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In Poland in 2017 was noticed an increase of amount of municipal waste generated by 2.7% in comparison to the previous year.

Municipal waste

In 2017, in Poland there were 11 968.7 thous. tonnes of municipal waste collected (an increase by 2.7% compared with 2016). An average amount of municipal waste collected per 1 inhabitant of Poland was 312 kg. Compared to 2016, the amount of municipal waste generated per capita increased by 9 kg.

Municipal waste collected in 2017 from households (9 971.2 thous. tonnes) represented the majority (83.3%) of municipal waste generated. The amount of this waste increased by 4.3% compared to the previous year.

Table 1. Municipal waste generated in 2016-2017

Specification	2016	2015 = 100	2017	2016 = 100
Municipal waste generated, total (thous. tonnes)	11 654.3	107.3	11 968.7	102.7
Municipal waste collected separately (thous. tonnes)	2 942.3	116.0	3 239.4	110.1
Mixed municipal waste (thous. tonnes)	8 712.1	104.6	8 729.3	100.2

The total number of enterprises that collected municipal waste from property owners in 2017 amounted to 1 295 and decreased by 11.4% compared to the previous year.

In 2017, there were 2 148 separate collection points for municipal waste in Poland, of which 791 (36.8%) were located in urban areas, and 1 357 (63.2%) in rural areas.

Out of collected in 2017 municipal waste, 6 770.9 thous. tonnes were designated for recovery (about 56.6% of the amount of municipal waste generated). About 3 198.7 thous. tonnes of municipal waste were destined for recycling (26.7% of the amount of municipal waste generated). About 848.0 thous. tonnes of municipal waste (7.1% of the amount of municipal waste generated) were designated for biological treatment (composting or fermentation). Almost 2 724.2 thous. tonnes of municipal waste (about 22.8% of municipal waste generated) were designated for incineration with energy recovery.

For disposal there were directed in total 5 197.8 thous. tonnes of municipal waste, of which 4 999.7 thous. tonnes (41.8% of municipal waste generated) were designated for landfilling, and 198.1 thous. tonnes (1.7% of municipal waste generated) for disposal by incineration without energy recovery.

At the end of 2017, there were 301 municipal waste landfill sites. These landfills covered the total area of 1 741.6 ha. In 2017, 21 landfills of this type were closed, covering area of approximately 59.7 ha.

In 2017, in Poland there were 267 landfill sites fitted with degassing installations, and they constituted 88.7% of all operational landfills on which municipal waste was deposited. In 2017, as a result of neutralization of gas by burning, approximately 96 997 thous. MJ of heat energy and about 121 574 thous. kWh of electrical energy was recovered.

The amount of municipal waste generated per capita increased by 9 kg as compared to 2016

Number of enterprises that collected municipal waste from property owners decreased by over 11% compared to 2016

56,6% of municipal waste was designated for recovery operation

Almost 89% of landfills sites on which municipal waste was deposited were fitted with degassing installations About 92.5% of the area, on which municipal waste was landfilled in 2017 in Poland was the area of controlled landfill sites in operation. The remaining part was the area of illegal dumps, i.e. places not intended for municipal waste disposal. At the end of 2017, there were 1 661 illegal dumps in Poland, whereas 13 thous. of such dumps were removed during the year. During removal of uncontrolled landfill sites, about 42.8 thous. tonnes of municipal waste were collected.

13 thous. of uncontrolled landfill sites were removed in 2017

85% of the total number of septic tanks were located in rural areas

The amount of liquid waste collected from households increased by 5% as compared to the previous year

Liquid waste

In case of areas insufficiently developed in terms of sewage infrastructure, some inhabitants use on-site wastewater collecting systems, which are a cheaper alternative to building a sewage network that discharges wastewater to wastewater treatment plants. These are septic tanks and household wastewater treatment systems. There were 2 121 thous. septic tanks and almost 234 thous. household wastewater treatment systems in Poland in 2017. Out of the total number of septic tanks, almost 15% were located in urban, and 85% in rural areas. In case of on-site wastewater treatment systems, there were over 8% in urban, and 92% in rural areas.

Table 2. Liquid waste collected in 2016-2017

Specification	2016	2015 = 100	2017	2016 = 100
Liquid waste, total (in hm³)	23.1	100.8	23.7	102.3
Liquid waste from households (in hm³)	16.2	102.3	17.0	105.0
Liquid waste from other sources (in hm ³)	6.9	97.5	6.7	95.8

Liquid waste was collected from septic tanks and delivered to wastewater treatment plants or dump stations. In 2017, approx. 23.7 hm³ of liquid waste was collected. From the total amount of liquid waste discharged to wastewater treatment plants or dump stations in 2017, approximately 72% (17.0 hm³) originated from households, while the remaining part was collected from public buildings and buildings of enterprises. The amount of liquid waste collected from households increased by 5% compared to the previous year.

Liquid waste collected from septic tanks located in urban areas accounted for 31%, while from rural areas for 69% of the total amount of liquid waste collected.

In 2017 in Poland there were 2 301 dump stations, of which approximately 67% located in rural areas.

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Related information

Municipal infrastructure in 2016

Data available in databases Local Data Base Knownledge Databases (DBW) Municipal and Dwelling Infrastructure Terms used in official statistics Municipal waste Liquid waste