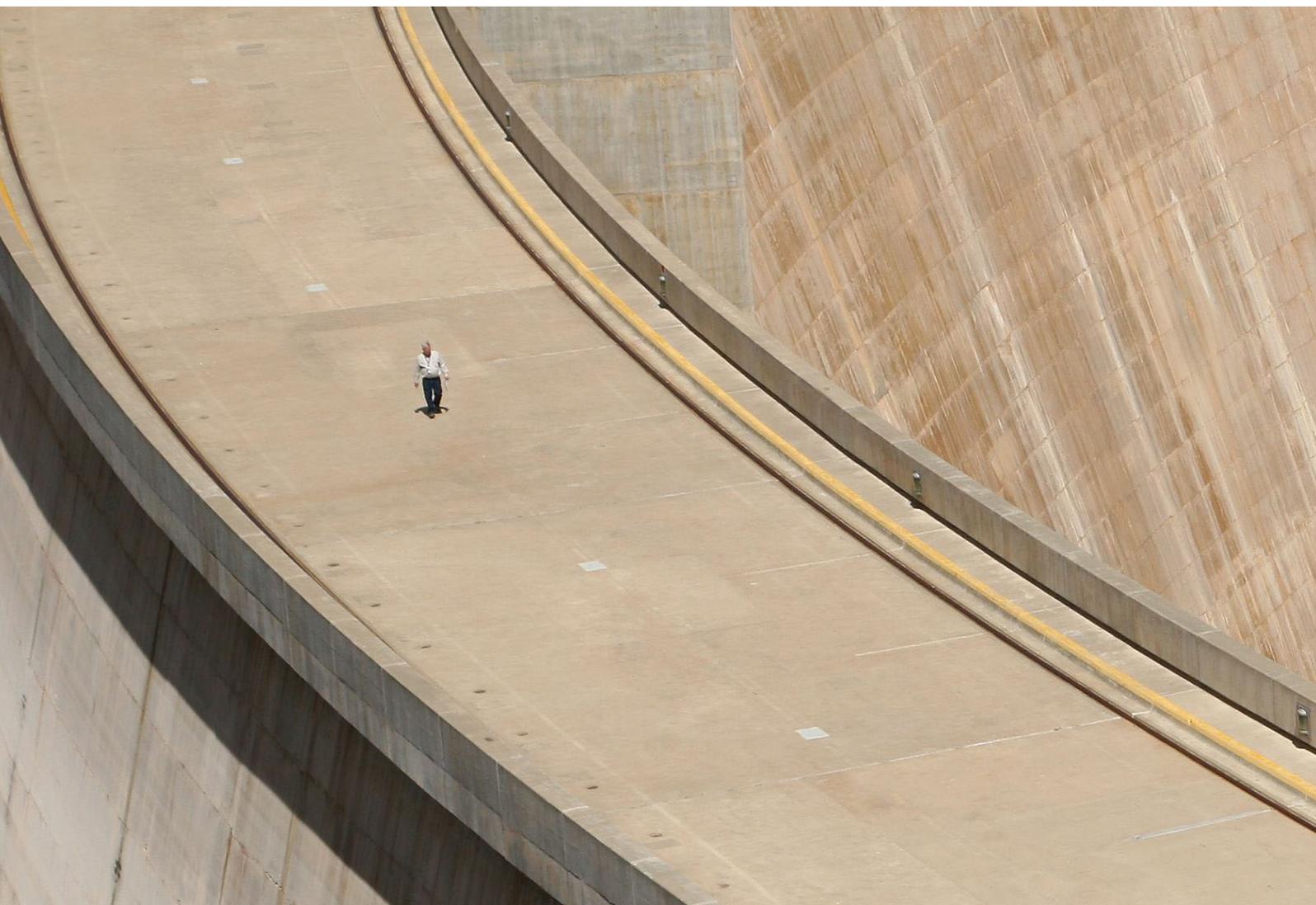


# More from less — material resource efficiency in Europe

2015 overview of policies, instruments and targets in 32 countries



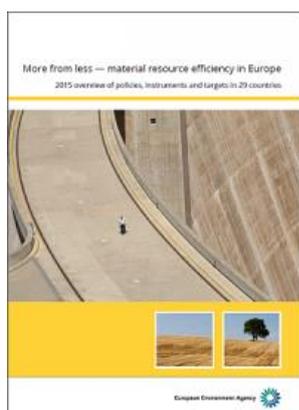
**Iceland** 

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This country profile is based on information compiled by Anna Sigurveig Ragnarsdóttir from the Environment Agency of Iceland. This document should not be seen as an official list of government priorities and is not necessarily an exhaustive list of all national material resource efficiency policies, objectives, targets or activities in place. The information is current as of June 2015.

This country profile was prepared as part of the 2015 EEA review of material resource efficiency policies, that aimed to collect, analyse and disseminate information about the development and implementation of material resource efficiency policies in EEA member and cooperating countries. The work resulted in the following outcomes:



**32 short country profiles** (this document) – self assessments prepared by countries, describing the current status of material resource efficiency policies including key strategies and action plans, policy objectives, instruments, targets and indicators, and the institutional setup. Countries were also invited to share reflections on the future direction of resource efficiency policies.

**EEA report *More From Less – material resource efficiency in Europe*** – prepared by the EEA and ETC/WMGE, the report analyses trends, similarities and differences in policy responses, showcases selected policy initiatives from the countries, and offers some considerations for the development of future policies.

The EEA report *More from less – material resource efficiency in Europe* and the 32 country profiles are available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/resource-efficiency>

For information about trends and policies on municipal waste management in the participating countries, please visit: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/managing-municipal-solid-waste>

Information about EU Member States' waste prevention programmes can be found at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/waste-prevention-in-europe-2015>

For information on climate- and energy-related policies, including those on energy efficiency, in the participating countries, please visit: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/ghg-country-profiles>

## Iceland, facts and figures

Source: Eurostat

	<p><b>GDP:</b> EUR 12.9 billion (equivalent to 0.1 % of EU-28 total in 2014)</p> <p><b>Per person GDP:</b> EUR 32,700 (in purchasing power standard) (119 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)</p> <p><b>Use of materials (DMC)</b> Not available</p>
	<p><b>Structure of the economy:</b> agriculture: 6 % industry: 22.4 % services: 71.7 % (2014 est.)</p> <p><b>Surface area:</b> 103,000 square kilometres (equivalent to 0.2 % of EU-28 total)</p> <p><b>Population:</b> 0.3 million (equivalent to 0.1 % of EU-28 total)</p>

## Introduction

Iceland has neither developed a dedicated National Resource Efficiency Strategy nor an Action Plan.

## Scope of material resource efficiency

The term *resource efficiency* and its scope, which resources are addressed, are not explicitly defined.

## Driving forces of material resource efficiency

Government policy is substantially reflected through set laws and regulations. Laws and regulations are usually preferred when a clear target or circumstances can be set, such as a ban on the use of specific substances.

Policies can, however, also include goals for long-term and other issues that lay the foundation for future laws and regulations or a vision, values or priorities relating to consumption and lifestyle, business or institutional operations or whatever else is difficult to determine by law.

Government policy depends on the political focus/agenda at a specific time, but no less on developments in the international arena and Iceland's commitments in co-operation with other nations through, for example, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the European Economic Area, the United Nations and other international institutions.

Iceland follows EU trends and in some cases a specific interest is taken in a given field that is of particular economic or environmental interest. An example of this is plastic pollution in the ocean.

Reference:

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Landsaaetlun-2013-2024-%28utgafa%29.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Landsaaetlun-2013-2024-%28utgafa%29.pdf)

## Priority material resources, sectors, and consumption categories

### Priority materials

No specific material resource efficiency policies have been made.

Waste-derived secondary material resources that have been identified and are addressed in Iceland's waste management policy are:

packaging waste, scrap metal (automobiles), batteries, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), organic waste, tyres and industrial waste.

Reference:

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Saman-gegn-soun-HREINT.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Saman-gegn-soun-HREINT.pdf)

### Priority industries and economic sectors

No specific material resource efficiency policies have been made.

For greenhouse gas emissions; the power generating sector, heavy industry, fisheries, agriculture and transport have been identified as priority sectors.

In the policy of waste prevention the following sectors have been identified as most relevant: food, plastics, textiles, paper, buildings, WEEE, by-products of meat and fish production, beverage packaging and heavy industry.

References:

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Adgerdaaetlun-i-loftslagsmalum.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Adgerdaaetlun-i-loftslagsmalum.pdf)

### Priority consumption categories

Again no specific material resource efficiency policies have been made.

In the current draft for Iceland's waste prevention policy a focus has been made on food waste, plastics, textiles, paper, buildings (housing) and WEEE.

Reference:

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Saman-gegn-soun-HREINT.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Saman-gegn-soun-HREINT.pdf)

## Policy framework

### National strategies or action plans for material resource efficiency

National policies and strategies that address material resource efficiency issues are:

#### **Iceland's Waste Management Policy 2013–2024**

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Landsaetlun-2013-2024-%28utgafa%29.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Landsaetlun-2013-2024-%28utgafa%29.pdf)

#### **Iceland's Climate Action Plan was issued in 2010 and is now being updated.**

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Adgerdaaetlun-i-loftslagsmalum.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Adgerdaaetlun-i-loftslagsmalum.pdf)

In addition, a **policy on waste prevention** has been drafted and a final version will be available shortly. Below is a link to the draft which was made available for feedback in public participation in December 2014. A final version of the policy will be ready in a short while.

<http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/frettir/nr/2681>

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Saman-gegn-soun-HREINT.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Saman-gegn-soun-HREINT.pdf)

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/articles/news\\_2015040101\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/articles/news_2015040101_en.htm)

Other relevant policies include:

**The Icelandic Energy Policy (2011)**

<http://www.nea.is/media/gagnasofn/Orkustefna-fyrir-Island.pdf>

**Iceland 2020 – for the economy and society (2011)**

<http://www.forsaetisraduneyti.is/media/Skyrslur/island2020.pdf>

**Promoting the Green Economy in Iceland (2011)**

[https://www.althingi.is/pdf/Graent\\_hagkerfi.pdf](https://www.althingi.is/pdf/Graent_hagkerfi.pdf)

### The circular economy and closing material loops

The main focus has been on increased recycling to reduce the use of primary resources. The focus will be on reducing waste production in coming years.

Iceland already has a large share of renewable energy use and is increasing it's use further through new means such as anaerobic digestion of organic waste and more.

References:

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Landsaaetlun-2013-2024-%28utgafa%29.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Landsaaetlun-2013-2024-%28utgafa%29.pdf)

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Saman-gegn-soun-HREINT.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Saman-gegn-soun-HREINT.pdf)

### General policy objectives for material resource efficiency

The general policy objectives are:

- to reduce the amount of waste generated;
- to improve resource efficiency;
- to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses released;
- to decrease the use of primary materials and the circulation of materials that have a negative effect on health and the environment. The focus is general and on various waste sectors, not specific materials: food, plastics, textiles, paper, buildings, electronics, by-products of meat and fish production, beverage packaging and heavy industry.

References:

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Landsaaetlun-2013-2024-%28utgafa%29.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Landsaaetlun-2013-2024-%28utgafa%29.pdf)

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Adgerdaaetlun-i-loftslagsmalum.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Adgerdaaetlun-i-loftslagsmalum.pdf)

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Saman-gegn-soun-HREINT.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Saman-gegn-soun-HREINT.pdf)

## Institutional setup and stakeholder involvement

### Institutional set up for material resource efficiency policies

Responsibility for material resources is mostly divided between the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources – waste management, natural resources and buildings; the Ministry of Industries and Innovation – agriculture, fisheries and industry; and the Ministry of the Interior – transport.

Main governmental institutions involved are:

The Environment Agency <http://www.ust.is/>

Iceland Construction Authority <http://www.mannvirkjastofnun.is/>

The Icelandic Recycling Fund <http://www.urvinnslusjodur.is/>

The Icelandic National Planning Agency <http://www.skipulagsstofnun.is/>

Innovation Centre Iceland <http://www.nmi.is/>

National Energy Authority <http://www.nea.is/>

Icelandic Transport Authority <http://www.icetra.is/>

Co-ordination is ensured by co-operation between the responsible agencies when needed.

### Process to ensure stakeholder participation

Key stakeholders are involved in a structured way when new policies are developed. By law, all policies must be made public and can be commented over a six week period.

Key stakeholders include:

### **Business and Industry**

SA – Business Iceland <http://sa.is>

SI – the Federation of Icelandic Industries [www.si.is](http://www.si.is)

Icelandic Association of Local Authorities <http://www.samband.is>

Landsvirkjun – National Power Company of Iceland <http://www.landsvirkjun.com/>

Samorka – Icelandic Energy and Utilities [www.samorka.is](http://www.samorka.is)

### **Public participation and nature conservation:**

Landvernd, Icelandic Environment Association [www.landvernd.is](http://www.landvernd.is)

Iceland Nature Conservation Association [www.natturuvernd.is](http://www.natturuvernd.is)

## Suggestions for international support mechanisms to exchange experience

Information on economic policies and/or tax incentives to improve material resource efficiency.

Iceland's focus in resource efficiency is first and foremost on reducing waste to landfill.

## Policy instruments

### Policy instruments commonly used for material resource efficiency

Regulatory instruments are considered the most important and to some extent economic instruments, for example a carbon tax.

In the draft of the Icelandic waste prevention policy there are suggestions for economic/financial instruments, information based instruments, and voluntary agreements. This policy is still a draft and nothing has been decided yet.

## Examples of good practice

### Good practice showcase – The Icelandic Recycling Fund

Iceland's authorities have set the goal of systematically reducing waste formation and channelling waste into reuse and recovery. The Act on Recycling Fees was passed in an effort to achieve this, charging the Icelandic Recycling Fund with creating conducive economic conditions for reuse and recovery, lowering the volume of waste going to final disposal and ensuring the proper disposal of hazardous substances.

The fund works as an extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme and applies economic incentives to establish practical arrangements for processing waste, which means providing the monetary prerequisites so that businesses will realise the benefit of involving themselves in the processing programme. It is for this reason that the fund contracts out waste processing, based on tenders or task contracts, and uses the recycling fee to pay the costs.

The fund charges producers and importers a recycling fee for the following categories: motor vehicle waste, paper packaging, plastic packaging, tyres, bale plastic, hazardous waste and WEEE. The fee ranges from ISK 3 to ISK 900 per kilogram (in 2013) depending on the category. Further information on fees can be found in the Icelandic Recycling fund's annual report (pp. 29–44).

<http://www.urvinnslusjodur.is/media/arsskyrslur/Arsskyrsla-Urvinnslusjods-2013---lokautgafa.pdf>

<http://www.urvinnslusjodur.is>

## Targets and indicators

### Targets for material resource efficiency

No specific targets have been set for material resource efficiency in the economy as a whole.

Policy targets are not generally quantitative and measurable but rather aspirational and not mandatory.

In regards to waste, Iceland has set targets in the following categories: packaging waste, motor vehicle waste, biodegradable waste, WEEE, construction and demolition waste and household waste. The targets are EU ones, and are specified in Iceland's waste management policy 2013–2024.

[http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF\\_skrar/Landsaaetlun-2013-2024-%28utgafa%29.pdf](http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/media/PDF_skrar/Landsaaetlun-2013-2024-%28utgafa%29.pdf)

## Indicators to monitor use of materials and resource efficiency:

The Environment Agency publishes sustainability indicators every year. The most relevant to material resources are:

- total waste generation;
- waste treatment;
- greenhouse gas emissions.

Statistics Iceland monitors a large volume of data every year of which many are relevant to material resources. Among these are:

- air emissions and air quality;
- inland water; consumption and abstraction by sector;
- waste; total waste generated, managed and disposed of;
- gross energy consumption by source;
- electricity use;
- oil use;
- overall energy balance;
- carbon dioxide emissions by source;
- greenhouse gas emissions by source.

### References

<http://www.ust.is/einstaklingar/astand-umhverfisins/>

<http://www.ust.is/einstaklingar/astand-umhverfisins/urgangur-og-endurvinnsla/>

<http://www.statice.is/pages/916>

<http://www.statice.is/Statistics/Geography-and-environment/Waste>