



southern  
waste region

# Annual Report 2016–Year 1

SOUTHERN REGION  
WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
2015–2021



*“Do one more thing”*



# Introduction

The Southern Region comprises 10 local authority areas namely Carlow, Clare, Cork City, Cork County, Limerick City & County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford City & County and Wexford. Limerick City & County Council and Tipperary County Council are the lead authorities for the region. Through the Southern Region Waste Management Office (SRWMO), the lead authorities are responsible for the coordination, implementation and monitoring of the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 (the Plan).

The Plan is the framework for the prevention and management of wastes in a safe and sustainable manner. The scope of the Plan is broad with an ultimate aim to provide policy direction, setting out what we as a region want to achieve and a roadmap of actions to get us there.

The SRWMO is a knowledge resource for all stakeholders with the capacity to promote higher order waste actions in the areas of prevention, reuse, resource efficiency and recycling. The SRWMO is responsible for preparing an annual report highlighting the region's performance under the policy headings contained within the Plan.

This Annual Report presents activities and achievements in each of the active policy actions described under the eight Strategic Objectives within the Plan. The Report covers the period from the Plan's launch (May 2015) up until the end of May 2016. Statistics contained within this Annual Report are from 2014, as these are the latest validated statistics available.

# Challenges - Emerging Issues & Priorities

## Moving up the Waste Hierarchy

The principle of the Waste Hierarchy is to move upward towards reuse and waste prevention instead of consumption and disposal. Encouraging behavioural change amongst the 1.5million persons living in the Southern Region is a key challenge. Transitioning to a circular economy requires action driven by awareness.

## Avoiding Contamination

Mixed waste in the recycling bin causes contamination, such as a nappy in the dry recyclable bin or a glass jar in the composting bin. Contamination leads to materials being landfilled or incinerated instead of recycled. Contamination levels are increasing and this trend needs to be reversed in order to achieve the plan target of 50% recycling.

## Pay by Weight

A *Resource Opportunity–Waste Management Policy in Ireland*, includes a policy to introduce a pricing structure to incentivise the prevention and segregation of household waste in accordance with the polluter pays principle. Despite the introduction of "Pay by Weight" regulations, public opposition has put this issue on hold. Pay by Weight was expected to yield a decrease in waste generation; as the timescale for its implementation is unclear the overall performance target of 1% reduction per annum will remain a challenge for the Regions.

## Construction & Demolition Waste (C&D Waste)

As the output from the building sector is increasing, so has the volume of C&D Waste. There are limited outlets for this waste stream in particular in the cities and towns. Because of its nature, C&D waste cannot be readily transported long distances, therefore a need for more conveniently located C&D waste facilities is anticipated.

## Residual Waste

Waste collectors and the waste processing plants in the Southern Region experienced difficulties in finding outlets for municipal residual waste since early 2016. Collective action by the SRWMO on behalf of the local authorities resolved the issue temporarily - a permanent solution remains a challenge.

# Household waste generation in the Southern Region

## Amount of waste produced per person

**295Kgs**  
2012



**299Kgs**  
2014



EQUIVALENT TO  
**4 TIMES**  
AVERAGE BODY  
WEIGHT

## Amount of waste produced per household

**807 Kgs**  
**IN 2014**



## Household Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment for recovery



**7.56Kgs**

Per inhabitant...  
**ALMOST TWICE**  
the EU minimum  
target of 4kgs per  
inhabitant

**45%**

OF HOUSEHOLDS  
AVAILING OF A  
COLLECTION  
SERVICE HAVE AN  
ORGANIC BIN



2014

## Disposal rate per household

**25%**  
2014



**37%**  
2012

## Recycling / Recovery Rate

**75%**  
2014



**63%**  
2012

**67%**

OF HOUSEHOLDS  
HAVE SIGNED  
UP FOR  
COLLECTION  
SERVICE



2014

# Summary of progress of Objectives A and B

## A. The region will implement all waste related environmental policy.

- One of the key targets of the Plan was to eliminate the direct disposal of unprocessed residual municipal waste to landfill from 2016 onwards. In order to achieve this target, the Southern Region requested that a condition be included in Waste Collection Permits incorporating the above target. The National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) did not include the requested condition as the Department of the Environment felt that the issue should instead be dealt with via landfill licences. This office is currently awaiting a response from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding how this plan target will be reflected in landfill licences.

- In 2016 the NWCPO developed a portal to allow all local authority authorised facilities i.e. waste facility and certificate of registration permit holders, to submit their 2015 annual return on-line. The central availability of this data will allow the Southern Region to monitor and report on planned, authorised and utilised capacity, of local authority authorised facilities, on a regional and national basis.

- Chapter 20 of the Plan lists a number of key performance indicators (KPIs) under specific headings - details of year-on-year performance are available via [www.southernwasteregion.ie](http://www.southernwasteregion.ie).

## B. Prioritise waste prevention through behavioural change activities to decouple economic growth and resource use.

The post of Environmental Awareness Officer is filled in each local authority. Nine of the ten local authorities have made a financial allocation of 15c/inhabitant from their annual budget to cover expenditure on waste prevention related activities for 2016. There was strong regional collaboration on waste prevention initiatives. A number of high profile campaigns were successfully launched including food waste prevention focusing on *Bread Waste Prevention*, as well as *No Junk Mail* and *Choose Tap Water* Campaigns. These campaigns are targeted at households, schools, communities & businesses.

Baseline data on waste arisings at each local authority HQ was undertaken and will inform waste prevention measures to be carried out during the lifetime of the Plan.

Participation in the National Waste Prevention Plan (NWPP) steering committee has been ongoing with strong contributions to the outputs and future direction of the NWPP.

New resources were developed to raise awareness of hazardous waste prevention and these were disseminated widely throughout the Southern Region, particularly during special one-off community hazardous waste collection days held in each county during January and February 2016.



# Summary of progress of Objectives C and D

## **C. The region will encourage the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy.**

The SRWMO has built contacts with the twelve Local Enterprise Offices in the Southern Region and with many business networks, allowing effective communication regarding the benefits – economic as well as environmental – of resource efficiency for businesses.



In 2015, the Southern Region completed a two year project under EPA's Green Enterprise Programme. Over 100 attended the project's workshops, while 26 received onsite technical visits. Guidance included advice on green procurement and general resource efficiency and waste prevention.

The SRWMO continually promotes the national Green Business Programme. The Southern Region has financially supported SMILE Resource Exchange reuse scheme for businesses, as well as Econcertive's EcoMerit enterprise certification scheme.

The region has promoted reuse initiatives, for example furniture upcycling, mattress reuse, and surplus food re-distribution schemes. The SRWMO participated in Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI) Revival Roadshow launch in Nenagh in July 2015. The office has linked with local authority, business and community stakeholders so that all can work jointly towards achieving a circular economy.

## **D. Co-ordinate the activities of the regions and work with relevant stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of objectives.**

The Southern Region Waste Co-ordinator is a member of the National Co-ordination Committee for Waste Management Planning. Since publication of the Plan, the group has met 4 times. Waste policy issues and progress on implementation of national importance are discussed by the team.

The Regions report regularly to the County & City Management Association (CCMA) Environmental Sub-Committee and keep them updated on progress on implementation of the plans and emerging waste issues.

The SRWMO was established in 2013 and the full complement of staff including the Regional Co-ordinator, Resource Efficiency Officer, Regional Prevention Officer, Technical Officer and administration support are in place.

The SRWMO participates in the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) which is a co-operative programme between the NWPP and local authorities in Ireland.

The three Regions are working together with the national training body as well as the Waste Enforcement Lead Authorities to identify waste training requirements for the next five years.

**THE SRWMO HAS DEVELOPED A NUMBER OF PARTNERSHIPS AND IS INVOLVED IN SEVERAL NETWORKS BOTH WITHIN IRELAND AND WITH EUROPEAN PARTNERS.**



# Summary of progress of Objectives E and F

## E. The Region will promote sustainable waste management treatment in keeping with the waste hierarchy.

There are 29 policy recommendations directed at developers and planners to deal with future development of waste infrastructure so that outcomes are in keeping with the waste hierarchy.

During 2016 there was a national waste infrastructure deficit due to the lack of suitable outlets for municipal residual wastes. All local authorities, with the co-ordination of the regional waste management planning offices, simultaneously signed Section 56 Orders, under the Waste Management Act 1996, to prevent a situation of uncollected waste. Arrangements were made with Drenid and Knockarley Landfills to increase their capacity for a defined period. In September 2016 Bord Na Mona (Drenid landfill) obtained planning permission to increase their annual waste intake thereby averting another infrastructure shortfall capacity in the short term.

In relation to thermal recovery (limited to an additional 300,000 tonnes, in the plan):

- A decision on a 200,000 tonnes/year municipal residual waste thermal recovery plant in Cork is due shortly.
- Three cement manufacturing companies have applied for planning to replace fossil fuels with waste fuels for cement production.

A number of biological treatment facilities are in various stages of developments.

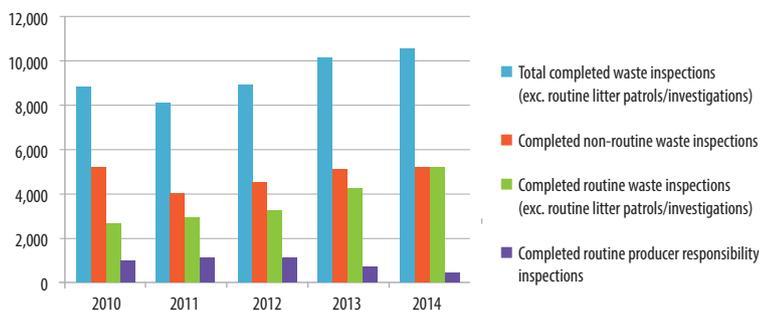
Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste generation is anticipated to increase considerably. The three Regions commissioned a study to analyse the current status and future need for C&D waste facilities. There are currently 149 active authorisations for soil and stone recovery in the Southern Region, including one licensed facility, with the other facilities having waste facility permits or certificates of registration. Certain areas of the region need to be served more adequately, such as large urban centres. Because of its high volume and mass, it is not very feasible to transport C&D waste through long distances.

## F. The Region will implement a consistent and co-ordinated system for the regulation and enforcement of waste activities in co-operation with other environmental regulators and enforcement bodies.

Cork County Council was selected as the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) for the Southern Region, in October 2015. The WERLA now have responsibility for co-ordinating waste enforcement actions in accordance with Objective F and the national priorities and will feed into Annual Reports from next year onwards.

The local authority RMCEI\* returns for 2014, reported to the EPA, indicate a year-on-year increase in the total number of waste inspections undertaken in the Southern Region, in particular routine waste inspections of which over 50% were food waste inspections. In 2014 a total of 134 waste prosecutions were initiated - a 27% increase on 2013.

### Southern Region Waste Inspections



The SRWMO participates in relevant working groups such as:-

- NWCPO Waste Collection Permit Working group—working on revised household waste collection conditions

The three waste regions are currently developing standard conditions for waste facility permit authorisations.

\* Recommendation for Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections

# Summary of progress of Objectives G and H

## **G. Apply the relevant environmental and planning legislation to waste activities in order to protect the environment and human health.**

The Southern Region's high risk historic unauthorised landfill sites (Class A) were ranked using pre-determined risk priorities agreed with the EPA. A roadmap was developed and agreed prioritising the sites for further investigation and remediation. The first historic landfills which are being targeted for remediation and investigation include a site in Tipperary Town and a site in Kealine, Co. Cork. The Department for Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) will provide funding for these works which are not expected to commence until 2017.

In accordance with the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 to 2015, local authorities are required to carry out an Appropriate Assessment screening prior to granting waste authorisations i.e. Waste Facility Permits or Certificates of Registration. In order to assist local authorities in undertaking this screening this office developed a screening template which then formed the basis of a national training programme for all local authorities.

The training was provided by Aster Environmental, following approval by the Environment Services Training Group (ESTG) and was attended by 82 personnel from across all local authorities. All training material is now available to local authority staff via the on-line : Network for Ireland's Environmental Compliance & Enforcement (NIECE) portal.

Draft Siting Guidelines for waste facilities are currently being prepared and it is anticipated that these will be published later this year. These will assist developers and planners to ensure infrastructure is developed in a sustainable manner which protects the environment and human health.

## **H. The Region will establish policy measures for other waste streams not subject to EU and national waste management performance targets.**

The Southern Region has made a submission to National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan prepared by Irish Water. The Southern Region intends to engage further with Irish Water when this is finalised. No progress has been made on advancing a review of septic tank sludge outlets.

Management of paints continues to be a burden to local authorities. Most paint collected at Civic Amenity Sites is non hazardous but disposal is by means of hazardous waste incineration. More awareness about prevention of paint waste through better consumption and directing paint to reuse schemes is a priority awareness action.

A number of Hazardous Waste initiatives were prioritised during the first year of the Plan including awareness campaigns and free collection days for households. Support was also lent to the EPA's Farm Hazardous Waste Collection days.

The SRWMO participates in a number of working groups and committees whose remit includes the consideration of potential producer responsibility initiatives:

- Repak ELT/DCCAE tyre working groups "Environment and Targets" and "Permitting Requirements" working towards a proposed new Producer Responsibility Initiative for 2017.
- Waste Forum: A forum for reviewing implementation of National Waste Policy
- National Waste Prevention Plan Committee and associated sub groups



# Southern Region Waste Management Plan

2015-2021

## “Our goal is for better prevention, collection, recovery & treatment of waste in the Southern Region”

The Waste Management Plan for the Southern Region is the framework for the prevention and management of wastes in a safe and sustainable manner.

The scope of the Plan is broad and ultimately it needs to provide policy direction, setting out what we want to achieve and a roadmap of actions to get us there.

### Overall Performance Targets

- **1% reduction per annum** in the quantity of household waste generated per capita over the period of the Plan.
- Achieve a **recycling rate of 50%** of managed municipal waste by 2020.
- **Reduce to 0%** the direct disposal of unprocessed residual municipal waste to landfill (from 2016 onwards) in favour of higher value pre-treatment processes and indigenous recovery practices.



**Philippa King**  
Regional Waste  
Co-ordinator



**Carol Sweetnam**  
Technical Officer



**Margaret Murphy**  
Regional Resource  
Efficiency Officer



**Marie Collins**  
Regional Administrative  
Support



**Pauline McDonogh**  
Regional Prevention  
Officer

Southern Region Waste Management Office,  
Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick.  
Phone: 061 496 596 | E-mail: [info@srwmo.ie](mailto:info@srwmo.ie) | [@preventwaste](https://www.preventwaste.ie)  
[www.southernwasteregion.ie](http://www.southernwasteregion.ie)



southern  
waste region

