

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY 2010 | Annual Report and Accounts

Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a statutory body responsible for protecting the environment in Ireland. 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.

The EPA is an independent public body established in July 1993 under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992. Its sponsor in Government is the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

LICENSING

We license the following to ensure that their emissions do not endanger human health or harm the environment:

- waste facilities (e.g., landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations);
- large scale industrial activities (e.g., pharmaceutical manufacturing, cement manufacturing, power plants);
- intensive agriculture;
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea (since February 2010).

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

- Conducting over 2,000 audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities every year.
- Overseeing local authorities’ environmental protection responsibilities in the areas of – air, noise, waste, waste-water and water quality.
- Working with local authorities and the Gardaí to stamp out illegal waste activity 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.

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 (including air and water quality, climate change, biodiversity, environmental technologies).

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- Assessing the impact of plans and programmes on the Irish environment (such as waste management and development plans).

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING, EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

- Providing guidance to the public and to industry on various environmental topics (including licence applications, waste prevention and environmental regulations).
- Generating greater environmental awareness (through environmental television programmes and primary and secondary 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.

MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE EPA

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:

- Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Environmental Assessment
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services.

The EPA Board is also advised by several key external committees and groups. The key committees are summarised in the following paragraphs.

Advisory Committee – Section 27 of the EPA Act provides for the establishment of an Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is chaired by the Director General and includes eleven other members. The members are appointed by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, seven of whom are selected mainly from those nominated by organisations concerned with environmental, developmental and wider social, economic or general matters. The Minister appoints the other four members.

The Committee has a wide range of advisory functions under Section 28 of the EPA Act, both in relation to the EPA and to the Minister. The Advisory Committee may make recommendations to the Agency in relation to general staff requirements including:

- the provision of services, including laboratory facilities, required by the Agency;
- standards, guidelines and codes of practice related to environmental protection;
- the Agency Research programme, its financing and priorities;
- the Agency Annual Work Programme and priorities;
- training conferences related to environmental protection..

The Advisory Committee also can make recommendations to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to:

- assignment of specific functions to the Agency;
- the financing of the Agency;
- activities or classes of activities for which the Agency should have licensing functions;
- assignment to the Agency of responsibility for specific environmental matters.

GMO Advisory Committee – The GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms) Advisory Committee is appointed by the EPA under the EPA Act 1992. The Committee:

- advises the Agency on relevant GMO issues;
- is appointed for a three-year term;
- consists of 14 members nominated by both Government and non-Government organisations (NGO's).

The Committee may be asked for their expert opinion/ advice on any aspect of the Agency's functions under the GMO Contained Use and Deliberate Release Regulations. Committee meetings are held approximately 4 times per year. The Committee includes one member who represents the Agency and serves as Chairman.

National Allocations Advisory Group (NAAG) – The National Allocations Advisory Group was set up by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to advise the Board of the Agency in relation to the National Allocation Plan and Emissions Trading. The NAAG also serves to provide advice to the National Allocation Authority, whose role and responsibilities are discharged by the Board of the EPA. The Group is chaired by an independent chairman.

National Waste Prevention Committee (NWPC) – The National Waste Prevention Committee was set up by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to advise the Agency and other organisations in relation to waste prevention. The Committee was established in July 2004 to monitor the development of the National Waste Management Programme and provide strategic direction for the EPA in implementing it. The EPA provides the chairperson and the secretariat for the Committee. Committee members are drawn from a range of governmental, non-governmental, business and sectoral interest groups.

Dumping at Sea Advisory Committee – The Dumping at Sea Advisory Committee was established by the EPA in April 2010 under the EPA Act 1992. The Committee's role is to provide advice on relevant aspects of the EPA's new functions under the Dumping at Sea Acts 1996 to 2010. Five meetings of the Committee were held during 2010. The Committee consists of eight members nominated by both Government and non-Government organisations and includes one member who represents the Agency and serves as Chairman.

Internal Audit Committee – The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies requires state bodies to appoint an Audit Committee composed of at least three independent non Executive Directors. However, due to the fact that there are no non-executive Directors of the Agency, a waiver was sought and granted in July 2002 in relation to this requirement. Notwithstanding this waiver, the Agency adhered to the spirit of the Code, and in 2003 appointed an Internal Audit Committee (IAC) comprised of an external Chairperson and other external expertise (in lieu of non-executive Director input), together with senior representation from the Agency.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ANNUAL Report 2010 EPA – Annual Report 2010

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Published by the Environmental Protection Agency, Ireland

Designed by Yellowstone Communications Design

Environmental Protection Agency, PO Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Ireland

Images courtesy of the late Michael Neill

Cover image – Glandore, Co. Cork

ISBN: 978-1-84095-410-4



Kilree Round Tower, Co. Kilkenny

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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT

Welcome to the 2010 Annual Report and Accounts for the Environmental Protection Agency. The report provides details of our work during 2010, in addition to the EPA financial statements. In keeping with the style of reporting that we adopted last year, the structure of this report reflects the strategic goals for Ireland's environment that are set out in our *2020Vision* Statement of Strategy. These are: limiting and adapting to climate change, clean air, protected water resources, protected soil and biodiversity, sustainable use of resources and integration and enforcement. The seventh section, building a high performance organisation, addresses outputs in four key areas: competent/committed people; environmental champion; customer-focused and organisationally efficient.

2010 was a challenging year for the EPA in which we worked hard to adapt to the changed and more difficult economic circumstances. Although reduced economic activity has resulted in reductions in emissions to the environment – for example, emissions of greenhouse gases – less money inevitably means less investment in the infrastructure, people and expertise needed to protect our environment. Despite these challenges, the EPA has a clear focus on what it needs to achieve as the Agency charged with overseeing environmental protection in Ireland. Ireland's environment is a key strategic asset for the country, which we must protect, manage and invest in to secure a healthy society and a strong, low-carbon and greener economy into the future.

The transition to a genuinely low carbon and resource efficient economy has substantial benefits, not only for the environment, but also for the health and well-being of society. Significant challenges remain in areas such as transport, energy and agriculture where much work needs to be done to ensure that economic growth, when it returns, is sustainable. Water shortages experienced during the year illustrate how fragile our infrastructure can be. We need to continue to invest in Ireland's green infrastructure, including waste water treatment and waste management facilities, so that the basic building blocks for a clean and well-protected environment are in place and functioning properly.

Moving to a low carbon and environmentally sustainable economy means reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and reducing our overall consumption of natural resources. This will require hard choices for individual citizens, communities, businesses and government. But there is no alternative. Climate change is forcing us to face up to the fact that many

developed nations are living beyond their means. Securing an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for both developed and developing countries will require radical changes in the way that we consume and manage our natural capital.

Organisationally, the EPA is fully committed to the type of change foreseen in the Public Service Agreement. Our action plan for the Public Service Agreement is complete. The EPA is committed to working and networking with its many stakeholders and partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver a higher quality service to the public. By its nature, environmental protection is multi-faceted and inter-disciplinary and requires that organisations work together in a coherent and cohesive manner to deliver the desired good environmental outcomes.

A comprehensive review of the EPA provided for in the programme for government was substantially completed during 2010. The development of the EPA's new statement of strategy for 2011-2013 – work on which has been delayed pending the review's conclusions – will take on board its recommendations when charting the way forward for the organisation.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change is the single biggest environmental challenge we face in this century. It is clear that if Ireland is to make a successful transition to a climate resilient society we need to implement radical changes across all economic sectors particularly energy, transport, and agriculture, and in our own lives. On the international stage, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010 made important progress on international actions to address climate change. It anchored the key political guidance provided by the Copenhagen Accord into official Decisions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. However, much work remains to be done in 2011 to enable the establishment of the institutions and processes envisaged in Cancun in a future comprehensive and legally binding global agreement on climate change to be agreed in South Africa in 2011.

Domestically, major challenges still exist to achieve real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The EU 2020 target is particularly difficult for Ireland to achieve as it excludes those sectors covered by the Emissions Trading Scheme and applies to agriculture, transport, residential and other sectors, where it is much more difficult to achieve reductions. Developing policies and measures which see Ireland significantly increasing energy efficiency and its use of renewable energy sources will be critical to meeting these targets.

Each year the EPA produces greenhouse gas emission figures and projections for submission to the EU. In 2010 the EPA reported that, while Ireland is projected to comply with the Kyoto Protocol targets without any more purchases of allowances, emissions will exceed the EU 2020 target agreed in 2008 with current policies, even under the most ambitious scenario. The key sectors contributing to greenhouse gas emissions in Ireland continue to be agriculture, energy and transport.

Provisional greenhouse gas emission figures for Ireland based on 2009 data showed that emissions fell by 7.9 per cent (5.4 million tonnes). However, there is no room for complacency as Ireland needs to decouple greenhouse gas emissions from economic activity if we are to successfully manage the transition to a low carbon economy.

CLEAN AIR

The EPA manages the national air quality monitoring network. Data published for 2010 from monitoring stations across the country showed that air quality in Ireland was generally good and is among the best in Europe. Due to traffic, levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter (PM₁₀) remain a concern in Dublin and Cork city centres. In smaller towns, concentrations of particulate matter are elevated due to the use of bituminous coal. The Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive (CAFE Directive), which entered into force in June 2010, will bring new challenges both for the EPA as the competent authority and for Ireland generally. These include additional pollutants to monitor, stringent new quality standards and an increased emphasis on air quality modeling.

The EPA's air quality monitoring network was used to assess the impact on health and the environment of the ash cloud produced from the eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano in April and May 2010. The EPA monitoring programme showed no significant effects on air quality in Ireland from the eruption.

PROTECTED WATER RESOURCES

As required under the Water Framework Directive, Ireland published a set of River Basin Management Plans in 2010. The EPA played a central role in facilitating and reviewing this process. Nationally, we have now moved from the planning phase into implementing measures to maintain and improve water quality. The EPA has worked closely with the Departments and the network of related organisations on water quality issues over the past year and has highlighted the need for more robust and integrated governance arrangements, at regional and national levels, in order to deliver the Water Framework Directive objectives.

An extensive Water Quality report was compiled in 2010, based on detailed monitoring in the three year period from 2007 to 2009. The report contains a number of significant findings which will require extensive work in the medium term. Rectifying these problems will require the full implementation of the measures set out as required under the Water Framework Directive.

The EPA made significant progress in the licensing of urban wastewater treatment plants during 2010, having been assigned as regulator in 2009. Urban waste water had been the last significant point source contributing to water pollution not under a licensing regime and we are confident that the licensing and regulation of this sector will lead to better outcomes for water quality.

During 2010, 65 discharge licences were issued to local authorities, bringing the total number of these licences issued to date to 124 and these licences are now being enforced by the EPA.

The SPLASH *bathingwater.ie* website provides up to date information on bathing water quality during the bathing season. Developed by the EPA in 2009 in co-operation with local authorities, An Taisce, and Irish Water Safety, the site proved to be a big success in 2010. Bathing water quality data is uploaded directly to the portal site by local authorities.

Responsibility for permitting Dumping at Sea was transferred from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to the EPA in February 2010. It is now a function of the EPA to issue and enforce Dumping at Sea Permits under the Dumping at Sea Acts 1996 to 2010 and the first such permit for the dumping of dredged material at sea was granted in late 2010.

PROTECTED SOIL AND BIODIVERSITY

In March, the EPA and Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) issued the results of a major multi-agency study into old mine sites in Ireland. The study concluded that of the 32 mining districts assessed 22 districts will not require any interventions, seven districts will require further monitoring and the Tynagh, Silvermines and Avoca districts will require additional site-specific risk assessment by the landowners.

In July, the EPA informed the general public, the European Commission and the EU Member States that an unauthorised release into the environment of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) maize seed had occurred. The EPA, as Competent Authority, ensured that the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had taken all necessary measures to terminate the release.

SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES

An EPA highlight during 2010 was the publication of its *Focus on Landfilling in Ireland* report. The report examined the standards of operation and management at landfills in Ireland and charted the progress made since the EPA began licensing this sector 15 years ago. The number of municipal waste landfills reduced over the last 15 years from almost 100 landfills in 1995 to 30 facilities today, all of which are licensed to operate by the EPA.

The report also set out the challenge facing Ireland to divert enough biodegradable waste from landfills to meet increasing targets set by Europe. The EPA's Stop Food Waste campaign, launched in November, is based on the premise that by preventing waste in the first place, the need to pay for the transport, treatment and disposal of waste can be forestalled. This and other programmes funded through the National Waste Prevention Programme will help Ireland reach its target for 2016 but the core of the problem in Ireland is its continued dependency on landfill for waste management.

INTEGRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The Landfill report also highlighted the compliance and enforcement issues that remain in this sector, in particular, the fact that 71 per cent of all complaints against licensed waste management facilities related to odour nuisance. The EPA's key priorities for compliance by landfill operators are: diversion of biodegradable municipal waste away from landfill; management of landfill gas and odour; financial provision for environmental liabilities and dealing with legacy landfills.

While there has been a dramatic improvement in waste management in Ireland over the past decade, the management of a handful of landfills continues to cause us considerable concern. These particular sites have had a considerable impact on local neighborhoods and resulted in understandable community distress. In dealing with these sites, the EPA has secured significant judgments from the High Court in 2010 including, for the first time, securing injunctions stopping waste being put into a landfill.

We will continue our efforts to bring problem sites into compliance with national and European environmental obligations. When dealing with these sites, we are taking account of people's concerns and their need for information and reassurance about environmental risk.

Enforcement is a function that the EPA takes very seriously and we continue to use our full suite of enforcement powers to ensure that those who flout their environmental

responsibilities are taken to task. We are fully committed to cultivating a strong culture of compliance with environmental legislation as well as a higher and more consistent standard of enforcement in Ireland. During 2010, the EPA took 12 summary prosecutions in the District Court. A further two prosecutions were taken on indictment in the Circuit Court by the Director of Public Prosecutions on foot of EPA investigations. In addition, the EPA was successful in obtaining a number of High Court Injunctions during the year against a licensed operator for breaches of its licence.

The EPA continued to supervise the provision of drinking water by public authorities by ensuring issues identified relating to supplies on the remedial action list were addressed. At the end of 2010 there were 269 supplies on the remedial action list.

RESEARCH

Targeted and reliable environmental research provides an authoritative scientific basis for environmental policy and decision making. Building on our own experience of environmental monitoring, regulation and guidance, the EPA supports a broad-ranging programme of science to inform both environmental policy and eco-innovation.

It is critical that the value of policy supporting research and its contribution to developing national policy and complying with European and international commitments is recognised. EPA-funded research has provided significant support for environmental policy and decision making at national and international levels. This year the *ISus* (Irish Sustainable Development) Model was completed as part of a major research project undertaken by the ESRI and funded by the EPA. The model has the ability to show how economic forecasting can be integrated into predictions for waste generation and emissions of pollutants across Ireland. It should prove useful for forecasting how different policy choices can impact on the environment.

BUILDING A HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANISATION/ CITIZEN FOCUSED SERVICES

The EPA continues to strive to be the best it can be. During 2010, the *Great Places to Work Institute* awarded the EPA the *Best Public Sector Company Award*; we received accreditation from the National Disability Authority for our commitment to providing accessible services for the public and EPA Headquarters achieved environmental certification to ISO 14001. We are rightly proud of these achievements and they help place the EPA in a strong position to deal with the very difficult challenges ahead.

A report by the National Economic and Social Council in 2010 entitled *Re-finding Success in Europe: The Challenge for Irish Institutions and Policy* cited the EPA as being one of Ireland's best agencies. This I attribute to the hard work, dedication and flexibility of EPA staff. The report said of the EPA that it has:

“a high international standing in the most up-to-date systems of standard setting, monitoring and learning. Their methods of in-depth review, network formation and system revision are similar to... the emerging EU methods of hard and soft law, networked regulation and learning.”

As part of our commitment to the Public Service Agreement the EPA is concentrating on providing more citizen-focused information in a more timely and accessible manner. Information communication technology is being used across the Agency to update and disseminate material via the EPA website.

In 2010, the EPA launched a web based indicator reporting series called Environment in Focus to provide up to date information about the EPA's national monitoring programmes. The EPA will continue to develop facilities for the public to access up to date information on the environment.

The EPA held a series of important conferences during 2010 on key thematic areas including water, waste prevention, the Green Economy and dissemination of research findings. These provided valuable input and focus on the environmental challenges that we are currently facing in Ireland.

The EPA established its first social media sites during 2010. We were also delighted to launch a suite of second-level schools' resources based around the EPA's vision of the Irish environment to the year 2020. Our hope is that the resources will inform a generation of young people who will develop a lifelong interest in protecting their environment.

In 2010 we also continued our series of public lectures on climate change with a major highlight of the year being Mary Robinson's talk on climate and justice to a packed Mansion House in November. All of these talks can be viewed on our web-site and we plan to continue the series during 2011.

We have continued to work in partnership with An Taisce on the delivery of the Green Home programme. In June, 37 Green Home flags were awarded to community groups who had completed the programme. We are also working on the development of a Greening Communities programme with An Taisce, the Department of the Environment and other partners and plan to launch this programme in late 2011.

IN CONCLUSION

All in the EPA were saddened by the loss of a dear colleague, the late Michael Neill, during the year. He will be missed, particularly in the Kilkenny Office where he had served as Regional Manager/Chemist since the EPA was established in 1993. In recognition of Michael's talent for photography, all of the photographs used in this report were taken by Michael.

I was pleased to welcome Dr Matt Crowe to the Board of the Agency in April 2010. Dr Crowe was appointed by Government as a Director of the EPA and currently serves as Director of the Office of Communications and Corporate Services. The fifth EPA Advisory Committee was also appointed during 2010 and we look forward to working closely with the committee during their three year term.

A number of key people retired during 2010. With the current moratorium on recruitment in place, replacing them is not an option. Although the EPA has suffered a loss of knowledge and experience in the past 12 months, I am confident that this highly flexible and resourceful organisation will cope with these challenges. It is incumbent upon us to continue to introduce efficiencies so that we can carry out our work in ways which make the best use of technology.

As a relatively young and modern organization, we will continue to embrace change in these uncertain times and play our role in protecting and improving Ireland's environment and planning for a more sustainable future for our children.


Dr Mary Kelly
 Director General

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

OUR MISSION IS:

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

OUR VISION IS TO BE:

- ▲ A powerful agent for change, both in attitudes to the environment and in actions on environmental protection;
- ▲ An organisation that works to place environmental issues at the heart of international, national and local decision-making processes;
- ▲ A credible and respected organisation, speaking out courageously for the protection of the environment;
- ▲ A world-class organisation in which people are proud to work.

OUR VALUES ARE:

- ▲ Integrity, independence and professionalism;
- ▲ Service to our stakeholders;
- ▲ Value for money;
- ▲ Respect and support for colleagues;
- ▲ Openness to learning.

OUR GOALS ARE:

Goals have been set in *2020Vision* under the headings of limiting and adapting to climate change, clean air, protected water resources, protected soil and biodiversity, sustainable use of resources and integration and enforcement. The over-arching organisational goal is to be a high-performance organisation by having competent and committed people, being customer focused and organisationally efficient and being a champion for the environment.

Limiting & Adapting to Climate Change – Ireland will achieve major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and will be prepared for the unavoidable impact of climate change.

Clean Air – Our air will be healthy and clean. Ireland's emissions to the atmosphere will meet all international and national targets.

Protected Water Resources – Our surface water and groundwater will not be depleted and will be of excellent quality, meeting all national and international standards.

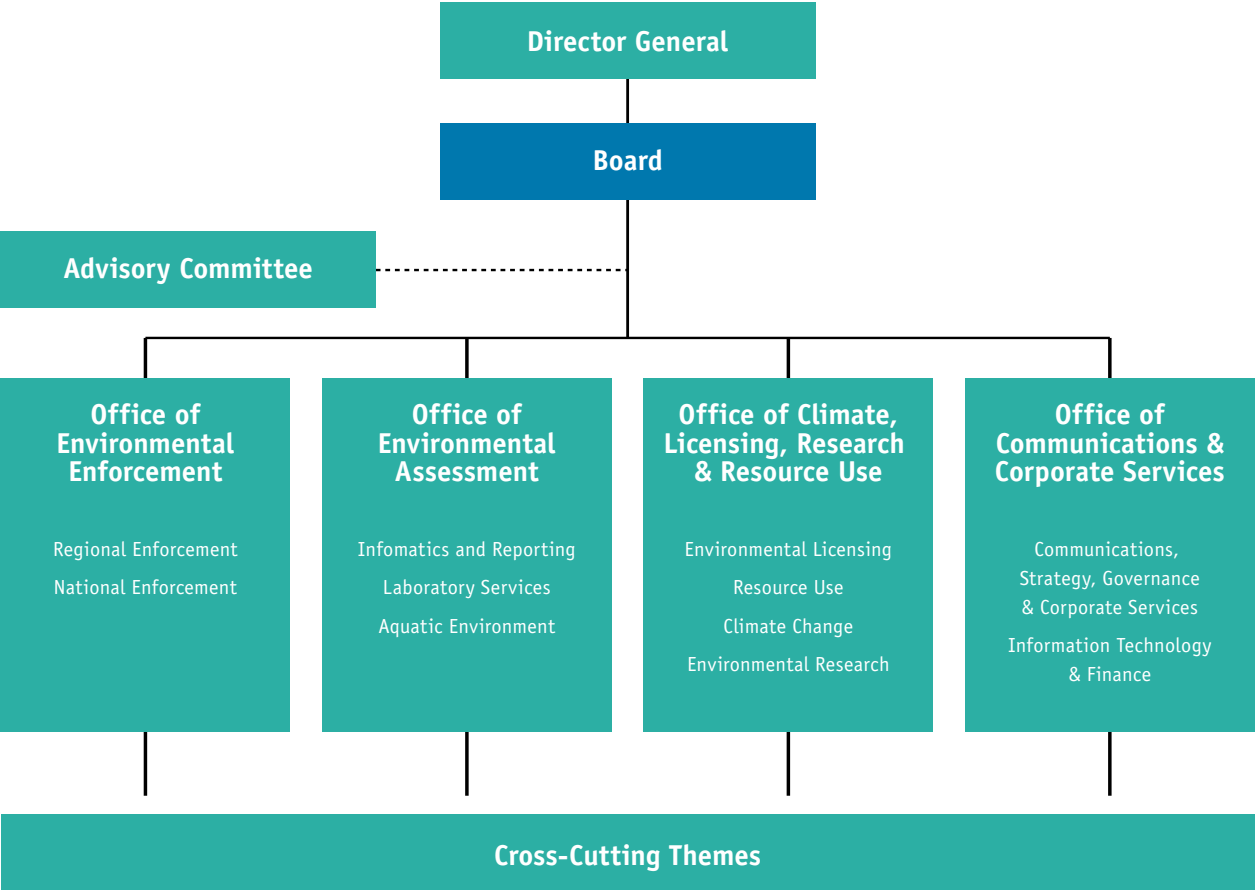
Protected Soil & Biodiversity – The soil of Ireland will be protected from contamination and loss and will support dependent plants and animals. Our biodiversity will be protected and managed for future generations to enjoy.

Sustainable Use of Resources – The overall goal is a more efficient use of resources (water, energy and materials). Waste will be prevented and minimised, with the balance safely collected, recycled or recovered. Final disposal will be completed in a way that does not harm the environment.

Integration & Enforcement – Environmental considerations will be at the heart of policy-making and decision-making. Responsible environmental behaviour will be the norm across all sectors of society and those who flout environmental laws will be held to account.

Building a High Performance Organisation – Developing the people and organisational resources to underpin our strategy is a continuing requirement. We want to build on our reputation and ensure that we are seen as an organisation with strengths in four key areas: Competent/Committed People; Environmental Champion; Customer Focused and Organisationally Efficient Organisational Structure.

EPA ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Left to right

Dr Mary Kelly, *Director General*

Mr Dara Lynott, *Deputy Director General; Director, Office of Environmental Enforcement*

Ms Laura Burke, *Director, Office of Climate, Licensing, Research and Resource Use*

Mr Micheál Ó'Cinnéide, *Director, Office of Environmental Assessment*

Dr Matt Crowe, *Director, Office of Communications and Corporate Services (from March 2010)*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet to discuss issues of concern and offer advice to the Board. The Director General of the EPA, is ex officio, a member and Chairperson of the Committee. The term of office of the Committee is three years. The 5th EPA Advisory Committee was appointed by Mr John Gormley, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on 21st January 2010. Members of this Committee comprised of:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Chair: Dr Mary Kelly | <i>(ex-officio)</i> |
| Mr Brian Buckley | <i>(nominated by the Chambers of Commerce of Ireland)</i> |
| Mr Brendan Dunford | <i>(nominated by the Heritage Council)</i> |
| Dr Shirley Gallagher | <i>(nominated by the Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland)</i> |
| Professor Margaret O'Mahony | <i>(nominated by the Institution of Engineers of Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy)</i> |
| Professor John Sweeney | <i>(nominated by NUI Maynooth)</i> |
| Ms Eanna Ni Lamhna | <i>(nominated by the Irish Environmental Network)</i> |
| Cllr Brian Meaney | <i>(nominated by the Association of Municipal Authorities in Ireland)</i> |
| Mr Vincent Cleary | <i>(Managing Director of Glenisk Organic Ireland)</i> |
| Mr David Ball | <i>(Hydrogeologist)</i> |
| Dr Elizabeth Cullen | <i>(co-founder and committee member of the Irish Doctors' Environmental Association)</i> |
| Dr Evelyn Moorkens | <i>(Ecological Consultant)</i> |



King's River at Kells, Co. Kilkenny



SECTION 1

Kilkenny Castle

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the EPA Annual Report 2010. This report provides a summary of the EPA's key activities and environmental and organisational outcomes achieved during 2010. The structure of the document reflects *2020Vision*, the strategic framework for protecting and improving Ireland's environment that was published by the EPA in April 2007.

The work of the EPA is carried out by its four main Offices:

The **Office of Climate, Licensing, Research and Resource Use** has a broad remit, which includes licensing large-scale industrial and waste facilities, and waste water discharges by the Licensing Unit. The Climate Change Unit is responsible for regulating and reporting on Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions and coordinating climate change research. The Resource Use Unit is responsible for promoting the sustainable use of resources by implementing the National Waste Prevention Programme, publishing the National Waste Report, promoting the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and by enforcing a wide range of Producer Responsibility regulations. The Office is also responsible for permitting large petrol storage facilities, dumping at sea, for granting consents for genetically modified organisms, and for co-ordinating a national environmental research programme.

The **Office of Environmental Enforcement** is dedicated to the implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation in Ireland. It is directly responsible for enforcing EPA licences granted to waste, industrial and other activities. It also supervises the environmental protection activities of local authorities, through auditing their performance, providing advice and guidance, and in appropriate cases, giving binding directions.

The **Office of Environmental Assessment** co-ordinates and undertakes ambient monitoring of air and water including chemical, biological and hydrometric monitoring of lakes, rivers and estuaries and the qualitative and quantitative monitoring of groundwater. It supports the EPA's licensing and enforcement functions through monitoring of emissions and various laboratory related services. It also provides sampling and laboratory assistance to local authorities. The Office has responsibility for a range of functions including: developing and using assessment tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS); producing regular reports on environmental quality and publishing periodic 'state of the environment' and Indicator Reports. In addition, the Office implements key aspects of the EU Air Framework Directive and its Daughter Directives and EU Water Framework Directive. This EPA Office operates as Ireland's National Focal Point for the European Environment Agency (EEA), oversees Strategic Environmental Assessment and coordinates EPA activity on soils and biodiversity.

The **Office of Communications and Corporate Services** ensures, among other things, that the EPA conducts its business activities in an efficient manner, conforming to best business practice and also effectively communicates with its stakeholders and the general public. The Office is responsible for Finance, Communications, Corporate Governance, Information Technology, Human Resources, Training and Organisational Services.

More information on EPA activities, licenses, publications and newsletters can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie.



River Barrow, Clashganny Lough, Co. Carlow

1. LIMITING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

2020 GOAL

Ireland will achieve major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and will be prepared for the unavoidable impact of climate change

EMISSIONS TRADING

- ▲ Verified Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) continued the downward trend from a high of 22.43 Mtonnes in 2005, to the 17.22 Mtonnes reported for 2009.
- ▲ 101 installations covered by the emissions trading scheme in Ireland held valid permits requiring them to monitor and report emissions for all or part of 2010 and surrender allowances.
- ▲ Ireland was again 100% compliant with the scheme, with all operators surrendering the required amount of allowances by April 30th to match their verified emissions.
- ▲ Operators in the Aviation sector were required to monitor emissions from 1 January 2010. If they wished to apply for free allocation of allowances they were also required to monitor payload and distance travelled. Ireland was assigned 219 aircraft operators on a list published by the EU Commission in February 2010. Most of these were small private jet operators based in the United States. According to air traffic data at the end of 2010 over one third of these operators didn't fly in 2010 or their flights were exempt from the ETS.

UNFCCC CANCUN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

- ▲ Experts from the EPA's Climate Change Unit participated in the UNFCCC Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, both in the negotiation process and in official Side Event at which data analysis from Ireland was presented.

NATIONAL EMISSIONS INVENTORIES

- ▲ The national inventory for 2008 was finalised, while the preliminary inventory for 2009 was published in October.

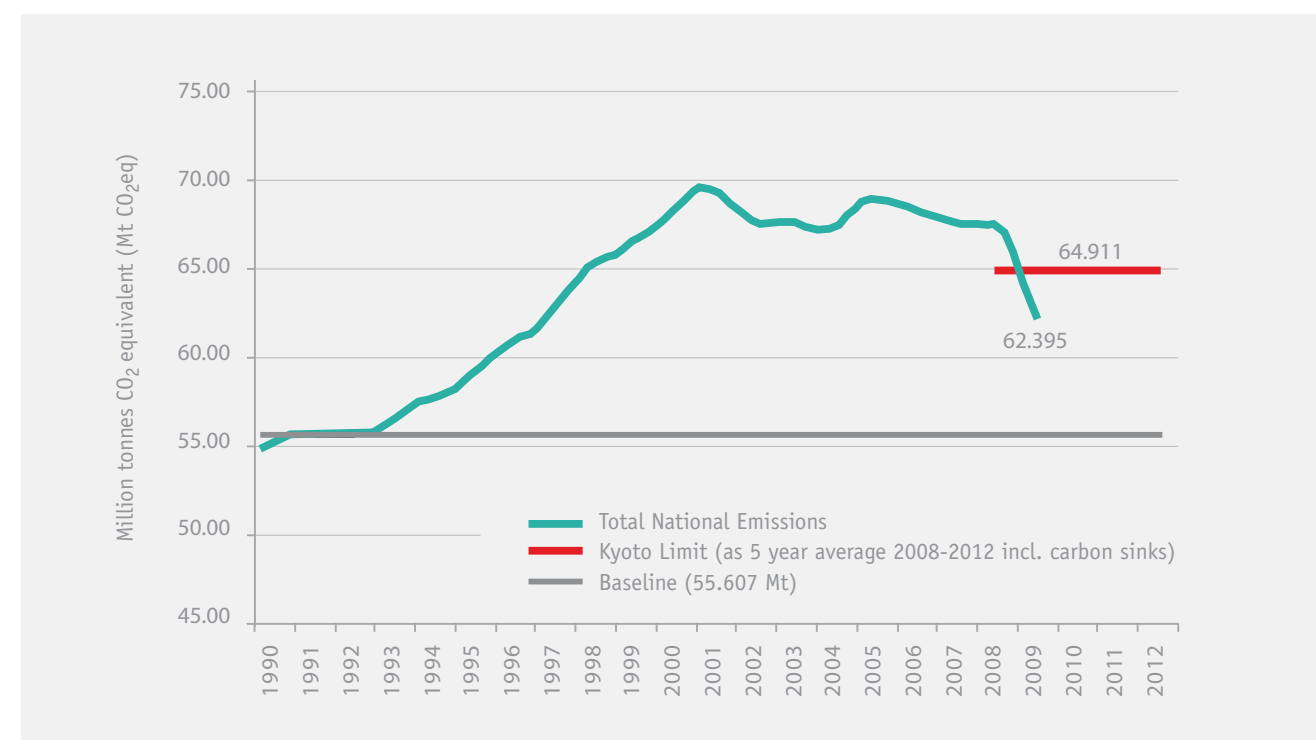


Fig 1: Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions (1990–2009) and Ireland's Kyoto Limit

- ▲ For 2009, total national greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be 62.37 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂eq) which is significantly lower (8.0% lower or 5.42 Mt CO₂eq) than emissions in 2008.
- ▲ Ireland's distance to target under the Kyoto Protocol, based on the first two years of the Kyoto Period (i.e. 2008 and 2009), is 5.81 Mt CO₂eq when the impact of forest sinks and of the EU-Emissions Trading Scheme are included.

EMISSIONS PROJECTIONS

- ▲ Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Projections for the period 2008-2012 reflect the reduced activity due to the economic downturn, but there is still an ongoing challenge for Ireland to meet its obligations under both the Kyoto Protocol and under the EU 2020 binding targets.
- ▲ The profile of greenhouse gas emissions in Ireland is unusual in the European context, with agriculture currently accounting for 28% of all emissions and 39% of emissions in the non-trading sector. This makes it very difficult to effect actual reductions on the scale required in the non-trading sector.

- ▲ While projections published in April 2010 indicated that Ireland was expected to exceed its Kyoto Protocol limit by 12.7 – 15.0 Mtonnes of CO₂e, indications from projection figures to be published in early 2011 show that Ireland's projected distance to its Kyoto target has reduced. In estimating Ireland's emissions with relation to the Kyoto Protocol, the impact of forest sinks is included as allowed for under Article 3.3 of the Kyoto Protocol. Purchases already made by NTMA on behalf of Government, coupled with operation of the Emissions Trading Scheme, means that Ireland can comply with its Kyoto obligations without any further purchases based on the latest projections to be published in 2011.

In the longer term to 2020, Ireland's unique position within the EU as the country with the highest national proportion of agricultural emissions will present this country with major challenges in meeting the EU's 2020 target with regard to greenhouse gas emissions. Latest projections indicate that despite a predicted slow down of growth in transport emissions, Ireland is still expected to breach its annual EU 2020 target from 2016 onwards in relation to GHGs.

The EPA will continue to update and refine GHG projections to take account of socioeconomic, technological and policy developments, to update key assumptions and to take account of better data and better models as they become available.

AIR CLIMATE SCIENCE

In 2010 significant progress was made at UNFCCC level in progressing future action on climate change. This was focused on mainstreaming key elements of the Copenhagen Accord agreed by Heads of State in 2009 into the work of the UNFCCC. This was achieved at its meeting in Cancun. This means that the UNFCCC has embraced the EU long term climate protection goal to ensure that the global temperature increase is less than 2 degrees Celsius and other goals including on finance for actions on climate change in developing countries.

In 2010 the EPA:

- ▲ Maintained a strong presence in international activities on air and climate science.
- ▲ Contributed to work of the EU Science Expert group on climate change in preparation for the Cancun meeting.
- ▲ Worked as part of the Irish delegation at UNFCCC meetings and represented the EU in the negotiation process.
- ▲ Continued interactions on the future work and development of the IPCC including engagement at it plenary meetings.
- ▲ Provided input for meetings of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Advisory Council.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- ▲ €3 million funding was provided for existing and new research in this area during 2010. This was focused on priority projects on emissions and sinks of greenhouse gases, including work to respond to review comments on emissions factors used for organic soils.
- ▲ Work on an assessment of national adaptive capacity which complements the state of knowledge report on *Climate Change Impacts for Ireland: produced in 2009*.
- ▲ Progressed work on development of a climate change information system for Ireland.
- ▲ Examined the potential of existing grassland for providing energy solutions for Ireland.
- ▲ Progressed analysis of greenhouse gas emissions and sinks associated with land use in Ireland. Irish grasslands are considered to have an important role in addressing climate change.
- ▲ Advanced national energy modeling including provision of analysis of pathways for achievement of long term i.e. up to 2050, GHG emissions reductions goals.

- ▲ Sectoral analysis of transport systems was produced along with analysis of the use of domestic offsets to advance climate actions.
- ▲ Supported Irish expert engagement with the IPCC Special Report on renewable energy. This report will be published in 2011.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE INITIATIVES

- ▲ The climate change web-pages on the EPA website provide the latest research findings from EPA funded projects; up to date information from international climate negotiations; links to international and national organisations working on climate change and carbon calculator tools for personal and business use and include answers to frequently asked questions on climate change. Visit: www.epa.ie/whatwedo/climate/
- ▲ The EPA commenced use of social media to communicate with the public and other key stakeholders; this includes the use of YouTube for provision of access to climate change lectures and conference presentations, use of Twitter for news and SlideShare for presentation materials.
- ▲ Information booklets on the EPA and Climate Change were produced and circulated to stakeholders. These outlined the roles and responsibilities that the EPA has in relation to climate change.
- ▲ A successful conference on climate change was held in the Aviva Stadium involving national and international speakers and a wide range of stake holders.
- ▲ The EPA's popular series of public lectures on Climate Change continued throughout the year in the Mansion House culminating in Mary Robinson's inspirational talk on climate justice in November. This series will continue in 2011.



Dunbrody Abbey, Co. Wexford



Glandore, Co. Cork

2. CLEAN AIR

2020 GOAL

Our air will be healthy and clean. Ireland’s emissions to the atmosphere will meet all international and national targets.

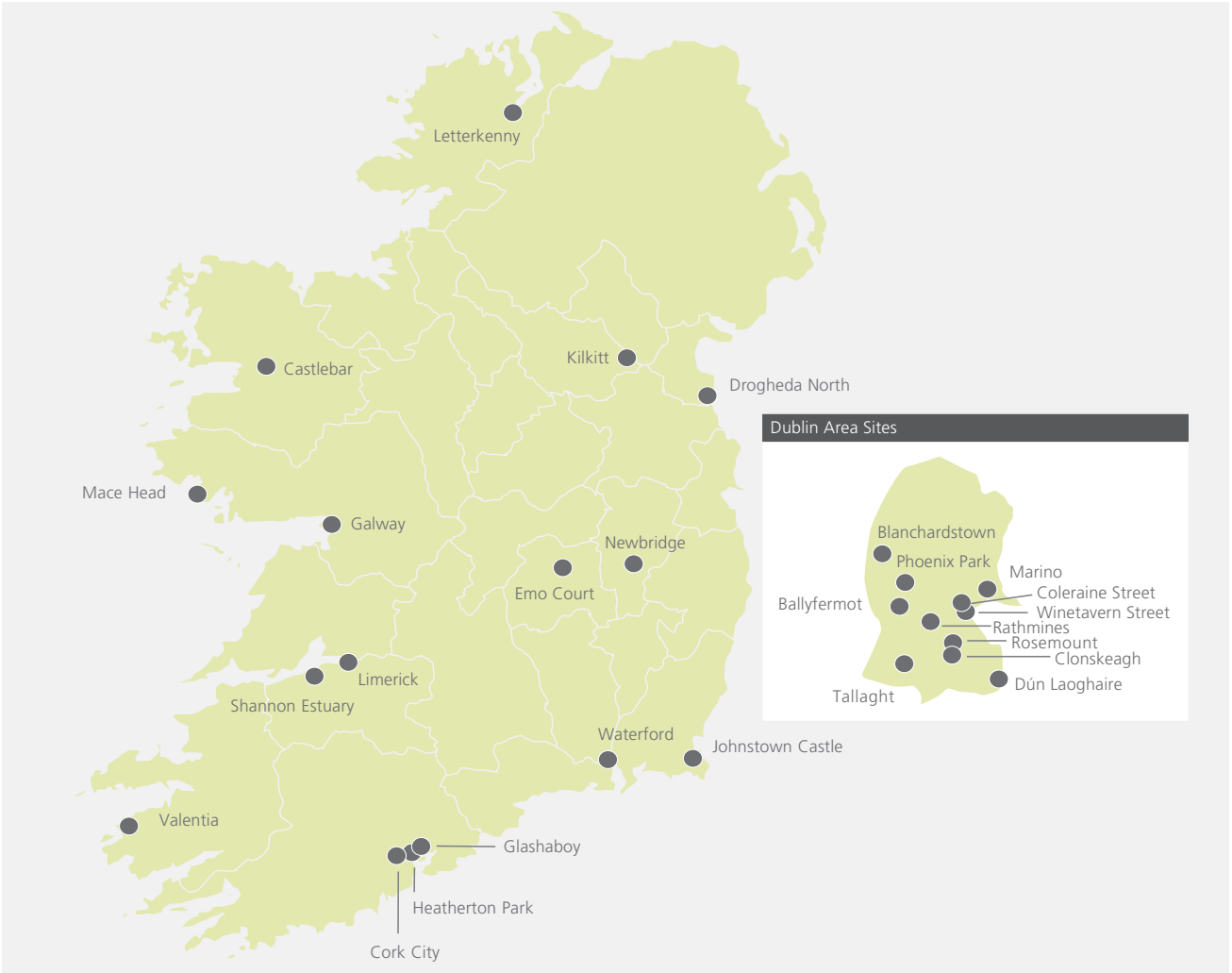
AIR QUALITY

- ▲ The report *Air Quality in Ireland in 2009 – Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality* found that air quality was generally good at monitoring stations across the country. Due to traffic, levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter (PM₁₀) remain a concern in Dublin and Cork city centres. One site at Dublin city centre exceeded 2010 nitrogen dioxide limits and the four Dublin local authorities are preparing a plan to manage this. In smaller towns, concentrations of particulate matter are elevated due to the use of bituminous coal.
- ▲ The graph on the following page (Fig. 2) illustrates trends in nitrogen dioxide concentrations in Dublin and Cork between 2002 and 2009.

	Wine-tavern	Crumlin / Ballyfermot /Rathmines	Glash-aboy	
	Dublin City Centre	Dublin Suburban	Cork City Centre	Cork Rural
2002	35	21	28	7
2003	38	26	23	8
2004	30	23	16	8
2005	33	22	26	9
2006	35	22	26	10
2007	34	19	29	9
2008	34	17	30	9
2009	45	17	34	11

AIR MONITORING NETWORK

- ▲ New air monitoring sites in 2010 included Swords in Co. Dublin, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, Bray, Co. Wicklow and Longford Town.
- ▲ The air monitoring network was used to monitor pollution during the volcanic ash episode in 2010.
- ▲ The map on the following page shows the locations of monitoring sites in 2010.



National air quality sites map

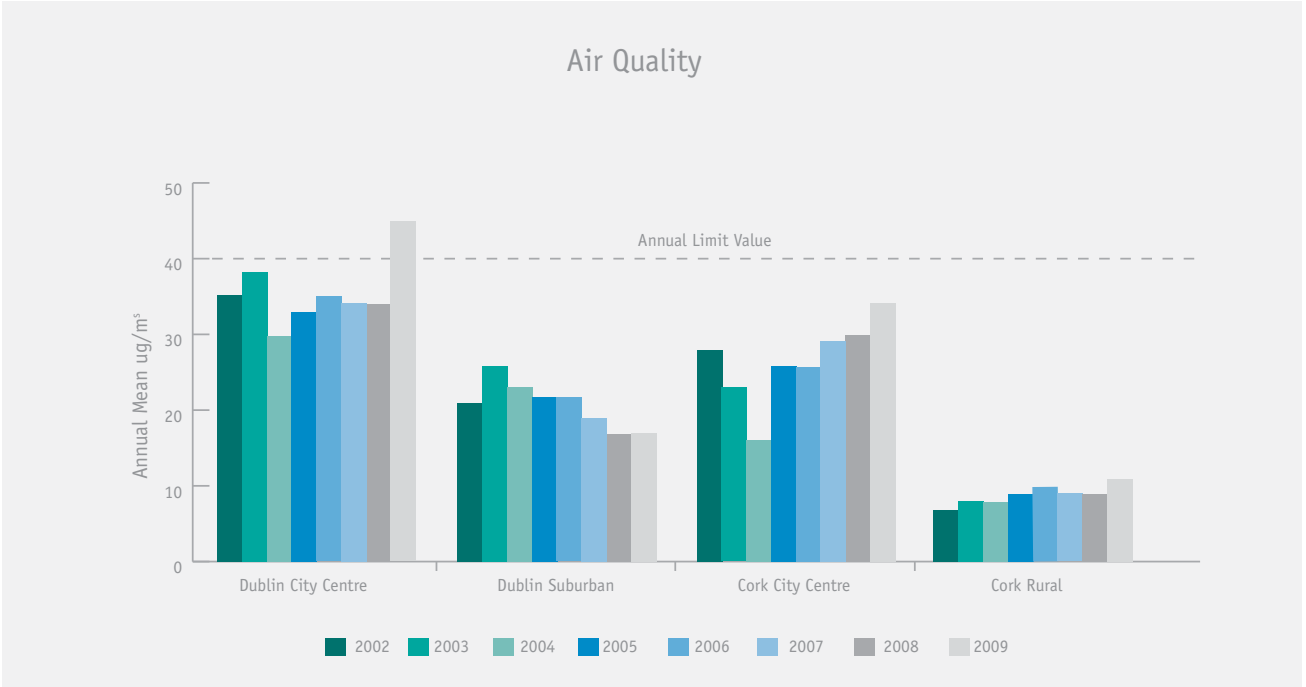


Fig 2: NO₂ concentrations in Dublin and Cork, 2002 – 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE DIRECTIVE

- ▲ The EPA fulfilled its reporting requirements under the Noise Directive by submitting the required reports and accompanying data via Reportnet, to the European Commission.
- ▲ The EPA held a workshop for all the noise mapping bodies to present an overview of the legislative requirements for noise mapping and action planning; to demonstrate the steps required to generate noise maps; and to share experiences and challenges encountered during the previous round of noise mapping.
- ▲ In addition, the EPA circulated guidance documents on both noise mapping and action planning to all the noise mapping bodies providing details on how this process should be undertaken.

AIR ENFORCEMENT

- ▲ The EPA Air Enforcement Team in the Office of Environmental Enforcement carried out a number of projects to ensure that emissions to atmosphere from industrial and waste activities are accurately measured and reported in order to adequately assess compliance with relevant emission limit values. This included a workshop on quality of air emissions monitoring data in October 2010, as well as a programme of audits and inspections in 2010 to ensure that larger emitters (including power plants and waste incineration activities) are accurately monitoring and reporting on emissions to atmosphere.
- ▲ Additional guidance was also prepared by the Air Enforcement Team in 2010 which is relevant to the promotion of clean and healthy air, including guidance on best practice in air dispersion modelling and guidance on odour monitoring and assessment.
- ▲ The Air Enforcement Team also manages the Agency monitoring programme, with over 150 monitoring visits being completed at IPPC installations in 2010.

OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES (ODS), FLUORINATED GREENHOUSE GASES (F-gases), POLYCHLORINATED BI-PHENYLS (PCBs) AND PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs)

- ▲ Inspections were conducted in relation to the correct management of ODS and F-gases. Additional survey work was completed for PCB holdings. Ireland has now signed up to the Stockholm Convention in relation to POPs.

Investigation on limits for waste potentially containing nine newly designated POPs was initiated in consultation with the EU Commission.

REACH (REGISTRATION, EVALUATION, AUTHORISATION AND RESTRICTION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES)

- ▲ The EPA collaborates with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) and relevant Government Departments to ensure implementation of the REACH Regulation. Work included input into a national report on REACH implementation prepared for the European Commission, and support for a significant number of chemicals related research projects and awareness raising activities.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- ▲ Completion of HSE-led project which determined that there were no significant health effects before and after the installation of an incinerator at an IPPC-licensed facility and indeed recorded that environmental concern levels reduced significantly.
- ▲ A new project was awarded to Dublin Institute of Technology and Dublin City Council who conduct field monitoring at four centres, to inform on the relationships between fuel usage and ambient air quality. A detailed report, taking account of EU and National policy, with conclusions and recommendations will be provided for policy makers.
- ▲ There are a number of on-going projects relating to air quality funded under the EPA research programme – dealing with indoor air pollution, air quality at ports and in urban settings.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE INITIATIVES

- ▲ Real-time air quality monitoring continued at several locations in Ireland, as part of an on-going comprehensive assessment of air quality countrywide. This information is available on www.epa.ie
- ▲ A report was published on dioxin levels in the Irish environment (based on the levels in cows' milk in a 2009 survey). The report showed that all of the samples over this period had levels well below the relevant EU limit.



Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny



River Burren, Co. Carlow

3. PROTECTED WATER RESOURCES

2020 GOAL

Our surface water and groundwater will not be depleted and will be of excellent quality, meeting all national and international standards.

WATER QUALITY

The main findings of the report *Water Quality in Ireland 2007-2009* showed:

- 70% of river channel length and 92% of lake surface area examined, were of satisfactory water quality;
- The number of seriously polluted river sites, 20, was half that reported in the previous period 2004-2006, mainly due to improved wastewater treatment;
- 84% of the estuarine/coastal water bodies examined were classified as being unpolluted or in an intermediate condition, representing 95% in terms of surface area;
- 35% of all groundwater samples were contaminated by faecal coliforms, but nitrate and phosphate concentrations declined during the period, with two locations showing an upward nitrate trend;
- 22, 34 and 16 fish kills were recorded in 2007, 2008 and 2009, respectively;
- Toxic contaminants were generally of low significance in Irish surface and groundwaters;
- 52% of river waterbodies; 47% of lake waterbodies and 46% of transitional and coastal waterbodies were classified as being in high or good status under the Water Framework Directive (this extends beyond strict water quality encompassing a wider range of ecological factors).
- Eutrophication and organic pollution remain the primary causes of pollution to be dealt with – reductions in phosphate and nitrate pollution are needed both in wastewater treatment and diffuse sources, which remain the two primary causes of the observed pollution.

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD)

- In 2010, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government issued Regulations which transpose into Irish law measures needed to achieve the environmental objectives of the WFD and the Groundwater Directives; the Regulations were influenced by advice from EPA staff.
- The reporting required under WISE by Article 13 of the WFD was undertaken by the EPA.
- Characterisation of groundwater bodies for the next river basin management cycle has commenced. In addition, monitoring of all water bodies continued.

HYDROMETRIC PROGRAMME

- The EPA flow estimation tool, which enables estimation of river flows in the range 5% -95% at ungauged catchments, was launched, and there are now over 240 registered users.
- Upgrading of the hydrometric network continued, with the installation of telemetry equipment at 80 hydrometric stations.

DRINKING WATER

- A key priority for the EPA in 2010 was to improve the disinfection of public water supplies.
- The EPA conducted 84 audits of drinking water supplies and served nine directions on local authorities in relation to drinking water issues.
- At the end of 2010 there were approximately 269 supplies on the Remedial Action List, a significant driver for prioritising investment in drinking water infrastructure. Improvements made by local authorities have allowed the OEE to remove approximately 172 supplies in total from this list to date.
- At the end of 2010 there were 23 public water supplies on boil water notices.
- Almost all treatment plants in the country (97%) have installed chlorine monitors and alarms. The provision of this equipment was funded by the DoEHLG.
- Detailed guidance was published for local authorities and the group water scheme sector on the implementation of the Drinking Water Regulations. This guidance was prepared through a successful collaborative project with the Water Services Training Group and resulted in the publication of two handbooks, one on public supplies and another on private supplies.

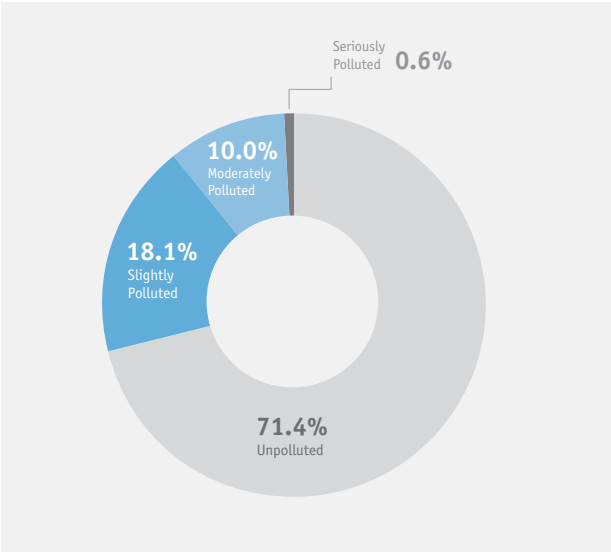


Fig 3: River Water Quality 2006 – 2008

- The European Commission closed an ECJ case against Ireland in relation to drinking water. The enforcement work carried out by the OEE in recent years has been a significant contributor to the closure of this case.

GROUNDWATER

- Two reports, required by the Groundwater Regulations, were drafted – ‘Classification of Hazardous and Non-hazardous Substances in Groundwater’ and ‘Methodology for Establishing Groundwater threshold Values and the Assessment of Chemical and quantitative Status of Groundwater, including an Assessment of Pollution Trends and Trend Reversal’.
- An Advice Note for local authorities on technical assessments in accordance with Article 17 of the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations was completed.
- Delineation of zones of contribution and source protection zones around the groundwater quality monitoring points continued, thus contributing to the evaluation of the data and the protection of the sources.

BATHING WATER QUALITY

The *Bathing Water Quality Report 2009* bathing found that;

- 93% of the designated bathing sites met the minimum EU Mandatory Standards achieving sufficient water quality status. From 2008 to 2009, the proportion of bathing waters of sufficient water quality remained unchanged.
- 82% of bathing areas achieved the higher standard of good status, an increase of 4% on the 2008 figure.

- ▲ The online bathing water quality website ‘Splash’, available at www.bathingwater.ie, gives “as near to real time” information as possible on bathing water quality and other issues that will be of benefit to the public.
- ▲ In addition, the website has a section on “Annual Quality” that provides the overall compliance information for all bathing sites from 2003 onwards.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA MANAGEMENT

- ▲ The Environmental Data Exchange Network (EDEN) processed over 1,600 electronic data uploads, consisting of over 47,000 water samples from local authorities and national organizations, including the EPA.

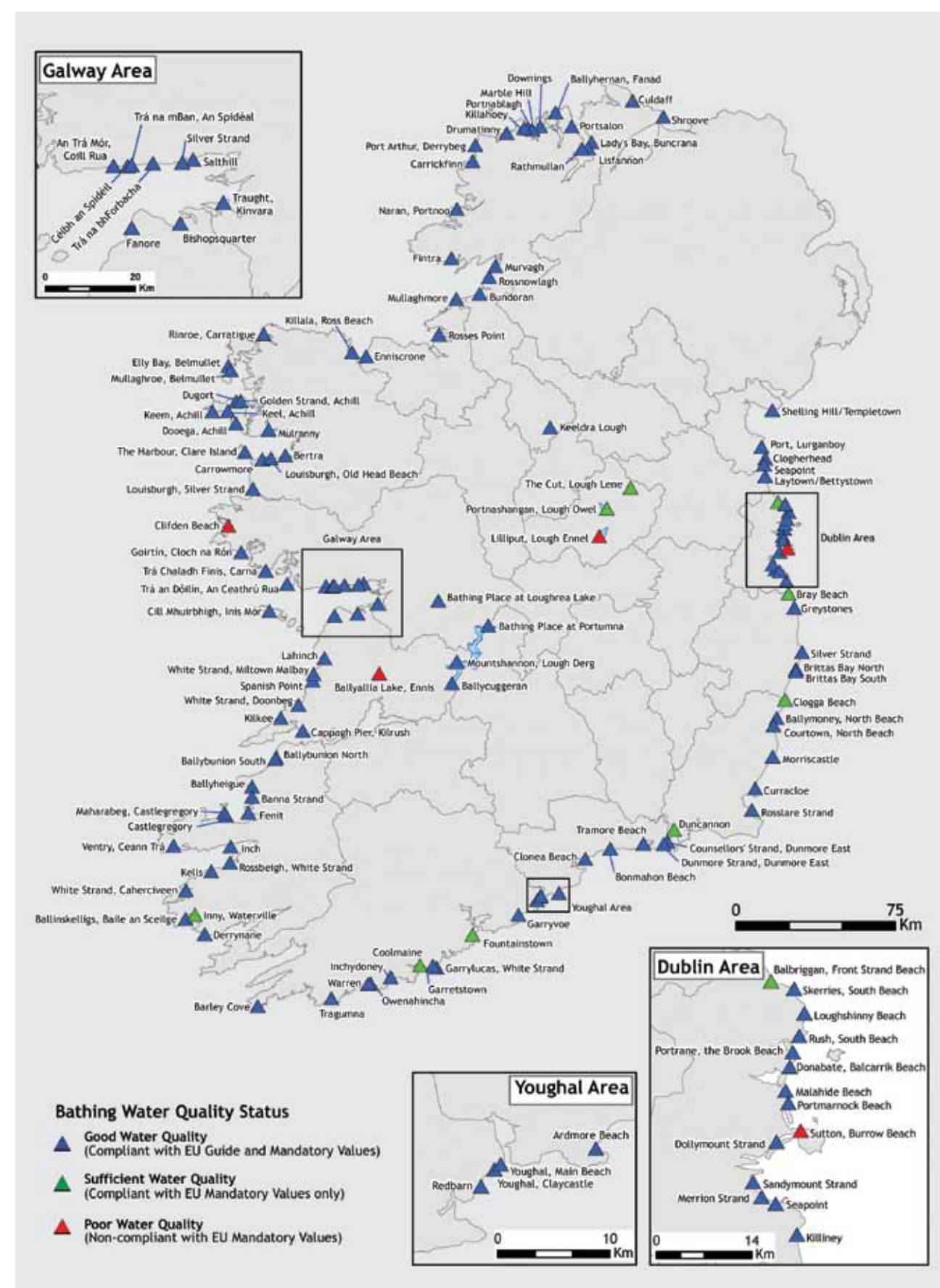
RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- ▲ Continued support for research supporting WFD policy formation and implementation nationally.
- ▲ Publication in 2010 of four significant research reports.
- ▲ On-going progress on flagship multiannual projects supporting the implementation of WFD nationally (Pathways and HYDROFOR).
- ▲ Five new projects were funded in 2010.
- ▲ Three research reports were published which have developed innovative technologies to treat Nitrogen and Phosphorous containing wastewaters. These have been piloted and used – in waste water treatment works in Northern Ireland, in slaughter house facility industries and Teagasc sites – with waste (alum sludge) from Dublin City Council drinking water treatment plants.
- ▲ The EPA, in conjunction with NUI Galway and Galway County Council formally launched a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility at Tuam, Co. Galway. The facility has significant potential for innovative research for the development and testing of novel environmental technologies.

- ▲ The EPA established a co-ordination committee of key national stakeholders to increase awareness, synergies & communication amongst research funders and to reduce the fragmentation of water research in Ireland.
- ▲ The EPA Research Programme continues to develop links internationally such as a Joint Programming Initiative of Water Research Programme Managers across Europe.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE INITIATIVES

- ▲ The EPA hosted a national water conference in June. Approximately 350 delegates from 70 organisations attended. The focus this year was on water quality protection measures, legislative requirements and drinking water quality.



Bathing Water Quality 2009



Kittiwake

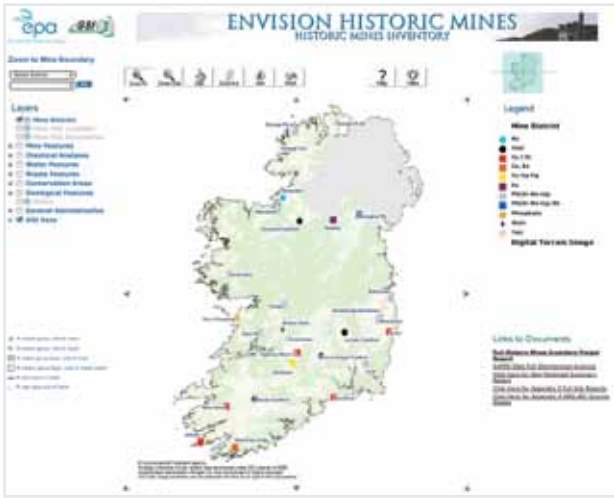
4. PROTECTED SOIL AND BIODIVERSITY

2020 GOAL

The soil of Ireland will be protected from contamination and loss and will support dependent **plants** and animals. Our biodiversity will be protected and managed for future generations.

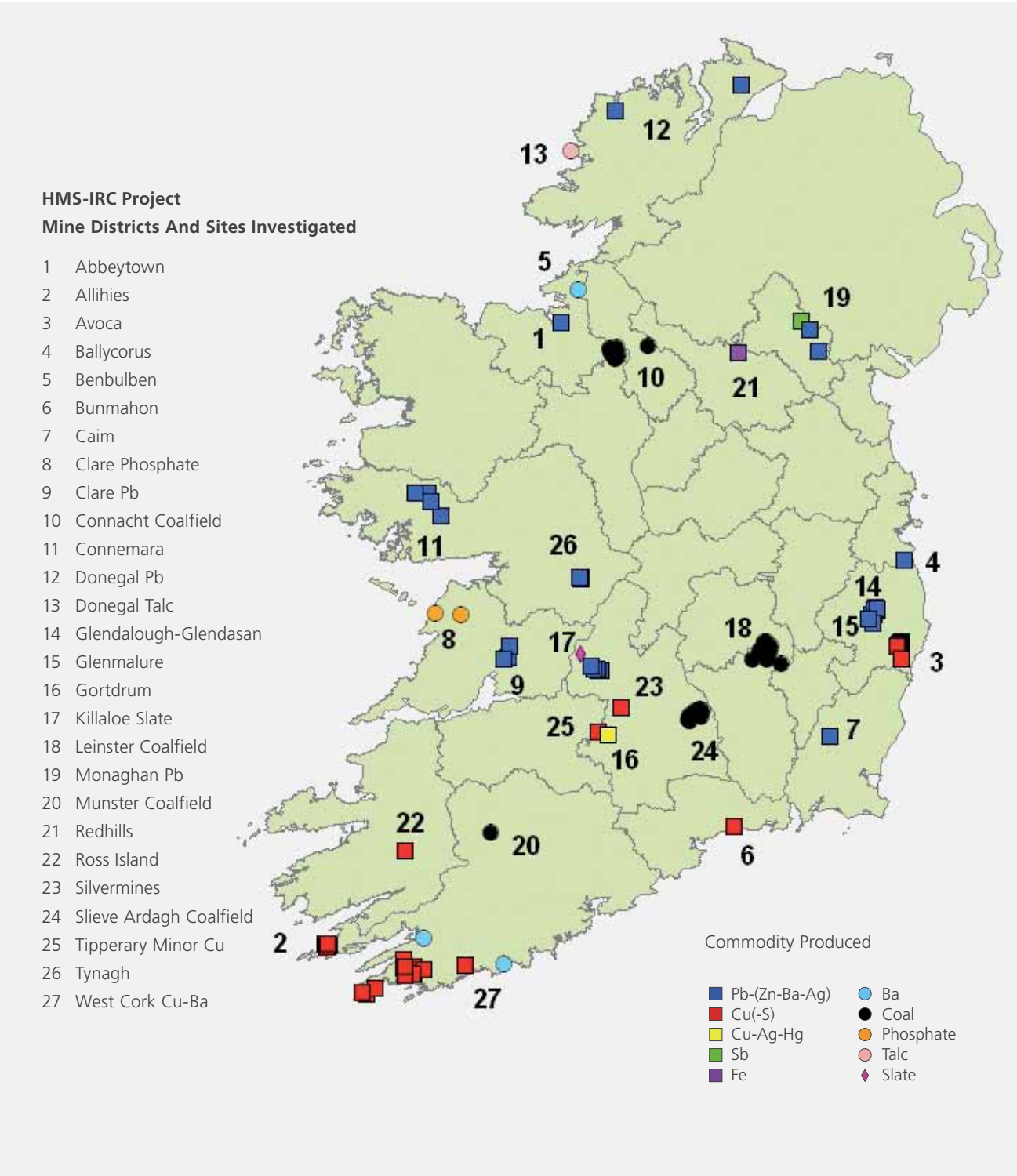
HISTORIC MINES SITES PROJECT

- ▲ The *Historic Mine Sites – Inventory and Risk Classification (HMS-IRC) project Volume I* was launched in Quarter 1 of 2010. This was a multi-agency project carried out by the EPA, the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Exploration and Mining Division). The project has produced the most comprehensive inventory of historic mines sites in Ireland, the report can be accessed in the downloads section on www.epa.ie
- ▲ In addition to the report, the EPA developed an interactive WebGIS called “Envision Historic Mines” maps.epa.ie/EnvisionMinesViewer/mapviewer.aspx which provides the public with access to the comprehensive mines data collected during this project.



UNREGULATED WASTE DISPOSAL SITES

- ▲ To facilitate Local Authorities work in assessing risk posed by their closed landfills, the EPA developed a set of matrices to help to scope the nature and extent of site investigations required to be carried out at the estimated



327 sites. Complementing the 2007 EPA Code of Practice, it enables the key environmental risks to be focused on and will ensure that investigations are carried out in a cost-effective manner.

LAND COVER

- ▲ The EPA completed a pilot project to automate the mapping of habitats in a selected area in Co. Galway using satellite imagery and remote sensing techniques. The pilot project was very successful and showed a high level of accuracy in identifying habitats at high resolution (less than 0.1 ha).

CONTAMINATED LAND

- ▲ During 2010 the Environmental Liability Unit undertook a review of contaminated land assessment criteria and policy in the OEE. In 2011 the unit will roll out a new contaminated land assessment and enforcement policy for use by licensees. This assessment and enforcement policy will also be applicable in cases of land damage under the Environmental Liability Regulations (*SI 547 of 2008*).

BIODIVERSITY

- ▲ The EPA published a *Biodiversity Action Plan* in 2010. This plan sets out specific actions which the EPA will undertake for the implementation of its role in the protection of biodiversity. The Plan covers a range of activities in the areas of monitoring, research, assessment and reporting, environmental regulation, climate change and management and communications.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

SOILS

- ▲ Work continued on the completion of a national detailed mapping of soils. Progress includes research work carried out as part of EPA-funded project ISIS: Irish Soil Information System. This project aims at developing a 1:250,000 soil map for Ireland with associated Soil Information System. The final products will provide a strengthened Irish national response to emergent policy and legislative developments in the environmental area.

NATIONAL SOIL DATABASE

- ▲ An interactive GIS map interface has been developed to allow viewing of all the data compiled during the National Soil Database sampling campaigns. More information is available at: <http://erc.epa.ie/nsdb>.

Progress under this action point includes research work carried out as part of the following projects:

- ▲ The *Interactions of soil Hydrology, land use and climate change and their impact on soil quality (SoilH)* project which proposes to establish a network of benchmark sites throughout Ireland using existing national sites for the measurement of soil hydrological properties and the establishment of a hydrological classification of Irish soils.
- ▲ The *Characterisation of physical properties of soils using geophysics* project which aims at developing a geophysical testing framework for use on Irish soils.

Three technical projects were published in 2010 in the area of Soils and Landuse.

In addition, the large-scale multi-disciplinary research project CréBeo was completed in 2010 and the final report will be published by the EPA in 2011. The primary objective of the project was to increase scientific knowledge of soil biodiversity and keystone species in Ireland, leading to improved research capability and development of sustainable soil protection strategies.

BIODIVERSITY

The research project Biochange was completed in 2010. This interdisciplinary, multi-institutional study project provided necessary information for protecting the diversity of Ireland’s flora and fauna and focused on emerging and important issues surrounding Irish biodiversity. A final report is due to be published during April 2011.

The EPA continues to liaise closely with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other stakeholders on the National Platform for Biodiversity Research. There have been three draft working papers produced in 2010 which cover the knowledge gaps and priority research needs in Freshwater, Marine and Agriculture, Grassland and Soils.

A new project, which deals with GIS-supported Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Methodology is due to start in April, 2011. This project will help address observed spatial variations in biodiversity distribution and connectivity, and will aid integration between legislation, policy goals, and planning objectives, enabling a cost-effective identification of cross-sectoral opportunities and conflicts.



Nore at Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny



King's River at Kells, Co. Kilkenny

5. SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES

2020 GOAL

The overall goal is a more efficient use of resources (water, energy and materials). Waste will be prevented and minimised, with the balance safely collected, recycled or recovered. Final disposal will be completed in a way that does not harm the environment.

NATIONAL WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

The Sixth annual report for the EPA led National Waste Prevention Programme was published. This provides a comprehensive overview of activities during 2009 and 2010 and is available on the EPA website at www.epa.ie and www.nwpp.ie

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ▲ 124 businesses now hold the coveted Green Hospitality Awards, including some of the most prestigious hotels and largest catering companies in Ireland. More than 220 businesses have joined the Green Hospitality Programme (www.greenhospitality.ie). In 2010, 160 members surveyed demonstrated savings of €5.6 million on resource costs alone.
- ▲ The Local Authority Prevention Network continues to provide capacity for prevention projects right across the country (www.localprevention.ie). The prevention work of the twelve local participating authorities was highlighted at a National Conference held in June.
- ▲ Over 340 companies have registered on www.greenbusiness.ie, which is a website offering resource efficiency assessment and water audit tools. More than 60 on-site Resource Efficiency Assessments have been completed identifying over €1.65 million in potential resource savings for participating businesses.
- ▲ A Green Retail project was piloted with Musgraves Ltd targeting SME supermarkets.
- ▲ The Green Healthcare project covered 18 hospitals (35% of hospital beds) with 54 waste surveys identifying potential resource savings of €1.2 million. Food waste, risk waste and water consumption were focused on.

- ▲ A new project (StopFoodWaste) aimed at promoting household food waste prevention and home composting was launched at a national media event (www.stopfoodwaste.ie).

PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVES; WASTE ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) AND BATTERY REGULATIONS

- ▲ Four successful District Court cases were taken against non-compliant producers under the WEEE Regulations.
- ▲ Over 250 inspections were undertaken in relation to both sets of Regulations in 2010.

PACKAGING REGULATIONS

- ▲ The essential requirements in relation to restricted hazardous substances in packaging were targeted by sample testing, which were all found to be compliant.
- ▲ Essential requirements in relation to packaging minimization were addressed by funding the Packaging Prevention Programme which is led by Repak Ltd.

HARMFUL SUBSTANCES ENFORCEMENT

- ▲ An intensive inspection programme (169 on-site surveys) identified numerous holdings of PCBs, which must be systematically destroyed.
- ▲ Nine new POPs substances were added to the Stockholm Convention which entered into force in Ireland in 2010.

Inspection Area	2010 Inspections
ODS/F-gas Investigations	91
PCB (EPA) inspections	11
PCB (contractor) inspections	158
WEEE/Batteries Producer inspections	28
WEEE Retailer inspections	190
WEEE Business audits	16
Battery distance seller inspections	20
National Waste Report audits	35
Decopaints regulation inspections	24
Total	573

Table 2: Resource use related inspections in 2010

NATIONAL WASTE REPORTING

- ▲ The *National Waste Report 2009* showed that Ireland is well advanced in achieving most of the EU waste recovery and recycling target. However, the report urges continued

effort to divert biodegradable waste from landfill especially given 2013/16 targets, and to prevent waste arising from all sectors of society.

- ▲ A *Focus on Landfilling in Ireland Report* was published. This milestone report examined the standards of operation and management at landfills in Ireland and charts the progress made since the EPA began licensing this sector 15 years ago.

EUROPEAN WEEK FOR WASTE REDUCTION

- ▲ The Second European Week for Waste Reduction took place in November 2010. A range of activities to highlight NWPP waste reduction projects were organised by prevention partner organisations and coordinated by the EPA.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- ▲ The ESRI began work on the second ISus (Irish Sustainable Development Model) project in 2010. This project is working towards estimating the Green Net National Product for the Republic of Ireland. The project will deliver the latest environmental accounts for the Republic of Ireland and the most recent projections with expanding scope and detail as the project progresses. It will extend the accounts to include more emissions and resources as well as increasing the regions and income classes covered in existing accounts. The project will also regularly provide projections of the Environmental Accounts for future years.
- ▲ An interim report was published as an output from the UCD-led Moland project. This project is providing a key input in the continuing development of the National Spatial Strategy and will be published in 2011.
- ▲ There were nine new projects funded under the business-led Cleaner Greener Production Programme Phase 5, (CGPP), which have been co-funded by the NWPP.
- ▲ A study into the impact of the CGPP programme was undertaken by NUI Galway in 2010. The researchers surveyed 69 organisations that had been granted funding ranging from the very early participants in 2001 up to the 2008 awardees and the key findings were very impressive:
 - ▲ There has been a wide variety and significant environmental improvements.
 - ▲ 76% of organisations continue to see a benefit and maintain their CGPP projects.
 - ▲ 65% identified competitive advantage and 4 patents filed by participating organisations.

- ▲ Noonan - a market-leading supplier of facility services in Ireland has a major project funded under the EPA CGPP4 programme and NWPP programmes. The company has won two prestigious Eco-Business awards for its CGPP project by providing a Cleaner Greener Cleaning Service by introducing green chemicals, making measurable reductions in the consumption of water, energy, chemicals and reducing the generation of waste associated with the provision of their service.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE INITIATIVES

- ▲ 184 delegates attended an EPA Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) workshop in June. Landfill operators (and other stakeholders in the waste sector) were presented information in relation to the calculation and reporting of BMW disposed of at landfills. The event, which was very successful, was filmed and is available on the EPA website.
- ▲ The OEE co-operated in organising a Historic Landfills workshop for Local Authorities in May. At the workshop, a guidance matrix for site investigations was launched. This matrix enables targeted site investigations to be scoped on historic landfills that are focused on the main environmental risks. It is a useful add-on to the 2007 Code of Practice on Risk Assessment of Landfills.
- ▲ The National Waste Prevention Programme 2009-2010 6th Annual Report was published.



6. INTEGRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

2020 GOAL

Environmental considerations will be at the heart of policy-making and decision-making. Responsible environmental behaviour will be the norm across all sectors of society and those who flout environmental laws will be held to account.

INTEGRATED POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPPC) LICENSING

In 2010:

- ▲ 30 IPPC Final Decisions were issued.
- ▲ 43 IPPC Proposed Decisions were issued.
- ▲ 30 Technical Amendment Decisions were issued in accordance with the licensing regulations, seven of which were rejections.
- ▲ 18 IPPC Sector Best Available Techniques (BAT) Notes have now been published and are available on the EPA website. Three non IPPC BAT Notes have also been published and are available on the EPA website.

173 Article Eleven requests received, to determine if facilities require a Waste Licence or Permit.

WASTE LICENSING

In 2010:

- ▲ New or revised licences were granted for 19 landfills; one waste transfer station; one soil recovery facility; one materials recovery facility and two composting facilities.
- ▲ 14 Proposed Decisions were issued.
- ▲ 16 Technical Amendment Decisions were issued, in accordance with the licensing regulations, one of which was a rejection.
- ▲ The EPA issued its Decision on 27th May 2010 to grant a waste licence in respect of Fingal County Council's application for a proposed landfill at Nevitt, Lusk, County Dublin.

COMPLIANCE WITH LANDFILL DIRECTIVE

- ▲ Review of 25 landfill licences was initiated in October 2009 with a further two in 2010.
- ▲ Final Decisions issued for all but one in 2009/2010.

WASTE WATER LICENSING

- 16 waste water licence applications were received in 2010, bringing the total number of applications received to 530.
- 65 Final Decisions issued in 2010. This brings the overall total issued to 125 Final Decisions since the commencement of wastewater licensing.
- Eight Technical Amendment Decisions were issued, in accordance with the licensing regulations.
- 15 certificates of authorisation applications for agglomerations with a population equivalent of less than 500 were received in 2010. This brings the total number of applications to 456. 45 Certificates of Authorisation issued. The remaining applications are currently being processed.

	IPPC Licences	Waste Licences	Waste Water Licences	Certs of Authority	Dumping at Sea Permits	GMO Consents	VOC Permits	Certs of Registration
Applications Received	35	8	16	315	11	62	13	27
Proposed Decisions	43	14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	N/A
Objections Received	28	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
Final Decisions	30	24	65	45	1	57	13	57

Table 3: Licensing Activities 2010

Inspection Type	No.
License application and review inspections	80
IPPC Enforcement Inspections	457
IPPC Enforcement Audits	109
Waste Enforcement Inspections	235
Waste Enforcement Audits	89
IPPC Monitoring Visits (water)	655
Waste Monitoring Visits (water)	187
Waste Water Discharge Visits (water)	142
Landfill Gas Monitoring Visits	47
IPPC Compliance Meetings	84
Waste Compliance Meetings	37
Local Authority Audits (Drinking Water, Urban Waste Water and Integrated)	201

Table 4: Audits and Inspections 2010

CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION

The EPA issued 57 Certificates of Registration in 2010 in relation to local authority waste recovery facilities deemed to be low risk to the environment.

VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOC)

The EPA uses a permitting process to regulate these activities. 11 permits were reviewed in 2010 and 2 new permits were issued.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO)

By the end of 2010:

- There were 413 entries on the register of GMO users in Ireland.

Activity	Number in 2010
IPPC & Waste Enforcement Inspections	692
IPPC & Waste Enforcement Audits	198
Complaints Received	1870
Notification of Non-Compliance Issued	814
Compliance Meetings Held	121
Incidents Notified to the Agency	2481
Water Monitoring Visits	984
Landfill Gas Monitoring Visits	47

Table 5: Enforcement Activities 2010

Activity	Number in 2010
Audits – Drinking Water, Urban Waste Water and Integrated	201
Investigations Initiated during the Year	290
Investigations Closed during the Year	311
Directions Served	10

Table 6: Public Authority Enforcement 2010

- 57 decisions were granted for the contained use of GMOs.
- GMO site inspections were carried out at 17 registered premises, some of which contained multiple users.

DUMPING AT SEA PERMITTING

The Foreshore and Dumping at Sea (Amendment) Act 2009 transferred responsibility for the issuing of Dumping at Sea Permits from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF) to the EPA, effective from 15th February 2010. Seven permit applications were transferred from DAFF to the Agency, and a further four applications were received by the Agency during 2010. The Agency developed a permitting system and set up an Advisory Committee in accordance with Section 41 of the EPA Acts 1992 to 2007. The Agency granted its first Dumping at Sea permit in 2010.

LICENCE ENFORCEMENT

- The EPA completed 198 audits and 692 inspections of waste and IPPC licensed sites.
- 814 notifications of non-compliance (NONCs) were issued by the EPA
- 121 meetings were held with licensees to address non-compliance issues.
- Complaints received during the year in relation to these licensed sites totalled 1870. 90% of these related to odour issues.
- Incidents notified to the Agency (in accordance with the terms of licences) totalled 2481.

WASTE ENFORCEMENT

- The RMCEI Annual Workshop in November 2010 was used to ensure key enforcement priorities for the waste sector were set out and addressed in local authority enforcement plans.
- A project was initiated, under the auspices of the Environmental Enforcement Network (EEN), targeting an estimated 157 unauthorised car scrapyards in the country. The EPA issued statutory notices to local authorities to ensure that illegal activities will be brought to an end within a reasonable timeframe and that nationally there will be less than 20 such sites by the end of 2011.

LEGAL ENFORCEMENT

The Agency brought 14 successful prosecution cases to court. 12 of these were heard in the District Court: two were in the Circuit Court. Four cases were brought against

waste licensees and three against IPPC licensees. Four were brought under the Waste Management (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations. Two were in relation to carrying on unlicensed IPPC activities and one was brought under the Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations. Costs and fines imposed amounted to €294,625.

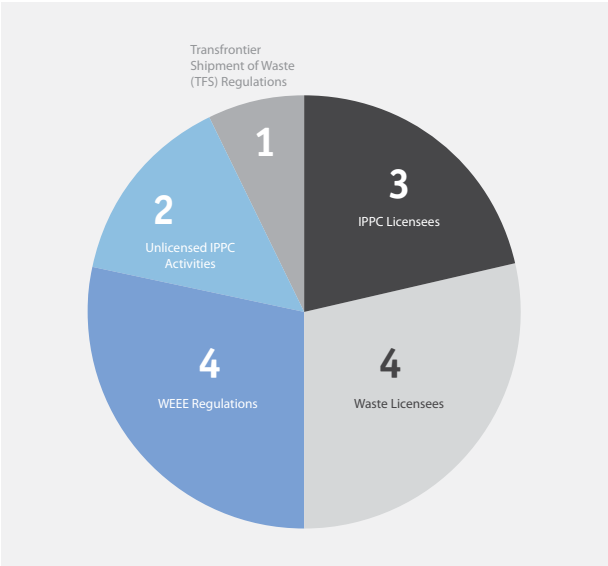
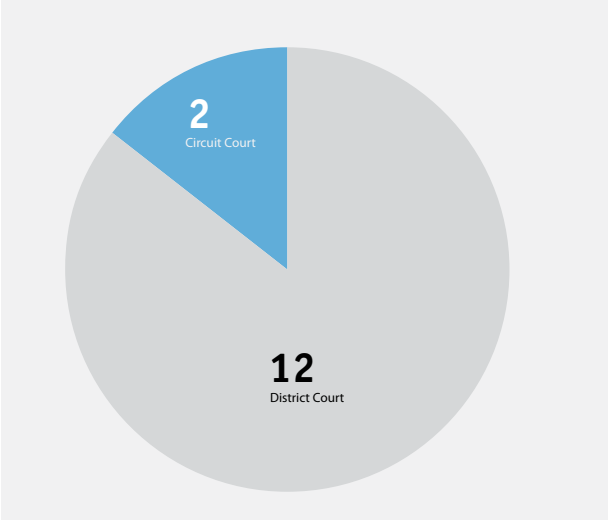


FIG 4: EPA Prosecution Cases

COMPLAINTS IN RELATION TO STATUTORY PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- The EPA conducted seven integrated audits of local authorities, in addition to 84 drinking water audits and 110 wastewater audits.
- The EPA received 290 new investigations this year, on foot of complaints made to the EPA or based on incidents identified by the EPA, in relation to activities that were the responsibility of local authorities.

- ▲ A total of 317 investigations were closed out during the year.
- ▲ Nine Directions were issued to local authorities. These all related to drinking water issues.

ENFORCEMENT NETWORK

- ▲ The Agency continues to co-ordinate a National Environmental Enforcement Network. The Network harnesses the collective resources, expertise and investigative capacity available nationally to tackle environmental crime. The Network is well established and brings together more than 1,000 staff from over 50 agencies in the country.

POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTER (PRTR)

- ▲ The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for compiling the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) annually, under Regulation (EC) No. 166/2006. The E-PRTR register compiles data, submitted by industrial facilities, above a defined capacity threshold, on a total of 91 substances or pollutants. It includes emissions to air, water and wastewater as well as off-site transfers of both hazardous and non-hazardous waste.
- ▲ The Agency reported the third annual E-PRTR data submission under the E-PRTR Regulation to the European Commission (EC) on 31 March 2010. This annual report covered the reporting year 2009. 2007 and 2008 reporting years were submitted previously.
- ▲ The EPA worked on the development of a GIS based National PRTR website i.e. www.prtr.ie. The establishment of this website or e-register, forms a major part of the final steps for ratification by Ireland of the UN Protocol on PRTR.
- ▲ Separately in 2010, a triennial report for the period 2007-2009 was required by the Commission from all member states under the European Regulation. This report which is in the form of electronic questionnaire was also submitted by 31 March 2011. The purpose of this report was to facilitate an Official Data Review by the Commission to determine the PRTR process adopted, the legal basis, public accessibility of data, quality assurance and assessment.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) DIRECTIVE

Key Strategic Environmental Assessments undertaken by public bodies in Ireland, and for which submissions were made by the EPA during 2010 include:

- ▲ 7 Regional Planning Guidelines
- ▲ 7 County/City Development Plans
- ▲ 6 Town Plans
- ▲ 8 Local Area Plans
- ▲ Sustainable Energy Action Plan for Dublin
- ▲ Lee Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study
- ▲ 27 Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub Basin Management Plans
- ▲ Loughs Agency – Aquaculture and Shellfisheries Management Strategy.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

- ▲ The EPA launched a Geo Portal Site (<http://gis.epa.ie/>) where the public can view environmental data in a GIS viewer and download the spatial datasets of interest.
- ▲ The EPA developed a GIS tool called the Dynamic Risk Enforcement & Assessment Methodology (DREAM). This tool identifies the risk of UWWT Plant Discharges based on the type of discharge, its performance, the quality in the receiving river and its proximity to important environmental features. The results are displayed in a mapping interface and a pivot table which allowing users to drill down into the data to determine the risks and impacts of discharges. DREAM was made available to Public Authorities via the Environmental Data Exchange Network (EDEN).
- ▲ The EPA is responsible for reporting under the European Water Framework Directive. During 2010 the EPA reported on Irelands Programmes of Measures as required under Article 13 or the Directive. Initial assessments by the European Commission shows Ireland to be fully compliant with the reporting requirements.
- ▲ The EPA launched Mobile GIS tools for use by staff during field surveys on rivers, lakes and urban waste water discharge audits. These tools allow audit reports and data to be uploaded into EPA databases when returning to the office. The audit reports are now issued to licensees in a greatly reduced timeframe.
- ▲ The Informatics unit has been extensively involved in the planning of how GIS can be used to maximum benefit within the Licence Enforcement and Monitoring Application (LEMA).
- ▲ The EPA produced a map as part of an integrated assessment project with the Geological Survey of Ireland to identify areas of inadequate percolation for single house treatment systems.

LABORATORY SERVICES

- ▲ A total of 25,750 samples were taken and analysed for a range of chemicals and, where appropriate, microbiological parameters. Samples were taken from rivers, lakes, groundwaters, tidal waters, landfill leachates, IPPC effluents, waste water discharges and air emissions. The work was undertaken as part of national monitoring programmes including the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Surveillance and Operational programmes, in support of Environmental Enforcement, and for regional programmes on behalf of local authorities in the southeast, west and north-east.
- ▲ Services to the Office of Environmental Enforcement increased in the areas of landfill gas measurement, waste water treatment plant and laboratory audits.

INTERCALIBRATION PROGRAMME

- ▲ The total number of laboratories participating in the EPA's intercalibration programme, increased by ten to 133 in 2010. These include local authority and contract laboratories, other laboratories supplying data to the EPA and also the EPA's five regional laboratories. The sample preparation and distribution elements of the programme are now outsourced to an external laboratory.
- ▲ The register of laboratories, provided for under Section 66 of the EPA Act, 1992, was updated in September 2010 and is available for inspection at the EPA Headquarters and at www.epa.ie

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

- ▲ The EPA in its role as National Focal Point for Ireland continued to coordinate environmental information exchange with the EEA and to maintain and develop the national network and facilitate and coordinate contacts, requests and deliveries between national and EU level.
- ▲ The EPA provided significant input to the development of the EEA's European State of Environment Report which was published in 2010.
- ▲ The EPA launched its new, online environmental indicator website – *Environment in Focus* (www.epa.ie/environmentinfocus). The *Environment in Focus* initiative, has allowed the EPA to move from a paper-based to a mainly web-based approach to reporting on key national indicators thus facilitating availability of more timely and more accessible environmental information. The website seeks to provide concise, up-to-date information about the Irish environment for the general public and policy makers. The *Environment in Focus*

web resource has also been designed to meet multiple reporting requirements including European Environment Agency (EEA) State of the Environment (SOE) reporting and national indicator reporting. The website was used to provide the EEA with Ireland's contribution to their SOE 2010 report information automatically, as part of the EEA Shared European and National State of the Environment (SENSE) project.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- ▲ The publication of a research report identified novel sensor applications that have potential to assist EPA enforcement staff to remotely monitor gas migration at landfill sites in real-time. Building on the success of this project the EPA has funded a further project in this area entitled 'Web-Based Monitoring of Gas Emissions from Landfill and Transfer Sites using Autonomous Sensing Platforms'.
- ▲ A TCD-led research project, which developed an Environmental Emissions Index (EEI) model was finalisation and launched. Focussing on the pharma-chem sector, the research indicated that integrated licensing was the most important driver of pollution avoidance, and was responsible for 50% of air pollution avoidance. It was estimated that integrated licensing reduced pollution by 35%, and individual emissions by between 8% (total particulates) and 49% (sulphur dioxide) compared with hypothetical 'no-improvement' emissions.
- ▲ In support of Irish research community at EU level the EPA launched an Online Catalogue of Irish Expertise in Environmental Research, which has been accessed by over 13,000 researchers throughout Europe.

KEY EVENTS

- ▲ The National Environmental Research Conference was held in June and was designed to disseminate the results of research funded by the EPA, and to provide a discussion forum for environmental researchers. This event was attended by 350 persons.
- ▲ The EPA organized the Fourth National FP7 Environment National Information Day to promote the publication of FP7-Environment calls, facilitate networking and increase cooperation between European research teams. Since 2007, €30 million in EU funding from the FP7 programme has been awarded to Irish researchers across all thematic areas on environmental related projects.
- ▲ On November 11th 2010 as part of Science Week 2010, STRIVE held its eighth annual Post-graduate Research Seminar at the Convention Centre, Dublin. Some 150

delegates attended the seminar, which included over 20 presentations by EPA funded postgraduate researchers across a broad spectrum of environmental topics.

- ▲ The EPA hosted a networking event for grantees under the Cleaner Greener Production Programme in May 2010, Tullamore. This event enabled participating companies to share research, ideas and products into new cleaner greener business practices which reduce costs and protect the environment.

BUSINESS ANALYSIS

- ▲ A project aimed at methodically analysing business areas within the EPA and determining how these may be improved by process changes and in particular the improved application of IT continued during the first quarter of 2010. A number of business areas were reviewed during this project – licensing and enforcement of Urban Waste Water licences; GMO licensing and enforcement; Corporate Services HR Administrative and Payroll systems. The findings of the review of this business area have led to the establishment of a number of projects. These are: LEMA (Licence Enforcement and Monitoring Application) which will result in the development of a new IT application for automation of much of the business processes in this area; OSP (OCCS Systems Project) which will result in the consolidation of many smaller HR tools into one system and an electronic CRM process for managing GMO licensing and enforcement.



Barrow Bridge

7. BUILDING A HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANISATION

GOAL 7:

Developing the people and organisational resources to underpin our strategy and deliver benefits to the environment requires a focus on four key areas:

1. Competent/Committed People;
2. Environmental Champion;
3. Customer-Focused and
4. Organisationally Efficient

COMPETENT / COMMITTED PEOPLE

The EPA's continuing goal is to ensure that we have a committed workforce that performs to maximum ability.

- ▲ The sanctioned staff complement for the EPA at the end of 2010 was 340. One hundred and forty nine staff were located at EPA Headquarters in Wexford with the remaining staff strategically located in five Regional Inspectorates and four Offices throughout the country.
- ▲ As part of the EPA business planning cycle, the EPA undertook a Staffing and Resources Review in November 2009. This took account of constraints on budgets and staff resources arising from the economic downturn and the March 2009 moratorium on employment in the public sector. The recommendations from this review were implemented in 2010. By the end of 2010, the EPA had 13 fewer permanent staff than at the commencement of the moratorium. In addition the engagement of temporary staff as substitutes for staff absences, such as maternity leave, parental leave, etc. ceased and existing temporary contracts were not renewed. The EPA has had to adapt to these losses through changes in both structure and work practices. In addition the EPA has redeployed staff resources to undertake new functions assigned such as Dumping at Sea and Environmental Liabilities, as no new resources were provided.



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- ▲ The EPA has a very positive attitude to work placements and participated in the FÁS Graduate Placement Programme in 2010. Five of the placements secured permanent employment across a variety of industries as a result of their placement with the EPA.
- ▲ The Board approved a new Dignity at Work Policy which incorporates current best practice guidelines and appropriate training was provided to all staff. All EPA Staff Policies were reviewed within HR to ensure legislative compliance and to identify opportunities for process improvement.
- ▲ The Disability Act 2005 obliges the EPA to make services, information and premises accessible to people with disabilities. An Excellence through Accessibility Audit was conducted in 2010.
- ▲ The HR and Time and Attendance Systems were upgraded to increase connectivity for staff across the EPA.

In order to continuously build a depth of skills and knowledge across the organisation, the EPA has a very significant commitment to staff development and training.

- ▲ This commitment is reflected in regularly meeting or exceeding the Public Sector target of 4% of payroll spend on Training & Development. Direct expenditure on training in the year amounted to over €706,000.
- ▲ During 2010 staff participated in a programme of 381 (internal, external & group) training courses, workshops, conferences and seminars, amounting to a total of 2,424 training days, giving an average of 7.2 days training per person.
- ▲ The EPA continued the roll out of a People Management Programme, with 51 senior staff members having completed the course by end 2010. This Programme will provide senior managers with the skills necessary to manage in the context of a rapidly changing work environment and increased pressures for efficiencies and innovation in the Public Sector.
- ▲ The EPA continued the provision of its Staff Development Programme, which aims to enable participants to recognise and develop the core behavioural competencies necessary to achieve their potential within current and future roles.

In order to achieve the goals set-out in *2020Vision* the EPA recognises the importance of developing and promoting a Learning Culture and identified 'Promoting a Learning Culture' as a high priority challenge in 2010.

- ▲ The implementation of the 'Corporate Learning Strategy 2010-2012' commenced in 2010. The aims of the Corporate Learning Strategy (CLS) are to:
 - ▲ give managers and staff access to high-quality professional and managerial training and the ongoing opportunity for personal development and growth;
 - ▲ provide mechanisms through which staff will be able to monitor and keep up to date with international developments, particularly in relation to environmental protection, science, technology, and research; finance, communications and information technology; find effective ways to transfer learning and embed it within the Agency;
 - ▲ support high quality decision making on all environmental issues which calls for high quality skills and judgement.

- ▲ Five key workstreams have been identified and established as part of the CLS implementation; Coaching & Performance Dialogue, Mentoring, Technical Capability, Informal Learning & CPD and Learning Resources. Leadership Behaviours, Change Management Methodology and Best Practice are also being included as part of the implementation.

- ▲ The EPA has a formal Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) in place since 2002. The PMDS aims are to promote high performance standards by employees, ensure achievement of business goals set out in *2020Vision*, develop employee skills and promote clear two-way discussion between managers and employees. A review of the current system was undertaken in 2010 to further *embed and develop PMDS within the EPA*.

The EPA is committed to ensuring the safety, health and welfare of its staff through strict adherence to Health and Safety Standards and through the provision of appropriate training, safety awareness programmes and personal protective equipment.

- ▲ The EPA's excellent safety record was maintained with no serious accidents occurring at work during 2010.
- ▲ Emphasis continued in 2010 on heightening awareness of safety, health & welfare matters, through the provision of an extensive safety-training programme.
- ▲ The process of auditing and risk assessment of EPA activities continued with the completion of audits of activities undertaken by staff at Wastewater Treatment Plants and Drinking water Treatment Plants.

Health and Safety initiatives, Staff Development Group and Quality Customer Service. The Green Team achieved ISO 14001 accreditation for HQ.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION

- ▲ The EPA wants to ensure that environmental considerations are at the heart of decision making. The EPA needs to ensure that the right information gets to the right people at the right time to inform, educate and enable effective environmental management.
- ▲ The EPA sponsored the sixth annual *Environment Ireland* conference in September 2010. Over 300 representatives from the Irish business community and public sector attended. The conference provides a forum to discuss significant developments in environmental policy on the island of Ireland and is an important opportunity for all the key players in the environment sector to come together for networking and discussion. The theme for 2010 was *Environment and the Green Economy*.
- ▲ The EPA continued the climate change lecture series, with an occasional lecture held in November. The lecture was entitled *Reshaping the Debate on Climate Change* and was presented by Mrs. Mary Robinson, President, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice. This lecture, and all others from the series, are all available for viewing as podcasts on the EPA website at www.epa.ie

Continuing emphasis was placed on internal Cross Office collaboration for the EPA in delivering its 2010 Annual Work Programme. Cross Office activities include:

- ▲ Work commenced on a significant formal Cross Office LEMA (Licensing, Enforcement and Monitoring Application) project. This integrated IT project will focus on moving many of the EPA licensing, enforcement and monitoring duties onto an automated electronic platform resulting in substantial efficiencies both for the EPA and its stakeholders.
- ▲ A range of technical Cross Office groups continued to meet as required and exchange information on topics such as the Water Framework Directive, the Groundwater Directive, the Landfill Directive, Waste, Groundwater, Air, IPPC and Waste Water Licensing and Enforcement issues.
- ▲ A series of Cross Office groups continued to progress and implement the EPA's *2020Vision* challenges.
- ▲ A range of Cross Office Initiatives such as the IM&T Group, Web Advisory Group, Staff Development Group and Green Team have delivered effective cross office input and delivery;
- ▲ The EPA has had a Partnership Committee (*Meitheal*) in place since 1999. The work of Meitheal is mainly conducted through Cross Office groups. During 2010, *Meitheal* continued to play a significant role in the ongoing development of the Performance Management and Development System for staff, the co-ordination of



The Meitheal Committee

- ▲ The EPA continued to support and contribute to the *EcoEye* TV series in 2010. An eighth series was broadcast on RTÉ 1 between March and May, with viewing figures averaging 370,000.
- ▲ EPA staff engaged with stakeholders at a range of national and local events during the year, including the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition where the EPA also presented a Special Award, Native Species weekend in Dublin Zoo, The National Ploughing Championships held in Athy, Co Kildare and an exhibition in the Trinity Science Gallery.
- ▲ An Taisce, in partnership with the EPA's National Waste Prevention Programme, continued to run the *Green Home* programme in 2010. The programme continues to grow and is now running in over sixty communities with 67 schools, over 10,000 households and several community groups and businesses throughout Ireland participating.
- ▲ Greening the EPA is a priority in the EPA and certification to the ISO14001 was achieved for its HQ in 2010.
- ▲ The national Greening Communities Network, jointly led by the EPA, the Department of Environment, Communities & Local Government and An Taisce, made substantial progress on developing a new programme which aims to mobilise communities in Ireland to live more environmentally sustainable lives.
- ▲ EPA-funded research has provided significant support for environmental policy and decision making at national and international levels. A significant output from the research programme are the final reports from completed projects.
- ▲ There were 28 STRIVE research reports and 4 CCRP research reports published in 2010.
 - ▲ The report Science and Sustainability was written by EPA research staff and outlined how EPA funded research has provided significant support for environmental policy and decision making at national and international levels.
- ▲ The EPA continued to develop its web based information in 2010. Key developments included:
 - ▲ Introduction of a web-based grant application and project management system for the research programme in 2010. This system was used for the first time for on-line grant applications, processing and awards. There are currently 340 funded researchers actively using the system for technical and financial reporting of their projects.
 - ▲ Improved delivery of information from EPA-funded research through the SAFER data resource which is available through the EPA web-site. There are now

183 resources and 1680 data files publicly available which is improving public access to data generated by EPA-funded research.

- ▲ RSS Feeds was added to the Licensing Search Pages allowing the public to receive regular updates by subscribing to a particular licence application.
- ▲ The online bathing water quality website SPLASH (www.bathingwater.ie) was updated throughout the bathing season with near real-time data in relation to water quality.
- ▲ The number of Video Broadcasts made available on the website increased.
- ▲ A significant amount of work was completed to improve the accessibility of information on the EPA website. It was audited for the Excellence Through Accessibility award.
- ▲ A new section called 'Environment in Focus' was created. It is a web-based environmental indicator resource which has been designed to provide concise, up-to-date information about the Irish environment for the general public and policy makers. It allows the EPA to fulfill certain EU reporting obligations in close to real-time, while providing environmental assessments to stakeholders in a format that is useable for them.

CUSTOMER FOCUSED

The EPA strives to be a customer focused organisation.

- ▲ The 2010 Quality Customer Service (QCS) Action Plan specifically targeted the goals identified in *2020Vision* with each office having responsibility for specific actions.
- ▲ A centralised Environmental Queries Unit was established in 2009 to centralise and manage environmental queries from the public. In 2010 over 3,200 queries were dealt with and closed out by the unit, providing customers with a higher level of service.
- ▲ A new customer charter was developed and made available for public consultation. It will be published in early 2011.
- ▲ There were two complaints referred to the QCS officer in 2010. These were investigated and responded to by the QCS officer in the relevant area. No appeals were received.

To better inform decision makers and to influence business, the public and the organisations that we work with, the EPA is continuously trying to improve our communications and develop and provide educational resources.

- ▲ During 2010, 490 media enquiries were handled by EPA.

- ▲ A series of articles was developed and distributed on a monthly basis to regional media. These articles featured information on a variety of EPA issues and the information was tailored to suit each county or region. Topics included battery recycling, historic mines, air quality, bathing water cleaner greener production programme, backyard and fireplace burning, green homes and seasonal tips at Christmas.
- ▲ An EPA *Annual Highlights* document, which provided information on the main activities and achievements of the EPA during the previous year (2009), was published and distributed.
- ▲ Two editions of *EPANews*, the corporate newsletter, were distributed to subscribers during the year.
- ▲ A new set of teaching resources for second level schools was developed and launched in 2010.
- ▲ The EPA sponsored a lesson on landfill management in *Science and Technology in Action*, a multimedia resource for second level schools.
- ▲ The EPA's commitment to accessibility was recognised through the award by the National Disability Authority of the Excellence through Accessibility Award in 2010.

ORGANISATIONALLY EFFICIENT

The EPA is committed to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance and embedding the culture of good governance in all Offices and business units. As part of the ongoing implementation of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, the EPA continued to conduct internal audits under the stewardship of the Internal Audit Committee.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

- ▲ The Revised Code of Practice for State Bodies published by the Department of Finance in May 2009 was formally adopted by the EPA in February 2010. The EPA had an independent assessment of EPA compliance with the Code carried out in early 2010. The report was completed in May 2010 and found, based on the work undertaken, that corporate governance standards are given high priority within the EPA. It also found that there are high levels of management awareness of corporate governance obligations and that these are kept under regular scrutiny and that, as appropriate, the EPA's governance policies and procedures are consistent with the Code. An implementation plan was developed to give effect to the requirements of the revised Code and implementation is ongoing.

- ▲ Following the revision of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies in 2009, the Board approved a plan to conduct a comprehensive review of the EPA Risk Management Structures in 2010. The EPA Risk Management Policy, developed in 2005, was reviewed in 2010 to bring it into full Compliance with the provisions of the Revised Code. Office Level Risk Registers were developed in the EPA in 2005 and have been reviewed in line with the Risk Policy each year since then. A fundamental Review of Office Level Risks commenced in 2010 in the Office of Climate Licensing & Resource Use and will be rolled out to all EPA Offices in 2011 and 2012.
- ▲ The EPA Internal Audit Plan 2010 – 2011 was progressively implemented with one standard audit completed and a pilot programme of two business led Value for Money Reviews commenced. The internal audit was carried out in the area of:
 - ▲ Data Protection and Use of Laptops and other Handheld Equipment in EPA.
- ▲ Progress on the implementation of the actions in earlier internal Audit Implementation Plans is regularly reviewed and reported to the Internal Audit Committee and the EPA Board.
- ▲ The Pilot Value for Money Reviews were carried out on the following programmes:
 - ▲ The EPA's Environmental Technologies and Cleaner Production Research Programme, and
 - ▲ The Enforcement of the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No.2) Regulations, 2007.
- ▲ The pilot value for money reviews are being carried out in accordance with the Department of Finance Guidelines. The reports on the reviews will be completed in 2011 and presented to the Internal Audit Committee and the EPA Board.
- ▲ An Internal Audit Plan for the period 2011 – 2012 was developed in 2010 and, among others, reflects the corporate risks identified in the EPA's Corporate Risk Register, the requirements of the Comptroller and Auditor General, and developments and issues in relation to Corporate Governance that have arisen in the Public Sector in general. This Internal Audit Plan was approved by the Internal Audit Committee and by the EPA Board.

BOARD OF THE EPA

The EPA Board is comprised of five full time Executive Directors. A total of 49 meetings were held in 2010, including 11 general meetings, at which corporate policy, strategy,

finance and planning issues were dealt with and 38 technical meetings, at which licence applications, prosecutions and operational issues were dealt with.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The 5th EPA Advisory Committee was appointed by Mr John Gormley, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on 21st January 2010. The Committee held three meetings during 2010 and continued to provide useful and timely advice to the EPA on a range of issues.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Use of IT is central to the EPA progressing the broader agenda set out in Transforming Public Services and the modernisation programme in the Public Service Agreement (PSA). As part of this modernisation programme, the EPA has set out specific actions to achieve efficiencies and savings which are being driven and supported by the use of IT.

During 2010 the EPA focused its IT resources on continuing to deal with the challenge of the increasing demands of delivering on its environmental and corporate obligations. The approach was based on the prioritisation of eight lead IT development projects, and the support of existing systems, with the overall objective of improving processes and enhancing IT services/solutions for environmental and corporate systems.

- ▲ The project covering EPA's core environmental processes of Licensing Enforcement Monitoring Application (LEMA) continued to make progress in 2010. The new solution will be built around a six step process, which will bring efficiencies to these environmental processes. For example in the enforcement area, the EPA is now responsible for enforcing licences for over 400 waste water treatment plants and this additional work can only be absorbed by the organisation by the use of IT and efficient processes between the EPA and Local Authorities.
- ▲ Findings from a review of systems in use by the Office of Communications and Corporate Services were considered and approved by the Board in early 2010. The initial focus has been on process improvements and small system enhancements in EPA corporate systems, which has led to process efficiencies and the management of a reduction of one million in non-pay administration costs across the EPA. Development of functional specifications for a new integrated HR and Payroll system commenced in 2010.
- ▲ A new Intranet portal was implemented, improving the efficiency of EPA's internal processes and the dissemination of information amongst EPA staff.

Over the coming years the portal will become the point of integration for EPA's internal processes and information collaboration.

- ▲ EPA's technology change project continued with the implementation of SharePoint 2010, Microsoft Office 2007, the extended use of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software, completion of an architectural design for environmental systems, and improved capability for self-sufficiency through knowledge transfer to internal staff on technology changes.
- ▲ These projects were part of the overall programme of priority projects during 2010 and the others were Environmental Data Exchange Network (EDEN), Gathering and Reporting Water Data (AQUARIUS), ETSWAP, and the Business Analysis review project. These eight projects and a project on Real time Air Quality monitoring will form the main focus for IT activity in 2011.
- ▲ The EPA adopt a proactive approach to the use and governance of IT under the guidance of an internal steering group comprising of two Directors, senior management and staff directly involved in IT activities. The annual IT plan for 2010, produced by the steering group, was approved by the EPA board and the Department of Finance as per ICT Circular 02/09.



IM&T Steering Committee

PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT 2010 – 2014

The EPA developed its Action Plan under the Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014 (referred to as the 'Croke Park Agreement') and presented it to the DoEHLG in December 2010. This Action Plan gives effect to the measures set out in the Agreement and outlines the specific actions to be taken by the EPA to achieve efficiencies and savings, the timescale for these, the benefits and verifiable savings arising and the periods in which they will be achieved. An Implementation Plan will be developed early in 2011 and progress on the plan will be monitored by the Board and reported to the Implementation Body as required through the DoEHLG.



Dunmore East, Co. Waterford



SECTION 2

River Nore, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny

CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS ENGAGED IN 2010

Acustica	ESRI	Professor JG Atkins
Aether Ltd	Fehily Timoney & Company	Professor Martin Clynes
APEX Geoservices	Ford Consulting Group	Project Management
AWN Consulting	Geological Survey of Ireland	Public Pension Services
Barry Doyle & Co.	Golders	Resolve Consulting Ltd
Barry Sadler (Sadler Ecoservices BC Inc)	Hospitality Solutions Ltd (HSL)	Robert Meehan
BEC Consultants	Institute of Public Administration	RPS Consultants Ltd
Byrne Wallace	JBA Consulting Ltd.	RSK ENSR
Camp Dresser & McKee (Ireland) Ltd	Jenny Deakin	Ryan Hanley
Carl Stuart	KPMG	Sigma Seven
Carr Communications Ltd	Laurence Gill	Sinclair Knight Merz (Ireland) Limited
Ceram Building Technology	LHM Casey McGrath	SKM Enviro Ltd
Clean Technology Centre (CTC)	MacCauley Enterprises	SLR Consulting
Cork County Council	Maire Halpin	STL Laboratories
Daniel Duggan	Mason Hayes and Curran	Tim Mulvey
David Ball	Michael Rogers	TMS Consultancy
Deloitte	MJ Gray	Tobins
Duncan Laurence	Mudway Health	URS Consulting Ltd
EAP Institute	Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd	White, Young and Green
Ecofys Ltd.	Nick Kenny	Willis

PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT, 1997

The Environmental Protection Agency comes under the remit of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997, which came into effect on 2nd January 1998, and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002 which came into effect on 7th August 2002.

It is the policy of the EPA to ensure that all invoices are paid promptly. Specific systems and procedures have been put in place to enable invoices to be tracked and to ensure that payments are made before their due date. Purchase invoices are logged on a daily basis in Accounts Section, and are followed up systematically to ensure that they are certified and returned for payment without delay. Payments are issued as required to ensure prompt payment.

These controls are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material non-compliance with the Act and Regulations.

There were 7 late payments with values in excess of €317 during 2010 and these exceeded the due payment date by an average of 25 days. The value of these late payments was €52,680. Overall, late payments represented 0.16 % of the total value of payments covered by the Act, with total associated penalty interest of €255.


Mary Kelly
Director General, EPA

EPA PUBLICATIONS 2010

The majority of EPA publications are available to download from the EPA website www.epa.ie. All publications can also be purchased either on-line or from EPA Publications’ Sales at +353 1 268 0100.

AIR

The following air reports can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/air/

- Review of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring in Ireland
- Air Quality in Ireland 2009
- Ireland’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2009
- Ireland’s National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2010 – 2020
- Dioxin Levels in the Irish Environment 2009

CORPORATE

The following corporate reports can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/other/corporate/

- EPA Annual Highlights 2009
- EPA Annual Report and Accounts 2009
- EPANews Spring 2010
- EPANews Autumn 2010
- EPANews Winter 2010
- Interacting with the EPA

ENFORCEMENT

The following reports can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/enforcement

- Focus on Landfilling in Ireland
- Enforcement Update April 2010

WASTE

The following waste reports can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/waste/

- Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme 2006 – 2009
- National Waste Report 2009
- National Waste Prevention Programme – Annual Report 2009-2010
- EPA Enforcement of WEEE regulations to date
- Summary Report – Independent Assessment of landfill gas emissions and management systems at 29 EPA licensed landfills in the Republic of Ireland.

- Supplementary Paper on the use of tyre bales in above ground installations- final position on end-of-waste status for tyre bales.
- EPA approved factors to calculate the BMW content of municipal waste streams.
- EPA Approval Factors to calculate the BMW Content of Municipal Waste Streams.

WATER

The following water reports can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/

- Water Quality of Rivers and Canals 2007 – 2009
- Water Quality in Ireland 2007 – 2009
- Water Quality of Lakes in Ireland 2007 – 2009
- Quality of Estuarine and Coastal Waters 2007 – 2009
- Groundwater Quality 2007-2009
- The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland – A Report for the year 2009
- EPA HSE Joint Position Paper No.1 Nitrates in Drinking Water April 2010 flyer

GUIDANCE NOTES

The following guidance notes can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/advice/

- Guidance on the Notification, Management and Communication of Environmental Incidents.
- Article 11 FAQ
- Circular WP 18/10 regarding Food Waste Regulations Awareness
- The WEEE and Battery Regulations in Ireland- Who Does What?
- Guidance Note on Site Safety Requirements for Air Emissions Monitoring (AG1).
- Guidance Note on Air Dispersion Modelling from Industrial Installations (AG4).
- Odour Impact Assessment Guidance for EPA Licensed Sites (AG5).
- Air Guidance Note- Surface VOC Emissions Monitoring on Landfill facilities (AG6).
- Guidance Note on Waste Ionisation Chamber Smoke Detectors (ICSDs).
- DoEHLG Battery Scoping decision tree.
- The WEEE and Battery Regulations in Ireland – Who Does What?

- Guidance Note for Operators in the Hospitality and Leisure Sector.
- Guidance Note for Operators in the Office and Building Sector.
- Guidance Note for Operators in the Retail Sector.
- Guidance Note for Contractors in the Refridgeration, Air-Conditioning and Heat-Pump Sector.
- ODS- Import and Export Controls Guidance on Leak Checking.
- EC (DW) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 – Public Water Supplies Handbook.
- EC (DW) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 – Private Water Supplies Handbook.
- SEA Scoping Guidance Document.
- SEA Environmental Report and Plan Template.
- Draft SEA Screening Assessment Worksheet.
- SEA Pack.
- Guidance Document on EC (Environmental Liabilities) Regulations 2008.
- AER/PRTR Guidance Document No. 5: (AER/PRTR).
- Electronic Reporting Workbook and Website User Manual.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH REPORTS

CLIMATE CHANGE

The following climate change research reports can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/climate/

- An Assessment of Climate Modelling at the Regional Scale: The Development of Probabilistic Based Climate Scenarios for Ireland. (STRIVE 48)
- Extreme Weather, Climate and Natural Disasters in Ireland. (CCRP 5)
- Elucidating the Impact of Aerosols on Cloud Physics and the North Atlantic Regional Climate (EIRE Climate). (STRIVE 52)
- An Assessment of the Potential for Geological Storage of CO₂, in the vicinity of Moneypoint, Co Clare. (CCRP 4)
- Advanced Aerosol Composition Measurements and Aerosol Radiative Properties. (STRIVE 49)
- CLIMATE CHANGE: Accounting for Greenhouse Gas Sources and Sinks in Major Irish Land-Use Categories. (STRIVE 43)

- ▲ Estimates of Methane Recovery in Landfill Gas Flaring and Utilisation. (CCRP 3)
- ▲ Inventories of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Ireland 1990 and 1995 – 2006. (CCRP 2)

WATER

The following water research reports can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/water/

- ▲ Contaminant Movement and Attenuation along Pathways from the Land Surface to Aquatic Receptors – A Review. (STRIVE 56)
- ▲ Water Framework Directive- Integration, Negotiation and Communication of Optimal Measures with Stakeholders. (STRIVE 54)
- ▲ IMPLANT: The Impact of Plant Nutrients on Primary Productivity in Running Waters: Evaluating the risk to Stream Ecological Status. (STRIVE 60)
- ▲ Past, Current and Future Interactions between Pressures, Chemical Status and Biological Quality Elements for Lakes in Contrasting Catchments in Ireland. (STRIVE 59)

SOILS AND BIODIVERSITY

The following soils and biodiversity research reports can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/biodiversity/ or www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/land/

- ▲ Acquisition of Essential Data for Assessments of Carbon Sequestration by Soils. (STRIVE 58)
- ▲ Soils and Bioindicators – The Development of the Nematode *Steinernema feltiae* as a Bioindicator of Chromium V1 soil pollution. (STRIVE 38)
- ▲ SoilC- Measurement and Modelling of Soil Carbon Stocks and Stock Changes in Irish Soils. (STRIVE 35)

WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The following resource management research reports can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/waste/

- ▲ Emissions IPPC Industry: Quantifying Pollution Trends and Regulatory Effectiveness. (ERC 16)

SOCIO-ECONOMICS

The following socio-economic research reports can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/econ/

- ▲ Sustainable Rural Development: Managing Housing in the Countryside. (STRIVE 44)
- ▲ Evaluating the Role of the City and County Development Boards in Promoting Public Participation in Local Sustainable Development. (STRIVE 41)
- ▲ Ireland’s Sustainable Development Model. (STRIVE 47)

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

The following environmental technology research reports can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/tech

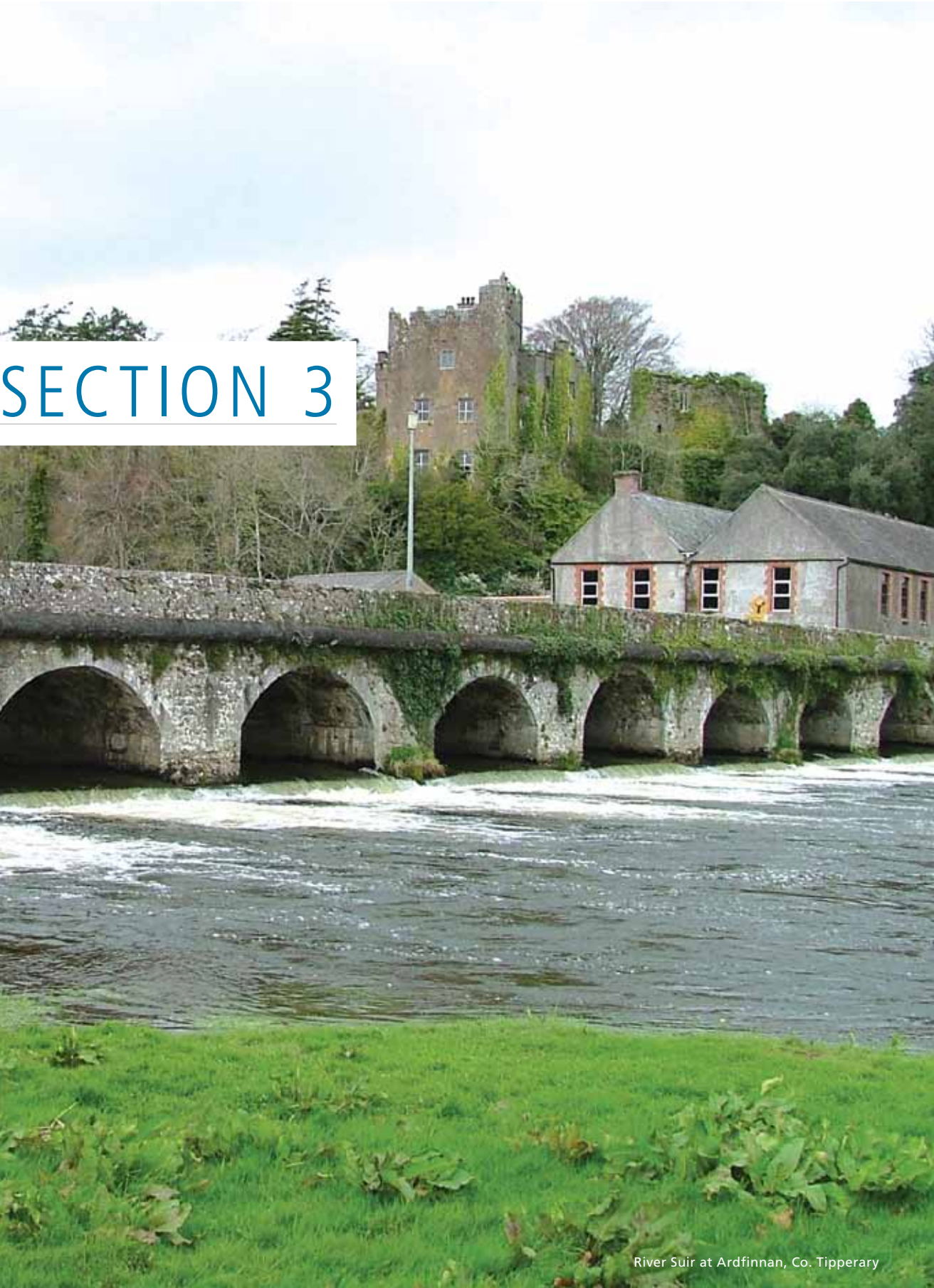
- ▲ A Novel Biotechnological Approach to Phosphorus Removal from Wastewaters. (STRIVE 55)
- ▲ Development of an Alum Sludge Based Constructed Wetland System for Improving Organic Matter and Nutrients Removal in High Strength Wastewater. (STRIVE 57)
- ▲ Monitoring of Gas Emissions at Landfill Sites using Autonomous Gas Sensors. (STRIVE 53)
- ▲ Summary of Findings – Monitoring of Gas Emissions at Landfill Sites using Autonomous Gas Sensors.
- ▲ Minimisation of Hazardous Waste generated by CIP operations in the dairy processing industry. (STRIVE 51)
- ▲ Preparation of supported hydrophilic polymeric and mixed matrix membranes for dehydration of ethanol by pervaporation. (STRIVE 50)
- ▲ Enhanced Nitrogen Removal for Slaughterhouse Wastewater using Novel Technologies. (STRIVE 45)
- ▲ Pilot Programme for Establishing a Regional Ecobusiness Recognition Mark. (STRIVE 37)

ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

- ▲ Nanotechnology: Public engagement with health, environmental and social issues. (STRIVE 61)
- ▲ Summary of Findings: Nanotechnology: Public engagement with health, environmental and social issues.
- ▲ Health Effects Associated with Atmospheric Degradation of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons. (STRIVE 62)
- ▲ Comparative Population Health Status Study of a Semi-Rural Irish Community Before and After Licensing of a Waste Incinerator. (STRIVE 46)
- ▲ Understanding the Links between the Environment, Human Health and Wellbeing. (ERC15)



Bullock Harbour, Co. Dublin



River Suir at Ardfinnan, Co. Tipperary

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010

- ▲ Statement of Responsibilities of the Agency
- ▲ Statement on Internal Financial Control
- ▲ Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General
- ▲ Accounting Policies
- ▲ Income and Expenditure Account
- ▲ Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses
- ▲ Balance Sheet
- ▲ Cash Flow Statement
- ▲ Notes to the Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AGENCY

Section 50(1) of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, requires the EPA to prepare financial statements in such form as may be approved by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in consultation with the Minister for Finance. In preparing those financial statements, the EPA is required to:

- ▲ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ▲ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ▲ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the EPA will continue in operation;
- ▲ disclose and explain any material departures from applicable accounting standards.

The EPA is responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the EPA and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 50 of the EPA Act. The EPA is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Mary Kelly
Director General

Mathew Come
Director

30 / 06 / 2011

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL 2010

1. On behalf of the Directors of the EPA, I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial controls is maintained and operated, for preparing the accounts of the EPA and for complying with all statutory obligations applicable to the EPA.
2. The Directors of the EPA acknowledge also that the system of internal financial controls can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected and rectified in a timely period.
3. **Key Procedures to Provide Effective Internal Financial Control**
 - i) The Directors of the EPA have taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment within the EPA by:
 - ▲ Publishing the EPA Strategy Statement *2020Vision – Protecting and Improving Ireland's Environment*. This Strategy covers the period to 2010 and sets out the EPA's environmental and organisational goals. Implementation of the Strategy is monitored and reported to the Board of the EPA on a periodic basis. Work has commenced on the preparation of a new strategy for the period 2011 - 2014
 - ▲ Agreeing a detailed work programme for each year and monitoring and evaluating progress against the work programme on a regular basis.
 - ▲ Holding regular Board meetings, including monthly management meetings where the Agenda includes strategic issues such as Corporate Governance, Financial Management and Corporate Strategy.
 - ▲ Adopting a set of financial procedures to control the significant financial elements of the EPA's business and publishing these in the staff Finance Manual.
 - ▲ Maintaining a comprehensive schedule of insurances to protect the EPA's interests.
 - ▲ Establishing an Internal Audit Committee, as part of the ongoing systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures within the EPA, to oversee the Internal Audit function and advise the Board in relation to the operation and development of that function.
 - ▲ Establishing and operating a Risk Management Policy and Framework.

- ▲ Adopting a Policy for monitoring and assessing compliance with corporate legislation has been implemented fully in the EPA since 2009.
- ▲ Clearly defining management responsibilities, delegating appropriate functions, and reviewing and approving all EPA policies and procedures.
- ▲ Adopting a Code of Business Conduct for Directors and Staff in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.
- ▲ Ensuring compliance with the Ethics in Public Office Acts requirements and Sections 37 & 38 of the EPA Act 1992, relating to the Declaration and Disclosure of Interests.

- ii) During 2010 the EPA Risk Registers were reviewed in accordance with the EPA Risk Management Policy and a Corporate Risk Register was prepared. Each Director provides quarterly assurance statements to the Director General acknowledging responsibility for the ongoing update, monitoring and review of the risk register in their Office and for ensuring the implementation of the Risk Management Policy.

Following the revision of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies in 2009, the Board in 2010 approved a plan to conduct a comprehensive review of the EPA Risk Management Structures in 2010. The EPA Risk Management Policy developed in 2005 was reviewed in 2010 to bring it into full Compliance with the provisions of the Revised Code. Office Level Risk Registers were developed in EPA in 2005 and have been reviewed annually in line with the Risk Policy. A more fundamental Review of Office Level Risks commenced in 2010 starting in the Office of Climate Licensing & Resource Use and these reviews will be extended to all EPA Offices in 2011 and 2012.

- iii) The system of internal financial controls is based on a framework of regular management information, a system of delegation and accountability, a set of financial procedures, administrative procedures including segregation of duties. In particular it includes:
 - ▲ A comprehensive budgeting system with an annual budget, which is reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.
 - ▲ The assignment of budgets and budgetary authority and responsibility for specific functions to selected managers. A Finance Manual was finalised in 2007, which sets out policies and procedures in relation to budgetary and financial issues.
 - ▲ Restricting authority for authorising all payments of EPA monies, payment of salaries, pensions, creditors, and expenses etc. (whether by cheque or electronic fund transfer) to Directors and three named Programme Managers.

- ▲ Segregation of the transaction processing duties in advance of these authorisations into two steps:
 - 1: confirmation that goods/services were received and salaries, pensions and expenses were due, by staff responsible for these transactions and
 - 2: calculation of the total monies due by the Finance Unit, prior to seeking authorisation for payment.
- ▲ Arrangements for all purchasing to be conducted and controlled through the EPA's financial management system and procedures.
- ▲ Regular and ongoing review of payments by senior management.
- ▲ Regular reviews by the Board of Directors of periodic and annual financial information and reports (including management accounts), which indicate financial performance against budgets.
- ▲ The application of project management disciplines in respect of building programmes and major consultancy projects.
- ▲ A system of control on the overall approval of capital and consultancy contracts.

- iv) The financial implications of business risks have been considered through the formal business risk assessment process and in the preparation of the EPA Internal Audit Plans. These will be further assessed and evaluated through the phased implementation of the EPA's Internal Audit Plan. Procedures have been issued to control the significant financial elements of the EPA's business, and authorisation limits have been set by the Board for purchasing.

- v) The EPA's Internal Audit Committee is comprised of an external Chairperson and other external expertise in lieu of non-executive Director input, together with senior representation from the EPA. The EPA Internal Audit Plan 2010 – 2011 was progressively implemented with one standard audit completed and a Pilot programme of two business led Value for Money Reviews commenced.

The internal audit was carried out in the area of:

Data Protection and Use of Laptops and other Handheld Equipment in EPA.

- ▲ There were no critical findings identified in the audit. An Implementation Plan to address the audit recommendations was approved by the Audit Committee and the Board of the EPA. Progress on the implementation of the actions in each of the Internal Audit Implementation Plans is regularly reviewed and reported to the Audit Committee and the EPA Board.

Pilot Value for Money Reviews were carried out in the following areas:

- ▲ The EPA’s Environmental Technologies and Cleaner Production Research Programme, and
- ▲ The Enforcement of the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No.2) Regulations, 2007.

The pilot value for money reviews are being carried out in accordance with the Department of Finance Guidelines. The reports on the reviews will be completed in 2011 and presented to the Internal Audit Committee and the EPA Board.

An Internal Audit Plan for the period 2011 - 2012 was developed in 2010 and, reflects the risks identified in the EPA’s Corporate Risk Register, the requirements of the Comptroller and Auditor General, and developments and issues in relation to Corporate Governance that have arisen in the Public Sector in general. This Internal Audit Plan was approved by the Internal Audit Committee and by the EPA Board.

- vi) In addition to the key controls outlined above, the following new controls were implemented during 2010:
- ▲ Comprehensive guidance and training on procurement management and purchasing was provided to relevant staff.
 - ▲ A review of the Finance function was carried out and the implementation of findings is ongoing.
 - ▲ Following a review of systems in use by the Office of Communications and Corporate Services, in 2009 a range of processes in HR & Finance were reviewed and improvements implemented.
 - ▲ Smart Simple an online grant management system was implemented in 2010 to provide improved reporting and management of research funding.

4. Annual Review of Controls

I can confirm that the Directors of the Agency conducted a review of the system of internal controls in the EPA in 2010.

Signed on behalf of the Board.


Director General
30 / 06 / 2011

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL FOR PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE OF THE OIREACHTAS

I have audited the financial statements of the Environmental Protection Agency for the year ended 31 December 2010 under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992. The financial statements, which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein, comprise the Accounting Policies, the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AGENCY

The Agency is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, for ensuring that they give a true and fair view of the state of the Agency’s affairs and of its income and expenditure, and for ensuring the regularity of transactions.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements and report on them in accordance with applicable law.

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation.

My audit is carried out in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and in compliance with the Auditing Practices Board’s Ethical Standards for Auditors.

SCOPE OF AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of

- ▲ whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Agency’s circumstances, and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed
- ▲ the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made in the preparation of the financial statements, and
- ▲ the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I also seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit.

In addition, I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my report.

OPINION ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In my opinion, the financial statements, which have been properly prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, give a true and fair view of the state of the Agency’s affairs at 31 December 2010 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.


In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Agency. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

MATTERS ON WHICH I REPORT BY EXCEPTION

I report by exception if

- ▲ I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- ▲ my audit noted any material instance where moneys have not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them, or
- ▲ the information given in the Agency’s Annual Report for the year for which the financial statements are prepared is not consistent with the financial statements, or
- ▲ the Statement on Internal Financial Control does not reflect the Agency’s compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, or
- ▲ I find there are other material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I have nothing to report in regard to those matters upon which reporting is by exception.


John Buckley
Comptroller and Auditor General
June 2011

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in the form approved by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government with the consent of the Minister for Finance in accordance with Section 50 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992.

The financial statements are prepared on an accruals basis, except as stated below, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice. Financial reporting standards recommended by the recognised accountancy bodies are adopted as they become applicable.

2 OIREACHTAS GRANTS

The figures shown are the actual grants received in the accounting period.

3 LICENCE FEES

Applicants for all licences are required to pay the full licence application fee at the time of making the application. The amounts received are apportioned to the Income and Expenditure Account on completion of the following stages of the licensing process:

INTEGRATED POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL AND WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCES:

▲ Application	30%
▲ Proposed Determination	50%
▲ Licence Issue	20%

WASTE WATER DISCHARGE LICENCES:

▲ Application	10%
▲ Acknowledgement of complete application	40%
▲ Licence Decision Issue	50%

4 FUNDING OF EMISSIONS TRADING UNIT

The Emissions Trading Unit (ETU) was established within the Agency in 2003. The auction / sale of a quantity of the total allowances (not greater than 0.5%) is provided for in the Government direction to the Agency in connection with the EU emissions trading scheme. Auction / sale proceeds are used to defray the costs of administering the emissions trading scheme and the balance is paid over to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and is not treated as income of the Agency. In

2010 the costs of the ETU were recovered from the proceeds of the sale which took place in 2009 and 2010. Auction / sale proceeds retained by the Agency to fund the ETU are recognised as income of the Environmental Protection Agency in line with the associated costs.

5 RESEARCH GRANT PAYMENTS

The EPA enters into commitments in respect of research projects awarded for funding. Expenditure on these research projects is charged in the financial statements on the basis of the initial payments made on signing of the grant award, interim payments which may be made subject to satisfactory performance and further payments which are issued on receipt and verification of claims in respect of work completed. Costs incurred by the EPA in the implementation of the research programmes are charged to the financial statements as they are incurred.

6 FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at the rates stated below which are estimated to reduce the assets to their realisable values at the end of their expected working lives:

▲ Buildings	2%
▲ Furniture and Fittings	10%
▲ Laboratory and Field Equipment	15%
▲ Equipment	20%
▲ IT and Computer Equipment	25%
▲ Motor Vehicles	20%

7 CAPITAL FUNDING

The fixed assets of the EPA and advances to fund work in progress and asset purchases are met from a combination of capital grants, approved borrowing and allocations from current revenue. Funding sourced from grants (including that used to repay borrowings) is transferred to a capital account which is amortised in line with the depreciation of the related assets.

8 STOCKS

All stocks, including consumables are written off in the year of purchase.

9 DEBTORS

Provision for doubtful debts is made, where warranted, in the accounts. Bad debts, as they arise, are written off against that provision.

10 SUPERANNUATION

The Environmental Protection Agency operates defined benefit pension schemes, which are funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies available to it, including monies provided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and from pension contributions deducted from staff salaries.

Pension Scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are retained by the Agency. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising from changes in Actuarial assumptions and from experience surpluses and deficits are recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the year in which they occur and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2010

		2010	2009
		€	€
INCOME	Note		
Oireachtas Grants	1	44,070,048	51,531,573
Emissions Trading Costs Recovered	2	1,219,115	1,302,400
Other Services		32,464	28,379
Income from Regional Laboratories		1,458,877	1,720,107
Licencing Activities	3	2,077,858	2,327,815
Enforcement Activities	4	7,683,500	7,307,941
Sundry Receipts	5	621,660	260,980
Net deferred funding for pensions	22(c)	5,742,435	5,626,597
		62,905,957	70,105,792
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries and PRSI	6	20,014,564	21,857,958
Pension Costs	22(a)	7,499,445	7,709,748
Travelling Expenses	7	1,389,971	1,456,445
Laboratory and Field Costs	8	1,435,079	1,256,973
Accommodation Costs	9	1,095,581	1,367,431
Other Administration Costs	10	5,525,869	6,576,764
Consultants	11	894,397	1,367,196
Contractors, Grants and External Service Providers	12	8,862,509	8,866,226
Environmental Research	13	13,622,417	14,813,233
Depreciation	18	2,482,069	2,295,345
		62,821,901	67,567,319
Transfer (from)/ to Capital Account	14	(128,593)	2,068,827
		62,693,308	69,636,146
Operating Surplus		212,649	469,646
Surplus on Disposals of Assets		46,656	20,823
Surplus before Interest		249,305	490,469
Interest Received	15	458	4,694
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	16	(73,411)	(136,671)
Surplus for Year		186,352	358,492
Surplus at 1 January		539,408	180,916
Surplus at 31 December		752,760	539,408

The results for the year relate to continuing operations. The statement of accounting policies and cash flow statement, together with notes 1 to 25 form part of these financial statements.


Director General
30 / 06 / 2011

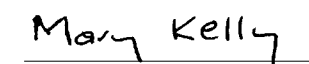

Director

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2010

	Note	2010	2009
		€	€
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		186,352	358,492
Experience Gains / (Losses) on pension scheme liabilities		10,439,000	6,267,000
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of pension scheme liabilities		(8,312,000)	3,673,000
Actuarial Gain on Pension Liabilities	22(b)	2,127,000	9,940,000
Adjustment to Deferred Pension Funding		(2,127,000)	(9,940,000)
Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the Year		186,352	358,492

The results for the year relate to continuing operations.

The statement of accounting policies and cash flow statement, together with notes 1 to 25 form part of these Financial Statements.


Director General
30 / 06 / 2011


Director

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010

	Note	2010 €	2009 €
FIXED ASSETS	18	37,129,032	37,409,152
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Repayments	19	1,556,459	2,819,207
Cash on Hand and at Bank	20	14,465,915	12,770,211
		16,022,374	15,589,418
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors (Amounts falling due within one year)	21(a)	(15,485,397)	(15,134,949)
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		536,977	454,469
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)	21(b)	(1,799,982)	(2,055,353)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities before Pensions		35,866,027	35,808,268
Pension Liabilities	22(b)	94,602,995	90,987,560
Deferred Pension Funding	22(c)	(94,602,995)	(90,987,560)
		0	0
Total Net Assets		35,866,027	35,808,268
REPRESENTED BY:			
Capital Account	14	35,140,267	35,268,860
Income and Expenditure Account		725,760	539,408
		35,866,027	35,808,268

The statement of accounting policies and cash flow statement, together with notes 1 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

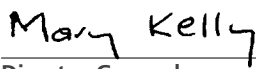

 Director General
 30 / 06 / 2011


 Director

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

	Note	2010 €	2009 €
RECONCILIATION OF SURPLUS TO NET CASH Inflow from Operating Activities			
Surplus for year		186,352	358,492
Interest Received	15	(458)	(4,694)
Deficit on Disposal of Assets		(46,656)	(20,823)
Transfer to Capital Account	14	(128,593)	2,068,827
Depreciation charge for year	18	2,482,069	2,295,345
Decrease in Debtors and Prepayments		1,159,747	1,042,316
Increase in Creditors (other than Loan Creditors)		363,174	5,036,793
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities		4,015,635	10,776,256
CASH FLOW STATEMENT			
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities		4,015,635	10,776,256
RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE			
Bank Interest		458	4,694
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds on disposal of fixed assets		56,739	44,776
Payments to acquire fixed assets		(2,109,031)	(4,051,782)
Net Cash Inflow Before Financing		1,963,801	6,773,944
FINANCING			
Fixed Asset Loan Repayments		(268,097)	(236,343)
Increase in Cash		1,695,704	6,537,601
RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOVEMENT IN CASH BALANCES			
Increase in cash in year		1,695,704	6,537,601
Funds at 1 January		12,770,211	6,232,610
Funds at 31 December		14,465,915	12,770,211

The statement of accounting policies together with notes 1 to 25 form part of these financial statements.


 Director General
 30 / 06 / 2011


 Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2010	2009
	€	€
1 OIREACHTAS GRANTS		
Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Vote:		
Grants from the Vote		
Current	23,247,448	27,908,528
Capital	1,500,000	3,900,000
Research Funding	13,000,000	13,640,000
Other Programmes	6,322,600	6,083,045
	44,070,048	51,531,573
The Research Funding is a specific allocation to meet the cost of Environmental Research. €13,622,417 was expended on these research activities in 2010 (2009 €14,813,233).		
2 EMISSIONS TRADING UNIT (ETU) ACTIVITIES	€	€
(a) Cost of Emissions Trading Unit	1,219,115	1,302,400
Emissions Trading Operator Registration Fees, etc.	10,645	38,191
Costs to be recovered from Auction Funds, etc.	1,208,470	1,264,209
Total Funding of ETU Costs	1,219,115	1,302,400
(b) Summary of Emissions Trading Unit Funds:	€	€
Funds Carried Forward	1,005,600	0
Total Funds Generated	2,442,565	2,877,271
Prior year costs to recover from current year funds	0	(569,271)
Total Current Year ETU Costs	(1,219,115)	(1,302,400)
ETU Funds payable to the DoEH&LG	2,229,050	1,005,600
Paid to DoEH&LG	0	0
Balance of ETU Proceeds payable to DoEH&LG (see Note 21 (a))	2,229,050	1,005,600
3 LICENSING ACTIVITIES - IPPC, WASTE AND WWD	€	€
Licence Fees prepaid at 1 January	7,902,676	5,081,017
Fees Received	1,577,018	5,178,963
Less Refunds Paid	(58,484)	(29,489)
Licence Fees prepaid at 31 December (see Note 21 (a))	(7,343,352)	(7,902,676)
Amount credited to Income and Expenditure Account	2,077,858	2,327,815

LICENSING: INTEGRATED POLLUTION CONTROL (IPPC) AND WASTE

Under Section 83 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 the EPA is responsible for the licensing of large/complex industrial and other processes with significant polluting potential. Under Section 40 of the Waste Management Act, 1996 the EPA is responsible for the licensing of all significant waste recovery and disposal activities operated by local authorities and private enterprise.

LICENSING: WASTE WATER DISCHARGES (WWD)

The Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 provide for the licensing of local authority waste water discharges. Discharges from areas that serve over 500 population equivalent will require a licence from the EPA. Areas that serve less than 500 population equivalent will be required to be certified by the EPA.

The EPA's licensing income arises from fees charged in respect of processing such licensing applications. In 2009 €4.477M of deferred WWD income was brought forward from 2008 and licence fees of €4.395M were received. Of this €1.661M was taken into income and €7.211M was deferred. In 2010 €7.211M was brought forward from deferred income and licence fees of €0.968M were received. Of this €1.508M was released to the Income and Expenditure accounts to give a balance carried forward of €6.671M.

	2010	2009
	€	€
4 ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES - IPPC AND WASTE	7,683,500	7,307,941
Enforcement Charges Invoiced and Fees Received		
Under Section 96 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 the EPA is responsible for the regulation of large/complex industrial and other processes with significant polluting potential. Under Section 15 of the Waste Management Act, 1996 the EPA is responsible for the regulation of all significant waste recovery and disposal activities operated by local authorities and private enterprise. The EPA's enforcement income arises from fees charged in respect of this monitoring work.		
5 SUNDRY RECEIPTS		
Insurance claims	47,947	145,198
Sales of publications	5,085	9,871
Sundry	568,628	105,911
	621,660	260,980
6 SALARIES AND PRSI OF STAFF	€	€
Salaries	18,570,996	20,288,335
Employers' PRSI	1,443,568	1,569,623
Total Salary Costs	20,014,564	21,857,958
The numbers of employees on 31 December were:		
Headquarters	149	149
Regional Inspectorates:		
Castlebar	29	28
Cork	42	41
Dublin	80	82
Kilkenny	21	22
Monaghan	13	14
Regional Offices	6	8
	340	344

Director General's Remuneration Package and Director's Fees

The Director General received a salary of €182,787 in 2010 (2009 €215,043) and is also entitled to a pension in line with the standard entitlements of the Environmental Protection Agency (Director General and Director) Staff Superannuation Scheme, 1996. The Directors of the Environmental Protection Agency are full time executive Directors. They are paid an inclusive salary and consequently no Directors fees are paid. There is no performance related payment scheme in place for the posts of Director General or Director of the Environmental Protection Agency and thus no performance related payments have been paid.

Pension Levy

In 2010 €1,240,925 (2009 €1,083,386) of pension levy was deducted and paid over to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

7 TRAVELLING EXPENSES

	€	€
Travel and Subsistence	1,264,191	1,343,083
Motor Vehicle Expenses	131,825	131,260
Travel Refunds	(6,045)	(17,898)
	1,389,971	1,456,445

Board Members Expenses

The Directors of the Environmental Protection Agency are full time executive Directors based at Headquarters in Wexford. The majority of Board meetings are held in Wexford in which case no expenses arise. Where, for business reasons, Board meetings are held in another location, Travel and Subsistence expenses are reimbursed at the rates applicable for the Civil Service. Expenses paid to Directors in relation to attendance at Board meetings in 2010 amounted to €2,592 broken down €1,583 mileage, €1,003 subsistence and €6 other expenses. The 2009 total was €2,650 (€1,753 mileage, €813 subsistence and €84 other expenses). A sum of €153,112 (2009 €181,729) in respect of travelling expenses is included under staff development and training costs at Note 10.

	2010	2009
	€	€
8 LABORATORY AND FIELD COSTS		
Laboratory and Field Expenses	1,151,881	931,551
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	270,728	305,477
Protective Clothing	12,470	19,945
	1,435,079	1,256,973
9 ACCOMMODATION COSTS	€	€
Rent and Rates	266,198	416,676
Power, Light and Heat, Cleaning	597,758	644,265
Repairs, Maintenance, Security	231,625	306,490
	1,095,581	1,367,431
10 OTHER ADMINISTRATION COSTS	€	€
Telephone and Postage	259,905	342,050
Printing of Publications and Stationery Supplies	435,698	563,771
Insurance	128,493	120,437
Computer and Data Processing Charges	2,597,246	3,103,882
Audit Fees	15,510	16,500
Corporate Governance and Internal Audit Costs	103,849	68,858
Legal Fees	546,722	494,407
Human Resource Related Costs	54,004	42,903
Bank Interest and Charges	6,053	4,930
Books, Periodicals, and Library	60,214	52,129
Staff Development and Training Costs	698,804	726,823
Advertising	137,149	421,077
Communications	417,387	510,623
Sundries	64,835	108,374
	5,525,869	6,576,764

Included in Other Administration Costs is €6,810 in respect of EPA contributions to the staff Sports and Social clubs, €5,512 in respect of 15 functions to mark staff retiring, leaving and staff commemorative events and €2,639 for 31 baby gift packs to mark the birth of a child to staff members. Included in Other Administration Costs and Travelling Expenses is €11,528 in respect of the cost of providing working lunches, refreshments, etc. to members of working groups, stakeholders and other attendees at meetings hosted by the EPA.

	€	€
11 CONSULTANCY COSTS		
Consultants	894,397	1,367,196
	894,397	1,367,196
The work programme activities which made use of these consultancies were:		
Water Framework Directive Programme	616,850	678,782
Environmental Assessment	12,381	4,902
Environmental Enforcement	174,030	213,562
National Waste Prevention Programme	11,616	469,950
Emissions Trading Unit	46,365	0
Climate, Licensing and Resource Use	19,364	0
Communications and Corporate Services	13,791	0
	894,397	1,367,196

	2010	2009
	€	€
12 CONTRACTORS, GRANTS AND EXTERNAL SERVICE PROVIDERS		
Contractors	1,183,623	482,271
Grants	879,469	1,280,880
External Service Providers	6,799,417	7,103,075
	8,862,509	8,866,226
The main work areas which incurred costs under this heading were:		
Communications and Corporate Services	483,999	420,453
Water Framework Directive Programme	1,361,610	3,405,215
Environmental Enforcement	2,635,262	1,496,198
National Waste Prevention Programme	3,835,060	3,193,080
Environmental Assessment	363,112	305,026
Emissions Trading Unit	85,344	0
Climate, Licensing and Resource Use	98,122	46,254
	8,862,509	8,866,226
13 ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH	€	€
STRIVE Research Programme	10,605,172	9,936,409
Climate Change Research Programme	3,017,245	5,073,774
Research Programme Payments	13,622,417	15,010,183
Co - Funding Research Income	0	196,950
Research Programme Payments	13,622,417	14,813,233

The current EPA environmental research programme, called STRIVE (Science, Technology, Research and Innovation for the Environment) was launched in 2007. It is being funded through the NDP 2007 – 2013. The STRIVE programme aims to fund research that will address key environmental management issues, which will ultimately protect and improve the natural environment. During 2007, a Climate Change Research Programme was established with funding under the Government Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (SSTI).

At 31 December 2010 commitments entered into but not yet charged to the financial statements in respect of Research projects amounted to **€31.372M** (2009 €41.087M) with the following breakdown:

	€ '000	€ '000
Outstanding Grant Commitments at 1 January	41,087	44,278
Grants Approved during the year	3,940	9,242
Grants Decommited during the year	(1,153)	0
Grant Payments made in the year	(12,502)	(12,433)
Outstanding Commitments at 31 December	31,372	41,087

These figures exclude EPA implementation costs in respect of Research programmes.

	€	€
14 CAPITAL ACCOUNT		
At 1 January 2010		35,268,860
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account:		
Income Allocated for Capital purposes: - Fixed Asset Additions	2,069,031	
- To Fund Future Additions	40,000	
- Design and Engineering Study costs expensed	(13,570)	
- Repayment of Loans	268,097	
	2,363,558	
Less		
Disposals	298,005	
Less prior depreciation on disposals	(287,923)	
	10,082	
Depreciation charge for year	2,482,069	
Net Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account		(128,593)
At 31 December 2010		35,140,267

As at 31 December 2010, the Capital Account balance includes €140,000 (2009 €256,570) in respect of prepayments for fixed assets (see Note 19 – Debtors and Prepayments).

	2010	2009
15 INTEREST RECEIVED	€	€
Bank deposit interest	458	4,694
	458	4,694

16 INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR CHARGES	€	€
Bank Loans repayable by Instalments - Mortgage on Headquarters building	73,411	136,671

17 TAXATION

The EPA is specifically exempted under the provisions of Section 32, and Schedule 2, of Finance Act, 1994. Accordingly no taxation charges have been included in the accounts.

18 FIXED ASSETS

	Total	Buildings	Furniture & Fittings	IT & IS Equipment	Lab & Field Equipment	Motor Vehicles
Cost	€	€	€	€	€	€
At 1 January 2010	52,830,751	37,410,018	2,670,880	3,345,854	8,352,341	1,051,658
Transfers	143,000	143,000	0	0	0	0
Purchases	2,069,031	124,323	65,288	844,799	929,921	104,700
Disposals	(298,005)	0	(1,390)	(119,593)	(80,739)	(96,283)
At 31 December 2010	54,744,777	37,677,341	2,734,778	4,071,060	9,201,523	1,060,075

Depreciation

At 1 January 2010	15,421,599	4,582,145	1,772,199	2,647,666	5,736,014	683,575
Charge for Year	2,482,069	756,388	200,063	548,291	815,505	161,822
On Disposals	(287,923)	0	(1,390)	(119,593)	(80,179)	(86,761)
At 31 December 2010	17,615,745	5,338,533	1,970,872	3,076,364	6,471,340	758,636

Net Book Value

At 31 December 2010	37,129,032	32,338,808	763,906	994,696	2,730,183	301,439
At 31 December 2009	37,409,152	32,827,873	898,681	698,188	2,616,327	368,083

Headquarters for the Environmental Protection Agency were built on the grounds of Johnstown Castle Estate, County Wexford, on a site whose title is vested in Teagasc. A formal lease agreement was completed in March 2011. The headquarters building was constructed by the Office of Public Works (OPW) who financed the construction by means of a commercial loan. The EPA funds the annual repayments made by the OPW. The interest element of the repayments met by the EPA is accounted for in the year it arises.

Both the asset and the associated funding arrangements have been recorded in the books of the EPA to reflect the substance of the underlying transactions. Under an arrangement with Cork County Council the EPA shared a building at Inniscarra, Co Cork for a number of years and by agreement the EPA took possession of the entire building in 2008. A formal lease agreement was completed in March 2011. The EPA regional inspectorate building at Seville Lodge, Kilkenny was constructed by the Office of Public Works on a site acquired for EPA. The legal transfer of the site to the EPA is being processed by the OPW through the State Solicitors Office.

19 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	€	€
Debtors	1,416,459	2,562,637
Prepayments for Fixed Assets	140,000	256,570
	1,556,459	2,819,207

Prepayments for Fixed Assets:

At 31 December 2010 prepayments totalling €140,000 (2009 €256,570) had been made as set out hereunder. These prepayments have been included in the amounts transferred from the Income and Expenditure Account to the Capital Account.

Advances to the Office of Public Works (OPW)

At 31 December 2009 advance payments of €100,000 had been made to the OPW in respect of minor capital works in Regional Inspectorates. A further €40,000 was paid to OPW in 2010. These amounts will be transferred to Fixed Assets on completion of the work.

Advance payments for other Fixed Assets

An amount of €143,000 has been paid to Mayo County Council in respect of the conversion of attic space into office accommodation and other refurbishment work at the Regional Inspectorate in Castlebar. Work on this project was completed in 2010 and this payment has been transferred to Fixed Assets. All debtors fall due within one year.

	2010	2009
20 CASH ON HAND AND AT BANK	€	€
Cash and Bank Balances	14,465,915	12,770,211

The prepaid Licensing income (see Note 3) accounts for €7,343,352 of the Bank balances at the Balance Sheet date.

21 CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

(a) Amounts falling due within one year:

Licence Fees (see Note 3)	7,343,352	7,902,676
Proceeds of ETU Auction payable to DoEH&LG (see Note 2 (b))	2,229,050	1,005,600
Trade and Other Expenses	5,584,212	5,885,164
Instalments due on purchase of Fixed Assets	328,783	341,509
	15,485,397	15,134,949

Included in Trade and Other Expenses above are the following amounts due to Revenue Commissioners

Professional Service Withholding Tax	436,071	439,039
PAYE/PRSI	479,166	530,553
VAT	243,994	267,578
Relevant Contract Tax	2,391	9,376
	1,161,622	1,246,546

(b) Amounts falling due after more than one year:

Instalments due on purchase of Fixed Assets	1,799,982	2,055,353
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22 PENSION COSTS

(a) Analysis of total pension costs charged to Expenditure

	€	€
Current Service Cost	3,053,000	3,018,000
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	5,332,000	5,600,000
Employee Contributions Received	(885,555)	(908,252)
	7,499,445	7,709,748

(b) Movement in Net Pension Liability during the financial year

	€	€
Net Pension Liability at 1 January	90,987,560	95,300,963
Current Service Cost	3,053,000	3,018,000
Interest Costs	5,332,000	5,600,000
Actuarial (Gain)	(2,127,000)	(9,940,000)
Pensions paid in the year	(2,642,565)	(2,991,403)
Net Pension Liability at 31 December	94,602,995	90,987,560

(c) Deferred Funding for Pensions

The EPA recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the superannuation schemes, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. The EPA has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The Net Deferred Funding for Pensions recognised in the Income and Expenditure Accounts was as follows:

	€	€
Funding Recoverable in respect of current year pension costs	8,385,000	8,618,000
State Grants applied to pay pensioners	(2,642,565)	(2,991,403)
	5,742,435	5,626,597

The deferred funding asset for pensions at 31 December 2010 amounted to €94.603 million (2009 €90.988 million).

22 PENSION COSTS (CONTINUED)

(d) History of defined benefit obligations

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
	€ '000	€ '000	€ '000	€ '000	€ '000
Defined benefit obligations	94,603	90,988	95,301	98,329	98,980
Experience Gains / (Losses) on Scheme Liabilities:					
Amount (€ '000)	10,439	6,267	(5,002)	(583)	(9,891)
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	11.0%	6.9%	5.2%	0.6%	10.0%

The cumulative actuarial loss recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses amounts to €2,614,000.

(e) General Description of the Schemes

The schemes are defined benefit final salary pension arrangements with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current "model" public sector scheme regulations. The schemes provide staff members with a pension (1/80 per year of service), a gratuity of lump sum (3/80 per year of service) and spouse's and children's pensions. Normal Retirement Age is a member's sixty fifth birthday, and pre 2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. The schemes provide Board members with a pension (1/48 per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (1/32 per year of service) and spouse's and children's pensions. Board members are entitled to retire when their contract ends. Pensions in payment (and deferment) are assumed to increase in line with general salary inflation.

The valuation used for FRS 17 (Revised) disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation at 22 June 2011 by a qualified independent actuary taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2010.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:	2010	2009
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50%	3.50%
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	3.25%	3.25%
Discount rate	5.25%	5.75%
Inflation rate	2.00%	2.00%

The mortality basis adopted explicitly allows for improvements in life expectancy over time, so that life expectancy at retirement will depend on the year in which a member attains retirement age (age 65). The table below shows the life expectancy for members attaining age 65 in 2010, 2030 and 2050.

Year of attaining age 65	2010	2030	2050
Life expectancy - male	86.7	89.6	91.6
Life expectancy - female	88.4	90.7	92.5

23 BOARD MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The EPA has adopted procedures to govern its decision making in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 and the Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 and regulations made thereunder. These procedures have been adhered to by the EPA during the year.

24 PREMISES

The locations and ownership of the premises occupied by EPA during 2010 are as follows:

Address / Location	Owned / Rented / Other	Agreement with	Duration	Other Information
Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford.	Owned	Teagasc	500 years	Site rental €5 per annum
Richview, Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14	Licensed	University College Dublin	50 years	Licence fee €31,743 per annum
Inniscarra, Co. Cork	Rented	Cork County Council	500 years	Site rental €1 per annum
Seville Lodge, Callan Road, Kilkenny	Owned			
John Moore Road, Castlebar, Co. Mayo	Rented	Mayo County Council	Open	Rental €175,536 per annum
The Glen, Monaghan	Owned			
Annabella, Mallow, Co. Cork	Rented	Cork County Council	Open	Rental €5,200 per annum
Church Street, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	Rented	Athlone Town Council	Open	Rental €5,200 per annum
Mungret College, Mungret, Co. Limerick	Rented	Dineen & Company	10 Years	Rental €4,962 per annum
11 Rosemount Lane, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	Rented	Seamus Crumlish	Open	Rental €3,120 per annum

25 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 30 / 06 2011

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