



eastern - midlands
waste region

Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Management Office

Waste Management Plan –Annual Report Update

Dublin City Council Environment SPC Report



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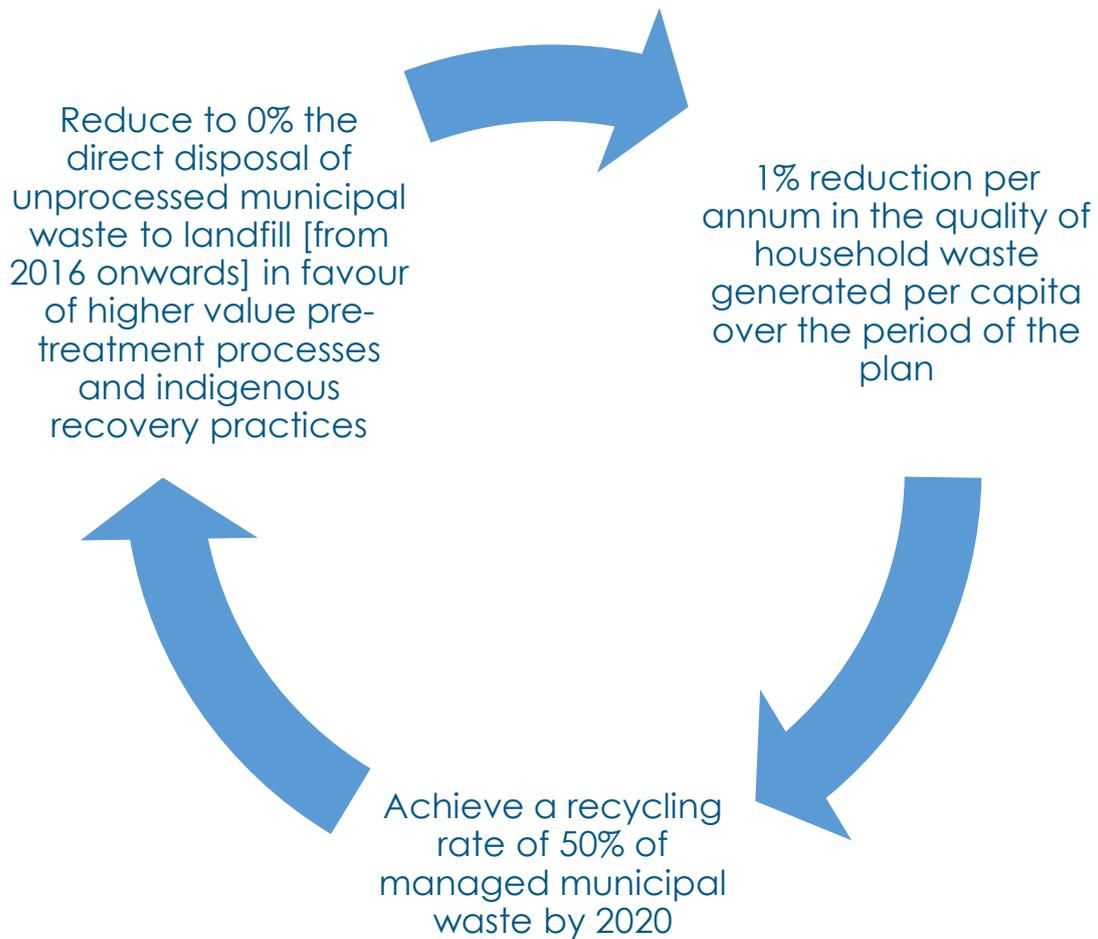
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Strategic Objectives



Policy Actions

- A. The region will implement EU and National waste and related environmental policy, legislation, guidance and codes of practice to improve management of material resource and wastes.
- B. Prioritise waste prevention through behavioural change activities to decouple economic growth and resource use.
- C. The region will encourage the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to enhance employment and increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources.
- D. Coordinate the activities of the regions and work with relevant stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of objectives.

- E. The region will promote sustainable waste management treatment in keeping with the waste hierarchy and the move towards a circular economy and greater self-sufficiency.
- F. The region implements a consistent and coordinated system for the regulation and enforcement of waste activities in cooperation with the other environmental regulators and enforcement bodies.
- G. Apply the relevant environmental and planning regulation to waste activities in order to protect the environment, in particular European sites, and human health against adverse impacts of waste generated.
- H. The region will establish policy measures for other waste streams not subject to EU and national waste management performance targets.

Protection
Policy, Regulation,
Resource
Co-ordination,
Prevention, Planning, Efficiency,
Legislation,
Circular
Infrastructure,
Economy,
Enforcement,

Introduction

This annual report covers the period from May 2016 to December 2017 to bring the reporting period into line with the calendar year.

Waste statistics contained in this annual report are from 2015, as these are the latest validated statistics available.

This reporting period has been active in terms of policy at EU, national and regional levels. The EU *Circular Economy Package* continues to gather steam while at a national level; government has taken decisive action on the removal of flat fees for household waste collection. At regional and local levels, the policy actions contained in the regional plans continue to be rolled out and progress is summarised in this report.

We would like to acknowledge the continued co-operation and assistance from our 12 constituent Local Authorities, Southern and Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Offices, Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities, The City and County Managers Association, Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment and indeed all our partners and stakeholders.

Current Developments

EU Circular Economy Package

The EU *Circular Economy Package* contains an *EU Action Plan* which includes measures to stimulate the transition to a circular economy. The action plan will contribute to “closing the loop” of product life cycles through recycling and reuse with associated environmental and economic benefits. The package contains new targets for recycling, reuse and landfilling practices in addition to proposed incentives for producers to support recycling and recovery.

The annex to the *EU Circular Economy Action Plan* refers to “the identification and dissemination of good practices in waste collection systems” amongst other issues.

Household Waste Collection

In 2017 the government announced a policy to discontinue the use of flat fees for household waste collection, and for this to be phased in as customer contracts are renewed between September 2017 and September 2018.

The discontinuation of flat fees enables service providers to price services in a way that incentivises customers to prevent waste and increase recycling. Customers have access to their waste data and can view the quantities of waste presented. The government has established a Price Monitoring Group, to monitor pricing throughout the implementation period and have agreed to an annual subvention payment to incontinence wear dependents.

Education and Awareness

A key component of the policy is the development and delivery of a comprehensive education and awareness campaign to support and compliment the policy objectives. The three Regional Waste Management Offices (RWMOs) have developed and delivered a campaign which is focused on the use of the brown bin, where appropriate, and the correct use of the recycling bin to increase quality and reduce contamination.

The RWMOs have maintained waste prevention initiatives in parallel with the campaign to reduce residual waste arisings.

Mixed Dry Recyclables

Until recently, recycling operators routinely exported recyclable materials to China. However, a ban implemented by China in 2017 now bars imports of 24 categories of solid waste, including certain types of plastics, paper and textiles. Recyclable waste has always been a tradable commodity, with its value dependent on the level of contamination. Operators have located alternative options in Europe and Asia with large fluctuations in commodity pricing.

Key Challenges

Waste management planning faces many challenges from a political, policy and operational perspective. The following are some of the key challenges for the next reporting period.

Brexit

Following the UK vote to leave the EU, the withdrawal date has been set for the 29th March 2019. There will be a 21-month transition period post the withdrawal date to enable business to adjust to the new landscape. Free movement will continue during the transition period. Following the withdrawal date EU waste law will no longer apply in the UK. This has implications for the transboundary shipment of waste as the export of waste for disposal outside of the EU is prohibited, as is the export of mixed municipal waste for recovery.

The export from the UK of other waste streams such as electrical, batteries, packaging and end of life vehicles for recovery, post withdrawal, is permitted, assuming that waste treatment is equivalent to that required by the relevant EU Directive.

There is still a lot of detail to be worked out and an all-Ireland civic dialogue on Brexit has commenced. Sector specific events, including waste, will be taking place in the coming months.

Plastics

The *EU Circular Economy Action Plan* legislative proposals secured political agreement in December 2017. The agreement includes ambitious long-term targets on recycling and reuse, as well as further restrictions on landfill. From a policy perspective, the EU Plastics Strategy aims to ensure the vibrancy of the plastics industry while protecting the planet from the impact of plastic waste. The Plastics Strategy sets a goal of ensuring that all plastic packaging is recyclable by 2030. Each member state will be required to develop proposals to meet this goal.

From an operational perspective, China announced in 2017 its intention to impose tighter waste import controls from 2018. While these controls extend to a range of materials, there has been a particular impact on the movement of mixed plastics due to the reduction in the level of contamination permitted. This has resulted in higher

costs to the collection industry, which are now being passed on to customers by way of specific charges for the contents of recycling bins.

The *Recycling List Ireland* campaign anticipated these developments and will continue to encourage improvement in the quality of recyclable material presented. During the reporting period, the Regional Waste Management Offices (RWMOs) also coordinated the delivery of the national Recycling Ambassadors Programme (RAP) to increase awareness about recycling practices.

Waste Capacity

Waste capacity (for treatment, recovery, disposal, and export), continues to be a challenge. While recovery capacity increased during the reporting period, with the commencement of the Dublin Waste to Energy (DWE) project, disposal capacity to landfill has decreased in the same period. The country continues to depend on the export market for the recovery of residual municipal waste. There are indications that increased recovery capacity will be provided by the cement manufacturing industry however this is likely to be offset by the closure of the East Galway Landfill.

In this scenario, export dependency will rise for the foreseeable future in the absence of any further major waste infrastructure developments.

Waste prevention is a key target of the Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMPs) and notwithstanding renewed economic growth; there are signs that prevention measures together with increased recycling and diversion are having an impact on the quantity of residual waste arising.

Participation

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) was requested by government in 2017 to carry out a study of the Household Waste Collection Market. The RWMOs made a submission to this process which again considered the issue of participation by households in kerbside collection systems. Current data indicates that 72% of households nationally are on kerbside systems, however the regional picture is varied with participation rates as low as 28% and as high as 99%.

There are a range of factors influencing participation including the availability of civic amenity sites, viability of certain routes, operational considerations, and illegal dumping.

The RWMPs support the primacy of kerbside waste collection while acknowledging the use of alternative waste management methods where required, for example in off-shore islands.

The three RWMOs have also commenced a study on the role, function and Financing of Local Authority Civic Amenity Sites, which will further inform the issue.

The standardisation of *Waste Presentation Bye-Laws* nationally, led by the RWMOs, will also help with participation rates.

Brown Bin

Data from the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) indicates that the roll out of brown bins to households is continuing in the prescribed areas, that is, agglomerations of populations greater than 500. While the roll out of the brown bin is critical to the achievement of diversion targets for biodegradable waste, the use of the brown bin by householders is of greater concern.

Preliminary market research carried out indicates that in some cases where households have been provided with a brown bin, there is a reticence or reluctance to utilise the bin as intended.

This is an education and awareness challenge and the RWMOs intend to conduct targeted brown bin awareness campaigns nationally.

Key Statistics 2015

Full set of metrics on www.emwr.ie

<i>Household Managed Waste - EMWR</i>	
Amount of household waste produced per person in the EMWR*	307 kg
Amount of waste produced per household in the EMWR*	873 kg
% of households availing of a collection service in the EMWR	82
% of households availing of a collection service in the EMWR that have 3 bins	50
Household WEEE collected for recovery per person in the EMWR	8.05 kg

<i>Household Managed Waste – National</i>	
Amount of household waste produced per person*	293 kg
Amount of waste produced per household*	806 kg
% of households availing of a collection service	72
% of households availing of a collection service that have 3 bins	47
Estimate of municipal waste generated	2.49 MT
Estimate of managed municipal waste recovered	78%

Projects

An important aspect of our work in the Regional Waste Management Office (RWMO) is to carry out information and education campaigns. This work is delivered via a range of projects, some of which are collaborations with stakeholders. This section gives an account of the projects with which the RWMO was involved during 2016 and 2017.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Some household chemicals used for cleaning, gardening and DIY are hazardous, and as such, are difficult and dangerous to handle and discard. Furthermore, accessing information about household hazardous waste and about alternatives to such materials can be a challenge for householders. The websites of all local authorities in the Region provide clear and accessible information on dealing with hazardous household wastes. Most of the Region's local civic amenity sites take household hazardous waste for a small fee. In addition to this, the Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) has funded Household Hazardous Waste Collections (HHWCs), which have been carried out by local authorities in the Region for the past few years.

During 2016 and 2017, a total of seven HHWC days took place in the Eastern-Midlands Waste Region (EMWR). In 2016, these were in Dun Laoghaire, Longford and Wicklow and in 2017, Dublin City, Meath and Louth (Drogheda and Dundalk). During 2017 the RWMO coordinated the programme nationally. Additionally, 2017 saw awareness-raising and education become more prominent aspects of the HHWCs. Booklets and recipes to encourage greener cleaning, gardening and DIY were distributed on the collection days.

In 2017, the HHWC events resulted in 68.9 tonnes of hazardous waste being gathered nationally, 19.8 tonnes of which was gathered in the EMWR.

Local Authority Prevention Network

The *Local Authority Prevention Network* (LAPN) is a cooperative programme under the *National Waste Prevention Programme* (NWPP) involving the RWMOs, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the local authorities. LAPN projects are funded by the EPA and designed and executed by the Environmental Awareness Officers (EAOs) in local authorities. The RWMO facilitates and administrates the LAPN programme in the Region.

The value of the programme lies in its potential for enacting waste prevention behavioural change at local level using both practical interventions and promotional activities.

In 2017, local authorities in the EMWR successfully bid for over €68,000 in funding for LAPN projects. This represented projects from eight of the twelve local authorities in the Region and included projects involving Green Schools, Tidy Towns committees, youth clubs, and local businesses. The LAPN projects carried out in the EMWR included

creative ways to support food waste prevention, resource efficiency promotion among local Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs), auditing the environmental impact of music festivals and greener gardening.



Reuse Month

Despite its relatively recent development, *Reuse Month* which runs during October every year has become an established fixture on Ireland's environmental calendar. The community-based initiative aims to promote reuse, repair and upcycling of materials to demonstrate more sustainable ways of dealing with waste, thus moving Ireland towards a Circular Economy model of production and consumer choices.

Reuse Month fosters behavioural and attitudinal change by encouraging people to pass it on, sell, repair, refurbish, repurpose and lend; all of which are ways that can extend the life of our possessions. Increased reuse in society will cut down on waste and excessive consumption. This in turn will help preserve natural resources and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

Reuse Month 2016, which was shortlisted for two Green Awards and for the National Recycling Awards, involved an array of community groups, reuse organisations, social enterprises and individuals all over Ireland. For 2017, the focus expanded to include local businesses, particularly local repair and repurposing expertise. This increased promotion of reuse is helping to shift Ireland towards a more economically sustainable society which will generate employment while conserving our planet. In the EMWR, over 100 *Reuse Month* activities took place during 2017. `

reuse month
fix - create - donate



National Campaigns

Recycling List Ireland Campaign

The national recycling awareness campaign, *Recycling List Ireland*, was initiated in September 2017. It represents collaboration between the DCCAE, the Irish Waste Management Association (IWMA), Repak and the Regional Waste Management Offices (RWMOs) to produce one official list of materials suitable for collection at kerbside in Ireland.

The campaign aims to reduce the levels of contamination in kerbside mixed dry recyclable collections, increase the quality of the material collected and empower citizens to feel connected and positive about their recycling behaviour.

A multidimensional approach has been adopted within the campaign strategy to deliver a clear message right across the nation, ensuring all sectors of the community are exposed to the campaign through radio, TV, print media, social media and out-of-house (OOH) material nationwide.

In addition, the campaign is supported by local workshops delivered through the *Recycling Ambassadors Programme (RAP)*.



Recycling Ambassador Programme

Officially launched by Minister Naughten on November 29th 2017 and running until December 2018, RAP is Ireland's first large scale community based social marketing project. The RAP is funded by the DCCAE, managed by the three RWMOs and delivered by environmental NGO, VOICE.

The RAP programme proposes to train citizens about current recycling practice and to become champions of that knowledge within their communities. The pool of community ambassadors hosts interactive recycling workshops for local groups and at local events. The workshops emphasise the correct presentation of recyclable materials in the green bin and the importance of avoiding contamination, as well as discouraging the use of single use and disposable items.

While RAP has a national target of directly engaging 15,000 people, it is anticipated that the reach of the project will be far wider as those attending the workshops will be incentivised to spread the word within their social circle and neighbourhood.



Back to Basics

Back to Basics was a central theme of the education/awareness programmes carried out by the three RWMOs in 2016/17. The theme design used a retro aesthetic to suggest a 'make-mend-do' mind set and purposely contrast with a disposable throwaway society. The Back to Basics theme stressed living well without using an excess of resources.



Green Christmas

The 2017 Green Christmas campaign reflected the *Recycling List Ireland* message. Unsurprisingly, Christmas is a peak time for waste. A sizable proportion of recyclable household waste is produced at this time of the year in the form of gift packaging, food packaging and so on. The *Recycling List Ireland* campaign was adapted for Christmas and highlighted materials commonly used during the festivities.



Brown Bin Campaign

In Ireland, over one million tonnes of food waste is disposed of each year. On average, households in Ireland throw away €700 worth of food each year. An estimated 60% of this food waste is entirely avoidable.

In 2017, the RWMOs launched a campaign to increase the usage of the food waste bin (brown bin). The messaging aimed to encourage householders to use the brown bin and to do so correctly.

To ensure impact, the style of the campaign was engagingly quirky and humorous. The messaging underscored ways for householders to avoid issues that concerned them about the brown bin, such as mess and odour.

BROWN* is the new BLACK!

* Ask your service provider if you are entitled to a brown bin

BACK to BASICS
connacht-ulster waste region | eastern-midlands waste region | southern waste region

#bk2basics
VISIT [bktobasic](#) ON FACEBOOK

ROLL UP! ROLL UP! GET YOUR BROWN BIN!*

THROW WASTE FOOD IN THE BROWN BIN & BE A WINNER!

* Ask your service provider if you are entitled to a brown bin

BACK to BASICS
connacht-ulster waste region | eastern-midlands waste region | southern waste region

#bk2basics
VISIT [bktobasic](#) ON FACEBOOK

USE THE BROWN Bin it's not pocket science

BACK to BASICS
connacht-ulster waste region | eastern-midlands waste region | southern waste region

#bk2basics
VISIT [bktobasic](#) ON FACEBOOK

Take the stress OUT OF THE MESS

Use a compostable bag*

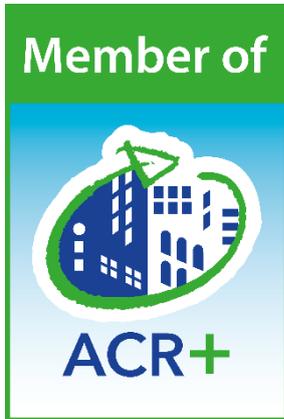
* Ask your service provider about the most appropriate liner

BACK to BASICS
connacht-ulster waste region | eastern-midlands waste region | southern waste region

#bk2basics
VISIT [bktobasic](#) ON FACEBOOK

Partnerships

ACR+



The Association of Cities and Regions for Sustainable Resource Management (ARC+), is an international network of almost 100 local and regional authorities working to promote sustainable consumption, waste recovery, reuse and waste prevention. As a member of the network in 2016 and 2017, the Regional Waste Management Office (RWMO) had access to webinars, seminars training and working groups as well as discussions on waste matters happening at European level, but pertinent to national and local level. In addition, much research from key players in sustainable resource-product-waste management is made available to ACR+ members.

Conscious Cup Campaign



The Conscious Cup Campaign (CCC) is Ireland's first national voluntary network inviting purveyors of hot and cold drinks to move away from the disposable cup. The campaign aims to reduce the enormous number of disposable coffee cups disposed of in Ireland each day by promoting the use of reusable coffee cups. The campaign targets both the consumer and the café through a slick social marketing strategy.

The CCC encourages cafés to agree to accept reusable cups and to offer incentives, such as a discount on the price of a beverage, extra loyalty card points or even a free treat, to customers who bring their own cups. As of September 2018, over 1000 cafes have signed up to the campaign.

The initiative takes its inspiration from similar projects all over the world. By tapping into an emerging global trend and using a distinctively branded network, it has created a

momentum in Ireland for reusable cups. The CCC is a partnership between the three RWMOs and VOICE and is supported by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE).



EcoMerit



The EcoMerit programme is a three-year environmental certification programme helping businesses and organisations to achieve measurable environmental and sustainability improvements. In making these improvements, companies generally find that they also realise significant financial savings. The programme offers a tailored, practical service facilitating companies with a range of activities including preparing an environmental policy, reviewing current water, energy and materials usage and waste management, drawing up an environmental plan and devising systems for more sustainable business operations.

The EcoMerit programme suits micro, small and medium sized companies across all sectors. The programme fee is heavily subsidised by the local authorities and is therefore offered to business at a significantly reduced rate. During the first year of certification alone, the average cost saving identified is approximately €8000 and to date, EcoMerit certificate holders have achieved an average annual improvement of 9% in their energy consumption.

The RWMO joined the EcoMerit steering group in 2016 and contributes funding to the programme on behalf of local authorities in the Eastern-Midlands Waste Region (EMWR). Other steering group members include the Southern Regional Waste Management Office (SRWMO), the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Office (CURWMO), Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council, Wexford County Council and EconCertive.

There are currently 91 EcoMerit certified sites across Ireland with 25 of these located in the EMWR.

European Week of Waste Reduction



The European Week of Waste Reduction (EWWR) is a European initiative designed to promote resource efficiency and reduce waste through awareness actions and activities at local level. It is aimed at a wide range of audiences including public authorities, businesses, organisations and citizens, encouraging them to organise awareness-raising events. Each year, EWWR takes place during one week in November and focuses on specific thematic areas of waste prevention. Communication tools tailored to both the thematic areas and the different audiences are developed and provided in downloadable multilingual versions on the EWWR website.

In 2017, the RWMO was delighted to become the national EWWR coordinator for Ireland, this position having been vacant for a number of years. As a result of the RWMO's involvement, the number of EWWR activities registered in Ireland rose dramatically to 18, with 16 of these taking place in the region. Activities included sustainability seminars, upcycling workshops and sessions about developing a greener wardrobe.

Free Trade Ireland



Free Trade Ireland (FTI) is an online platform that enables the free exchange of household items. By encouraging reuse amongst members of the public, FTI contributes to building a circular economy network in Ireland. Unlike online classified ad sales, all items placed on FTI are free. To date, over 120k items have been exchanged and reused through FTI. In addition to its resource exchange function, FTI fosters reuse through projects and promotion such as its popular annual Upcycle Challenge, run during Reuse Month 2016 and 2017.

The Rediscovery Centre



The Rediscovery Centre (RDC) is a creative space in the Dublin City area and an exemplary project in the development of the circular economy through resource efficiency and reuse. The RDC combines the expertise of scientists, designers, artists and craftspeople to innovate and create products from unwanted materials. The centre is also a hub of learning providing ecological education for schools and sustainability skills-building for local communities. The RDC houses four different social enterprise reuse projects specialising in furniture upcycling, textile redesign, paint reuse and bicycle refurbishing. The RDC also features an Eco Store that stocks reuse goods of all sorts and a social enterprise community café.

In 2017 a formal partnership between the RWMO and the RDC was forged with the Reuse Academy and the Community Paint Action Project. This Reuse Academy, which runs during 2017 and 2018, allows communities from throughout the region to

access workshops, skills training courses and educational tours of the RDC eco-building to demonstrate best practice building design, construction and operation. During 2017, a variety of groups from the EMWR have availed of the tours to learn about the innovative closed loop systems integrated into the RDC building, the RDC reuse projects and the role of social enterprise in local communities.

SMILE



SMILE Resource Exchange is a business-to-business platform that allows companies to connect and identify materials for exchange. The concept works on the basis that waste materials produced by one business may be useful (or a resource) to another business. The SMILE team combine technical, regulatory and business expertise to assist such exchanges while ensuring that the correct processes are followed.

Facilitating companies to donate, locate and exchange materials in this way prevents waste, reduces disposal costs and brings cash savings for companies. In addition, business-to-business material exchanges are crucial to creating a circular economy versus a linear 'take-use-discard' economy model.

The RWMO is delighted to be a SMILE partner, enabling SMILE to offer advice regarding materials exchange to companies based in the EMWR. Between 2016 and 2017, SMILE facilitated 155 synergies nationally translating into a saving of almost €2.5 million and amounting to a diversion of over 15.5k tonnes of materials from being discarded.

Infrastructure Planning

Dublin Waste to Energy Plant-Covanta



The DWE project is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) between Dublin City Council (acting on behalf of the four Dublin Local Authorities) and Covanta, who provide waste and energy solutions, to provide a sustainable treatment of waste that cannot be reused or recycled. The waste to energy plant was commissioned in early 2017 and accepted 270,000 tonnes of waste in 2017. In 2018 the plant has the capacity to accept 600,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) and this will help to divert waste away from landfill disposal to a recovery option.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Capacity 2017

MSW processing options were not as restricted in 2017 with the commencement of the DWE Plant which alleviated some of the pressure on processing options that were evident in 2016. Figure 1 shows the various options for processing MSW in 2017. Processing of MSW at Waste



to Energy plants in Ireland is now at 37% and when this is added to MSW processed in cement kilns, it indicates that almost 50% of MSW is thermally treated in Ireland. We remain reliant on export for processing of 37% of the MSW generated. Pre-treatment before export of MSW has the added issue that it generates organic fines which have to be stabilised and outlets for stabilised fines were quite restricted in 2017. MSW waste arisings will continue to grow in 2018, 2019 and 2020 and this will put pressure on processing options going forward.

Construction and Demolition Waste Capacity 2017

Volume output in the construction sector grew by 16.3% in 2017. As a result, there was a correlated growth in construction and demolition waste generated in 2017 which amounted to 5.2 million tonnes. This growth put pressure on the processing options for construction and demolition (C&D) waste. As a consequence, the EPA prioritised applications for inert soil and stone recovery facilities and an additional 1.4MT was licensed during 2017. Non-haz-non-inert C&D waste has very few processing options in Ireland and is mainly restricted to disposal at lined landfills which brings the added pressure of this waste stream using void space that otherwise might be available for MSW disposal. Export options were secured for this waste in 2017 with 50,000 tonnes of soil exported and the trend is set to continue as a necessary option in 2018.



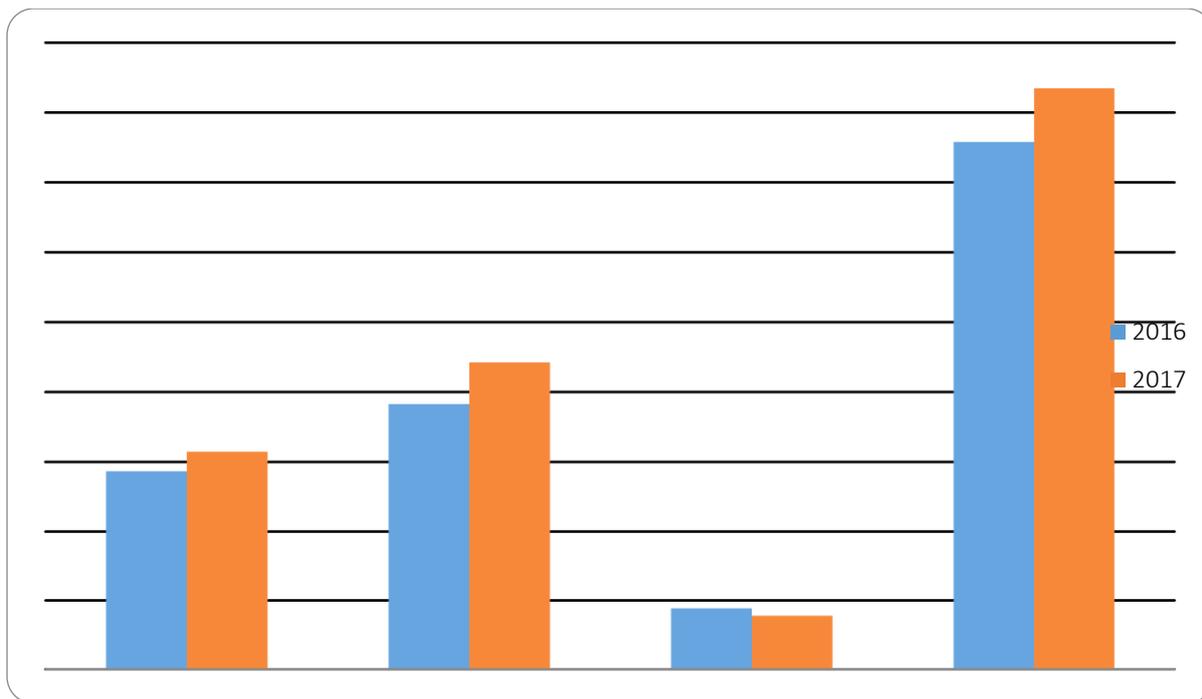
Protection

Enforcement and Regulation

The role of the Eastern-Midlands Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA), established in October 2015, is to drive effective and consistent waste enforcement across the Eastern-Midlands Waste Region (EMWR). The WERLA co-ordinated a programme of work for 2017 to align with the national waste enforcement priorities set by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) and relevant policy actions under Strategic Objective F of the Regional Waste Management Plan (RWMP). This work plan formed a core focus of the waste enforcement plans prepared by the individual local authorities within the region, in accordance with Recommendation 2001/331/EC for the Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) adopted by the European parliament and the Council.

16,692 waste related inspections were carried out across the EMWR in 2017. The figure below presents a breakdown of inspection activities for 2017. This illustrates an increase on the number of inspections carried out across the region compared to 2016.

Data for Enforcement graph	2016	2017
Completed non-routine waste inspections	5730	6289
Completed routine waste inspections (exc. Routine litter patrols/investigations)	7656	8848
Completed routine producer responsibility inspections	1770	1555
Total completed waste inspections (exc. Routine litter patrols/investigations)	15156	16692



Historic Landfills

There are a total of 155 sites in the EMWR on the Section 22 register. Building on the roadmap developed by the Regional Waste Management Offices (RWMOs) in 2015/16, additional funding was made available by the DCCAE in 2017 and the site investigation and risk assessment work was expanded to eleven sites in the EMWR (from three in 2016). These were selected in consultation with the local authorities, and in accordance with the roadmap, which ranks the sites according to risk. The risk assessment work for these higher risk sites was progressed in 2017. By the end of 2017, eleven sites in the EMWR had lodged Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) applications with the EPA. The DCCAE is providing funding in 2018, to progress the remediation of selected sites, and further funding is being made available to progress the site investigation and risk assessment work, in order to bring more sites to the remediation stage.

Tyres Clean-up Programme

Waste tyres have been a national focus in recent times and in 2017, the government launched a programme to fund the clean-up of illegally dumped waste tyres, which have been a growing blight on the countryside for some time. This was led by the three RWMOs, on behalf of the local authorities. Sites for clean-up were selected in consultation with the local authorities. In the EMWR, a total of fifteen sites, giving rise to approximately 138,000 tyres, were cleared. Tyres remain a national waste enforcement priority in 2018, following the introduction in October 2017, of the Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyres) Regulations 2017.

Siting Guidelines

A draft set of siting guidelines produced by the three RWMOs was circulated for consultation during 2017 and discussions were held with the DCCAE, as well as the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG). The guidelines aim to prompt a formal and consistent approach to siting waste facilities, so that the optimum location is chosen to afford the best protection to the environment, community and human health. The guidelines are expected to be introduced in 2018.

ENDS.