

The Evolution of Landfills in Malta



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Pre-EU Legislation

The Litter Act of 1968

- To control the disposal of domestic waste
- Primarily concerned with littering
- Indirectly controls dumping of refuse and defacement of any place
- Specifies a standard dustbin

The Development Planning Act 1992

- Indirectly controls the siting & design of waste management facilities.

Code of Police Laws

- Indirectly controlled waste management by controlling the transportation of industrial waste in uncovered vehicles, dirtying of streets, & control of refuse collection & scavenging.
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The Environment Protection Act 1991

- Empowers the Minister to make regulations to control **“harmful” substances**, without specifically mentioning waste;
- Demands an **Environment Impact Assessment** prior to all major developments - Indirectly controls the siting and design of waste management facilities.

Legal Notice 128 of 1997: Disposal of Wastes and Rubble (Fees) Regulation

- Most important and forward-looking regulation on solid waste management in Malta.
- Several problems encountered in the **enforcement** of this regulation.
- Several concessions had to be applied in this respect and neither the public nor the private waste deposit sites operated in full accordance with this LN.

Environment Protection Act 1991

Legal Notice 128 of 1997:
Disposal of Wastes and Rubble (Fees)
Regulation

Waste deposit sites need to be licensed against the presentation of an insurance cover

Operators of waste deposit sites must collect data on the quantities of waste that are deposited and this data must be made available to the EPD

The deposit of hazardous waste needs authorisation from the EPD

Waste hauling vehicles require to be registered against the presentation of a Bank Guarantee with the WMSID.

Deposit of waste at public waste deposit sites is subject to a fee of Lm 0.35c per tonne

Areas occupied by dumps (1993 & 1998)

Dump Site	1993 Area (sq.m)	1998 Area (sq.m)
Magħtab	233,900	355,300
Il-Qortin ta' Għajn Damma, Xagħra	46,000	50,700
Wied Fulija (closed)	62,000	85,400
Luqa (closed)	90,000	90,000
Iċ-Ċumnija (unauthorised)	17,000	20,300
Aħrax Point (unauthorised)*	10,000	13,000
Anchor Bay (unauthorised)	20,000	30,000

Source: Mapping Unit Planning Authority (SOER for Malta 2002)

** This dump was cleared in 2001.*

Known Dumpsites

Site	Opened	Closed	2019
Ċumnija	Pre-1938	1990	
Gzira (Kappara)	Pre-1938	1958	
San Gwann (Misraħ Lewza)	Pre-1938	1960	
Ġnien San Pawl (Madliena)	1976	1977	N/A
Ħagar Qim	1977	1978	
Buskett	1979	1979	
Mtaħleb	1982	1985	
Għar Lapsi (Wied Hoxt)	1982	1985	
Luqa	Pre-1938	1974	Development application in process for landfill excavation and cleaning.
Qortin (Xagħra)	1968	2004	Rehabilitated – Recreational Park
Sant Antnin	1974	1979	Family Park
Xwieki (Tal-Balal)	1974	1976	Cleared in 1999.
Magħtab	1977	2004	Partly rehabilitated
Wied Fulija	1979	1996	Beginning of rehabilitation process
Bengħisa	-	1995	In the process of being rehabilitated into a solar farm park

Situation Analysis

Pre- accession to EU

Limited data and waste statistics.

Large quantities of C&D waste.

Illegal dumping and fly tipping.

MSW collected free of charge to the householder on a daily basis (except Sundays) by means of a door-to-door collection system.

Since 1995, responsibility for the collection of municipal and commercial waste, and for public cleansing rested on Local Councils.

Main conclusion on waste practices in Malta in the 1998 State of the Environment Report



Policy
Documents

Structure Plan (1999-2010) for the Maltese
Islands

A Solid Waste Management Plan for Malta, 2000

A Waste Management Subject Plan, 2000

A Solid Waste Management Strategy for the
Maltese Islands, 2001

Minerals Subject Plan, 2000

After EU – 1st Steps

Legislation

- *Transposition of the EU acquis, including the transposition of the Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC*
- New permitting systems gradually introduced
- New environment legislation(s) that significantly improved the protection of the environment and introduced more fines

New Facilities

- Introduction of **'bring-in-sites'** and planned **Civic Amenity sites**.
- Magħtab and Qortin **dumps were closed** in April 2004.
- **Għallis**: long-term controlled engineered landfill for non-hazardous & municipal solid waste (began operating in 2007).
- Interim facility for disposal of non-hazardous wastes at **Ta' Żwejra**;
- The development of Mechanical Biological Treatment Plants
- Since 2012, a drastic shift from disposal of C&D waste to recovery of inert waste through **backfilling of excavation voids**.
- **Regeneration** of old dumpsites through EU Funds.

Waste Management Plan for the Maltese Islands

A Resource Management Approach 2014-2020

Aim

To move waste management in Malta up the waste hierarchy.

Addresses Malta's challenges: high population density & limited land space.

Action

Review existing collection system.

Introduction of collection of organic waste.

Outlines targets to achieve & how to achieve them

Others

Includes the Waste Prevention Plan for Malta

In the process of being reviewed and updated.

Next Steps

