



TAKING STOCK

The OEE Report into the Nature & Extent of Unauthorised Waste Activity in Ireland was published in September 2005 and set out an Action Plan to deal with unauthorised waste activity in Ireland under nine main headings. Page 2 of this newsletter presents an assessment of the progress made under each heading.

The range of measures implemented on unauthorised waste have dealt with many of the challenges identified at the end of 2005. It is now the case, for example, that the large scale illegal shipment of waste to Northern Ireland is no longer occurring. The "Dump the Dumpers" line has shown that while fly-tipping and burning of waste are significant issues, large scale dumping is not. The Enforcement Network on Unauthorised Waste Activities has matured and there is now a large body of trained personnel dealing more effectively with waste enforcement issues than heretofore. The following remain significant issues which require ongoing effort;

- The management of construction and demolition wastes
- Fly-tipping and backyard burning of waste
- Operation of Waste Facilities without the requisite authorisation
- Dealing with approximately 20 illegal sites in Northern Ireland containing waste originating in the Republic of Ireland

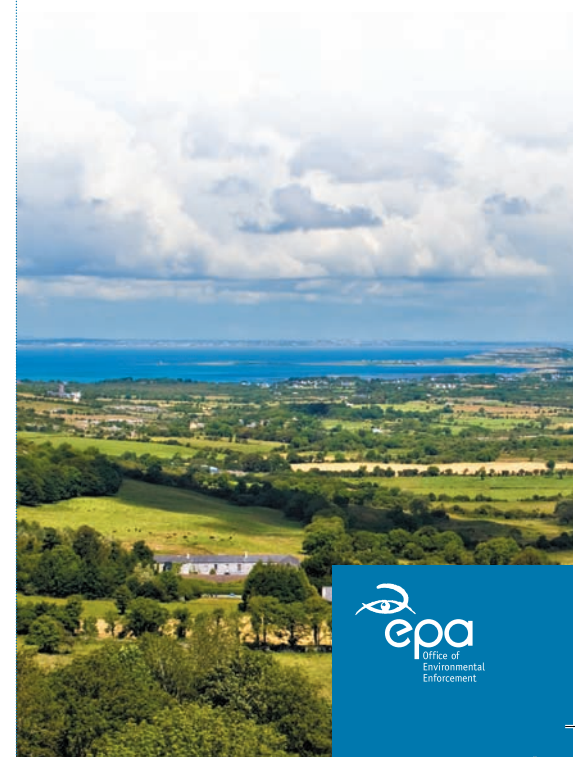
In addition, new challenges have emerged which need to be addressed in a comprehensive manner. These include;

- Odour nuisance from waste facilities
- Waste treatment and mis-classification

This report contains summary details on enforcement work undertaken by Enforcement Network members in 2006. In addition, a number of specific case studies illustrate the types of enforcement actions underway in Ireland to tackle illegal waste activities. These actions will continue to evolve to meet the challenge of improving compliance and enforcement of National & European Waste legislation.

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	Summary of Measures Recommended	Update on Progress Made
Illegal Disposal of Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Code of Practice (COP) on Risk Assessment Gather information via a national information line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COP issued in April 2007 "Dump the Dumpers" line established June 2006.
Illegal Movement of Waste to Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise concerted enforcement actions Pursue on indictment those involved in illegal movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of actions implemented (TFS inspections, roadblocks, cradle to grave exercises) 3 separate Criminal investigations underway with one file sent to DPP
Illegal Movement of Waste to Europe and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review system for implementation of TFS Regulation in Ireland Raise the level and consistency of TFS inspections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFS responsibility consolidated in one competent authority Successful participation in IMPEL TFS projects and use of Enforcement Network Working Group Book of evidence served on TFS of waste
Poor management of C&D Wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider placing on a statutory footing the draft guidelines for C&D waste management Sufficient outlets for C&D wastes to be planned for through the waste management planning process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many Local Authorities now require Waste Management Plans for large developments
Unauthorised Collection & Fly-tipping of Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run media campaign on the issue Increased roadside inspections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Man in the Van" campaign Multi-Agency roadblocks now a regular occurrence
Inconsistent Enforcement of Waste Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste enforcement staff should complete waste enforcement skills course Inspection plans to be developed and implemented at local and regional level Sharing of information amongst all relevant authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 240 staff trained in inspection & enforcement skills RMCEI Plans prepared by all Local Authorities in 2006 Through Enforcement Network, Regional Enforcement Plans in place for all regions in 2006 & 2007
Backyard Burning of Household Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make burning of household waste an offence Characterise extent of uncollected household waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations expected by end of 2007 A number of LA have conducted surveys and awareness campaigns are underway
Historic Disposal of Waste (pre 1996)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Code of Practice (COP) on Risk Assessment Identification of sites used for historic disposal of waste and compliance with S22 & S26 of WMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COP issued in April 2007 Web based system for Section 22 & 26 registers rolled out by EPA in 2007 Regulations expected by end of 2007 to deal with inventorying and regulation of "old sites"
Operation of Unauthorised Transfer Stations and Waste Processing Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero tolerance approach to be adopted to waste facilities operating without authorization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Court Injunctions under S57 and S58 of WMA have been taken to shut down illegal operators

UNAUTHORISED WASTE ACTIVITIES (UWA) - THE BEGINNINGS

The UWA Working Group set up in July 2004 to tackle unauthorised disposal of waste. The first meeting of the working group took place in September 2004. The working group pools the combined skills of the local authorities, the EPA, government departments, An Garda Síochána, the National Bureau of Criminal Investigations, and the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland in order to identify the key elements of illegal waste activities and to work together towards better enforcement in this area.

The terms of reference for the UWA Working Group in 2004 included:

- Focus on controlling flow of waste into Northern Ireland and then extending focus to include domestic UWA.
- Take actions needed to tackle illegal cross-border movement of waste.

- Take enforcement actions against companies and individuals involved in the illegal movement of waste into Northern Ireland.
- Take actions necessary to bring a halt to unauthorised waste activity within the Republic of Ireland.
- Take enforcement actions against companies and individuals involved in the illegal movement and disposal of waste in the Republic of Ireland.

Outputs from the group include:

- Concerted actions amongst regulatory authorities featuring roadblocks etc.
- Implementation of National UWA action plan via targeted regional waste enforcement plans.
- A media spotlight on UWA activities.
- Specialised training provided during 2005 for LA waste enforcement staff on the detection, investigation and enforcement of unauthorised waste activities.

- Extensive guidance developed and published in EEN manual.

In April 2006 the third environmental enforcement network waste conference took place. The conference focussed on: introducing key Garda personnel to the primary concepts of waste management legislation; to detail the main issues in illegal waste activities in Ireland today and set out the Action Plan for tackling them; to initiate a network between Gardaí and Local Authority officers and to introduce the Waste Information Line (24hr confidential phone line for gathering information on illegal waste activities).

The fourth environmental enforcement network waste conference will take place in Wexford in October 2007. The focus of this conference will be on "Waste Enforcement - Practice & Implementation."

All outputs from the UWA Working Group are disseminated through the enforcement network extranet.

THE ILLEGAL DUMPING LINE - ONE YEAR ON

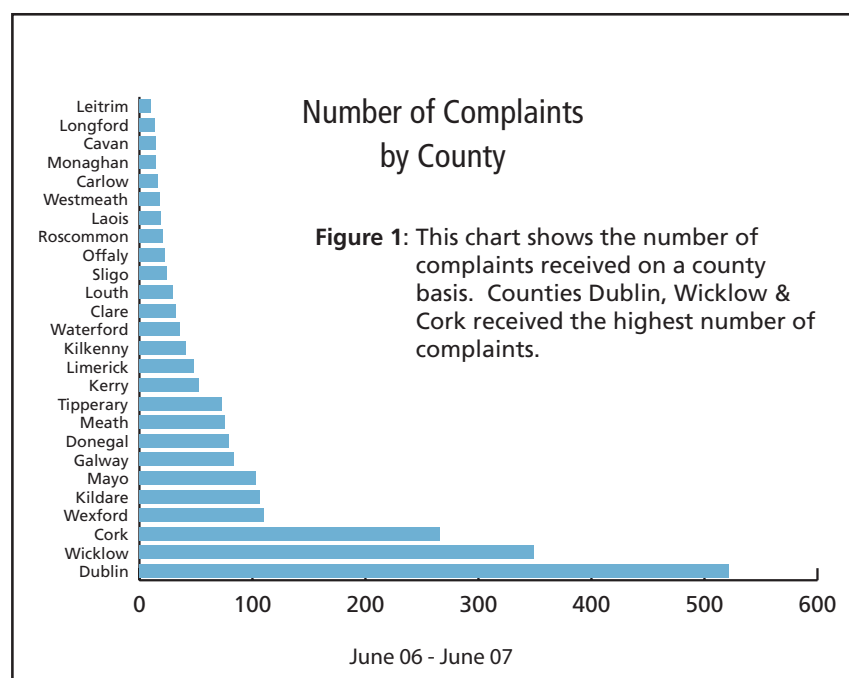
- The "Dump the Dumpers" line was set up to encourage reporting of illegal dumping of waste or of abandoned illegal dumps via a 24 hour call save telephone number - 1850 365 121. Information is followed up and checked by the enforcement authorities - local authorities, the EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement and the Gardaí

- through the Environmental Enforcement Network.

- The Illegal Dumping Line was launched in June 2006.
- The "Dump the Dumpers" phone line is staffed on a 24-hour basis so callers get to speak to a trained operator who elicits all necessary

details to enable the matter to be investigated.

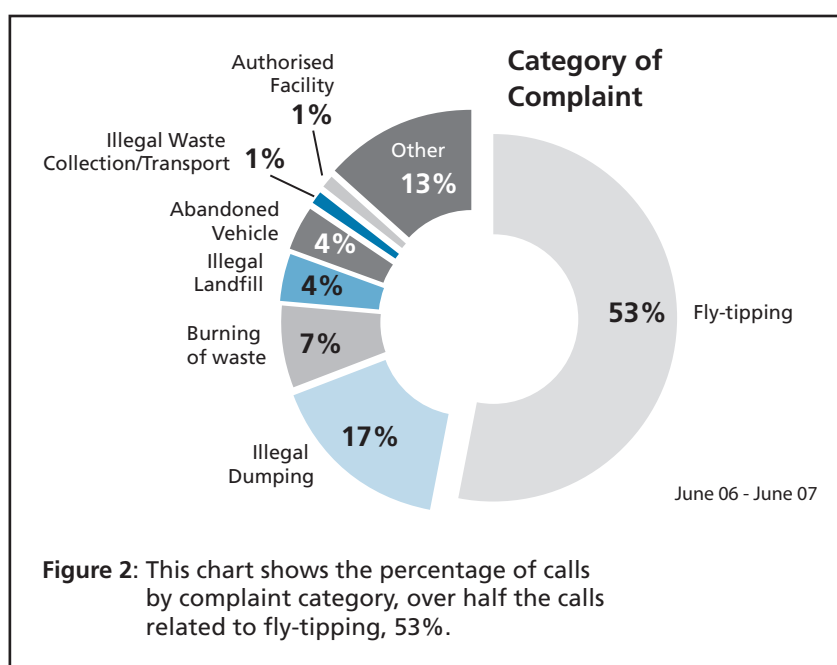
- While information can be provided anonymously, callers are encouraged to leave contact details so that clarification can be sought if necessary and so that feedback can be provided to the caller if requested.



- Serious incidents of illegal dumping are reported immediately to the Gardaí and the relevant local authority so that activities can be investigated as appropriate. These include, for example, the contents of a 40-foot trailer being dumped or the dumping of diesel laundering waste.
- A review of the operation of the service has indicated that 70% of calls are resolved. Approximately 75% of calls received to date relate to incidents of fly tipping and burning of waste.
- In the twelve months since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched its "Dump the Dumpers" phone line on the 28th June, 2006,

Dublin has received 522 complaints which puts it in the top three along with Wicklow (349) and Cork (266). The total number of calls received was 2184.

- Fly-tipping is the most common issue reported with illegal dumping and the burning of waste there after.
- The success of the "Dump the Dumpers" phone line shows that members of the public are willing to get involved in resolving environmental problems.
- This phone line complements and builds on existing local authority litter hotlines and offers the public a single point of contact to report information about the more serious incidents of illegal dumping of waste, both past and present.



COMMUNICATIONS

The OEE organises meetings, seminars and conferences for the Network and provides secretarial support.

Communications within the network occurs via working groups; specialist network groups; seminars; National Conferences on Waste and Water; the extranet; and newsletters to communicate the activities of the network to interested parties outside the network. 5000 copies of the newsletter were in distribution last year.

Direct communication also occurs through correspondence with County Managers and Directors of Services.

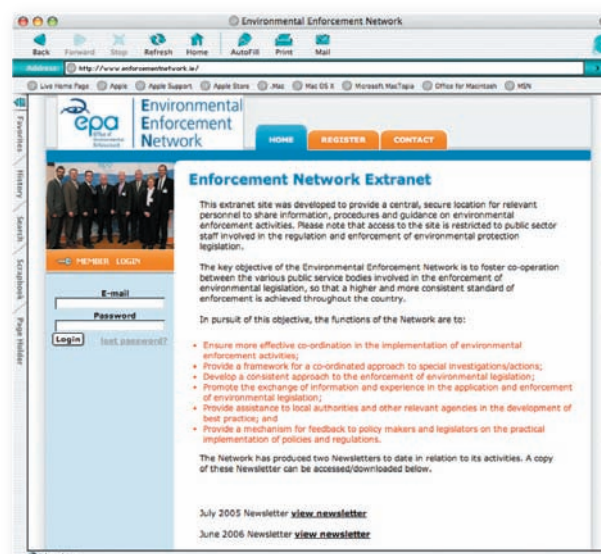
The Extranet (www.enforcementnetwork.ie)

The extranet has been developed to facilitate co-operation between the various agencies involved in enforcement of environmental legislation by providing a shared work area for exchange of information and experience in the implementation, application and enforcement of environmental legislation. The extranet is only open to the public sector staff involved in the regulation and enforcement of environmental protection legislation.

The site also hosts a calendar of events, which shows details of all planned meetings and conferences for the year. Contact details for all members of the network are also available on the site and are

updated regularly. The extranet has contact details for over 1000 members and the number of active users is increasing steadily. Agendas, minutes and presentations from all enforcement network events are posted on the extranet.

Reminder: If you are currently not registered on the EEN Extranet or do not hold a copy of the EEN Guidance Manual, please contact Shirley Murphy on Tel: 053 9160600 or email: S.Murphy@epa.ie.



HELICOPTER SURVEY IDENTIFIES 60 ILLEGAL CAR SCRAPYARDS IN CORK COUNTY



Unauthorised car scrapyards are a priority area for the Enforcement Network.

Waste enforcement staff at Cork County Council felt that an extensive and systematic survey of the county was required to identify unauthorised facilities in their functional area. Traditional vehicle patrols were felt to be inadequate due to the varying topography and size (7,459Km²) of the county. The proposed solution: an aerial survey by helicopter.

The Operation:

Following a review of all available information, waste complaints received, interviews with Area Engineers and local knowledge the operation was planned and coordinated by Authorised officers of Cork County Council - Pio Treacy and Colman Kelly.

The operation began on 22nd November 2006 and was conducted over a number of months and involved a number of helicopter flights of approximately 4 hours per day. The helicopter survey of the county was systematic: first sweeping east west and then sweeping north south. The aerial survey was conducted in the winter months as the lack of tree foliage allowed increased visibility. Colman Kelly summed up the operation by saying, "These sites were invisible from the road, but they were clearly visible from the air".

The results from this survey were significant: 77 vehicle dismantling/metal recovery facilities were identified and their locations mapped. 60 of these were unauthorised with 17 holding the requisite waste permits. Having identified the sites from the air, the Waste Team was able to implement their enforcement plan, allowing for efficient use of time and resources.



All 60 operators were subsequently identified, the sites were visited/ inspected and a database created.

Appropriate enforcement action was then initiated in respect of each site.

The Results so far:

Of the 60 unauthorised sites:

- 15 have closed down (25%), the EoLV's were removed and receipts for disposal provided to the Waste team.
- 9 are in the process of closing down (15%) and are being closely monitored by the Council.
- 9 have applied or are in the process of regularising their situation (15%).

Of the 27 remaining facilities a second follow up visit/inspection by the waste enforcement officers was carried out. These inspections found that 50% of the remaining facilities are now in the process of complying with the council's directions.

Appropriate action under Waste Management Legislation is being considered in respect of the remaining 13/14 sites.

Although the costs of renting the helicopter were high, Cork County Council feel that the operation was successful and Cork County Council intend to include the costs of the helicopter hire in any future court actions.

Cork County Council's novel approach to intelligence gathering resulting in the identification of 60 unauthorised facilities with enforcement already leading to the closure of 15 unauthorised scrap yards. The remaining 45 facilities are at various stages of compliance with legal requirements.

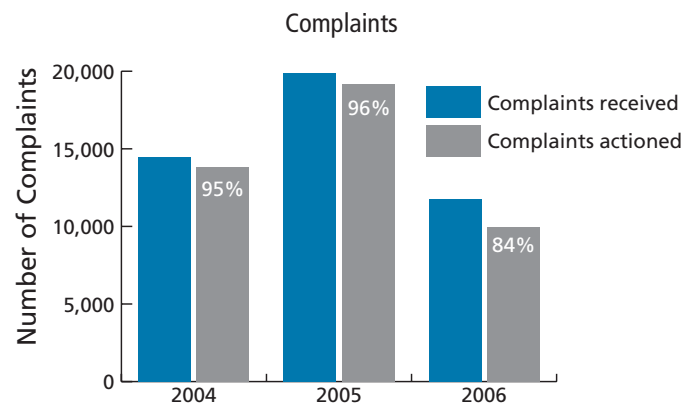
KEY STATISTICS

Enforcement network activities contribute to an improved systematic approach to enforcement. These management system activities include planning inspections via the Recommendation for Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI); implementing a national approach to dealing with complaints; and monitoring statutory responsibilities with the aid of the Local Authority Management System (LAMS). These systems have aided the compilation of the key statistics which are outlined below.

Of the reported 317 local authority staff working in environmental enforcement in 2006, 190 comprise technical staff and 127 comprise support staff. It should be noted that costs recovered in court are not included in the "Fines" total.

Local Authority Summary Information on Enforcement

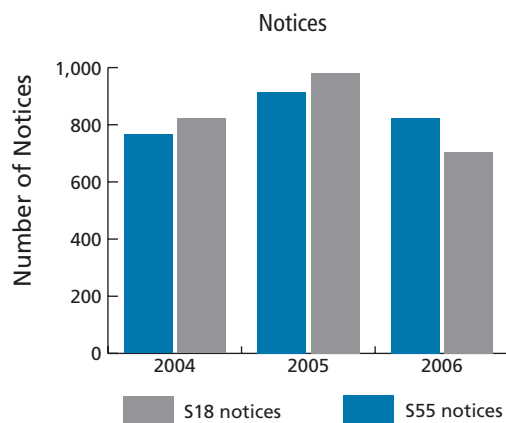
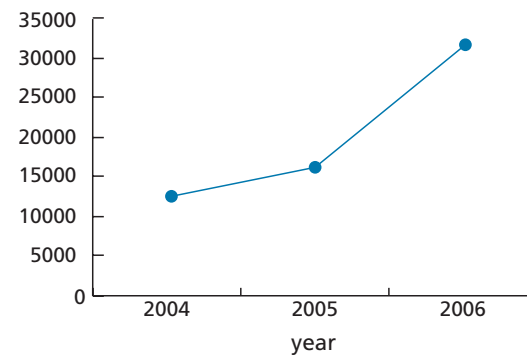
Staff	317
Waste related inspections	32,048
Budget	€10,290,672
Convictions	350
Fines	€91,170



Large numbers of waste complaints are received each year by local authorities. Almost 12,000 complaints were received in 2006. While there may appear to be a drop from the 20,000 complaints reported in 2005 it is worth noting that one third of local authorities did not report figures for 2006. The level of action taken by local authorities is high, 96% of complaints in 2005 were actioned and in 2006 84% of complaints were resolved.

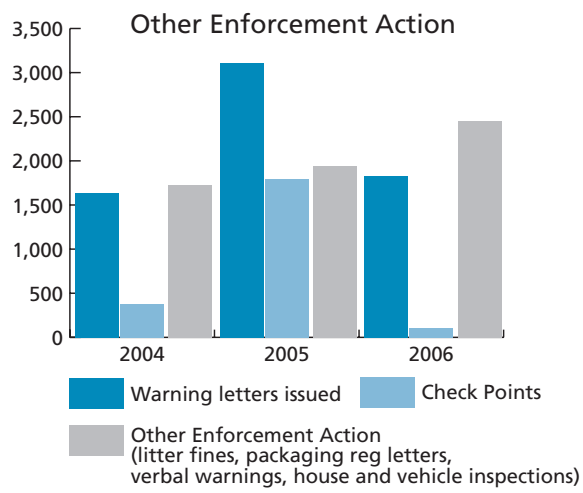
The period between 2005 and 2006 has seen a doubling of waste related inspections completed. These include inspections of permitted facilities and waste collection permit holders, packaging waste, WEEE, Farm Plastics, Plastic Bags and TFS inspections. The period has seen a notable increase in litter inspections and inspections of unauthorised sites. Inspections by type have not been specifically reported on in the past and therefore direct comparisons on inspection type are not always possible.

Total number of Waste Related Inspections



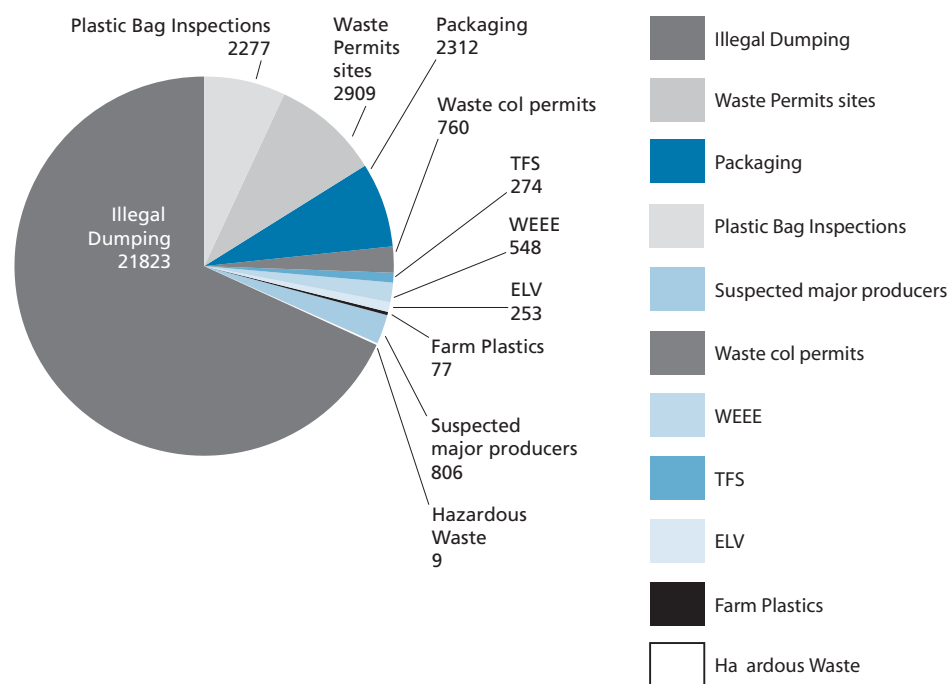
The numbers of Section 18 and Section 55 notices remains almost constant but there is some suggestion that numbers are dropping, with a greater emphasis on the use of section 55 notices.

It is notable that in 2004 only prosecutions under Section 32 (184) and Section 34 (47) were reported while in 2005 and 2006 prosecutions under all main sections were reported. Numbers of prosecutions under Section 32 have dropped significantly, while the number of prosecutions under Section 55 and Section 39 are increasing.



Local authorities also use other enforcement tools in their enforcement work. There is no particular trend in the use of such tools. However, warning letters, checkpoints, litter fines, verbal warnings and house and vehicle inspections are widely used by local authority staff in carrying out their enforcement role.

Waste Inspections types 2006 - total 32,048



CRADLE-TO-GRAVE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

A number of cradle-to-grave enforcement actions were carried out in relation to operators who hold consents for transfrontier shipment of waste (mixed recyclables) from the Republic of Ireland (RoI) to Northern Ireland (NI). These enforcement actions were cooperative actions involving the Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE), National Bureau of Criminal Investigation (NBCI), a number of Local Authorities and the Northern Ireland Environment and Heritage Service (EHS). In one case, a shipment of waste was placed under surveillance from source in the RoI to destination in NI where it was sorted through and inspected in detail. This shipment was found to be in-compliance with the consent. In the second case, a number of non-compliances with the consent were identified during an audit at



source in the RoI. The operator admitted the non-compliances, explained the causes and committed to future compliance. Prosecution was not considered appropriate given the nature of the offences and that no environmental pollution was caused. A warning letter was issued to the operator.

These cradle-to-grave type enforcement actions are considered a critical part of the enforcement of transfrontier shipments of waste between RoI and NI. They are a rigorous method of assessment and, in addition, send an important cautionary signal to operators. Further actions are scheduled for the second half of 2007, targeted in particular at operators suspected of operating without any transfrontier shipment consent.

PROSECUTION ON INDICTMENT

Cork County Council investigated unauthorised disposal of household waste on lands at Meentiny West, Rockchapel, Co. Cork.

With the assistance of Gardai, the site was placed under surveillance and night-time illegal activities were observed. Individuals were detected disposing of a lorry load of domestic refuse under the cover of night. Statements were taken by the Gardai and a number of vehicles were impounded. Subsequent investigations identified 4 defendants and a number of offences in 3 sites.

The offences were:

- Section 34(1) – Collecting waste without a permit.

- Section 32(1) – holding, transporting, disposing of waste in a manner causing pollution.

- Section 39(1) – disposing of waste save in accordance with a waste licence.

A District Court prosecution was initiated but the case was refused jurisdiction and ultimately handled on indictment by the DPP. Judge Moran imposed a three year suspended sentence on Paul Kealy of Banteer Co. Cork and a one year suspended sentence on the land owner John Casey of Rockchapel Co. Cork. In addition a €1000 fine was imposed on Kealy's Wheelies Ltd. of Banteer Co. Cork.

PROBLEM AND SOLUTION: THE MAN IN A VAN

2 case studies (1 rural and 1 urban) into enforcement activities by Local Authorities on illegal waste collectors.

Case Study 1: Kerry County Council



Monitoring of a fly-tipping black spot resulted in a successful prosecution for unauthorised waste collection in the Listowel area.

Evidence by examination of waste deposited on an area of bogland by Kerry County Council litter wardens identified 8 members of a local family. The Council issued litter fines to the family. A spokeswoman for the family subsequently contacted Kerry County Council about the fines. The Council's Litter Warden Ellen Daly interviewed the family who were able to identify the unauthorised waste collector. In November 2005 a house clear-out had been carried out in preparation for Christmas. A neighbour had offered to take the rubbish, which comprised of 7 black refuse sacks to the local landfill for a fee. Instead of going to the landfill the bags were dumped in an area of bogland nearby, where it was discovered by Kerry County Council's waste enforcement team.

The family agreed to make a formal statement to Kerry County Council about their neighbour's involvement in the fly tipping and agreed to be a witness for the prosecution. Due to cooperation Kerry County Council agreed to drop the litter fines.

Prosecution against the fly-tipper was initiated on the 25th September 2006. The case was heard on the 28th November 2006 and the defendant pleaded guilty to the charge. Judge O' Halloran convicted the fly-tipper under the Waste Management Acts 1996-2005, for dumping the waste illegally and not holding a valid Waste Collection Permit from Kerry County Council. The fly-tipper was fined €120 and had costs of €300 awarded against him.

Case Study 2: Waterford City Council



An Environmental Enforcement Technician in Waterford City Council noted that there were a number of advertisements appearing in local media

offering waste collection services. It was decided to crack down on these illegal operators. Instead of the traditional reactive approach of finding illegally dumped waste and trying to identify the owners, Waterford City Council decided on a more proactive strategy of actually contacting and confronting the operators.

The original operation was run in May 2006. The Enforcement Team trawled through newspapers and newsletters and collected the numbers of 10 individuals offering waste collection services. It was decided to contact these operators over a 2-week period. Operating in a team of two officers, they would acquire a house for a day from the Waterford City Council Housing Department. The team would telephone the illegal operator and inform them that they had waste to be collected. Litter Warden Paul Flynn explained the operation, "We would get the illegal operator to commit themselves, we would inform them that we had a mattress, a sideboard and several black bags of rubbish and they would agree to a price". Once a price was agreed on the Waste Team would wait for the illegal operator to arrive. When the illegal operator arrived to collect the rubbish the Waste Team would identify themselves as Authorised Persons under the Waste Management Acts. They would show the illegal operator the relevant legislation, inform him of their powers under the Acts, caution him and issue him with a formal verbal warning and a written warning. This was followed up with a warning letter by post. These warnings were given on legal advice; action could not be taken on the day as this would have been entrapment. In order to prevent the illegal operators warning each other several different houses were used in the "sting" over the 2-week period to maintain the element of surprise.

The immediate result of this action was a reduction in the number of illegal operators advertising in the media. It is intended to use this as an ongoing enforcement tactic; a second round of inspections will take place this Autumn.

Waterford City Council's Waste Team has achieved the following benefits from this action:

- Educational: informing the operators that they were illegal;
- Increased visibility of the Waste Enforcement Team: illegal operators are now aware that Waterford City Council is serious about enforcement of environmental legislation;
- Useful intelligence gathering operation: the Waste Team has been able to identify many of the different operators and their vehicles operating within their functional area and is now conducting surveillance against them.

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL USES CCTV TO CRACK DOWN ON FLYTIPPING

A pilot scheme run by Wexford County Council using and comparing 2 different types of CCTV to monitoring illegal waste activities at bottlebanks is yielding some interesting results.

The Operation:



Wexford County Council hired 2 cameras from a surveillance company. The surveillance company offers a 24-hour monitoring service and every week it sends a DVD

to the Environment Section with all the potential evidence recorded by its cameras. Wexford County Council decided on 2 different types of camera in order to conduct its campaign:

- The first camera was a fixed hidden CCTV located in an elevated position over the bottle bank.
- The second camera was a mobile camera positioned in an unmarked van that would be parked at the bottlebank.



Officer Hugh Maguire explained that Wexford County Council decided to use a 3-scaled approach to deal with offenders at the bottlebanks:

1. Persons leaving empty bags/boxes at the bottlebank, were issued with a warning letter;
2. Persons leaving bags/boxes of bottles un-emptied at the bottlebank were issued with a litter fine of €125;
3. If a person dumped household waste at the bottlebank, then they would not be issued with a litter fine, but instead the Council would look for a prosecution in Court.

Results:

In the 8 months that this pilot has run the results are as follows:

- Over €20,000 in litter fines paid.
- Litter fines issued with CCTV evidence have a higher payment record than other fines. One case is in court for the dumping household waste at a bring bank.
- Noticeable reduction in littering at bottlebanks that have or had CCTV.
- The picture resolution is of a high enough quality that in some instances Wexford County Council has been able to identify and issue litter fines to individuals without requiring supporting evidence such as photographing car licence plate numbers.

BACKYARD BURNER CAUGHT IN CO. CLARE

Fast reactions by officers working for Ennis Town Council resulted in the prosecution of a backyard burning.

Several complaints received from neighbours highlighted the issue of a back yard burner in a housing estate in Ennis, Co. Clare. The estate manager Oliver McLoughlin of the Ennis Town Council noticed smoke coming from the residence at 11.45am on the 28th March 2006. Mr McLoughlin stopped his vehicle and approached the rear of the house. He personally saw rubbish being burnt by the householder in a 45-gallon drum. Mr. McLoughlin

immediately phoned the local litter warden Mr. David Egan who took photographs of the illegal burning.

Clare County Council, along with Ennis Town Council prosecuted the householder under Section 32 of the Waste Management Acts 1996-2005.

The offender was brought to court on 28th September 2006 and the defendant was found guilty, fined €100 and costs of €580 were awarded to Clare County Council.

GRANNYFERRY - COLLECTION OF LANDFILL LEVY

Unauthorised landfilling activity at Grannyferry was brought to the attention of the Council in 1999. Due to the nature of the material involved (mainly soil and subsoil) the Council's assessment at the time was that there was no significant environmental risk from the activity.

Following further complaints, the matter was pursued again by the Council in 2002. The Council served a Section 18 notice on the owner seeking information about the activity. In response he admitted operating the facility but stated there was nothing untoward in the matter and activities at the site continued. In the absence of evidence of environmental pollution the Council was not in a position to serve a Section 55 notice and so had difficulty in persuading the operator to cease activities.

In July 2002, following the introduction of the new legislation, it was decided to serve a demand notice for the collection of landfill levy in the amount of €210,357.50. This amount was calculated based on truck movements at the site on a given day, extrapolated out over a number of days. The serving of the notice had the desired effect, which was to cease the activity at the site.

Successful district court proceedings were taken against the landowner, Purcell Bros Ltd. under

Section 39 for the operation of a waste facility without the requisite licence in October 2002. A €500 fine + costs were imposed. Extensive site investigations were subsequently carried out on the site at the expense of the landowner, to assess the impact of the unauthorised activity on the environment. All reports show no evidence that the activity has caused environmental pollution.

The landowner refused to admit liability for the landfill levy and the Council had to pursue the issue through the High Court (due to the amount involved). The Council recalculated the levy in according to the EPA method and served a new demand on the landowner in July 2005, in the amount of €1,236,195. The Council were well aware that using this methodology would put the onus on the landowner to prove otherwise.

Eventually a sum of €170,000 was agreed with the landowner's senior counsel at the High Court, in full and final settlement of any outstanding liability for the levy, costs and interest due.

This sum has since been paid to the Council in two moieties, with 20% been remitted to the DEHLG in accordance with the revised regulations.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT GUIDANCE AND TRAINING

The network has developed a guidance manual for use by all enforcement personnel. The overall purpose of the manual is to provide useful and practical guidance on a range of subjects that should assist local authorities in the carrying out of their statutory environment functions. This guidance has resulted from the activities of the various working groups established by the Environmental Enforcement Network and specialist studies commissioned by the Office of Environment Enforcement.

The manual is divided into five sections to facilitate adding new material. Section 1 gives some background regarding the structure and priorities of the EEN, and details the functions and relationships between the regulatory bodies in the Network. Section 2 provides guidance on general enforcement topics including evidence gathering, court preparation, complaint handling and RMCEI. Sections 3, 4 and 5 related to specialised guidance concerning waste, water and other enforcement activities respectively.

Training of 62 personnel took place during 2005 in "Advanced enforcement skills in Unauthorised Waste

Activities". This was followed up by the development of a course fundamental environmental inspection skills with a further 177 people trained. Training material is currently under development on the new waste permits regulations, guidance on dealing with industrial sludges, environmental liabilities risk assessment and implementation of the solvent regulations.

The OEE has developed a training course on the preparation of a file for the DPP, which is being piloted in October 2007. This course, developed under a steering group comprising EPA & LA personnel as well a representative of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is highly practical. The course is primarily focused on equipping people with the necessary skills and knowledge to prepare an investigation case file for prosecution on indictment. Good investigations are based on professionalism, thoroughness, adherence to procedures, knowledge of the relevant law and powers and the requirement to prove a case beyond a reasonable doubt. For further information about this course, please contact Yvonne Doris (y.doris@epa.ie).

UNAUTHORISED WASTE ACTIVITIES REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS WORKING GROUP

The Unauthorised Waste Activities Regional Co-ordinators Working Group was set up in 2005. The first meeting of the working group took place in November 2005 and to date eight meetings have taken place.

Work Programme

The Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) report on the Nature and Extent of Unauthorised Waste Activity in Ireland was published in September 2005. The report contains an Action Plan to deal with unauthorised waste activity in Ireland. The implementation of the Action Plan is being coordinated by the OEE through the National

Enforcement Network. The Unauthorised Waste Activities Working Group plays a key role in the implementation of the Action Plan.

The Enforcement Network Waste Conference held in October 2005 began the process of prioritising the actions necessary to deal with illegal waste activities on a regional basis. This coincided with the re-organisation of the UWA Working Group into a forum where each of the six regions are represented by a Regional Co-ordinator. The working group agreed that the following areas would constitute the Work Plan for the group for 2007.

Work Programme Item	Implementation
Issue of local authority (LA) sites – identification and regularisation during 2007	Actively identify and authorise LA sites requiring authorisation by the EPA (most likely Certificates of Registration).
Develop and implement Regional Enforcement Work-plans for 2007 taking into account OEE Action Plan.	Regional Enforcement Plans in place and operational.
Compiling of Enforcement Information & production of 2006 Waste Enforcement report	Actively maintain information on enforcement efforts by logging information on LAMS and support the publication of annual Waste Enforcement Reports
Waste Conference & Enforcement Network event	Fourth Waste Conference in October 2007
Northern Ireland Roadmap	Actively investigate illegal shipments of waste on the basis of information provided by the EHS
Develop training material & technical guidance	Become involved as required on the development of training & technical guidance material
Follow up to OEE Report	Actively manage the 25 illegal landfills and 15 unauthorised facilities listed in OEE report
Illegal Dumping Line	Log, monitor and follow calls to the phone line in accordance with National Complaints Procedure

MEMBERS

Current members of the Regional Coordinators Working Group include:

Mr Michael J. Joyce, Connaught Regional Waste Management Office
 Mr. Nicholas Bond, Cork County Council
 Mr. Dearn McClintock, Donegal County Council
 Mr. Jim Moriarty, Environmental Protection Agency
 Ms. Marian Lambert, Environmental Protection Agency
 Mr. Pat Fenton, Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government
 Ms. Philippa King, Mid-West Regional Waste Management Office
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Current members of the UWA Working Group include:

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 Mr. Eamonn Walsh, Carlow County Council
 Mr. Alan Kiernan, Cavan, County Council
 Mr. Sean Guider, Cavan County Council
 Mr. Michael Mussi, Cavan County Council
 Mr. Robert Burns, Clare County Council
 Mr. Gerard Dollard, Clare County Council
 Mr. James Goulding, Cork City Council

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 Mr. John Waterworth, Dept. of the Environment, Northern Ireland
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 Ms. Regina Campbell, Environmental Protection Agency
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 Mr. Stephen McCarthy, Environmental Protection Agency
 Ms. Yvonne Doris, Environmental Protection Agency
 Ms. Valerie Doyle, Environmental Protection Agency,
 Mr. Owen Lyttle, Environment & Heritage Service
 Mr. Richard Gray, Environment & Heritage Service
 Mr. Hugo Van Wyk, Fingal County Council
 Mr. Jim McGuirk, Galway County Council
 Mr. Michael Boyce, Kerry County Council
 Mr. Chris Galvin, Kildare County Council
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Mr. Fergus Mulhare, Laois County Council
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 Mr. Damien O'Neill, Louth County Council
 Mr. Patsy Bourke, Mayo County Council
 Mr. Vincent Collins, Meath County Council
 Mr. Gerry McGrath, National Bureau of Criminal Investigation
 Mr. Frank O'Halloran, North Tipperary County Council
 Mr. Paul Devaney, Offaly County Council
 Mr. Noel Martin, Roscommon County Council
 Ms. Anne Peters, South Tipperary County Council
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