

Resource Efficiency News For Industry & Business

Launch on 18th November 2014 of
**Draft Southern Region Waste
Management Plan**
Do one more thing



Launch: L-R: Peter Hynes, Chief Executive of Mayo County Council; Conn Murray, Chief Executive of Limerick City & County Council; Philip Maguire, Deputy Chief Executive of Dublin City Council; and Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive of Galway City Council at the national launch of the draft Regional Waste Management Plans in Galway.

For the purposes of waste management planning, Ireland is now divided into three regions: Southern, Eastern & Midlands, Connacht Ulster. The Southern Waste Region encompasses the local authorities: Carlow, Clare, Cork City, Cork County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick City & County, Tipperary, Waterford City & County and Wexford.

A lot has happened across the Southern Region since the last plans were published between 2004 and 2006, such as a significant network of recycling centres and bring bank sites, and a recovery / recycling rate of 63% for households and 61% for commercial sector. Nationally, achievements include a packaging recovery rate of 87%.

The regional plan provides the framework for waste management for the next six years and sets out a range of policies and actions in order to meet the specified mandatory and performance targets. Most importantly the plan seeks to assist and support

the community and local business to develop resource efficiency and waste prevention initiatives. The plan identifies measures to develop a circular economy where waste management initiatives stop being confined to treating and disposing of waste, instead supporting initiatives that value waste as a resource or potential raw material.

There will be a public consultation period until 30th of January 2015. We want to hear your views on achievements to date and about what more needs to be done. Have your say in the future of waste management by telling us your views. Is there one more thing you can do that will improve Ireland's environment into the future?

More information, a feedback form and the full plan is available on www.southernwasteregion.ie

Following the public consultation stage, written submissions will be considered and the final Southern Region Waste Management Plan will be published by the end of March 2015.

In conjunction with the plan, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the impact of the plan has been carried out - public consultation period for these documents is also in place until 30th January 2015.

For further information:
email info@srwmo.ie, Tel 061 4956596

Autumn breakfast events on Resource Efficiency

Presentations now on www.southernwasteregion.ie
See inside for further information.



Discussion group at workshop in Irish National Heritage Park Wexford

Finding Opportunities with Tipperary Green Business Network



The Green Economy has huge potential for job creation and business opportunity. The Tipperary Green Business Network brings together business owners who operate in the green economy and those seeking opportunities, or those wanting to improve their green credentials. The Network organises field trips, workshops, talks and other events, and has generated clear benefits for member businesses such as bespoke mentoring, specialist training and networking opportunities.

A calendar of events for 2015 will soon be launched. Keep your eyes on their website and social media profiles.

The Network focuses on four key sectors:

- Building & Energy
- Tourism
- Food & Agriculture
- Transport & Other Services, including the Craft Sector

The Network was established in 2011 with the aim of harnessing green job creation potential and supporting and networking green businesses in the county. The ultimate aim is to make Tipperary one of Ireland's greenest counties. The Network gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Local Enterprise Office, North Tipperary LEADER Partnership, South Tipperary Development Company and Tipperary Energy Agency.



Members of Tipperary Green Business Network at Who to Talk To event, LIT, Thurles, Sept 2014 (L-R) Patrick Lambe, (Chairman, TGBN, 2011-14); Alan Kelly, Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government; Nellie Reid, LEED Consultant & Green Building expert; Sean O' Farrell, Cloncannon Biofarm, Moneygall; Dave Corboy, Revived & Retro, Terryglass.

If you would like further information on Tipperary Green Business Network contact the Coordinator, Kate Walsh, on Tel: 067 56676/089 4171397 or visit

Web: www.tipperarygbn.org/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/tpgbn>

Facebook: facebook.com/tgbn2012

Cork's Boomerang Bring Back and Reuse Mattress Project

Mattress Recycling

Cork's Lord Mayor, Cllr Mary Shields, recently officially launched Boomerang Mattress Recycling project in Ballyvolane, Cork.

Lead by Paul Kelly, Project Manager, the Boomerang Bring Back and Reuse Project focuses on stripping down used mattress to allow for reuse and recycling of component parts. The initiative is lead by Cork Environmental Forum and supported by a number of organisations including the Environmental Protection Agency,



L-R: Mary Walsh (Cork City Council), Michelle Green (SMILE Exchange), and Bernie Connolly (Cork Environmental Forum) at the launch of Boomerang Mattress Recycle Project.

Cork City and County Councils, SMILE Resource Exchange, Cork City Partnership, the Health Action Zone, as well as local community support groups.

Through reuse and recycling of mattresses and components, the initiative will help to divert waste which would otherwise be sent to landfill. The programme aims to reuse and recycle materials that make up a mattress – these typically include metal springs, wood and fabrics / fillers such as cotton, polyester, foam and horsehair. The project team are researching possibilities for production of geotextiles for automotive insulation, padded envelopes or as new mattress textiles.

The Boomerang initiative has benefitted by engaging with TUS Community Work Placement Initiative, through which six people have recently become actively involved in the project. The premises in Ballyvolane is now up and running, helped along with donations of furniture and equipment from funders and some local industry such as DePuy and Tus Geal.

The project organisers are pleased with the response from the retail sector and others, including New Furniture Store, All in One Interiors, Jackson Furniture, Square Deal, Vienna Woods Hotel and UCC.

For further information, please check Cork Environmental Forum's website www.cef.ie

Breakfast workshop at INHP Wexford September 2014



L-R: Breda Curran, Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly, Phil Walker, Econcertive; Maura Bell, INHP; Margaret Walsh, GIFT Project & WIT.

The Southern Region Waste Management Office (SRWMO) in collaboration with The Green Innovation and Future Technologies (GIFT) Interreg project and Business in The Community (BITC) Ireland successfully co-hosted a Breakfast Seminar titled:

Making the Most of Your Company's Green Credentials

on Thursday 25th September 2014 in The Irish National Heritage Park (INHP), Wexford.

Following an initial welcoming address by Margaret Walsh of the GIFT project, followed by a brief talk by Margaret Murphy of SRWMO, the audience had some active participation facilitated by Sinead Mitchell of BITC Ireland. Break-out groups discussed what Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is in actual terms. The general consensus afterwards was that businesses can class a lot more as CSR than initially thought.

Maura Bell, Manager of INHP, was one of the speakers - she described the green initiatives undertaken at the Park, such as installation of solar panels, promotion of biodiversity, energy and water efficiencies and waste prevention. INHP are now certified under the EcoMerit programme. Maura was presented with the Eco Merit Certificate by Phil Walker of Econcertive who spoke on resource efficiency best practices at the event.



Speaking at the Tralee workshop were: L-R: Colm Munnelly, Repak; Katherine Corkery, SMILE; Gerard Higgins, Antaris Consulting.

Tralee Breakfast Event at Manor West Hotel December 2014

As part of its EPA grant-aided GreenEnterprise project on CSR, the SRWMO hosted a business breakfast at the Manor West Hotel Tralee on Wednesday 3rd December 2014. The theme of the event was:

Business Resource Efficiency: making more with less and saving money.

Gerard Higgins, Antaris Consulting, described how resource efficiency can be part of CSR and how CSR applies to smaller businesses as well as to large multinationals.

Speakers included Conor Casey of Casey Technology who spoke on energy management and the funding that is available for enterprises who wish to improve energy efficiency.

As a practical case study, Michael Lynch of Aqua Design in Killorglin gave clear examples of how, in their laser and water jet cutting operation, they minimise waste e.g. reuse of packaging, or else segregate wastes into a valuable resource.



Speaking at the Tralee workshop were: L-R: Michael Lynch, Aqua Design Ltd, and Conor Casey, Casey Technology.

Colm Munnelly, Repak, gave many examples of how clients have improved packaging, such as getting rid of dead space while retaining all the protective properties and optimising storage and transport.

Katherine Corkery explained how the SMILE Resource Exchange (www.smileexchange.ie) facilitates companies to exchange items and materials that might otherwise have to be discarded - SMILE was recently launched nationally by An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny T.D.

The Wexford and Tralee workshops are part of the Southern Waste Region's GreenEnterprise project. **If you would like to avail of a free advisory site visit as part of this project, please contact Margaret Murphy, Tel 087 2427515, margaret.murphy@srwmo.ie.**

This project is grant-aided under the national GreenEnterprise programme which is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

Presentations from the project workshops are available on www.southernwasteregion.ie

Roadmap for Resource Efficiency

Industry could save €7 billion over 10 years through resource efficiency activities

Improving resource efficiency and resource productivity could yield savings of €7 billion for Irish businesses, an EPA-funded research study has found. Launching the report Dr. Jonathan Derham, EPA said,

"The EPA knows that resource efficiency works; last year alone businesses participating in EPA funded efficiency programmes identified an estimated €14 million of savings on utility costs, whilst improving productivity and reducing their environmental footprint"

The report, Roadmap for a National Resource Efficiency Plan for Ireland suggests that a target of just a two per cent reduction in material consumption spending per annum - achieved through resource efficient practices - would yield savings of about €928 million in the first year. Over an eight to ten year period, this could lead to a 25% improvement yielding a total saving of €7 billion.

Dr. Shane Colgan, EPA added,

"Ireland spends approximately €46 billion on raw materials per annum. Just like we aim to be energy efficient; carefully avoiding wastage means we can become 'resource efficient' - spending less while maintaining our standard of living."

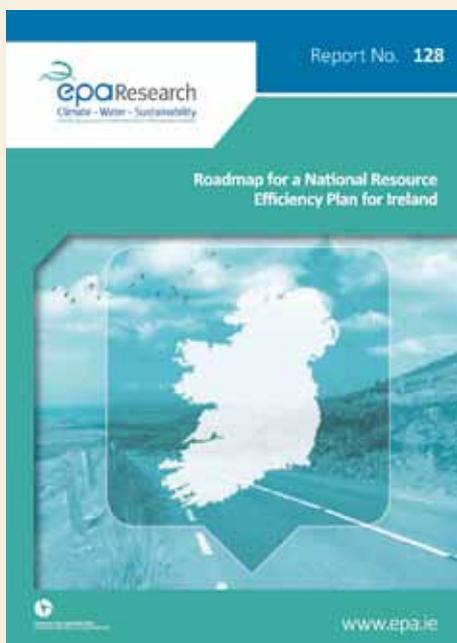
Commenting on the research, author Tadhg Coakley said,

"A range of resource efficiency related activities are taking place in Ireland, in a wide variety of sectors, by public sector and private groups...In many cases, for relatively modest investments, they are achieving significant cost savings in parallel with environmental benefits. However, Ireland can and should be doing more."

The full report is available on www.epa.ie

The research was commissioned under the EPA STRIVE Programme 2007-2013 and is based on research carried out by The Clean Technology Centre at Cork Institute of Technology between February 2012 and January 2013.

Source: EPA



SMILE National launch

An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny T.D., recently launched the extension of the SMILE Resource Exchange to all 26 counties. The national availability of this programme will help to facilitate more exchanges of items that might otherwise be sent for disposal. Pictured with Michelle Greene, SMILE; Sean O'Sullivan, South Cork Local Enterprise Office and Keiron Philips, EPA.

Further information is available on www.smileexchange.ie



Presentations from Green Business Seminars are now available online

The presentations from the series of Green Business workshops which were held in winter 2014 are now available on www.greenbusiness.ie

The theme of these workshops focused on resource efficiency in the food industry, but a lot of the content of the talks would also be of interest to other manufacturing and processing sectors.

Published by the Southern Region Waste Management Office

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