



Hazardous Waste Management in Idaho

Introduction

This report presents an annual overview of Idaho’s hazardous waste management activities from January 1 through December 31, 2024. This report describes the types and amounts of hazardous waste generated in Idaho, how this waste was managed, and any waste remaining on site. It also discusses the types and amounts of hazardous waste received in Idaho from other states and countries. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) compiled this information from the Idaho Hazardous Waste Generator Annual Reports submitted by large quantity hazardous waste generators (LQGs) and small quantity hazardous waste generators (SQGs), as required by Idaho Code § 394411(4) of the Idaho Hazardous Waste Management Act (HWMA), and from reports submitted by commercial hazardous waste disposal facilities, as required by Idaho Code § 39-4411(5). This report is distributed to the governor, legislature, and made available to the public through [DEQ’s website](#).

DEQ contributes to the national overview of hazardous waste management activities through federal biennial reporting and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information System (RCRAInfo). The biennial report describes national hazardous waste activities as reported by LQGs and treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities every other year. RCRAInfo assigns hazardous waste facility identification numbers and tracks hazardous waste permitting, enforcement, and corrective action at hazardous waste generation facilities. Biennial reporting and RCRAInfo are used by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to track and report national hazardous waste activities to the president, US Congress, and the public. Access this information at [RCRAInfo Web](#).

Hazardous Waste Rules

Idaho incorporates the federal hazardous waste regulations by reference. This year, DEQ recommended incorporation of modifications to EPA Method 23, an analytical method, and technical corrections or clarifications for the Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule, Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals Rule, and the Definition of Solid Waste Rule. If approved by the State Legislature, the changes would take effect on July 1, 2025. DEQ provides information on the rules, updates, and Idaho’s adoption at [Hazardous Waste in Idaho](#).

Hazardous Waste Types and Amounts in Idaho

Idaho's LQGs and SQGs generated 9,988 tons of hazardous waste in 2024. Figure 1 depicts the trend in statewide hazardous waste generation in recent years.

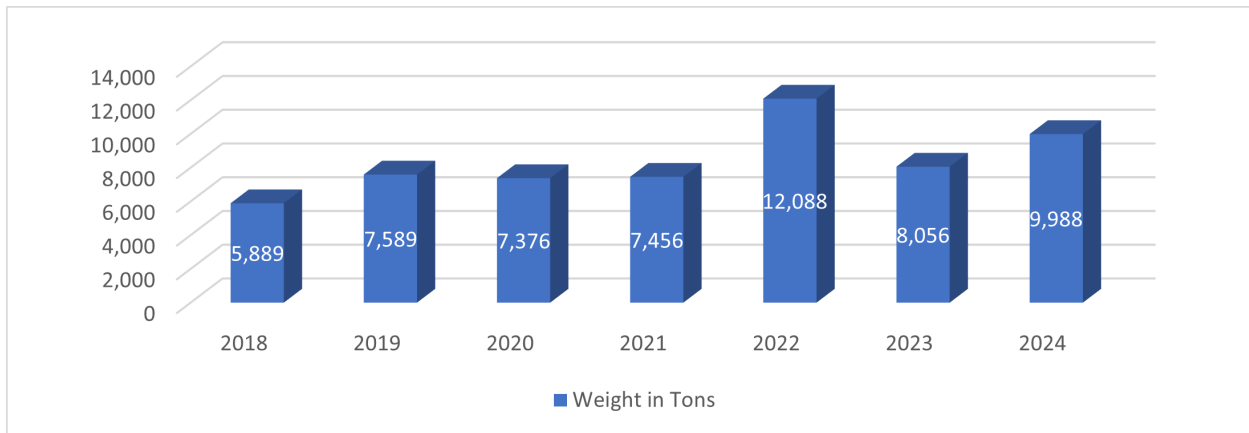


Figure 1. Statewide hazardous waste generated from 2018 to 2024.

The wastes are identified by the following categories:

- **Characteristic Wastes—3,170 tons**
This waste is hazardous because it contains one or more characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity.
- **Mixed Wastes—194 tons**
This waste is both hazardous and radioactive. For 2024, most mixed waste was generated and stored at the Idaho National Laboratory.
- **Other Wastes—3,849 tons**
This waste includes discarded commercial chemicals and miscellaneous listed wastes.
- **Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Wastes—1,882 tons**
This hazardous waste is generated from residuals and collection systems at permitted TSD facilities and hazardous waste landfills.
- **Solvent Wastes—893 tons**
Spent solvents are generated by various industry and business activities such as parts degreasing, painting, various manufacturing processes, and dry cleaning.
- **Remediation Wastes—0 tons**
Most remediation wastes are generated from the cleanup of contaminated sites, performing corrective action, and/or removing and upgrading underground storage tanks.

Trends in Idaho Hazardous Waste Generation

The amount of hazardous waste generated in Idaho, as reported by Idaho LQGs and SQGs, increased from 8,056 tons in 2023 to 9,988 tons in 2024, an increase of 19%.

Three hazardous waste categories decreased in 2024: Characteristic Wastes, Mixed Wastes, and Remediation Wastes. Mixed Waste is generated primarily at the US Department of Energy

sites. The majority of ongoing, recurrent hazardous waste generators continue to find ways to decrease the amounts of hazardous waste they typically generate, which benefits public health and Idaho's environment.

Three categories experienced an increase in 2024: Solvent Wastes were elevated due to an increase in production, primarily within the area of manufacturing; Other Wastes increased due to several one-time events requiring the disposal of excess hazardous waste, as well as cleanouts for the closure of two generator facilities; and TSD Wastes increased due to a combination of the same factors with a portion also being generated by the closure of another landfill.

Waste Sent to Idaho in 2024

The only commercial hazardous waste landfill operating in Idaho is US Ecology Idaho, Inc. (USEI) in Owyhee County near Grand View. Traditionally, waste received at USEI has been reported in three categories: waste regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); waste regulated under the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA)/polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB); and nonhazardous waste.

1. RCRA—This waste is defined by RCRA and HWMA as hazardous. It is regulated by Idaho and the federal government.
2. PCB/TSCA—This waste is defined as a toxic substance by the TSCA. Currently, this waste (primarily PCB materials) is regulated in Idaho only by the federal government.
3. Nonhazardous¹—This category includes both nonhazardous waste and waste regulated as manifested state hazardous wastes by other states, including Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program/Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (FUSRAP/NORM wastes), and must be disposed in a permitted RCRA hazardous waste disposal facility when shipped to Idaho.

In 2024, USEI received 99,942 tons of waste, a decrease of 8% compared to 2023. Most of the waste (68,701 tons or 69%) received at USEI came from other states and countries (Figure 2). Washington sent the most waste (13,358 tons) to USEI for disposal in 2024. Idaho generators sent 31,242 tons (31%) of waste to USEI in 2024. A significant increase in waste was sent to USEI by Idaho generators during 2024 due to the closure of another landfill that resulted in the transfer of a large amount of nonhazardous waste to USEI. Table 1 lists the totals of waste shipped to USEI by type in 2024. The map in Figure 3 depicts the various states and amounts of waste shipped to USEI in 2024. USEI received waste from three foreign countries in 2024: 382 tons from Canada; 22 tons from Japan; and 1 ton from Australia. The US Territory, Guam shipped 445 tons of waste to USEI in 2024.

¹ This category was previously identified as the State Waste category. However, due to changes in waste disposal options, DEQ determined that this category should be designated as the nonhazardous category. It does still contain small amounts of waste regulated as manifested state hazardous waste by other states.

Table 1. Waste shipped to USEI by category in 2024 (tons).

RCRA	TSCA	Nonhazardous	2024 Total
24,994	7,598	67,350	99,942

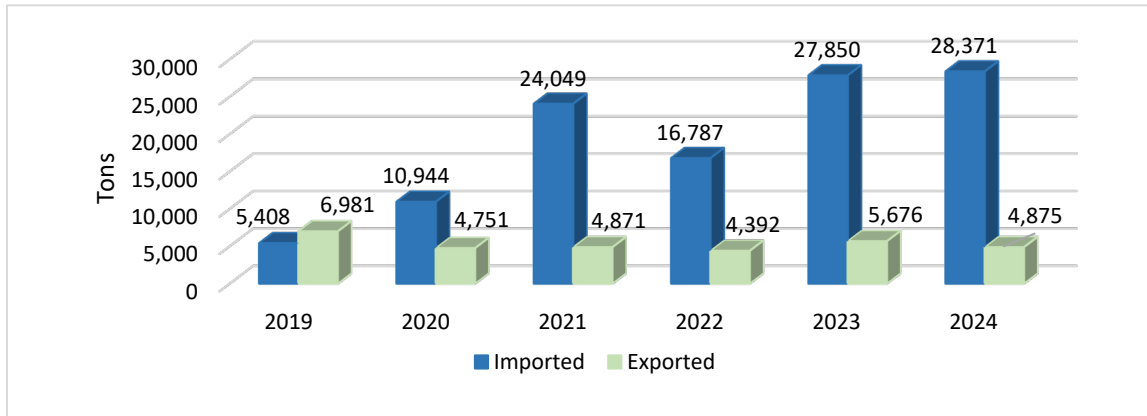


Figure 2. Idaho hazardous waste imports and exports (tons).

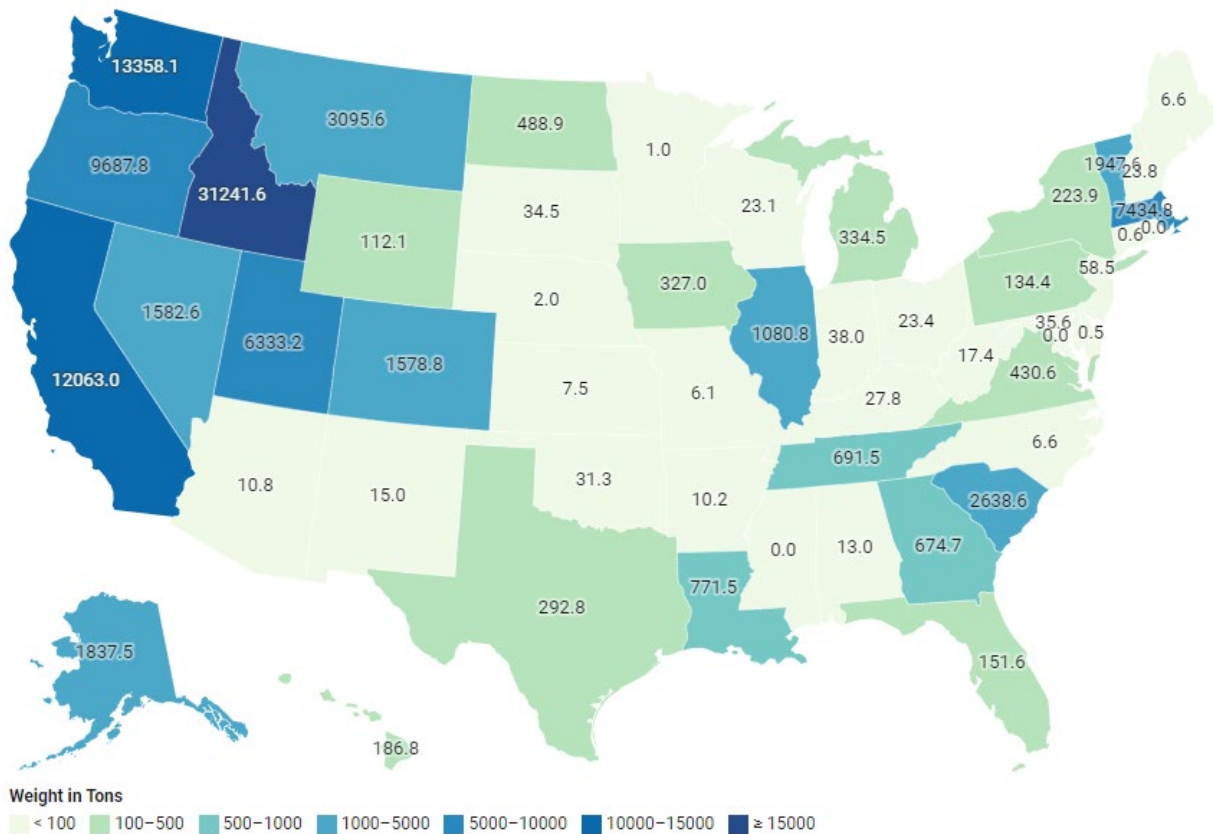


Figure 3. States totals of waste sent to USEI in 2024 (tons).

Hazardous Waste Management Methods

In 2024, a reported 11,428 tons of hazardous waste were managed via a landfill, treatment, reuse, incineration, or some other method (Table 2 and Figure 4). The amount of waste managed during 2024 includes most of the reported 9,988 tons generated in 2024, as well as waste generated in previous years, but kept in permitted storage units awaiting further treatment and disposal.

Table 2. Hazardous waste managed in Idaho in 2024 (tons).

Management Method	Total Tons	Managed In-State	Managed Out-of-State
Landfill	9,032	6,024	3,008
Treatment	546	507	39
Reuse/Recycle	530	22	508
Incineration	689	0	689
Other	631	1	630

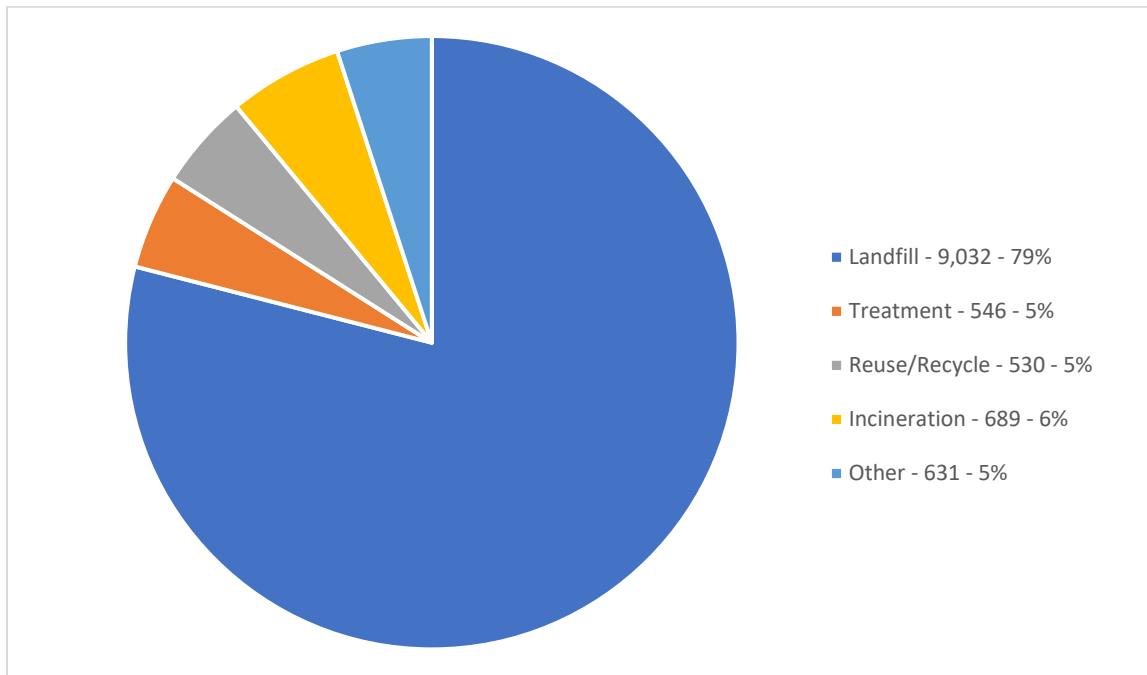


Figure 4. Hazardous waste in Idaho in 2024 by management method types (tons).