in 2016 or in the year specified in the derogation where applicable		Target for reducing the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) landfilled to 35% of BMW generated in 1995 has not been achieved in 2016 or in the year specified in the derogation where applicable, or data not reported.

Weight
1