

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

In built-up areas, the most pressing environmental concern is the increasing volume of solid waste being generated by the growing number of household and commercial establishments. The per capita waste generation is rising as more Irosinians adopt a consumerist lifestyle and prefer disposable or single-use products and non-biodegradable packaging materials. A waste characterization study in 2002 showed that about 86% by weight of solid waste from households is organic materials, approximately 10% is recyclable and only 4% is residual waste. The study showed that 96% of solid waste from households is recoverable resource and only a small fraction is fit for final disposal.

The LGU of Irosin has over the years been implementing programs for solid waste management and urban area beautification. In urban centers, a team of street sweepers is tasked with the cleaning, greening and beautification of the Central Business District, municipal streets, urban recreational spaces, civil cemetery and the public market. Collection and transport of solid waste are provided in the urban barangays and three rural barangays by a fleet of LGU garbage trucks. A final disposal facility is maintained at a 3-hectare site in Barangay Patag Ecological Park. In terms of practice of disposal by households in 2013, 29.8% are collected by municipal and barangay LGUs, 9.1% are by storage, 51.4% by composting, 6% is by open dumping and 3.5% is by open burning.

Communication Facilities

Irosin has one FM Radio Station the Radyo Natin-FM Station a satellite fed station of the Manila Broadcasting Corporation. A Cable-TV operated by EFG-CATV provides cable connections to household subscribers making available to viewer television programs from various channels both local and foreign. Telecommunication services are also available in Irosin. A local telephone company provides landline connections to residential, commercial and institutional establishments enabling access to local, domestic and international calls. The town is also a host to three cell sites operated by SMART, Globe Telecom and Sun Cellular making cellular phone and wireless Internet as the most effective, affordable and accessible means of telecommunication in the locality. A total of 13% of households in 2010 have Internet access, of which 2% accessed Internet from home while 11% accessed the Internet from elsewhere.

Daily newspapers including magazines and tabloids are available in newspaper and magazine stores in the locality. Newspapers and magazines are those popular newspapers and magazines of national circulation. While there are no local newspapers, a quarterly newsletter is published by the local government. A public postal office also operates in the municipality.

Transport Facilities

The existing road networks of Irosin provide access to all its rural barangays to the urban center except for Cawayan, a mountain village. The Maharlika Highway is a main road artery

linking the municipality to other places in the Philippines. The existing roads are classified into national, provincial, municipal and barangay roads. The national road has a length of 22.155 kilometers stretching from Bolos in the north to Casini in the south and from town center to Mapaso in the east. The provincial road in the municipality includes the Gulang-Gulang to Gabao road, Buenavista to Batang road and Bolos to Guruyan road with a total length of 5.945 kilometers. The existing roads within the poblacion are municipal roads with a total length of 7,927 kilometers. The roads classified as barangay roads have a total length of 51.621 kilometers. There is a private road leading to Mt. Jormajan with a total length of 1,399 kilometers. The total length of the road network in the municipality is 89.047 kilometers.

As to the type of road surface in 2014, 100% of the national roads are Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (PCCP) and with Asphalt Armoring at Maharlika Highway. The whole length of the provincial roads and municipal roads are concreted. Only 58.3% of barangay roads are concreted while the remaining 41.7% are unpaved with gravel and earth surfacing. There are fifteen 15 bridges in the municipality and majority of which is along the national roads. Eleven bridges are permanent concrete bridges and four are spillways reinforced by culverts. Majority of the bridges has 15-ton load capacity.

Irosin is accessible to all means of land transportation being at the midway of the province. Public transport buses and other public utility vehicles plying the Manila to Southern Bicol, Samar, Leyte, Masbate and Mindanao route regularly passes Irosin. They have established pick-up stations or booking offices as well as terminals in the municipality. The adjoining towns of Bulan and Matnog where seaports for roll-on roll-off vessels are present and the transit point to Masbate, Visayas and Mindanao are 20 kilometers and 23 kilometers away respectively.

The central location of Irosin in the Sorsogon province made the town a catchment area and a host to several public and private institutions catering to a number of barangays of at least five adjoining towns of the province. The town also is a convergence area of economic activities of the towns of Bulan, Bulusan, Juban, Matnog and Sta. Magdalena. The mode of transportation in the inter-barangay mobility of people and products are mainly tricycles, jeepneys and trucks except for Cawayan – a barangay situated in the highland with no road serviceable to motorized vehicles. Tricycles are the most common mode of public transportation in the town proper. A road network system connects almost all the barangays to the Maharlika Highway and other national roads traversing the town. Land transportation facilities in the municipality include a public transport terminal for jeepneys and tricycles along the sides of the public market, a private bus terminal, and four gas refilling stations. There are also automotive repair and vulcanizing shops for emergency and minor vehicle repairs.

Electric Power Supply

Electricity in the municipality is distributed to the 28 barangays of the municipality through the Sorsogon Electric Cooperative I (SORECO I), the local electric cooperative servicing the southern part of Sorsogon province. There is a total of 13,667 connections in the municipality as of 2015, of which 12,901 are residential, 441 are commercial, 22 are industrial, 134 are public buildings and 168 are for street lighting. The cost of electricity per kilowatt hour by type of consumer is P 9.61 for residential, P 7.23 for institutional, P 7.07 for industrial and P 7.83 for commercial users. About 82.9% of households of Irosin have electricity in 2013.

Water Supply

Irosin being located at the foot of the Bulusan Volcano mountain ranges have an abundance of water coming from numerous springs at the mountain slopes moving downstream to the creeks and rivers that converges at the Cadac-an River. The waters are utilized for residential, commercial and agricultural purposes. The volume of water discharges from the different springs supplying potable water to the residents of each barangay differ due to the varying condition of the watershed, water source and the type of water system installed. The total discharge of documented springs both utilized and for future sources was estimated to be 227 liters per second in 2013.

The 2013 water facilities in Irosin are categorized into Level I, Level II and Level III water supply system. Of the total 11,023 households documented in 2013, there are 11.7% with Level I water supply system of which 190 households are using shallow wells, 476 using deep wells and 62 using developed spring. About 47.2% of households have Level II systems and 40.2% of households have piped-in water supply. Seventy two percent of urban households have Level III connection. In terms of access to toilets, 71.8% of households have sanitary toilets, 6.7% have unsanitary toilets while 21.5% have no toilets.