

## To find out more about the EPA and the environment

### [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)

Our website provides information on the work of the EPA and on Ireland's environment. Online services include:

- Real-time air quality maps – where you can find out about air quality in Ireland.
- Interactive maps illustrating the quality of your local environment (ENVision).
- Bathing water quality information.
- An online environmental complaints service.
- On-line publications' shop
- Education resource packs for primary and secondary schools.

### Environmental reports

#### **Down-loading reports:**

The EPA produces a wide range of guidance documents, publications and research reports on the state of Ireland's environment. The full texts of most of these documents can be down-loaded from our website free of charge at [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)

#### **Ordering EPA publications:**

Copies of EPA publications can be ordered via our on-line publications' shop or from: Publications Sales, EPA Regional Inspectorate, McCumiskey House, Richview, Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14 or phone + 353 1 2680100. State your name, address and the title of the publications you require. Publications can be paid for in euro by cheque/postal order. Credit cards also accepted.

### Reporting Environmental Pollution:

Contact the relevant local authority if you have a query or complaint about a) general environmental pollution matters or b) facilities under the control of local authorities. You can use the Environmental Complaint Form available on your local authority's website and at their offices to set out all the information required to consider your complaint. If the environmental pollution persists after examination by your local authority and has not been resolved to your satisfaction, contact the EPA who will investigate the matter further.

If your complaint is about an EPA licensed facility (mostly large industry or landfill sites), contact the facility first to see if it can be easily resolved. If not, contact the EPA. Complaint forms can be downloaded from the EPA website at:

[www.epa.ie/whatwedo/enforce/report/](http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/enforce/report/)

or received by post or fax on request.



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**The Environmental Protection Agency who we are - what we do**

## The Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) protects the environment for everyone in the country. We regulate and police activities that might otherwise cause pollution. We ensure there is solid information on environmental trends so that necessary actions are taken. Our priorities are protecting the Irish environment and ensuring that development is sustainable. We employ 340 people who work in ten locations throughout the country.

### Our mission

To protect and improve the natural environment for present and future generations, taking into account the environmental, social and economic principles of sustainable development.

### We are responsible for

#### **Licensing and control of large scale waste and industrial activities to ensure that they do not endanger human health or harm the environment. We licence:**

- waste facilities (e.g. *landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations*);
- large scale industrial activities (e.g. *pharmaceutical manufacturing, cement manufacturing, power plants*);
- intensive agriculture;
- urban waste water treatment plants;
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- large petrol storage facilities.

#### **National environmental policing**

- Conducting over 2,000 audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities every year.
- Overseeing local authorities' environmental protection responsibilities. Local authorities are responsible for in excess of 500 environmental protection functions. These functions are contained within over 100 pieces of legislation and operate across six sectors - air, noise, planning, waste, waste-water and water quality.
- Supervising the supply of drinking water by public water suppliers.
- Working with local authorities, the gardai, the Health Service Executive, the Fisheries Boards and other agencies to tackle environmental crime by co-ordinating a national enforcement network, targeting offenders, conducting investigations and overseeing remediation.
- Prosecuting those who flout environmental law and damage the environment as a result of their actions.

#### **Monitoring, analysing and reporting on the environment**

- Monitoring air quality and the quality of rivers, lakes, tidal waters and ground waters; measuring water levels and river flows.
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government (e.g. *reporting on the state of Ireland's environment and on trends in waste generation, management and infrastructure*).

#### **Regulating Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions**

- Quantifying Ireland's emissions of greenhouse gases in the context of our Kyoto commitments.
- Implementing the Emissions Trading Directive, involving over 100 companies who are major generators of carbon dioxide in Ireland.

#### **Environmental research and development**

- Co-ordinating research on environmental issues (e.g. *over-enrichment of rivers and lakes, climate change, cleaner greener production*).

#### **Strategic environmental assessment**

- Assessing the impact of plans and programmes on the Irish environment (e.g. *waste management plans, development plans*).

#### **Environmental planning, education and guidance**

- Providing guidance to the public and to industry on various environmental topics (e.g. *licence applications, waste prevention and environmental regulations*).
- Generating greater environmental awareness (e.g. *environmental television programmes, production of secondary and primary schools' resource packs*).

#### **Proactive waste management**

- Promoting waste prevention and minimisation projects through the co-ordination of the National Waste Prevention Programme, including input into the implementation of Producer Responsibility Initiatives.
- Enforcing Regulations such as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- Developing a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to prevent and manage hazardous waste.

### The structure of the EPA

The EPA was set up in 1993 for the protection of Ireland's environment. The organisation is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and four Directors.

#### **The work of the EPA is carried out across four Offices:**

- 1 Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use
- 2 Office of Environmental Enforcement
- 3 Office of Environmental Assessment
- 4 Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet several times a year to discuss issues of concern and offer advice to the Board.