



Voluntary Waste Methodology

Methodology

Each year, GE collects waste generation data from larger industrial facilities for the purpose of voluntarily reporting total hazardous and nonhazardous waste volumes. As part of GE's environmental inventory, the waste inventory process follows the principles articulated by the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WRI/WBCSD) in its *Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, revised edition*. For the operational inventory, GE follows the "operational" approach and includes total volumes data from the most relevant sites over which we have operational control.

Inventory Scope

Sites in scope for voluntary waste reporting are those that have generated or will continue to exceed 500 metric tons per year of total nonhazardous or 100 metric tons of hazardous waste per year. However, GE collects primary data only from sites exceeding 3000 metric tons per year of total nonhazardous or 200 metric tons of hazardous waste per year. Waste generated by sites in scope, but not meeting primary data requirements, is collected less frequently and prorated on interim years based on historical data. Data from "small" locations (such as offices) and non-fixed facilities (such as on-site customer projects and investments in energy projects) is not collected.


Thresholds are based on a historical analysis of GE's waste generation data for a significant coverage of the full GE operational waste footprint.

Reported hazardous waste volumes cover all industrial waste with hazardous characteristics and/or toxic constituents that is regulated at country level. Nonhazardous waste includes all industrial waste that does not meet the definition of hazardous waste and that needs to be segregated. Reported nonhazardous waste streams are limited to wastes and recyclable materials generated from industrial activities such as production, assembly, manufacturing, field sales and service, maintenance, laboratories, cleaning, demolition, renovation, remediation, packaging, and equipment taken out of service. Nonhazardous waste does not include food waste, office waste, wastewater and one-time, rarely generated waste.

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GE conducts an accounting of global hazardous and non-hazardous waste generated by its facilities.

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¹ For the 2017 inventory, two major GE acquisitions (Baker Hughes, a GE company, and LM Wind Power) continued separately on an independent waste inventory process and are not covered by the general GE approach. Data provided by these entities is directly used for estimating and reporting on total GE volumes.

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Inventory Management

The inventory scope is adjusted annually as a result of divestiture, closure or consolidation with other facilities, acquisitions, newly established facilities or when facilities meet the reporting criteria for the first time. Also, disclosed 2016 data is adjusted accordingly. The correction factors used to estimate total volumes (of large and very-large sites) out of reported data are reestablished based on the most recent data from very-large sites and total volume data from previous years.

GE uses a networked environmental management system to collect the

necessary detailed inventory data from sites. GE facilities enter waste quantities mainly from two data sources:

- A waste generation database integrated into the GE's EHS data management system
- Waste generation data provided by third party waste vendors

Reported site-level data is aggregated and analyzed by business unit, country, and region.

Quality Assurance

The list of sites required to report primary data is reviewed and validated by a team of regional corporate EHS managers to ensure key business changes are captured. Each year, GE updates guidance documents and

training for the waste inventory process and use of the online tool. Finally, GE performs data quality reviews, including site-level comparisons of reported volumes over the last years to identify and understand the reasons for significant changes (such as changes in production, changes in reporting scope or other factors such as one-time effects). Data anomalies are identified, analyzed with reporting site managers and corrected when necessary. The inventory process as well as the gathered data and estimated total volumes are internally reviewed. Areas for further improvements are identified and discussed with involved parties at corporate and business levels.

