



SUSTAINABILITY FACT SHEET/WASTE MANAGEMENT | FEBRUARY 2023

# WASTE MANAGEMENT AT WACKER

Responsible waste management is an important step on the way from a linear to a circular economy. In addition to waste prevention, we at WACKER attach particular importance to recycling and energy recovery from waste. There is still great potential in these areas.

### Our basic principle

The most sustainable waste is waste that is avoided in the first place. Preventing waste contributes to protecting the environment, people's lives and health worldwide. That's why waste prevention is also a top priority for us at WACKER – in line with the internationally recognized waste hierarchy (chart 1).

### Avoid waste or reuse it directly

At WACKER, we aim to reduce our production-specific waste by 15% by 2030 (compared to 2020). In doing so, we focus above all on optimizing our integrated production: This leads to closed material cycles through the direct reuse of by-products and thus contributes directly to waste avoidance. At WACKER's Burghausen and Nünchritz sites, we also

operate our own waste incinerators and use the thermal energy generated here. Even beyond integrated production, we are continuously working throughout the entire production chain to prevent waste from occurring in the first place.

### Example

As part of an ideas competition on the topic of the Circular Economy in 2021, the use of CP2 pallets for inbound and outbound transport was proposed. Pallets in good condition were therefore not disposed of, but kept in the cycle. This has significantly reduced waste volumes and transport emissions.

### Recycling with external partners

Recycling is the term used to describe material recovery processes in which waste materials are reprocessed and used for the same or other products, materials or substances. Recycling includes the reprocessing of material flows by mechanical or chemical processes, but does not include energy recovery or reprocessing into materials to be used as fuels or for backfilling. With a view to the circular economy, recycling our waste streams is becoming increasingly important for us at WACKER.

### Example

At our Burghausen site, we have been recycling petroleum ether produced during plant cleaning at the WACKER SILICONES division for years by distillation at external disposal companies. Subsequently, the petroleum ether can be used again in production processes.

### Other disposal options

- Utilization as backfill material: Mineral waste with appropriate properties can be used, for example, for backfilling cavities created in mining. Here they replace other, higher-quality materials.
- Thermal recovery: The incineration of high-calorific waste materials with energy recovery produces heat and steam. This can save other (e.g. fossil) fuels.
- Disposal: Waste that cannot be recycled due to legal regulations or material properties is disposed of properly, e.g. by incineration or landfill.



Figure 1: Waste hierarchy



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Burghausen waste disposal center

**Collecting and separating waste are essential**

Since each substance requires specific further processing, waste must be carefully collected and separated. Everyone at WACKER makes a contribution to this –

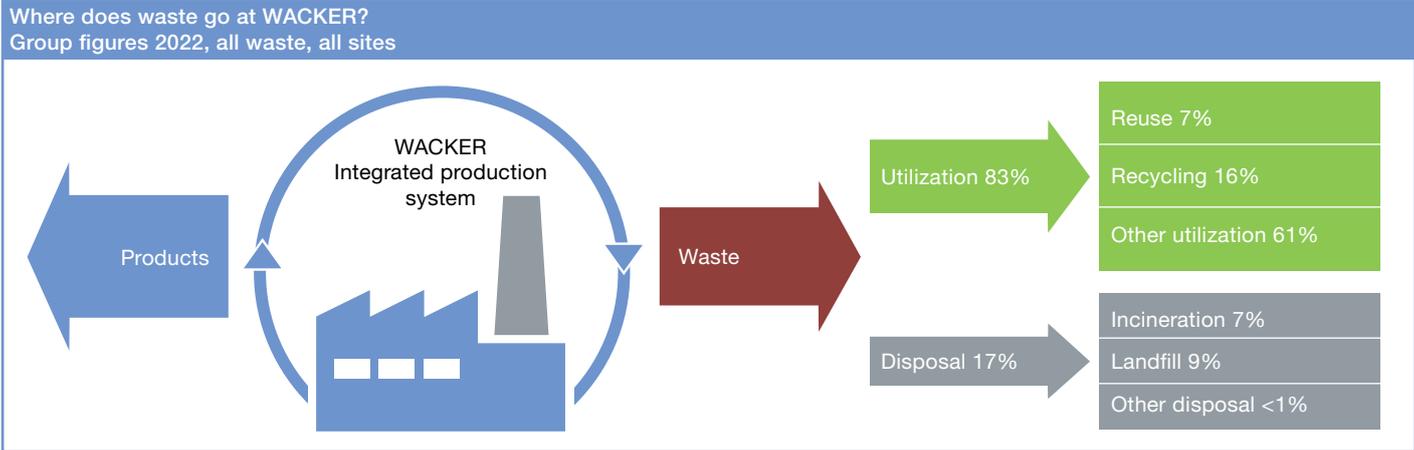
for example, when handling operational waste: Improper separation leads to problems when it comes to recycling and to high costs for waste disposal. In extreme cases, an entire batch of waste cannot be recycled.

**Reporting and organization**

In the WACKER Annual Report, we provide annual information on our waste generation and what happens to our waste. We differentiate between waste that has been disposed of and waste that has been recycled for materials or energy. In addition, a distinction is made between hazardous and non-hazardous waste. WACKER's business divisions and sites implement the waste prevention strategy in their respective areas on their own responsibility.

**New ideas are welcome!**

At WACKER, we are constantly looking for ways to reduce the amount of waste or use it effectively in other ways. When putting this into practice, we are supported by the sustainability budget for investment projects of EUR 250,000 or more.



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