

Preventing waste, driving the circular economy

Ireland's National Waste Prevention Programme Annual Report 2018



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

Regulation: *We implement effective regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.*

Knowledge: *We provide high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making at all levels.*

Advocacy: *We work with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental behaviour.*

Our Responsibilities

Licensing

We regulate the following activities so that they do not endanger human health or harm the environment:

- waste facilities (*e.g. landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations*);
- large scale industrial activities (*e.g. pharmaceutical, cement manufacturing, power plants*);
- intensive agriculture (*e.g. pigs, poultry*);
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (*GMOs*);
- sources of ionising radiation (*e.g. x-ray and radiotherapy equipment, industrial sources*);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea activities.

National Environmental Enforcement

- Conducting an annual programme of audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities.
- Overseeing local authorities' environmental protection responsibilities.
- Supervising the supply of drinking water by public water suppliers.
- Working with local authorities and other agencies to tackle environmental crime by co-ordinating a national enforcement network, targeting offenders and overseeing remediation.
- Enforcing Regulations such as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- Prosecuting those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

Water Management

- Monitoring and reporting on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters of Ireland and groundwaters; measuring water levels and river flows.
- National coordination and oversight of the Water Framework Directive.
- Monitoring and reporting on Bathing Water Quality.

Monitoring, Analysing and Reporting on the Environment

- Monitoring air quality and implementing the EU Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Directive.
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government (*e.g. periodic reporting on the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports*).

Regulating Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Preparing Ireland's greenhouse gas inventories and projections.
- Implementing the Emissions Trading Directive, for over 100 of the largest producers of carbon dioxide in Ireland.

Environmental Research and Development

- Funding environmental research to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions in the areas of climate, water and sustainability.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Assessing the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment (*e.g. major development plans*).

Radiological Protection

- Monitoring radiation levels, assessing exposure of people in Ireland to ionising radiation.
- Assisting in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents.
- Monitoring developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety.
- Providing, or overseeing the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

Guidance, Accessible Information and Education

- Providing advice and guidance to industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics.
- Providing timely and easily accessible environmental information to encourage public participation in environmental decision-making (*e.g. My Local Environment, Radon Maps*).
- Advising Government on matters relating to radiological safety and emergency response.
- Developing a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to prevent and manage hazardous waste.

Awareness Raising and Behavioural Change

- Generating greater environmental awareness and influencing positive behavioural change by supporting businesses, communities and householders to become more resource efficient.
- Promoting radon testing in homes and workplaces and encouraging remediation where necessary.

Management and structure of the EPA

The EPA is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and five Directors. The work is carried out across five Offices:

- Office of Environmental Sustainability
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Evidence and Assessment
- Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Ireland's National Waste Prevention Programme

“Preventing waste, driving the circular economy”

Annual Report for 2018

The National Waste Prevention Programme is a Government of Ireland initiative funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

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The EPA acknowledges the following for their support in the ongoing development and implementation of the National Waste Prevention Programme in 2018:

- Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment for providing finance from the Environment Fund, and for ongoing support & guidance;
- The National Waste Prevention Committee who have provided their time and collective knowledge to the programme;
- The Board and staff of the EPA, in particular the Resource Efficiency Unit 2018/2019 members: Shane Colgan, Fiona McCoole, Odile Le Bolloch, Abigail Murphy; Ann Marie Donlon, Annmarie Tuohy, Helen Bruen, Helen Searson.
- The many local authority staff who have contributed significantly to the development of the programme;
- The consultants and partners who work with the EPA to progress many of the projects.

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Foreword

With the backdrop of the European Commission's Circular Economy Package and climate breakdown concerns, it was timely that the National Waste Prevention Programme underwent an independent strategic review in 2018, with input from the EPA Board, the National Waste Prevention Committee, key stakeholders and an external review panel. The review provided the EPA with feedback on the progress of the National Waste Prevention Programme to date and advice on its future direction.

By the end of 2018 there was a clear vision for the programme; to align with circular economy and climate action policies and to support national-level, strategic programmes with high visibility and influence to prevent waste and drive the circular economy in Ireland.

The reframed programme is focussing on six priority areas: food waste, construction & demolition, plastics, agriculture, resources & raw materials and local waste prevention. We are working with partners to inspire and deliver our programmes and engaging with industry & enterprise, research & innovation organisations, public sector bodies, product designers, representative bodies and networks.

The review has shaped our vision for the future but also led to the conclusion of some existing programmes. These programmes delivered key learnings and resources for waste prevention in Ireland. The National Waste Prevention Programme will continue to use and share these resources and build on them with future initiatives.

This year's annual report is structured to reflect the six priority areas of the National Waste Prevention Programme and supporting activities; Green Enterprise innovation funding call, sponsorships, the EPA's work on managing hazardous wastes and reporting on national waste statistics. Each programme area is briefly introduced and at least two achievements for 2018 are highlighted. It is important to identify indicators and metrics to assess and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of our public expenditure and link our impacts to carbon footprint where possible. Many of our programmes raise awareness and seek to influence behaviour change. The social engagement matrix developed under the Local Authority Prevention Network is an example of where we can demonstrate the significant outreach of our initiatives.

There were a number of staff changes to the EPA's waste prevention team and management in 2018. I'd like to acknowledge the work and foresight of those that have gone before. With our newly resourced team, I look forward to the future.



Mary Frances Rochford

Chair, National Waste Prevention Committee

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NWPP HIGHLIGHTS 2018



National Waste Prevention Programme relaunched with a clear **Circular Economy** focus



50 Smart Farming participants identified
9% GHG reductions & **€7,000** savings

An icon of a tractor, representing smart farming.

58 initiatives for community waste prevention supported across **24** local authorities

An icon showing three stylized human figures, representing local authorities or community members.

€300,000 for Circular Economy innovation & demonstration projects

An icon of a lit lightbulb, symbolizing innovation and ideas.

Partnership signed with the Rediscovery Centre, **National Centre for the Circular Economy**

An icon of two hands shaking, representing a partnership or agreement.

120,000 people engaged with Stop Food Waste Week

An icon showing two people with speech bubbles, representing engagement or communication.

23,000 tonnes diverted from landfill by Community Reuse Network Ireland

An icon of two curved arrows forming a loop, representing recycling or reuse.

8,500 visits to A-Z of Foods on **StopFoodWaste.ie**

An icon of a basket filled with various food items, representing food waste or food resources.

8,000 items exchanged for reuse on **FreeTrade Ireland** website

An icon showing two items being exchanged, representing a trade or reuse platform.

3 water efficiency fact sheets produced for Irish hospitals

An icon of a faucet with a single drop of water, representing water efficiency.

€400,000 savings identified for resource efficient business actions

An icon of a piggy bank with a Euro symbol, representing savings.

18 industrial symbiosis synergies supported

An icon of a link or chain, representing industrial symbiosis or synergies.

230 new users registered with the online **Tool for Resource Efficiency (TREE)**

An icon showing a laptop, a smartphone, and a bar chart, representing digital tools and data analysis.

1. Programme Development

Ireland's National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP), established in 2004, was the first such programme in Europe. It pre-dated the legislative requirement of the EU Waste Framework Directive for Member States to have a programme in place by December 2013. The programme provides guidance and support on waste prevention and resource efficiency for business, public bodies and the general public.

1.1 NWPP Review

An independent strategic review of the programme was conducted during 2018 to provide the EPA with feedback on the progress of the NWPP to date and advice on its future direction. The review panel concluded that *"the performance of the National Waste Prevention Programme to date has been excellent with a huge amount of valuable and appropriate work carried out"*. The review was particularly timely given the evolving policy focus on circular economy, climate breakdown and resource efficiency. Arising from the review process, the NWPP was reframed around a vision of **'Preventing Waste, Driving the Circular Economy'**.

The programme is aligned with circular economy principles, climate action policy and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, supporting national-level, strategic programmes with high visibility and influence. The review has shaped the vision for the future and marked the conclusion of some programmes. These programmes have delivered key learnings and resources for waste prevention in Ireland. The NWPP will continue to use and share these resources and build on them with future initiatives.

Engagement

The NWPP aims to work collaboratively across the public-sector and with commercial and business interests to develop effective, national responses to the waste prevention and circular economy agenda. The programme has identified three engagement pillars: a) *Innovating & Demonstrating*; b) *Delivering through Partnerships*; and c) *Advocacy & Communications* and will work with partners to inspire and deliver the programme including the following:



Priority Areas

The NWPP is focussing on six priority areas as shown below. The selected priority topics reflect major Irish waste streams and areas of high priority under circular economy policy. For a number of these topic areas, there is a continuity of action from previous years, which will be supplemented by the development of new initiatives and programmes. In addition, two areas: Plastics and Construction & Demolition are newly prioritised within the programme.



**Food
Waste**



**Construction
& Demolition**



Plastics



Agriculture



**Resources &
Raw Materials**



**Local Waste
Prevention**

Construction & Demolition is a new priority area for the NWPP following the 2018 review, and brings a prevention focus on the largest waste stream by volume in Ireland. Waste prevention and circularity for this sector is characterised by:

- Measures and techniques that reduce waste quantities generated in absolute terms;
- Increased reuse and recycling rates;
- Deconstruction (not demolition) to facilitate reuse & recycling; and
- Removal of hazardous materials.

The NWPP will work collaboratively with public bodies and the industry to develop and implement best practices on waste prevention at all stages in the process, from design to demolition. Successful activation of the circular economy in this sector will see millions of tonnes of resources being recovered every year, reducing demand for virgin raw materials and reducing the carbon footprint of construction and demolition activity.

The review also identified Plastics as a new priority theme for the NWPP. This reflects the European Commission's focus on plastics through the Circular Economy Package, which resulted in an EU Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy and changes to waste legislation. Key challenges in this area include the wide usage of single-use plastic items; and evidence from the 2018 municipal waste characterisation report that two-thirds of plastic waste from kerbside bins is not generally recyclable. The NWPP will provide leadership and supports in this area to

- promote alternatives to single-use plastics;
- improve recycling infrastructure; and to
- prompt behaviour change towards less wasteful use of plastic.

In November 2018, the NWPP hosted 'Moving Ireland into the New Plastics Economy', a seminar to discuss the challenges and opportunities for Ireland to prevent plastic waste and drive the circular economy. The event highlighted the challenges facing Ireland in addressing plastic usage; provided updates on policy and legislative developments; and highlighted some opportunities arising from this circular economy priority.

The following sections provides an account of the activities of the NWPP across the other four priority areas over the course of 2018:

- Food Waste
- Agriculture
- Resources & Raw Materials
- Local Waste Prevention

2. Food Waste

Ireland generates approximately 1 million tonnes of food waste per year (not including wasted food from agriculture). Household and commercial (municipal) food waste is of particular concern because of the high level of embedded resources and the different waste collection mechanisms. Prevention of food waste is a priority at both national and international level through European waste legislation and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12.3. The EU's Circular Economy Package shares the UN SDG aim, requiring an EU-wide food waste reduction of 30% by 2025 and 50% by 2030. The revised Waste Framework Directive (2018/851/EC) states that "Member States shall adopt specific food waste prevention programmes within their waste prevention programmes". The accompanying 'Action Plan' for the Circular Economy Package identifies food waste as one of five priority sectors. The Government Plan on Climate Change also includes food waste as a priority waste stream.

Key Outputs in 2018:



2.1 Stop Food Waste

Stop Food Waste is the national public-facing food waste prevention programme. Current activities are structured around a) national awareness raising and b) community/group engagement. The Stop Food Waste programme aims to inform and empower citizens to reduce food waste through a combination of education; training; supports; and local champions; Stop Food Waste communications comprise ongoing social media activity and themed campaigns supported by public events, and the StopFoodWaste.ie website. This work is complemented by initiatives underway through other NWPP programmes such as the Local Authority Prevention Network and Green Enterprise.

According to the EPA's municipal waste characterisation study, published in 2018, Irish households wasted approximately 200,000 tonnes of food. This is generally the outcome of behaviours that are incorporated into complex food-related household practices and routines.¹ Following development of resources in previous years, the focus in 2018 was on how to bring about and measure behaviour

¹ O'Rafferty, 2018. Open Practices Briefing: Food Waste Prevention.

change. This involved targeted use of social media and extracting more information from interactions.

The Stop Food Waste website was further developed during 2018 to include more targeted content including seasonally relevant blogs, e.g. 'Survive the Grocery Shop this Christmas', a new library of downloadable resources and a seasonal calendar. The website had almost 30,000 new users during 2018 with the number of Irish users increasing strongly due to improved targeting.

A pocket guide for Stop Food Waste was also developed, providing a concise guide to food waste including climate change implications and prevention actions individuals can take. This is available to download from the website and is also distributed at events by EPA and local authorities.

Ireland's first Stop Food Waste Week was held in January 2018 and included a strong online campaign (Make the Most of Food); launch of the A-Z of Foods resource; cinema screenings of a food waste documentary; and the signing of the Food Waste Charter by members of the Retail Action Group. The A-Z of Foods is a resource outlining how to best choose, store, cook and use-up specific foods, and has proved popular with over 8,500 users during 2018.



In 2018, the Stop Food Waste online presence was enhanced to drive a more effective reach and engagement across society. A new social media strategy was developed to provide a structured outline for topics to be covered during the year and its implementation saw strong growth across all channels. In order to reach a fuller audience, Stop Food Waste's social media presence was expanded to include Instagram in the last quarter. In 2018, Facebook followers increased from 6,800 to over 8,200, Twitter followers increased from 5,000 to 5,900 and the new Instagram account grew to over 500 followers. Stop Food Waste tweets received over 370,000 impressions in 2018, with a high of 128,000 impressions in January during Stop Food Waste Week. Facebook also showed a high of over 110,000 reach points in January.

Since 2015 the EPA has been running community-based Stop Food Waste Challenges; in total 67 challenges have taken place with 1,750 participants, with an estimated 2kg reduction per household



per week over the challenge period. In 2018, 23 courses were run across the country, directly engaging with 435 participants. A before-&-after survey has been introduced to assess the impact of the challenge, and preliminary results show a 22% improvement in participant attitudes and behaviours around food waste. Seven food waste prevention and home composting courses were also run in 2018, directly engaging 156 people. Many of those trained through the programme carried out further food waste prevention and composting projects within their communities.

In addition to training and social media interactions, the Stop Food Waste team engaged on food waste issues with an estimated 5,500 people through outreach work. In 2018, the project team delivered numerous talks and workshops, attending over 110 public events.

During the year, the programme worked with local authorities by supplying materials for outreach work and providing technical assistance. Key projects included developing a food waste awareness video aimed at children that aired in cinemas & online (including mywaste.ie); a series of radio adverts used to spearhead a local campaign around food waste & reduced consumption; and a food waste prevention game for primary-school students. A resource-pack for Junior Cycle Home Economics teachers was developed with Roscommon, Galway and Mayo County Councils and will be released for the 2019/2020 academic year. Cavan County Council and Zero Waste Belturbet were supported with a Stop Food Waste Challenge and Master Composter training - important precursors to the five-year Zero Waste Belturbet project.

Stop Food Waste collaborated with the National College of Art and Design in a project that saw students designing prototype products to help Irish people reduce food waste in the home. The end result was four prototypes of products: a food caddy that records the weight of household food waste, a food sharing box for apartment dwellers, a device to highlight food in the fridge that needs to be used up and a set of customisable food packaging clips to help families communicate about food. In addition, five 'personas' were developed based on the market research, giving valuable insights into different household types and their motivations, goals and challenges relating to food waste. These personas will be used to design effective messaging of future awareness campaigns.



2.2 Food Waste in Business

EPA is leading a collaborative approach to tackling food waste in the business/commercial sector, including developing the Food Waste Charter and hosting the Forum on Food Waste. The Food Waste Charter is an initiative targeting food wastage along the supply chain through a collective industry commitment to reduce food waste, signalled through signing of the Food Waste Charter. Five major grocery retailers (representing nearly 70% of the Irish grocery market) signed the Food Waste Charter in 2018, pledging to work towards reducing food waste in the sector, and agreed a common methodology for the collection of food waste data within their businesses. This data was submitted to the EPA in 2019 and work will continue to establish a reporting protocol under the

Charter. The new EU legislative package in relation to the Circular Economy and the revised Waste Framework Directive have significant implications in relation to data on food waste. The EPA will continue to work with others to implement a transparent system of reporting on wasted food; to promote the Charter across the food sector; and to engage with stakeholders on training and guidance requirements.

The EPA continued to participate on the EU Platform on Food Losses & Waste to inform approaches to food waste measurement and exchange experiences in relation to food waste prevention actions and initiatives. In June, the EPA participated in a REFRESH (Horizon 2020 project) workshop on using voluntary agreements to collectively tackle food waste, presenting the Retail Action Group and Food Waste Charter approach as a good-practice case study.

3. Agriculture

Smart Farming is the central programme for the farming sector. It is a voluntary resource efficiency programme, led by the Irish Farmers' Association in partnership with the EPA. The initiative started in late 2012 and has the double objective of increasing resource efficiency and reducing costs for the farming sector. The central activity is the completion of resource efficiency assessments on participating farms. These are completed by qualified agronomists and eight themes are examined: soil fertility, energy, machinery, time management, water, inputs & waste, grassland and feed. There is a peer-to-peer learning element incorporated. Participating farmers sharing their learnings with their local farm discussion group providing further dissemination to 20 more farmers in each group.

Key Outputs in 2018:



Fifty resource efficiency assessments were completed in 2018 and results were published in October. Each participating farmer shared their experiences with their local discussion group, bringing the reach to over 1,000 farmers. The assessments identified average savings of €7,170 per farm and potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 9% (exceeding objectives of identifying at least €5,000 cost savings and ways to reduce climate impact by 5-7% per participating farm).

Two events have become annual dates in the Smart Farming calendar – the Spring Seminar and the Summer Farm Walk. The Spring Seminar was held in Athlone in May 2018. The Summer Farm Talk in Geashill in Co. Offaly in August was attended by over 200 farmers and had presentations by the Irish Farmer’s Association, Teagasc, Glanbia and Bord Bia.



The programme is extensively promoted through on-line channels; the Farmers Journal; at agricultural shows; and through IFA communications. The Smart Farming website was updated with two new case studies. Monthly advertorials were published in the Farmers Journal and represent a key channel for promoting the scheme. These updates were also circulated to key stakeholders.

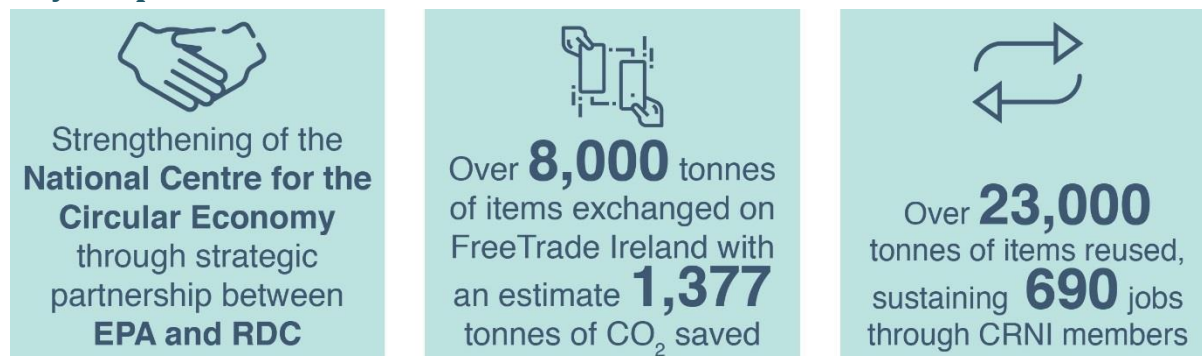
Smart Farming participated at several conferences to raise awareness of the programme and to sign up volunteer participants for future resource efficiency audits. Smart Farming also featured on RTÉ's Prime Time, Morning Ireland, the News at One and exhibited at the Citizens Dialogue on Climate Action. Smart Farming also presented at a plenary meeting of the Local Authority Prevention Network, to make connections with Local Authority Environmental Awareness Officers.

Smart Farming worked with experts including the Local Authorities Water Community Offices to update guidance on improving water quality by breaking the pathway between source and stream. This guidance was incorporated into an updated water module in the Smart Farming Guide which was launched in 2019. In addition, a drinking water quality decision support tool is being developed as part of a Smart Farming Masters in Agricultural Innovation at University College Dublin. This research study was ongoing in 2018.

4. Resources & Raw Materials

Resources & Raw Materials are a priority area for the NWPP. The activities supported are wide-ranging and promote reuse & repair as core principles of the circular economy which will reduce consumption of raw materials.

Key Outputs in 2018:



4.1 Rediscovery Centre

In July 2018, the EPA and the Rediscovery Centre (RDC) entered into a three-year strategic partnership. Through this strategic partnership, the RDC has strengthened its role as the *National Centre for the Circular Economy*.

The RDC is a creative space for connecting people, ideas and resources for greener living in Ireland. RDC brings together skills and expertise of artists, scientists and designers and crafts people united in a common purpose of sustainability with a mission to lead change from waste to resource through reuse, redesign, research and education. The RDC provides four key reuse social enterprises in their Dublin facility, Ballymun which include paint, furniture, fashion and bicycle reuse and repair for reuse and training & education services.

The Centre developed the Circular Economy Academy - a mentoring and support programme to assist social enterprises and community organisations to move their activities towards sustainability and to embrace circular economy models. The programme was successfully piloted with the Roscommon Women's Network in 2018 who established a textile upcycling training and social enterprise pilot in Castlereagh.



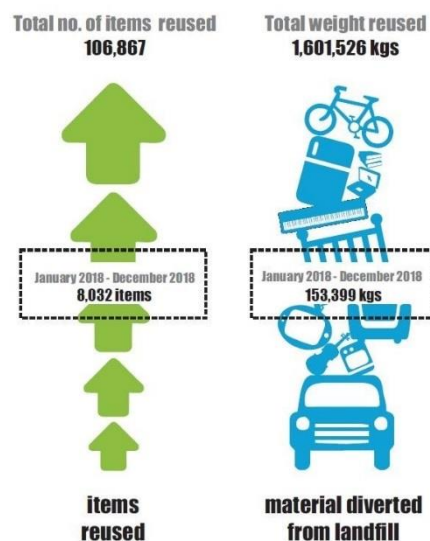
In 2018 the RDC hosted a range of events to raise awareness and promote sustainable consumption and the circular economy. This included over 25 public hands-on workshops for all ages across a diverse range of practical skills from zero-waste living and specialist paint techniques to sustainable fashion styling and composting. All events attracted more than 10,000 visitors to the centre. In the same period, the RDC education programme hosted on-site & outreach workshops, teaching more than 5,500 children, teenagers and adults about science and sustainability.

4.2 FreeTrade Ireland

FreeTrade Ireland is an online platform supported by the NWPP since 2010 which facilitates the reuse of items for free, from beds and furniture to electronic goods, garden equipment and more. As of end-2018, the service has registered 65,000 members since its launch in 2010 - with over 106,000 items being reused and over 5.7 million website visitors.

During 2018, a total of 8,032 items were reused estimated to be over 153,399 kgs² of material. The service achieved estimated direct savings of over €531,000 from the reuse of items through the website. A further €53,600 worth of items were reused through alternative outlets. Overall, the service delivered reuse valued at over €584,000 in 2018.

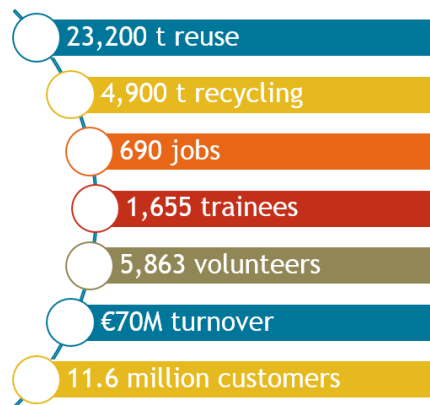
Environmental savings are also delivered through the service such as CO₂ emissions savings from avoiding emissions generated through the processing, manufacturing and transporting of new materials. In 2018, with approximately 153 tonnes of materials being diverted, the service resulted in an estimated 1,377 tonnes of CO₂ saved.



4.3 Community Reuse Network Ireland

The NWPP supports the work of the Community Reuse Network of Ireland (CRNI), the all-Ireland representative body for community-based reuse, recycling and waste prevention organisations. CRNI supports its members, promotes reuse, recycling and social inclusion, and strengthens the sector through policy input, research, representation at national and international level and networking.

CRNI ran two flagship events: their biennial conference in September was on *Engaging Consumers* and focussed on behavioural change. The conference had thirteen national and international speakers and was attended by over 85 stakeholders. A pre-conference evening reception attended was held in Dublin City Hall with the European Commission's DG GROW focusing on *Social Enterprises as Innovators in the Circular Economy*.



² This data is recorded in the website's database. It is a conservative figure applying default values for items that may be lower than the actual weights. The figures also include an estimate of the proportion of items reused and expired without an outcome selected.



CRNI partnered for the first time with the Regional Waste Management Offices to develop and deliver the National Reuse Month campaign. With a focus on *Everyday Reuse – at home at work at play*, the campaign aimed to show people how they already engage, and could engage more, in reuse activities. The campaign attracted national and local media coverage, in addition to extensive social media and website reach facilitated by over 20 videos.

A key achievement for CRNI in 2018 was supporting two members to become accredited to Ireland's first Quality Mark for the reuse sector, ReMark. The first accreditation was awarded in October to Duhallow Revamp, followed by an accreditation to Dublin Simon in December. This work was funded by the NWPP Green Enterprise programme.

CRNI and its partners ReCreate and Rediscovery Centre continued to work with youth groups on an international design competition with reuse materials through the ERASMUS+ ECOSStep project. This culminated in an awards ceremony with exhibitions and workshops, and one of the Irish teams winning the international prize for their "Tyre Bench". An interactive website was also developed through this project to showcase upcycling and engage young people in the sector.

5. Local Waste Prevention

Local waste prevention is a priority focus for the NWPP and while many programmes have local impacts the main initiative funded is the Local Authority Prevention Network. LAPN builds waste prevention capacity expertise in local authorities through providing grant-aid and technical support for local prevention initiatives. The Clean Technology Centre at Cork Institute of Technology provides technical support, under contract to the NWPP, which includes advice on funded initiatives; training; and development of online tools & promotional materials.

Key Outputs in 2018:



Measurement of LAPN activity is gathered via phone-survey and recorded in an engagement reporting matrix. Local authorities funded in 2017/18 were involved with a wide range of work that spanned direct interventions with householders and businesses, outreach at festivals and events and communications through online and traditional media channels. The data shows significant outreach by the network – over 900 local businesses, 17,000 people in the community and over 500,000 people at events. Similar data will be gathered on an annual basis to allow benchmarking of activities from year to year.



An LAPN working group on public drinking water was established in 2018 to produce a guide to best practice for public access to drinking water and showcase examples that have been implemented already by local authorities. Several local authorities were funded for initiatives to reduce single-use plastic bottles and promote the use of tap water. Wicklow County Council installed bottle-filling water fountains in two schools. One school recorded over 20,000 uses and are so satisfied with the results that they are planning to invest in a second machine and have reusable bottles on their book list for students. Roscommon County Council ran a plastic bottle prevention initiative in secondary schools. Water bottle filling stations were installed, and pupils engaged in an awareness campaign on single-use plastics. Monaghan and Wexford Councils supported public drinking water fountains. Waterford County Council installed water fountains on the popular Waterford Greenway.

www.repairmystuff.ie is an online national register of repair businesses developed as a collaborative LAPN project led by Monaghan County Council. It was officially launched in September 2018. The site has received upwards of 3,000 visitors a month and has won two national awards, a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards and a Local Authority Members Association award. The website supports the circular economy where repair for reuse is important for keeping value in products. There is ongoing work to register more businesses to the site and promote its use by the public.



Dublin City, South Dublin County and Fingal County Councils ran a joint awareness campaign to encourage the use of reusable coffee cups. Leitrim County Council promoted a reusable cup initiative through local Tidy Towns groups. Mayo County Council rolled out an initiative to reduce single-use plastic bags with local fruit & veg sellers. One of Kerry County Council's projects supported

a fruit and veg business to introduce a loyalty card scheme and customers were rewarded when they used reusable bags ten times.

An LAPN working group on greening festivals has been established to update guidance, prepare a submission on measures that could be taken on greening festivals nationally and provide input to the revision of the www.greenyourfestival.ie website. LAPN was also active in greening festivals and events, including: Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Drogheda; Kilkenny Savour Food festival ; and Killorglin's K-fest

Carlow County Council worked with the Department of Sport, Media & Marketing at IT Carlow to research the attitudes of the people of Carlow to waste prevention. A project *What can you change?* with transition year students in a school in Ashbourne Co. Meath, looked at areas in their lives where they can make better, more sustainable, choices.

6. Green Enterprise

Green Enterprise is a funding programme to support innovation in resource management. Its aim is to encourage and help companies to apply innovative consumer and business solutions that will stimulate an operating environment in Ireland where resource efficiency and the circular economy can thrive. Thus, enhance competitiveness and reduce business costs by building Ireland's capacity to transition to a low carbon, resilient, circular economy. The programme is funded by the NWPP and the EPA Research Programme.

Key Outputs in 2018:



The NWPP reviewed the programme's focus and target audience during 2018 with the intention of (i) better understanding where this innovation fund best fits within the landscape of other funds; (ii) improving its promotion and outreach; and (iii) improving the number and quality of applications. As well as gathering feedback from individual stakeholders, evaluators and potential applicants, the team met with several national organisations to learn from their experiences (Enterprise Ireland, SEAI, Gas Networks Ireland, Knowledge Transfer Ireland, Environmental Research Institute). Potential improvements to the programme were identified and documented. The review identified that the ideal target audience for the call was a collaborative effort between research organisations and enterprises that could deliver transferable, scalable solutions to the market.

A funding call worth €600,000 launched in June 2018 with an upfront focus on *Innovation for the Circular Economy*. Proposals were invited in thematic areas of eco-design, plastics, food waste and construction & demolition waste which are priority areas of the EU's Circular Economy Package. The call was promoted through social media, websites and networks. Fourteen applications were received and following the evaluation process, the EPA Board approved funding of €292,878 for four projects with the potential to impact on national priority areas:

- Scoping the Irish fruit and vegetable supply chain for valuable biomass resources (CyberColloids Ltd.)
- Marine Plastic Waste - Closing the Loop (MARplas) (Sea Synergy)
- Producing a composite from plastic bottles (Irish Manufacturing Research)
- The development of a Resource Management and Materials Circularity Protocol for the Irish Construction Sector (Carey Building Contractors)

Three Green Enterprise projects concluded in 2018 and are described below:

Delivering a Residential Sustainability Rating System to the Market

The Irish Green Building Council completed a project on the Home Performance Index (HPI). The HPI is a certification system for housing that delivers the highest standards of sustainable housing wherever it is applied. The HPI is an essential consideration in the achievement of high quality, sustainable development and the decision-making process by planning authorities and developers.

Development of a National Environmental Product Declaration Program and register

The Irish Green Building Council completed a project on [Ireland's Environmental Product Declaration \(EPD\) Platform](#). This platform is essential to the sustainable use of natural resources. The EPD establishes the embodied carbon of construction products and assists developers in assessing sustainability factors and evaluating alternatives. In a circular economy we want to reduce the carbon footprint of the building stock and use less materials in construction. The project report is relevant for construction product manufacturers, developers and decision makers.

EPA Large Water Users Community of Practice Phase 3

Central Solutions Ltd. led this project. The continued growth in membership of the Large Water Users Community of Practice during phase 3 indicates the many challenges relating to water use. The Community of Practice has influenced water conservation through influential peer to peer learning and in-company supports leading to a 20% on average water reduction at site level. An innovative toolkit has been developed for water conservation.

These projects provide a significant contribution to establishing in Ireland substantive requirements that underpin sustainable development. The value for money of these projects is in their adoption by planning and public authorities, government departments and developers.

7. Concluded Projects

Following the 2018 review of the NWPP, a number of projects were concluded to allow for the development of new initiatives and approaches on driving the circular economy concept. Over their years of operation, these projects successfully supported resource efficiency in large and small organisations. The learnings from this work is retained within the organisations involved, and also informs future NWPP development. Where appropriate, assets and materials from these projects are shared with new audiences and groups.

Key Outputs in 2018:



7.1 Green Business

Green Business was a programme funded by the NWPP between 2007 and 2018. The idea that businesses were a driving force for waste prevention continued to be developed with several online resources and efficiency tools launched through the Green Business as a package of measures to reduce wastage in Irish businesses. The Green Business programme was managed by the Clean Technology Centre at Cork Institute of Technology from 2011-2018 and during that time visited 295 companies and identified €10.5 million potential cost savings for businesses, an average saving opportunity of €35,500 per company visited.

In 2018, Green Business visited 22 companies to carry out Resource Efficiency Assessments. The assessments were carried out in the food processing, retail, hospitality, finance, office and engineering sectors. Cost savings opportunities worth €406,732 were identified, an average saving opportunity of €18,500 per company visited. Forty small-scale resource efficiency assessments were also delivered.

The online resource tool called “TREE” (Tool for REsource Efficiency) which was developed by Green Business was officially re-launched by Green Business during 2018. This online tool allows businesses of all sizes to obtain a Resource Efficiency Score and receive a Resource Efficiency Action Plan tailored for their business. Green



Business continued to promote the online tool, aimed at providing a wider pool of SMEs with resource efficiency advice. In 2018 there were 230 new users registered to use the TREE, bringing total users to 540 by December 2018. Bord Bia require Origin Green members to use TREE to drive initial actions towards sustainable production. TREE is hosted on <https://greenbusiness.ie/>

7.2 Green Healthcare

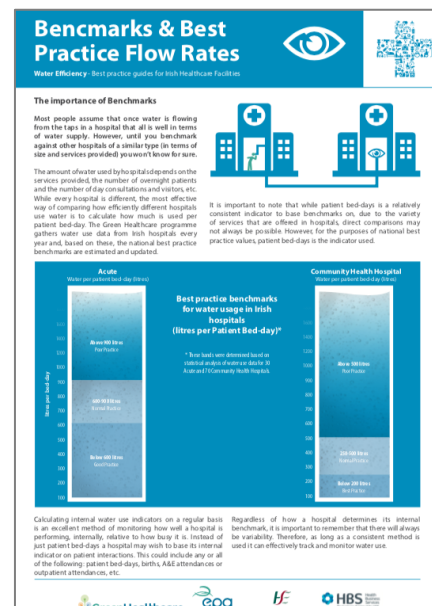
Green Healthcare operated between 2009 to 2018. The project was co-funded by the NWPP and the Health Service Executive; and was aligned with the HSE *Sustainability Strategy for Health*. It was developed from experience gained from Local Authority Prevention Demonstration projects with three hospitals in County Monaghan and a Cleaner, Greener Production project with Sligo General Hospital in 2004. These early projects clearly indicated that there was substantial potential to implement cost and resource saving activities within the healthcare sector. The Clean Technology Centre at Cork Institute of Technology provided technical support to the programme.

In 2018 the Green Healthcare technical support team worked directly with the wards and canteen areas of three hospitals (St. James’s, Connolly and Tralee) to examine and reduce food waste.

With a growing national focus on reducing consumption of single-use items and increased use of compostable items, there was renewed interest from hospitals in improving waste segregation. The technical support team worked with nine hospitals to update their waste benchmarks and develop Improvement Action Plans. In addition, several hospitals were provided with waste segregation resources including bin signs and the popular ‘Bin-It-Better’ game.

Green Healthcare continued to work with Irish Water and the Health Service Executive during 2018 to develop a streamlined national water benchmarking system cross-referencing water consumption data with hospital bed days from the main national acute hospitals. Three water-related factsheets were produced during 2018 (i) a *How To Guide on Leak Identification* (ii) a *Best Practice Guide for a Water Conservation Programme* and (iii) *Benchmarks and Best Practice Flow Rates*.

Data logging of water use in hospitals continued in 2018 with two hospitals (St. James’s and Crumlin). The data logging identified €14,000 in costs associated with an external agency that uses part of the large campus initiated a review of how concessions and external connections are charged. It is expected that additional savings will be realised once the review is complete. In addition to acute hospitals, Green Healthcare worked with community hospitals and nursing homes during 2018. An on-site resource efficiency assessment carried out at one site identified up to €200,000 in potential savings from reduced waste management and food purchasing costs.



7.3 SMILE Resource Exchange

SMILE Resource Exchange was an industrial symbiosis project managed by Cork County Council's Macroom-e, which provided a web platform for organisations to connect and identify synergies where an unwanted resource in one organisation could be utilised as a resource in another. SMILE was primarily funded by the NWPP between 2014 and 2018 with support from South Cork Local Enterprise Office and the Waste Management Planning Regions. The project began as a pilot in Cork in 2010 and expanded nationwide during 2014.

Some examples of successful synergies in 2018 related to office furniture, textiles, cardboard, plastic sheeting printers, compost bins and wooden crates. There were thirteen successful synergies reported between June and December 2018. SMILE Resource Exchange collaborated with Cork County Council on *Reuse Republic*, an event in Cork County Hall as part of reuse month in October 2018. The event aimed to showcase businesses, support organisations and initiatives working in the reuse sector locally and across the country. SMILE also collaborated on the Circular Ocean project which sought opportunities for the recovery and reuse of waste fishing nets and rope and is referenced in the EU Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy.

7.4 Ibec Green Business Executive

The NWPP funded an Ibec Green Business/Circular Economy Executive post between 2010 and 2018. The objective of the role was to raise awareness and promote interest in the circular economy and the Green Business programme across Ibec members.

A Circular Economy policy mapping exercise was completed during 2018 and provided to EPA & DCCAE. Ibec also issued a survey to senior management of member companies, accounting for approximately 70% of the private sector work force. The aim was to gauge current understanding of the concept of circular economy, attitudes to the circular economy, identify initiatives in place and any plans for investment in sustainable business practices. The online survey launched at the Ibec Business Leaders conference on Science and Sustainability in March 2018. A total of 217 organisations responded to the survey covering a total of 81,534 employees. One-third of respondents were engaged in manufacturing activities while 61% were in the services sector. The findings of the survey report were published in 2019.

8. Sponsorships

The NWPP provided support to a number of initiatives during 2018 to promote waste prevention:



Sligo University Hospital Green Campus Committee were winners of the EPA-sponsored 'Waste Prevention Business' category at the Repak PAKMAN awards.



GROWN were winners at the Green Awards of the EPA-sponsored 'Green Small Organisation of the Year' category for their ethically and sustainably sourced clothing line.



Lidl Ireland's 'A Better Tomorrow' initiative and Deloitte's 'Green Agenda' won the EPA-sponsored 'Excellence in the Environment' category at the Corporate Social Responsibility awards hosted by Chambers Ireland.



The NWPP supported a series of videos created by the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices to promote upcycling and reuse during National Reuse Month in October.



The NWPP supported the take-up of the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) approach for measuring environmental impact, through sponsorship of the CDP Ireland Network. The network promotes the use of CDP and assists companies in completing returns.



Grow Cook Eat is a television series by GIY Ireland that provides educational tips on growing seasonal vegetables and reducing food waste at home. Series One was co-sponsored by Bord Bia and StopFoodWaste.ie. It aired on RTÉ from 14th March with seven episodes in total. Viewership reached over 2 million for the series.

9. Communicating & Networking

The NWPP communicates with audiences using a broad range of channels, including social media, radio and TV programmes, seminars and workshops, websites and online platforms. The NWPP has a dedicated Twitter account @EPAWasteRes and a YouTube channel.³

Figure 5. NWPP communication and networking channels.



NWPP press releases in 2018.

23rd January: "Stop Food Waste - Make the most of your food"

Irish householders on average throw out €700 worth of food every year. This week the EPA is running an awareness campaign called 'Food: Make the Most of It', highlighting food waste issues and encouraging everyone to make the most of their food.

31st January: "EPA launches *National Waste Statistics* web resource"

*The EPA has today launched the *National Waste Statistics* web resource and has also published information on hazardous waste for 2015 and 2016 and municipal waste for 2014.*

14th June: "€600,000 funding announcement for Ireland's Circular Economy Innovators" Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy funding call"

Ireland's National Waste Prevention Programme supporting transitions to a low-carbon, low-waste future. The EPA has today launched a €600,000 funding programme to support innovators.

³ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCROj8BE7o4X-hBnGMB0GBxA>

25th July: “Supporting Ireland’s transition to a low-carbon, circular economy: Ireland’s National Waste Prevention Programme”

The National Waste Prevention Programme delivers initiatives and supports to promote Ireland’s transition to a low-carbon, circular economy and provide leadership on national priorities such as food waste prevention. In 2017, €1.8 million was invested in resource efficiency and the sustainable use of resources in Ireland.

18th October: “Hazardous waste: prevention and self-sufficiency for treatment and management remain key priorities for Ireland”

The EPA has today released a progress report on the implementation of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2014-2020. The report shows that Ireland is making good progress on managing hazardous waste.

8th November: “Moving Ireland into the New Plastics Economy – EPA conference considers the challenge of plastics for Ireland”

The Environmental Protection Agency’s conference, Moving Ireland into the New Plastics Economy, is taking place in Dublin today. The purpose of the event is to generate discussion amongst all stakeholders on how Ireland can shift attitudes and systems towards a more sustainable plastics economy that cuts out unnecessary use and maximises recycling and reuse.

6th December: “Irish households and businesses need to improve their waste separation”

“That doesn’t belong there!” is the key message from the Environmental Protection Agency’s latest report which examined what Irish households and businesses are putting in their bins.

NWPP activities have been promoted through national and local media throughout the year, such as newspapers, radio interviews, online articles and videos. Below are some examples for 2018:



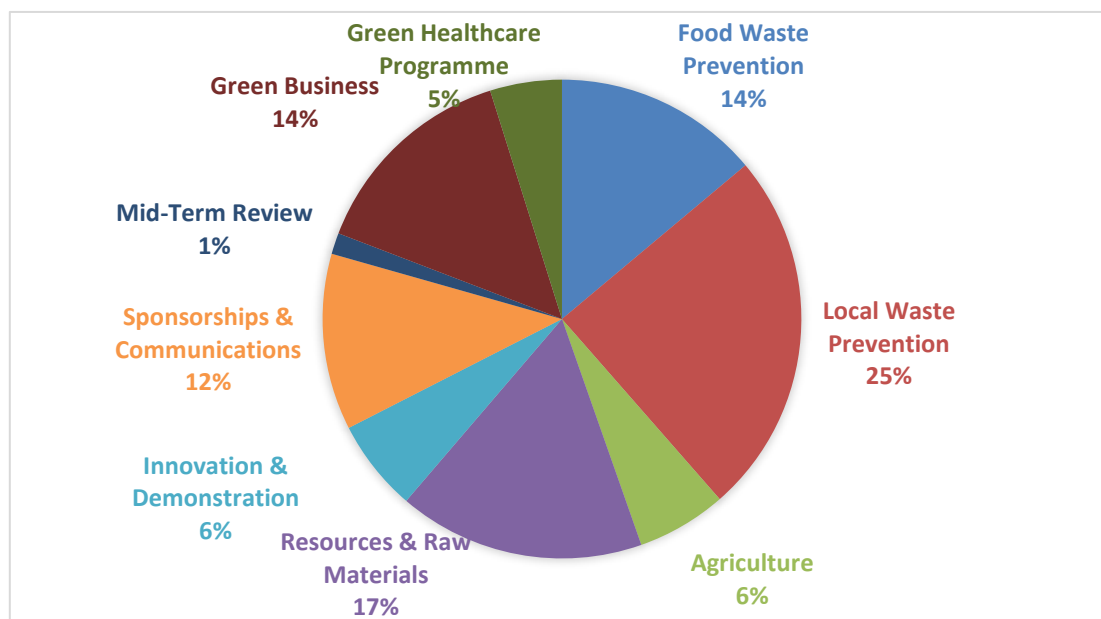
10. Governance & Finances

The NWPP is a Government of Ireland initiative and funding is provided from DCCAE through the Environment Fund. A Memorandum of Funding Agreement between EPA and DCCAE defines the strategic collaboration and financial controls in place between the two organisations. The EPA and DCCAE meet quarterly and this ensures a strong fit of the programme to policy needs. The NWPP is implemented within the EPA's Office of Environmental Sustainability by the Resource Efficiency Unit. The EPA Board reviews and approves the work of the NWPP over the course of the year.

Technical oversight to the programme is provided by the National Waste Prevention Committee. Membership of the committee and the Terms of Reference are set out in Appendix A. The group meets twice per year to review ongoing activities and to provide guidance on future priorities. Records of the meetings are available at <http://www.epa.ie/waste/nwpp/committee/>

Figure 6 shows the breakdown of expenditure of just over €1.64m on NWPP activities in 2018. The Green Healthcare programme was co-funded by the Health Service Executive. The EPA Research budget provides the majority of Green Enterprise funding. The Irish Farmer's Association supports the Smart Farming programme through the provision of staff time managing the programme and associated promotional activities.

Figure 6. NWPP expenditure in 2018

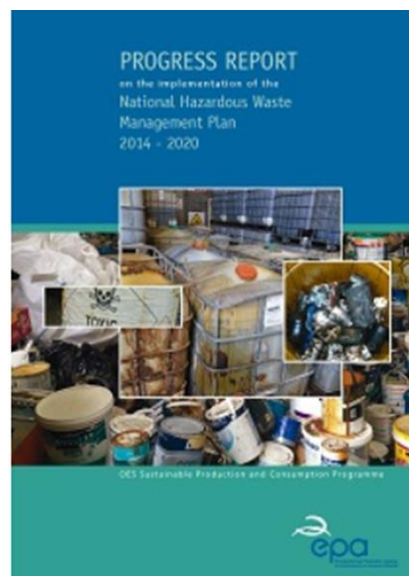


The NWPP is subject to audit from the EPA Internal Audit Unit; DCCAE Internal Audit Unit and the Comptroller and Auditor General. The EPA responds fully to requests associated with such audits and the recommendations that may arise. In 2018 an EPA internal audit review of expenditure and procedure in the NWPP was completed with no high-level findings. Recommendations made to strengthen governance of the programme are being implemented.

11. National Hazardous Waste Management Plan

The National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2014-2020 identified twenty-seven priority actions to be completed within the lifetime of the Plan. These priority actions are centred on administrative arrangements, prevention, collection, infrastructure and self-sufficiency, regulatory measures, legacy issues, North-South initiatives, guidance & awareness and implementation. The principal owners for the actions are the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, the EPA and local authorities, each with distinctive roles and responsibilities.

A progress report on the implementation of the NHWMP was published in 2018.⁴ The report notes considerable progress has been made with 23 of the 27 actions in progress or completed; and most remaining actions on-track to be progressed within the timeframe of the plan. Areas of note include:



- Successful farm hazardous waste collection pilot 2013-2017.
- Introduction of household hazardous waste collection days.
- Completion of the inventory of the national hazardous waste recovery.
- Disposal capacity and guidance for the management of household hazardous waste at civic amenity sites.

The report identified the need for greater focus on actions that remain at risk;

- (i) Developing a network of collection and transfer facilities to suit user needs to capture small-scale quantities of legacy wastes (e.g. asbestos arisings from DIY and small contracting jobs).
- (ii) Providing increased hazardous waste collection facilities and appropriate awareness raising for households and small businesses.
- (iii) Development of new producer responsibility obligations or initiatives for certain hazardous waste streams (e.g. take back schemes).
- (iv) Increasing Ireland's level of capacity for self-sufficiency for the treatment and management of hazardous waste.
- (v) Carry out a study to evaluate and recommend an appropriate regulatory mechanism and relevant guidance for the management and disposal of spent sheep dip.
- (vi) Greater development of waste stream and sector specific indicators.

⁴ http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/haz/EPA_NationalHazardousWasteManagementPlan_web.pdf

12. National Waste Statistics

The EPA's National Waste Statistics provide evidence to inform the initiatives undertaken by the NWPP.

EU Waste Targets

Ireland has statutory targets for recovery of waste, mainly relating to Ireland is achieving or is on track for legislative targets except for the End-of-Life Vehicle Directive.

- **End-of-life vehicles (ELVs).** Despite an upward trend in the reuse, recycling and recovery of ELVs in recent years, Ireland didn't achieve the higher targets under the ELV Directive which came into effect in January 2015. In 2017, Ireland achieved 83% reuse and recycling (85% target) and 92% reuse and recovery (95% target).
- **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).** Ireland met the WEEE Directive targets for collection, reuse, recycling and recovery in 2017.
- **Waste Packaging.** Ireland met the Packaging and Waste Packaging Directive targets for the recovery of waste packaging and the recycling of various waste packaging materials (plastic, paper & board, wood, metals, glass) in 2017.
- **Batteries and Accumulators.** Ireland has met the Battery & Accumulator Directive targets for the collection of portable batteries and recycling efficiencies of different battery & accumulator types.

National waste statistics are available on the EPA website www.epa.ie/nationalwastestatistics.

Municipal Waste Characterisation

Municipal waste⁵ characterisation studies provide information on the composition of household and non-household municipal waste. In December 2018, the EPA published the latest national municipal waste characterisation report, which focussed on the composition of kerbside household and commercial bins. Some key findings from the study were:

- Organic waste in the household residual bin reduced by 15% since the last study in 2008, thanks to the introduction of the brown bin in most urban areas. However, one third of the commercial bin is organic waste and this needs to be segregated and presented in organic bins.
- 11% of what was presented in household kerbside waste shouldn't be in the bins at all – textiles, glass, paint, waste electrical and electronic equipment and batteries.
- The share of plastic waste increased in both household and commercial bins since the last study in 2008.

⁵ Municipal waste is household waste as well as commercial and other waste that because of its nature or composition is similar to household waste. Municipal waste consists of three main elements – household, commercial (including non-process industrial waste) and street cleansing waste (litter and street bins).

- Packaging material in the household and commercial recyclables bins were less clean in 2018 than in 2008. This contamination results in a reduced capacity for recycling of the waste collected.
- 70% of the material in the commercial black bin could be diverted to recycling or composting. If household bins were used correctly, we could reduce the amount of residual bin waste by one third.



Household kerbside general waste composition

Commercial kerbside general waste composition

National waste reporting shows that general waste levels are rising against a background of static recycling rates. The composition of this waste raises concerns with an increased percentage coming from plastics, cardboard and metal. This suggests excessive usage of packaging and missed opportunities for reuse or take-back of these materials. The data highlights a need for improved support to householders and businesses in understanding and using the correct bins.

However, avoiding waste generation in the first place remains the primary focus as this reduces the need to collect, process, treat and or dispose of it. Overall, waste statistics underpin the critical importance of reducing the use of virgin materials and increasing reuse to prevent large quantities of waste getting into domestic and commercial bins. The NWPP continues to target the most pressing waste prevention priorities, with plastics and food waste identified as key areas.

Appendix

National Waste Prevention Committee

Membership:

- Environmental Protection Agency (Chair and Secretariat)
- Chambers Ireland
- Chartered Institution of Wastes Management
- Clean Technology Centre
- Community Reuse Network Ireland
- Connacht-Ulster Waste Region
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Eastern Midlands Waste Region
- Engineers Ireland
- Enterprise Ireland
- Health Service Executive
- Ibec
- IDA Ireland
- Irish Environmental Network
- Irish Farmers' Association
- Irish Waste Management Association
- Small Firms Association
- Southern Waste Region

AN GHNÍOMHAIREACHT UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

Tá an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC) freagrach as an gcomhshaoil a chaomhnú agus a fheabhsú mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaoil a chosaint ó éifeachtaí díobhálacha na radaíochta agus an truaillithe.

Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

Rialú: Déanaimid córais éifeachtacha rialaithe agus comhlionta comhshaoil a chur i bhfeidhm chun torthaí maithe comhshaoil a sholáthar agus chun díriú orthu siúd nach gcloíonn leis na córais sin.

Eolas: Soláthraimid sonraí, faisnéis agus measúnú comhshaoil atá ar ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírithé agus tráthúil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht ar gach leibhéal.

Tacaíocht: Bímid ag saothrú i gcomhar le grúpaí eile chun tacú le comhshaoil atá glan, táirgiúil agus cosanta go maith, agus le hiompar a chuirfidh le comhshaoil inbhuanaithe.

Ár bhFreagrachtaí

Ceadúnú

Déanaimid na gníomhaíochtaí seo a leanas a rialú ionas nach ndéanann siad dochar do shláinte an phobail ná don chomhshaoil:

- saoráidí dramháiola (*m.sh. láithreáin líonta talún, loisceoirí, stáisiúin aistrithe dramháiola*);
- gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíoch ar scála mór (*m.sh. déantúsaíocht cógaisíochta, déantúsaíocht stroighne, stáisiúin chumhachta*);
- an dionalmhaíocht (*m.sh. muca, éanlaith*);
- úsáid shrianta agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe (*OGM*);
- foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin (*m.sh. trealamh x-gha agus radaiteiripe, foinsí tionsclaíochta*);
- áiseanna móra stórála peitрил;
- scardadh dramhuisce;
- gníomhaíochtaí dumpála ar farraige.

Forfheidhmiú Náisiúnta i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil

- Clár náisiúnta iniúchtaí agus cigireachtaí a dhéanamh gach bliain ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas ón nGníomhaireacht acu.
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí cosanta comhshaoil na n-údarás áitiúil.
- Caighdeán an uisce óil, arna sholáthar ag soláthraithe uisce phoiblí, a mhaoirsiú.
- Obair le húdarás áitiúla agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile chun dul i ngleic le coireanna comhshaoil trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmiúcháin náisiúnta, trí dhírú ar chiontóirí, agus trí mhaoirsiú a dhéanamh ar leasúchán.
- Cur i bhfeidhm rialachán ar nós na Rialachán um Dhramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (DTLL), um Shrian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha agus na Rialachán um rialú ar shubstaintí a ídíonn an ciseal ózón.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhreiseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

Bainistíocht Uisce

- Monatóireacht agus tuairiscí a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht aibhneacha, lochanna, uisce idirchriosacha agus cósta na hÉireann, agus screamhuiscí; leibhéil uisce agus sruthanna aibhneacha a thomhas.
- Comhordú náisiúnta agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar an gCreat-Treoir Uisce.
- Monatóireacht agus tuairiscí a dhéanamh ar Cháilíocht an Uisce Snámha.

Monatóireacht, Anailís agus Tuairiscí ar an gComhshaoil

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht an aeir agus Treoir an AE maidir le hAer Glan don Eoraip (CAFÉ) a chur chun feidhme.
- Tuairiscí neamhspleách le cabhrú le cinnteoireacht an rialtais náisiúnta agus na n-údarás áitiúil (*m.sh. tuairiscíu tréimhsiúil ar staid Chomhshaoil na hÉireann agus Tuarascálacha ar Tháscairí*).

Rialú Astaíochtaí na nGás Ceaptha Teasa in Éirinn

- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin na hÉireann maidir le gáis cheaptha teasa a ullmhú.
- An Treoir maidir le Trádáil Astaíochtaí a chur chun feidhme i gcomhair breis agus 100 de na táirgeoirí dé-ocsaíde carbóin is mó in Éirinn.

Taighde agus Forbairt Comhshaoil

- Taighde comhshaoil a chistiú chun brúnna a shainiú, bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartais, agus réitigh a sholáthar i réimsí na haeraíde, an uisce agus na hinbhuanaitheachta.

Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta

- Measúnacht a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar an gcomhshaoil in Éirinn (*m.sh. mórphleananna forbartha*).

Cosaint Raideolaíoch

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéil radaíochta, measúnacht a dhéanamh ar nochtadh mhuintir na hÉireann don radaíocht ianúcháin.
- Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as taismí núicléacha.
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhaineann le saoráidí núicléacha agus leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíochta.
- Sainseirbhísí cosanta ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

Treoir, Faisnéis Inrochtana agus Oideachas

- Comhairle agus treoir a chur ar fáil d'earnáil na tionsclaíochta agus don phobal maidir le hábhair a bhaineann le caomhnú an chomhshaoil agus leis an gcosaint raideolaíoch.
- Faisnéis thráthúil ar an gcomhshaoil ar a bhfuil fáil éasca a chur ar fáil chun rannpháirtíocht an phobail a spreagadh sa chinnteoireacht i ndáil leis an gcomhshaoil (*m.sh. Timpeall an Tí, léarscáileanna radóin*).
- Comhairle a chur ar fáil don Rialtas maidir le hábhair a bhaineann leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíoch agus le cúrsaí práinnfhreagartha.
- Plean Náisiúnta Bainistíochta Dramháiola Guaisí a fhorbairt chun dramháil ghuaiseach a chosc agus a bhainistiú.

Múscailt Feasachta agus Athrú Iompraíochta

- Feasacht comhshaoil níos fearr a ghiniúint agus dul i bhfeidhm ar athrú iompraíochta dearfach trí thacú le gnóthais, le pobail agus le teaghlaigh a bheith níos éifeachtúla ar acmhainní.
- Tástáil le haghaidh radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre, agus gníomhartha leasúcháin a spreagadh nuair is gá.

Bainistíocht agus struchtúr na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Tá an gníomhaíocht á bainistiú ag Bord lánaimseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóirí. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d'Oifigí:

- An Oifig um Inmharthanacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Fianaise is Measúnú
- Oifig um Chosaint Radaíochta agus Monatóireachta Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tá Coiste Comhairleach ag an nGníomhaireacht le cabhrú léi. Tá dáréag comhaltaí air agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair inní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.



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