

# National Waste Prevention Programme



**Outline Work Plan 2004 to 2008**

**April 2004**

# Environmental Protection Agency

## Establishment

The Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, was enacted on 23 April, 1992, and under this legislation the Agency was formally established on 26 July, 1993.

## Responsibilities

The Agency has a wide range of statutory duties and powers under the Act. The main responsibilities of the Agency include the following:

- the licensing and regulation of large/complex industrial and other processes with significant polluting potential, on the basis of integrated pollution control (IPC) and the application of best available technologies for this purpose;
- the monitoring of environmental quality, including the establishment of databases to which the public will have access, and the publication of periodic reports on the state of the environment;
- advising public authorities in respect of environmental functions and assisting local authorities in the performance of their environmental protection functions;
- the promotion of environmentally sound practices through, for example, the encouragement of the use of environmental audits, the setting of environmental quality objectives and the issuing of codes of practice on matters affecting the environment;
- the promotion and co-ordination of environmental research;
- the licensing and regulation of all significant waste disposal and recovery activities, including landfills and the preparation and periodic updating of a national hazardous waste management plan for implementation by other bodies;
- implementing a system of permitting for the control of VOC emissions resulting from the storage of significant quantities of petrol at terminals;
- implementing and enforcing the GMO Regulations for the contained use and deliberate release of GMOs into the environment;

- preparation and implementation of a national hydrometric programme for the collection, analysis and publication of information on the levels, volumes and flows of water in rivers, lakes and groundwaters; and
- generally overseeing the performance by local authorities of their statutory environmental protection functions.

## Status

The Agency is an independent public body. Its sponsor in Government is the Department of the Environment and Local Government. Independence is assured through the selection procedures for the Director General and Directors and the freedom, as provided in the legislation, to act on its own initiative. The assignment, under the legislation, of direct responsibility for a wide range of functions underpins this independence. Under the legislation, it is a specific offence to attempt to influence the Agency, or anyone acting on its behalf, in an improper manner.

## Organisation

The Agency's headquarters is located in Wexford and it operates five regional inspectorates, located in Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny, Castlebar and Monaghan.

## Management

The Agency is managed by a full-time Executive Board consisting of a Director General and four Directors. The Executive Board is appointed by the Government following detailed procedures laid down in the Act.

## Advisory Committee

The Agency is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members. The members are appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government and are selected mainly from those nominated by organisations with an interest in environmental and developmental matters. The Committee has been given a wide range of advisory functions under the Act, both in relation to the Agency and to the Minister.



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## **National Waste Prevention Programme Outline Work Plan 2004 to 2008**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Information published by the EPA in three national waste database reports<sup>1</sup> (1995, 1998 and 2001) demonstrates a general trend towards increased waste generation. Household waste, commercial waste and construction and demolition waste all show clear upward trends. Industrial waste and hazardous waste generation remains, at best, static. In line with international experience, there appears to be a correlation between waste data and economic indicators showing increased household waste generation with economic growth. Coupled with decreasing available waste disposal capacity, this presents the driving force to prevent, reuse and recycle all waste.

Government policy, most recently published in *Preventing and Recycling Waste: Delivering Change*<sup>2</sup>, recognises the need to reverse the trend of increasing waste generation and to decouple waste generation from economic growth. To achieve this broad goal, it has been proposed to establish a Core Prevention Team within the EPA to implement a National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP).

EU policy, most recently adopted in the Sixth Environment Action Programme and the proposal for a thematic strategy on preventing and recycling waste, clearly identifies a need to decouple waste generation from economic activity and to reduce waste volumes and the hazardousness of waste. Waste prevention represents the highest level of environmental protection eliminating the need for handling, transportation and treatment of waste. Decoupling and waste prevention increases the resource productivity of society as a whole. The proposed EU Integrated Product Policy will also be an important driver of change in promoting eco-design and cleaner production, resulting in cleaner consumption.

## 2 EXISTING PROGRAMMES AND SCOPE OF NWPP

A significant number of waste prevention initiatives have been carried out in Ireland in recent years. The NWPP will build on the achievements of earlier and existing programmes:

- A Pilot Cleaner Production Demonstration Programme was run in the late 1990s. Fourteen companies took part. A series of factsheets was prepared highlighting the projects and their outcomes. Summary information was also presented in the Report on IPC Licensing and Control 1998 (EPA, 1999).
- The Cleaner Greener Production Programme, funded under the ERTDI, has to date funded projects in a wide range of 29 private and public sector organisations. A series of factsheets highlighting the projects are being prepared.

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental Protection Agency, National Waste Database Report 1995 (1996); National Waste Database Report 1998 (2000); and National Waste Database Report 2001 (2003). Available from EPA Publications (01-2680100). See also <http://www.epa.ie/Waste/NWD2001/>.

<sup>2</sup> Department of the Environment and Local Government, 2002. Preventing and Recycling Waste – A Policy Statement: Delivering Change.

- IPC-licensing aims to reduce emissions to the lowest practicable level and a number of IPC-licensed companies have had notable successes in waste prevention.
- Enterprise Ireland operate two programmes of note with regard to improving the environmental performance of industry: *Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Grant Scheme* and *Environmentally Superior Products*. A number of case studies were published under an earlier *Environmentally Superior Products Pilot Demonstration Initiative*.
- The *Race Against Waste* awareness campaign contains an important waste reduction message for every individual and provides small businesses and households with information to enable them to consider waste prevention, reduction, reuse and recycling (Small Change campaign).
- Sustainable Energy Ireland provides practical information towards achieving "environmentally and economically sustainable production, supply and use of energy, in support of Government policy, across all sectors of the economy." The consideration of energy and resource use are important elements in increasing resource productivity.
- The EPA published an information booklet, *Waste Prevention – Solving the Growing Waste Problem*, for distribution to schools, local authorities and other interested parties.

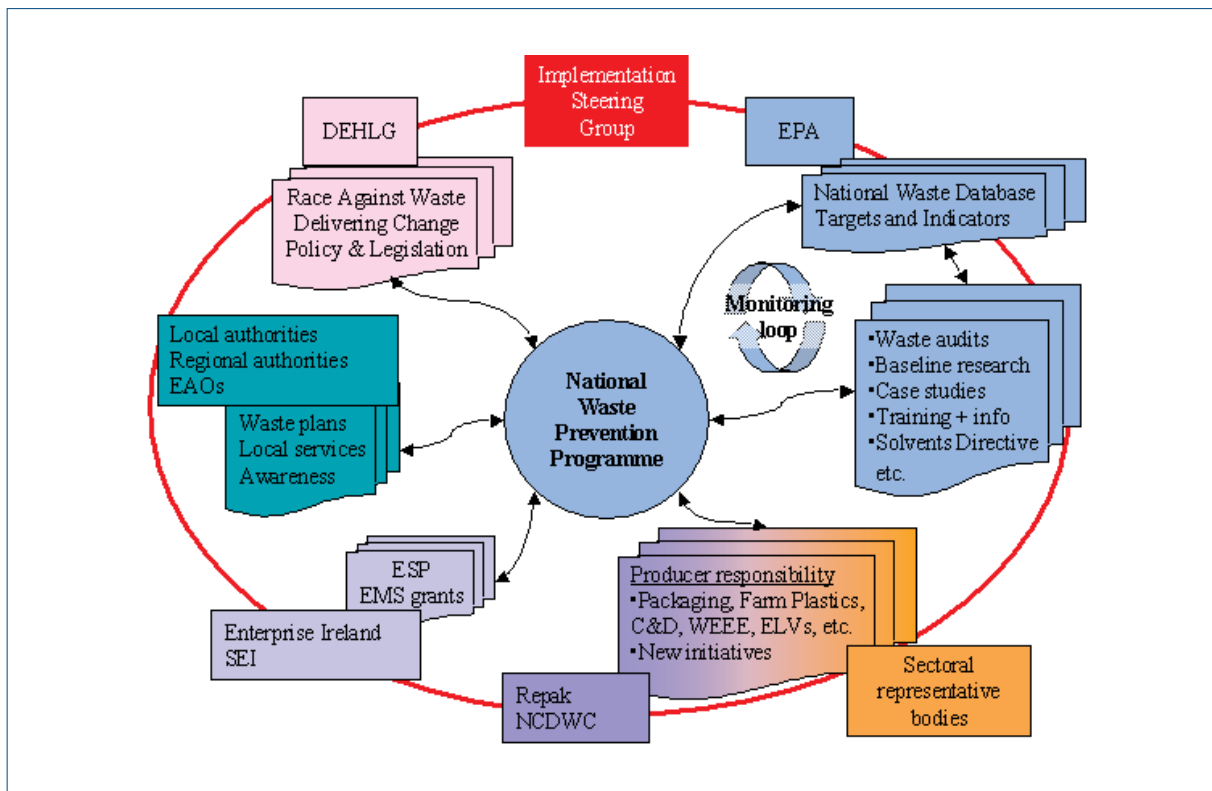
It is important that waste prevention be promoted in a consistent and ongoing manner as part of an integrated programme that provides for demonstration, dissemination of information, assistance (both technical and financial) and education (and awareness). Both the CGPP and the Race Against Waste are broad in scope and incorporate aspects of a prevention programme that will allow for earlier and more consistent successes.

The NWPP will build on existing initiatives, knowledge and experience. Inter-organisational liaison will be important to avoid duplication and enhance co-operation. Cross-office liaison within the EPA will continue to ensure that the goals of the CGPP and IPPC licensing adequately enhance and contribute towards achieving organisational and national objectives for the NWPP.

A number of activities are proposed for the NWPP and details are presented below. In summary, it is proposed that a series of baseline research studies be carried out to provide information on the current status of targeted economic sectors with a focus on waste generation, resource productivity, technologies and the coverage of existing programmes. Guidance and tools for the carrying out of waste and material audits will be developed to enable individual organisations or auditors to quantify waste generation and to identify opportunities for improvement. A monitoring and measurement programme (via the national waste database) will be undertaken to measure progress towards waste prevention, reduction, recycling etc. on a case study and sectoral basis. The benefits to companies of this approach include reduced costs, positive marketing image, publicity, 'waste reduction awards' and grant assistance.

Section 28 of the Waste Management Acts, 1996 to 2003, provides for a wide range of legislative and economic instruments to be applied in support of prevention initiatives. Where necessary, and as appropriate, the NWPP will advise and make recommendations with regard to the development and formulation of legislation and the introduction of economic instruments. In the first instance, such advice will relate to waste and material audits.

There are a large number of stakeholders in the National Waste Prevention Programme. The work of the Programme and its liaison with external stakeholders will be overseen and guided by an Implementation Steering Group, proposed to be established by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. A diagrammatic summary of some of the key stakeholders and existing initiatives is given below:



### 3 SOURCES OF WASTE

Waste is generated by all sectors<sup>3</sup> of Irish society and is comprised of a discrete number of principal waste categories. Some of the more significant waste-generating sectors include agriculture, industry and commerce, the construction industry, mining and quarrying and households.

#### 3.1 Agriculture

The agricultural sector is the single greatest generator of waste accounting for an estimated 56.7 million tonnes in 2001 or 76.5% of all waste generated. This is principally comprised of:

- cattle, pig and sheep manure and slurry;
- dairy wash waters; and
- silage effluent.

This waste is typically applied to agricultural land. In the correct proportions and when applied to suitable land, its management in this way provides agronomic benefits and may be considered a recovery activity. Nutrient management planning is required in many agricultural sectors (REPS, IPPC-licensed) and its extension to all farms would ensure the improved management of agricultural organic wastes. Advice on the management of agricultural organic wastes comes within the remit of other organisations (e.g. Teagasc, Department of Agriculture and Food) and programmes (e.g. IPPC licensing). Opportunities for reducing the volume of organic waste by good farmyard management practices and diversion of clean run off will be explored with these advisors.

<sup>3</sup> Sectors and sub-sectors are defined in this programme according to the NACE system of classifying economic activities. The NACE list is provided by an EU Regulation. It was most recently updated with effect from January 2003.

Apart from liaising with specialist agricultural advisors and regulators, it is proposed that agricultural organic waste will not be within the scope of initiatives undertaken under the NWPP. However, the option to extend accredited auditing and reporting obligations to the nutrient management planning process should be retained, particularly if diffuse nutrients continue to be of concern for water quality.

Other categories of waste are generated on farms, some of them unreported hazardous waste, for example: waste packaging (e.g. fertiliser bags, chemical containers, etc.), waste oils and oily sludges from machinery maintenance, unused or waste crop protection products, sheep dip, veterinary medicines, etc. These waste streams are principally 'product waste'. It is proposed that they would be targeted as part of general product waste initiatives under the NWPP. Producer responsibility initiatives building on the farm plastics recycling initiative could be considered also.

## 3.2 Industry

It is proposed that industry (in its various and wide-ranging forms) comes firmly within the scope of the NWPP. The manufacturing sector is the second greatest single source of waste accounting for an estimated 5,119,581 tonnes of non-hazardous waste (or 6.9% of all waste) and 241,359 tonnes of hazardous waste in 2001. The following sub-sectors of manufacturing industry generate the greatest quantities of non-hazardous manufacturing waste (in descending order):

- Food products, beverages and tobacco (50.4% of manufacturing waste)
- Basic metals and fabricated metal products (22.7%);
- Pulp, paper and paper products; printing, publishing (9.5%);
- Wood and wood products (6.0%); and
- Chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres (4.6%).

The following sub-sectors are the greatest generators of hazardous manufacturing waste:

- Chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres (75.5%);
- Basic metals and fabricated metal products (13.3%);
- Electrical and optical equipment (4.7%); and
- Transport equipment (1.5%).

It is proposed that detailed research on these (and other) targeted sectors will be undertaken as an early task under the NWPP. A number of baseline studies are proposed which will provide information on the make-up and representation of the sectors, their waste generation, materials use and opportunities for early successes. This information will be used to set priorities for the Programme. Additionally, scope for promoting the eco-design and innovation of products and services placed on the market will be explored.

The principal focus of the NWPP will be the small to medium size enterprise (SME) sector. This sector is characterised by companies that often have neither the resources nor, in many cases, the knowledge, to implement waste prevention initiatives. It is assumed that many SME's have no in-

house expertise in waste management or environmental matters. It is also assumed that many rely on professional waste contractors for advice on waste management. A principal objective is to provide unbiased advice and guidance to enterprises on how to exploit opportunities for improved waste management.

Many sectors of manufacturing industry are already well regulated within the IPPC-licensing regime. Nevertheless, it is proposed that all licensed facilities will be included within the NWPP. Where possible, licensed companies will be used in the early stages as champions and examples of good practice. It is proposed that licensed waste management companies will also be included fully within the scope of the NWPP to ensure that waste records across the board are being maintained to a sufficiently high standard for waste prevention initiatives to be effectively monitored and to ensure that all possible opportunities for improved waste management are being exploited.

### **3.3 Construction and demolition activities**

As the third largest generator of waste (3,651,411 tonnes or 4.9% of the total), the construction and demolition sector has been a target of national policy since the publication of Changing Our Ways in 1998, in which targets of 50% and 85% recycling by 2003 and 2013 respectively were imposed by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government. Following publication of the 'Task Force B4 Report', the National Construction and Demolition Waste Council (NCDWC) was established and the EPA is represented on the Council. The Council's first annual report for 2002/2003 was recently published and sets out progress made towards achieving the recommendations of Task Force B4 in relation to the management and recycling of C&D waste.

The NWPP will collaborate with the Council in developing improved recording and reporting mechanisms for construction and demolition waste management. Good data is a prerequisite for a waste prevention programme and it is proposed that, in addition to the EPA's participation on the NCDWC, additional input will be provided under the NWPP.

It is the policy of the Minister to allow the construction industry to develop its own proposals towards achieving recycling targets. It is proposed that the construction and demolition industry will be brought within the scope of the NWPP primarily through EPA engagement and collaboration with the Council in its efforts to secure implementation of practicable solutions to the improved management of construction and demolition waste. The industry will be subject to analysis as part of a baseline research study with a view to implementing the recommendations made in the NWD Report 2001.

### **3.4 Mining and quarrying activities**

As the fourth largest waste stream, accounting for 3,334,041 tonnes (or 4.5%) in 2001, mining and quarrying waste is a significant but generally homogeneous non-hazardous waste stream. Information generated for the NWD Report 2001 shows that up to 90% of waste from mining and quarrying activities was generated by IPPC-licensed activities. Available information also shows that 60% of mining and quarrying waste is comprised principally of tailings and other waste from Tara Mines and 27.5% was generated at Lisheen Mine. Up to 3.6% was generated by peat extraction activities and 6% was generated by stone quarrying activities.

Stone and other quarrying activities are the relatively unknown quantity in this dataset and it is proposed that these activities are subject to additional analysis as part of a baseline research study under the NWPP. Additionally, examples of good practice within the sector will be sought for dissemination as case studies.

### 3.5 Municipal waste

Municipal waste is the fifth largest waste stream (by source), accounting for 2,704,035 tonnes in 2001, or 3.7% of the total. Municipal waste is comprised of household waste and commercial waste. The impact of the individual's behaviour on waste from households and small businesses is the principal target of the Race Against Waste. Households and commercial activities are two distinctly different targets vis-à-vis the NWPP and it is proposed that they are dealt with separately.

#### 3.5.1 Households

Householders generated an estimated 1,468,834 tonnes of waste in 2001 (2.0% of the total). The importance of targeting the household sector cannot be understated. The impact of informing and altering the behaviour of the individual would be expected to be felt outside the home, e.g. in the workplace. Promotion of good waste management at the household level will remain primarily with local authorities for implementation via waste management plans and also with Race Against Waste. Environmental Awareness Officers (EAOs) at local authorities have significant knowledge, experience and access to householders. The NWPP will engage and collaborate with EAOs to share experience and determine information and other needs. It is proposed that EAOs will be the primary conduit through which the NWPP can provide information to householders. Enforcement networks operating under the Office of Environmental Enforcement will be an important conduit to liaise with local authorities in general and EAOs in particular. The ongoing needs of this sector will be kept under review in the medium to long term in order to maintain the awareness-raising momentum that has been achieved by the Race Against Waste.

#### 3.5.2 Commercial (non-industrial) activities

Commercial activities generated an estimated 1,156,732 tonnes (or 1.6% of the total) of waste in 2001. Commercial activities vary significantly in size and scope from high street shops to hotels and institutions such as schools, universities, hospitals and public offices. Some examples of what are loosely considered to be sources of "commercial waste" are:

- wholesale and retail trade;
- repair of motor vehicles and other household goods;
- hotels and restaurants;
- transport, storage and communication;
- financial intermediation;
- real estate, renting and business activities;
- public administration and defence;
- education; and
- health and social work.

It is intended that commercial activities, as characterised above, will directly come within the scope of the NWPP. Information on the generation of waste within several of the sub-sectors listed above has been generated for the NWD Report 2001 under an ERTDI-funded project and the characterisation of commercial waste will continue. Baseline research studies will provide the necessary information to enable the NWPP to prioritise and target those sectors where attention is most needed.

In addition to direct contact via the NWPP, it is also proposed that commercial sectors, particularly those characterised by smaller units, will be targeted, as with households, through the local authority EAO network. As above, a close liaison with local authorities will be essential in developing this programme of work.

### **3.6 Hazardous waste**

Hazardous waste is generated by all of the above, and other, sectors. It comprised 0.4% of the total waste stream in 2001. Hazardous waste is the subject of special legislation and its management comes within the scope of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP). An Implementation Committee for the NHWMP was established by the Government in mid-2003; however, the topic of preventing hazardous waste is outside the scope of the NHWMP Implementation Committee. Hazardous waste prevention will come within the scope of the NWPP and the remit of the Implementation Steering Group proposed to be established to steer the Programme.

It is proposed that hazardous waste will come firmly within the scope of all targeted initiatives taken under the NWPP. The prevention of hazardous waste principally falls under two headings:

- gross reduction in the generation of hazardous waste generated; and
- reduction in the "hazardousness" of all waste.

Given its importance, and the somewhat patchy understanding in many sectors of its special control requirements, specific guidance on the management and prevention of hazardous waste will be developed and disseminated.

### **3.7 Waste streams subject to producer responsibility initiatives**

Two producer responsibility obligations are currently fully operational in Ireland in relation to packaging recycling and farm plastics. Producer responsibility obligations for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) will be introduced in the next 18-24 months on foot of relevant Directives and these will involve significant data recording and reporting elements. The delegation of responsibility for achieving C&D waste recycling targets to the NCDWC is a form of producer responsibility and is so recognised in *Delivering Change*. The Government has also proposed that producer responsibility initiatives be examined for newsprint, tyres and batteries.

*Delivering Change* proposed a series of producer responsibility functions to be carried out by the EPA. In order to fulfil these functions, it is proposed that they are broadly divided into two, viz.:

- the co-ordination of enforcement of producer responsibility obligations to be carried out by the Office of Environmental Enforcement; and

- the collection of information, research, guidance, assistance and promotion of best practice to be carried out within the remit of the NWPP.

The NWPP should become a key consideration in the Government's deliberations on new (and existing) producer responsibility initiatives. Repak and the Central Statistics Office will be key consultees in 2004 in developing data reporting mechanisms for existing producer responsibility obligations on packaging. Continued assistance will be made available in relation to the development of producer responsibility obligations for waste electrical and electronic equipment. Reporting mechanisms for waste electrical and electronic equipment and end-of-life vehicles will also be developed. The scope of baseline research studies on the management of newsprint, batteries and tyres will be examined.

#### **4 PROPOSED OUTLINE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME**

The principal early proposals for the Core Prevention Team include work packages that will allow for:

- consultation with stakeholder groups to identify Programme needs;
- the collation and dissemination of available information in the form of case studies and current initiatives;
- baseline research and analysis of targeted sectors and specific waste streams within the Irish economy identifying factors contributing to waste generation; and
- the provision of tools to enable individual organisations (industrial, commercial, institutional, public sector etc.) to undertake their own "micro-analysis" or waste audit.

Work packages will be structured such that the generation of information for the national waste database (NWD) will contribute on an ongoing basis to the monitoring and measurement of the impact of NWPP initiatives.

In Year 1 (2004) it is proposed to put in place the mechanisms and measurement tools for implementation of the NWPP and to refocus information collection tasks (NWD) to ensure their relevance to the needs of national policy, the prevention programme and other reporting requirements. Proposed tasks include:

- baseline research studies on commercial/industrial sectors and individual waste categories;
- development of waste and materials audit guidance (for hazardous and non-hazardous wastes) to enable individual organisations or auditors to carry out "baseline" or "current position" studies and identify opportunities for improved waste management and resource use;
- development of an electronic waste information management system to collect (via the Web) and manage waste and materials audit information;
- development of recommendations for the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on criteria for the introduction of an annual waste and materials audit programme and its proper and effective conduct by business sectors, as proposed in *Delivering Change*;

- development of a working definition of waste prevention that is consistent with EU and Irish policy;
- development of indicators for measuring progress towards waste prevention and targets for waste management;
- gathering of waste prevention case studies and targeted dissemination to relevant sectors;
- facilitation of establishment of an Implementation Steering Group for the National Waste Prevention Programme;
- implementation of the Solvents Directive Accredited Inspection Contractor Scheme in SMEs as an integral part of the NWPP;
- broad consultation with stakeholders (local authorities, EAOs, sectoral representatives, public bodies, NGOs, etc.) and identification of sectoral needs and potential to contribute to the Programme;
- advice and liaison with stakeholders in promoting the implementation of producer responsibility initiatives;
- development of reporting mechanisms for existing and new producer responsibility obligations; and
- scoping and delivery of a waste prevention (cleaner production) training programme to assist organisations obliged to carry out waste and materials audits.

In Year 2 (2005), it is proposed to commence programmes targeted to achieve waste reduction, recycling etc. Proposals include:

- roll-out of an annual waste and materials audit programme;
- expansion of waste and materials audit guidance to incorporate materials management and enable enterprises to look back up the materials chain;
- further preparation of information (guidance, obligations, etc.) targeted at individual sectors and specific waste streams;
- continued liaison with stakeholders;
- continued baseline study of targeted sectors and/or waste streams;
- development and pilot of a waste prevention training programme;
- development of opportunities to expand producer responsibility obligations to other waste streams; and
- a National Waste Database Report for 2004 will be published.

In Year 3 (2006), it is anticipated that monitoring data from the programme will be available,

primarily from the National Waste Database and from waste and material audits. Continued development of new programmes will result in increased scope of application and take-up of waste prevention. Producer responsibility is likely to become a greater focus with clear recommendations on the management of specific waste or material streams. An interim review of the National Waste Prevention Programme will be undertaken during year 3. Stakeholders' views of progress to date will be sought and considered by the Implementation Steering Group.

By Year 4 (2007), a number of organisations will have carried out a series of 2-3 annual waste and materials audits and it should be possible to begin to identify trends, successes and opportunities for improvement. Existing programmes will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to determine their efficacy and identify opportunities for improvement. A National Waste Database Report for 2006 will be published as will an annual report on implementation of the NWPP.

In Year 5 (2008), a review of the NWPP to date will be undertaken and a report published.

# An Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

## Bunú

Achtaíodh an tAcht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil ar an 23ú lá d'Aibreán, 1992 agus faoin reachtaíocht seo bunaíodh an Gníomhaireacht go hoifigiúil ar an 26ú lá d'Iúil, 1993.

## Cúraimí

Tá réimse leathan de dhualgais reachtúla ar an nGníomhaireacht agus de chumhachtaí reachtúla aici faoin Acht. Tá na nithe seo a leanas san áireamh i bpríomhfhreagrachtaí na Gníomhaireachta:

- ceadúnú agus rialáil próiseas mór/ilchasta tionsclaíoch agus próiseas eile a d'fhéadfadh a bheith an-truaillitheach, ar bhonn rialú comhtháite ar thruailliú (Integrated Pollution Control-IPC) agus cur chun feidhme na dteicneolaíochtaí is fearr atá ar fáil chun na críche sin;
- faireachán a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht comhshaoil, lena n-áirítear bunachair sonraí a chur ar bun a mbeidh rochtain ag an bpobal orthu, agus foilsíú tuarascálacha treimhsiúla ar staid an chomhshaoil;
- comhairle a chur ar údaráis phoiblí maidir le feidhmeanna comhshaoil agus cuidiú le húdaráis áitiúla a bhfeidhmeannas caomhnaithe a chomhlíonadh;
- cleachtais atá fóna ó thaobh an chomhshaoil de a chur chun cinn, mar shampla, trí úsáid iniúchtaí comhshaoil a spreagadh, cuspóirí cáilíochta comhshaoil a leagan síos agus cóid chleachtais a eisiúint maidir le nithe a théann i bhfeidhm ar an gcomhshaoil;
- taighde comhshaoil a chur chun cinn agus a chomhordú;
- gach gníomhaíocht thábhachtach diúscartha agus aisghabhála dramhaíola, lena n-áirítear líontaí talún, a cheadúnú agus a rialáil agus plean náisiúnta bainistíochta um dhramháil ghuaiseach, a bheidh le cur i ngníomh ag comhlachtaí eile, a ullmhú agus a thabhairt cothrom le dáta go treimhsiúil;
- córas a fheidhmiú a chuirfidh ar ár gcumas astúcháin COS (Comhdhúiligh Orgánacha Sho-ghalaithe) a rialú de bharr cáinníochtaí suntasacha peitрил a bheith á stóráil i dteirminéil;
- na rialúcháin OMG (Orgánaigh a Mionathraíodh go Géiniteach) a fheidhmiú agus a ghníomhú maidir le húseaid shrianta a leithéad seo d'orgánaigh agus iad a scaoileadh d'aon turas isteach sa timpeallacht;

- clár hidriméadach náisiúnta a ullmhú agus a chur i ngníomh chun faisnéis maidir le leibhéil, toirteanna agus sruthanna uisce in aibhneacha, i lochanna agus i screamhuiscí a bhailiú, a anailisiú agus a fhoilsiú; agus
- maoirseacht i gcoitinne a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh a bhfeidhmeanna reachtúla caomhnaithe comhshaoil ag údarás áitiúla.

## Stádas

Is eagrais poiblí neamhspleách í an Gníomhaireacht. Is í an Roinn Comhshaoil agus Rialtais Áitiúil an coimirceoir rialtais atá aici. Cinntítear a neamhspleáchas trí na modhanna a úsáidtear chun an tArd-Stiúrthóir agus na Stiúrthóirí a roghnú, agus tríd an tsaoirse a dhearbhaíonn an reachtaíocht di gníomhú ar a conlán féin. Tá freagracht dhíreach faoin reachtaíocht aici as réimse leathan feidhmeannas agus cuireann sé seo taca breise lena neamhspleáchas. Faoin reachtaíocht, is coir é iarracht a dhéanamh dul i gcion go míchuí ar an nGníomhaireacht nó ar aon duine atá ag gníomhú thar a ceann.

## Eagrú

Tá ceanncheathrú na Gníomhaireachta lonnaithe i Loch Garman agus tá cúig fhoireann chigireachta aici, atá lonnaithe i mBaile Átha Cliath, Corcaigh, Cill Chainnigh, Caisleán an Bharraigh agus Muineachán.

## Bainistíocht

Riarann Bord Feidhmiúcháin lánaimseartha an Gníomhaireacht. Tá Ard-Stiúrthóir agus ceathrar Stiúrthóirí ar an mBord. Ceapann an Rialtas an Bord Feidhmiúcháin de réir mionrialacha atá leagtha síos san Acht.

## Coiste Comhairleach

Tugann Coiste Comhairleach ar a bhfuil dáréag ball cunamh don Gníomhaireacht. Ceapann an tAire Comhshaoil agus Rialtais Áitiúil na baill agus roghnaítear iad, den chuid is mó, ó dhaoine a ainmníonn eagraíochtaí a bhfuil suim acu i gcúrsaí comhshaoil nó forbartha. Tá réimse fairsing feidhmeannas comhairleach ag an gCoiste faoin Acht, i leith na Gníomhaireachta agus i leith an Aire araon.



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