

Overview of the National Waste Prevention Programme



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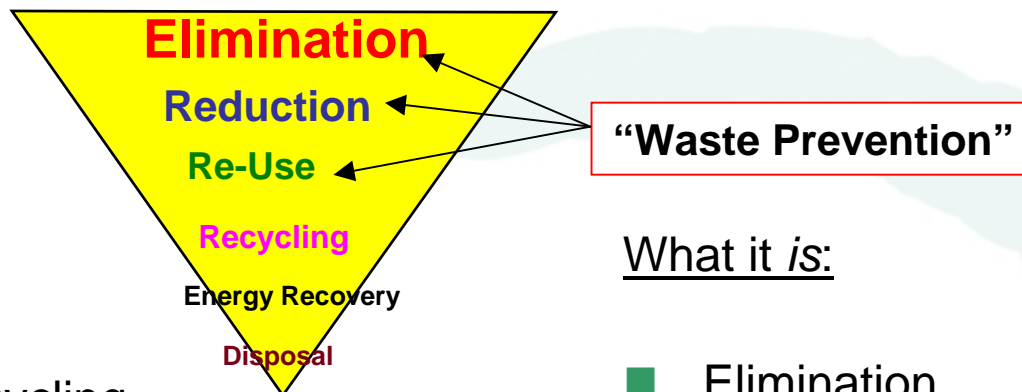
National Waste Prevention Programme

- Waste: An Important Strategic Issue for Ireland
- Policy: “Preventing & Recycling Waste - Delivering Change” 2002; Programme for Government 2007; Revision of Waste Framework Directive 2008
- NWPP Launched April 2004 by Minister for the Environment
- Core Prevention Team in EPA
- NWP Committee Chaired by EPA
 - Three Annual Reports Published detailing Progress

Waste Prevention Context

- Globalised Open World Markets, Consumerism, Celebrity Culture and Aggressive Media/Marketing
- Increasing Affluence and Excessive Consumption
- Increasing Evidence of Global Environmental Deterioration
- Attitudes: “not in my lifetime”; “nothing to do we me”; “what difference can I make”?; “its up to the Government, EPA or someone else”; “I can afford it, so I will have it”; “I’m too scared to think about it”; “I like flying around the World, so there!”

Beyond Recycling: Waste Prevention



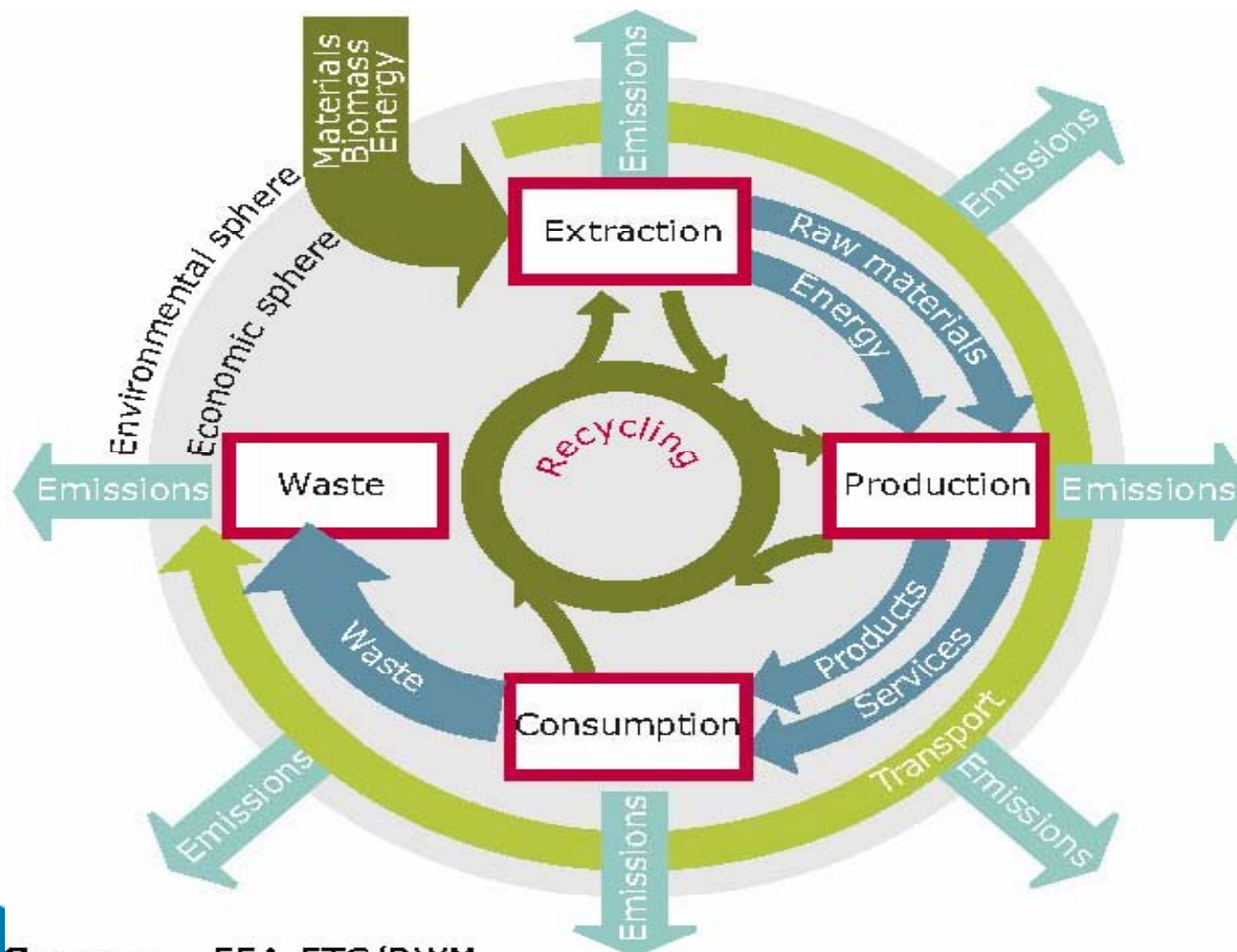
What it is *not*.

- It is not Recycling
 - It is not Diversion from Landfill
 - It is not Composting
- (Although these activities are good - environmentally!)

What it *is*:

- Elimination
- Reduction
- Reuse of Products or materials
- Reduced "hazardousness" eg Substitution
- Conservation of raw materials & natural resources incl. Water
- Common sense: "Waste Not , Want Not"

Resource Use: Economic and Environmental Spheres



Source: EEA-ETC/RWM.

Waste Prevention – A Definition

**“Elimination and Reduction at Source of Material, Water and Energy Consumption, Waste Arisings (Solid, Liquid, Heat and Gas) and Harmful Substances”*

- What its really about: **Resource Efficiency** and **Wastage Prevention** in All Aspects of National Life:
- E.g. Transport, **Energy**, Industry, **Water Consumption**, Building & Development, **Packaging** etc

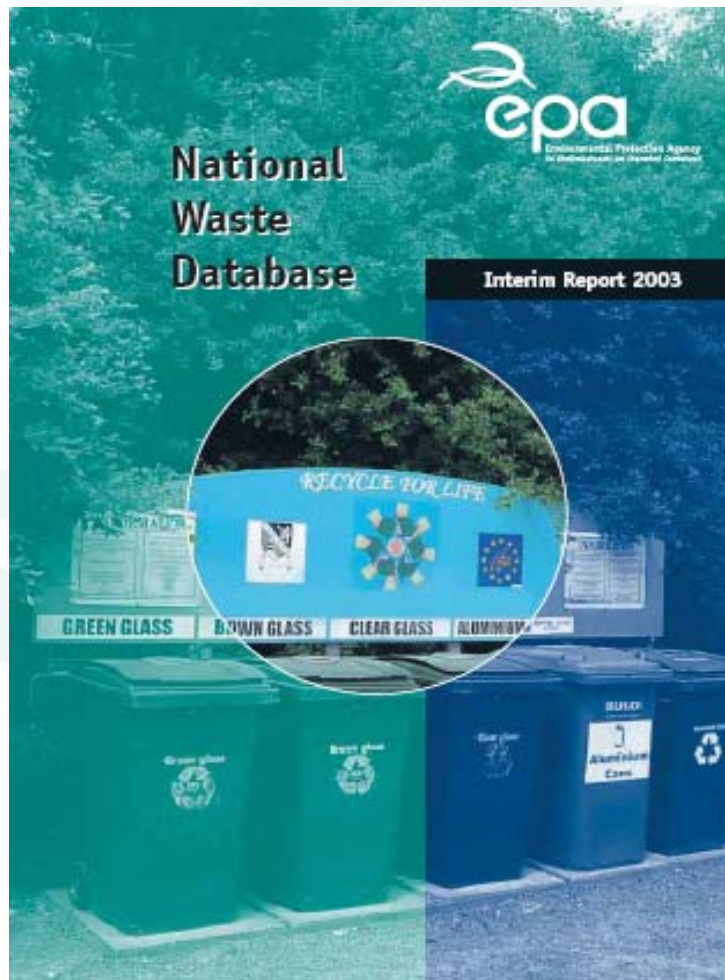
(* Based on EPA/ERTDI “Assessment & Development of a Waste Prevention Framework for Ireland”)

Waste Prevention – How?

- Top Management Buy-in
- Review Current Waste Arisings
- Waste Reduction Plan
- Implement
- Review Outcome
 - Start Again – Iterative process

National Waste Prevention Programme Projects

Annual National Waste Reports:

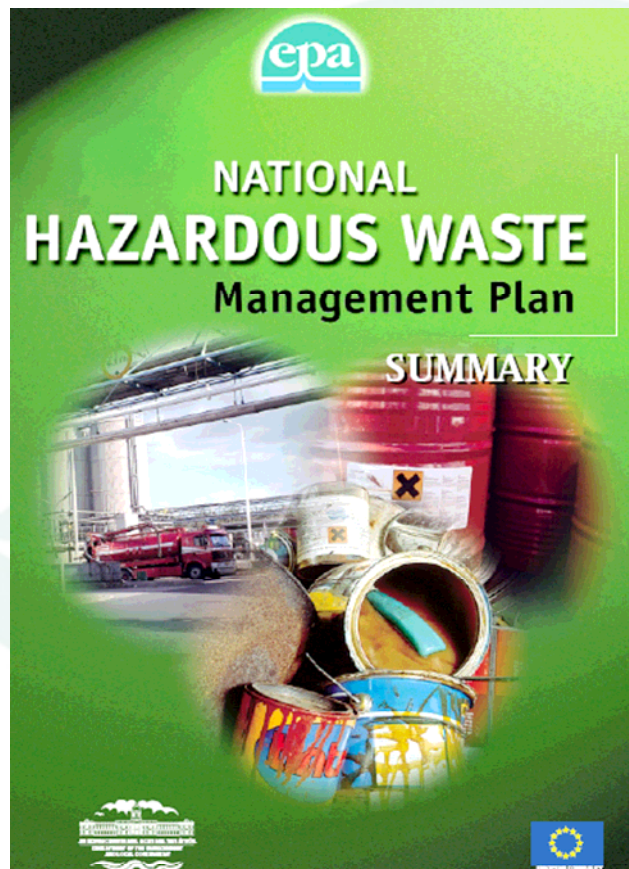


National Waste Prevention Programme Projects

Annual National Waste Reports:

- Big Picture of how Ireland is performing on Waste each Year
- Highlight Achievements e.g. Packaging recycling, WEEE
- Focus on Resolution of Problems e.g. Uncollected waste, BMW, C&D
- Identify Priority waste stream for NWPP: Biodegradable Wastes prevention & diversion, Hazardous wastes, Packaging Prevention
- Research e.g. Waste Characterisation, Materials Flow Accounting
- **Ultimate Goal: Reverse Growing Trend in National Waste Arisings – Sufficient Scale of Prevention Effort vs Challenge?**

National Waste Prevention Programme Projects



National Waste Prevention Programme Projects

The National Hazardous Waste Management Plan:

- HW: Special Risk => Cornerstone of Plan is Prevention
- Focus on Prevention and then Collection & Proper Management of Priority Hazardous Waste Streams
- LA issues: CAS capacity, funding, resources
- New Proposed Plan now completing Public Consultation including Strategic Environmental Assessment
- New Plan will issue 1Q 2008

National Waste Prevention Programme Projects

Green Business Initiative:

- Resource Efficiency/Water/Waste Web-based Audit Tools
- Company expert visits to provide Expertise, Build Capacity – Augment EI and SEI programmes
- Waste Prevention Case Studies Implementation: “Clean, Clever and Competitive” incl. Cleaner, Greener Production and HAZRED Lessons-learned
- Priority Sector-based Programme: Hospitality, Health-care (HSE), Retail, C&D

National Waste Prevention Programme Projects

Other Business Projects:

- Certified Training for Business on Waste Prevention
IBEC/CIT commenced 2005, IPCMF 2006, FÁS 2007
- Solvents and Vehicle Refinishers AIC Schemes
- WEEE, RoHS, Decopaints, Batteries, ODS, POPs, PCBs Directives
- HAZRED: EU/*Life* Environment Agency (UK) Joint Project completed with 7 SMEs participated from Ireland



National Waste Prevention Programme Projects

Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme (LAPD):

- **Technical** and **Grant Aid** for Local Prevention Programmes & Projects
- Participants: Galway (City & County), Monaghan, Limerick (City & Council), Clare, Kerry, Cork, Donegal, D-L/Rathdown, Longford, Roscommon, S. Tipperary and Wicklow
- Training programme for Las in Prevention November 2007
- National Conference February 2008
- Next Steps to Consolidate LAPD Achievements

National Waste Prevention Programme Projects

Packaging Prevention Programme:

- Programme launched March 2007: Prevent and Save Seminars
- Funded Jointly by NWPP and Repak
- Projects underway include case studies, webpage, Supply chain study, training, workshops, research, design awards, communication/education
- NWPP Sponsor Two Repak Awards for Packaging Minimisation
- NWPP Project to Alert Newly Obligated Major Producers



National Waste Prevention Programme Projects

Green-Home Pilot Programme:

- Based on Successful An Taisce Green-Schools Programme
- 2,600 or 65% of all Irish Schools involved
- New Programme involves Households/families/communities with Environmental Issues esp Waste Prevention
- Waste Auditing, Prevention, Diversion, Composting, Recycling, Energy & Water Conservation
- Pilot Programme currently being implemented

In Conclusion

Waste Recycling, Diversion & Composting are Good Cures

but,

Waste Prevention is Better than Cure!

The LAPD projects demonstrate how the Waste Prevention aspirations in the RWMPs can be implemented

Overview of the National Waste Prevention Programme

For More See:

www.epa.ie/whatwedo/resource/prevent/nwpp/about

Thank You for Your Attention

Dr Gerry Byrne

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and EPA Programme Manager