Our SHE goals and performance

Waste Management

We aim to implement the following waste management strategy in all our waste activities: avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle and thermally destroy. We permit landfilling only as a last resort and, even then, only for inert materials such as slag or ashes. Waste minimization and reduction measures are not only restricted to production processes but are evaluated and implemented across all operations at Roche. We strive for eco-efficient solutions which show both a reduction in the environmental burden and an economic benefit, e.g. reduction in raw material and disposal cost. Improved waste management can reduce unnecessary costs, boost staff morale, provide a competitive (or efficiency) edge and improve environmental outcomes. Together these benefits make a workplace more sustainable. Roche has defined two goals:

1. Reduce landfilling of chemical waste (organic chemicals) by 50% (2015 to 2020); absolute tons (without green waste, slag/ash, inorganic material)

2. Reduce General waste in kg per employee (without construction waste) by 10% (2015 to 2020)
In consideration of the 2020 goal, 2020 saw the landfilling of 3.54t of organic chemical waste. This is a further decrease of approximately 75% over 2019 and exceeds the Roche 2020 target of 162t by approximately 98%. Thus, the 2020 target goal has not only been achieved, but also exceeded for the Chemical Waste to Landfill reduction.

Over the goal period, chemical waste data has fluctuated, as this metric is highly volatile and significantly changing from year to year. This is an impressive result, which we will continue according to our global policy (see K24), ultimately no more organic chemical waste must be sent to landfill! Recycled chemical waste is showing a trend to stabilize. In the reporting year we recycled 3310t of chemical waste (2019: 3352t).

Roche accepts full responsibility for all waste generated from its operations, including that previously deposited in landfills. Roche believes that existing landfills, which contain hazardous wastes, should be addressed proactively. In 2020 remediation activities around the world resulted in 38t of contaminated soil being landfilled.

In 2020, Roche generated 321kg/employee of general waste. This represents a decrease of approximately 26% since initiating the general waste goal in 2015 (10% reduction).
Although we did achieve our overall General Waste reduction goal for 2015 to 2020, during 2020 there was a negative trend in the manner in which general wastes were disposed of by our affiliates. In comparison to 2019, in 2020 we witnessed significant decreases in our preferred disposal and treatment options of Composting (-32.5%) and Recycling (-26.9%), while the less preferential options of Incineration with (+13.2%) and without Recovery (+22.5%) and Landfilling (+30.7%) all had significant increases. This is possibly due to COVID 19 impacts and the required thermal destruction of wastes.