

Biodegradable Municipal Waste to Landfill Ban

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Scottish Government Policy



SEPA Guidance



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Biodegradable Municipal Waste Landfill Ban

Purpose

This document provides guidance on the ban on landfilling Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW). It describes BMW, why it will be banned, how to decide if a waste is caught by the ban and how the ban will be implemented.

What is banned?

From 1 Jan 2021, landfill operators in Scotland will be prohibited from accepting Biodegradable Municipal Waste for disposal at the landfill. The purpose of the ban is:

- to reduce the amount of waste landfilled by directing residual waste to alternative treatment.
- to extract any remaining resource value from the residual waste stream.
- to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which result from landfilling biodegradable waste.

What is Biodegradable Municipal Waste?

Biodegradable Municipal Waste is defined in Regulation 11(3) of the Landfill (Scotland) Regulations 2003 (as amended) ("the Regulations) as "municipal waste that is also biodegradable".

Biodegradable waste is defined (in Regulation 2 (1) of the Regulations as "any waste capable of undergoing anaerobic or aerobic decomposition such as food, garden waste, paper and cardboard".

Municipal waste is defined (in Regulation 2 (1) of the Regulations as "waste from households as well as other waste which because of its nature or composition is similar to waste from households".

BMW includes biodegradable household waste together with biodegradable waste which is similar to household waste such as, for example, waste from the retail and hospitality sectors. It includes residual ("black bag") waste and other mixed municipal wastes collected from households and commercial businesses coded as 20 03 01. In 2016, 1,223,587 tonnes of waste coded as 20 03 01 was landfilled in Scotland.

BMW also includes sorting residues from processing mixed municipal waste often coded as 19 12 12. In 2016, 779,521 tonnes of 19 12 12 waste was landfilled in Scotland although not all of this was from municipal sources. It is important to distinguish between sorting residues from different sources so that sorting residues from BMW are not landfilled. Mixed sorting residues derived from

3 step system

- 1 - Is it biodegradable? (EWC list)
- 2 - Is it municipal?
- 3 - Is it biodegradable (again)? (Treatment)

Compliance



Further Work

- Individual Waste Streams
- Guidance on sampling and testing
- Assessing preparation
- Vigilance on opportunities

Questions?