



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

2009 | 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 licence 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.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

- Conducting over 2,000 audits and inspections of EPA licenced 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.

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.

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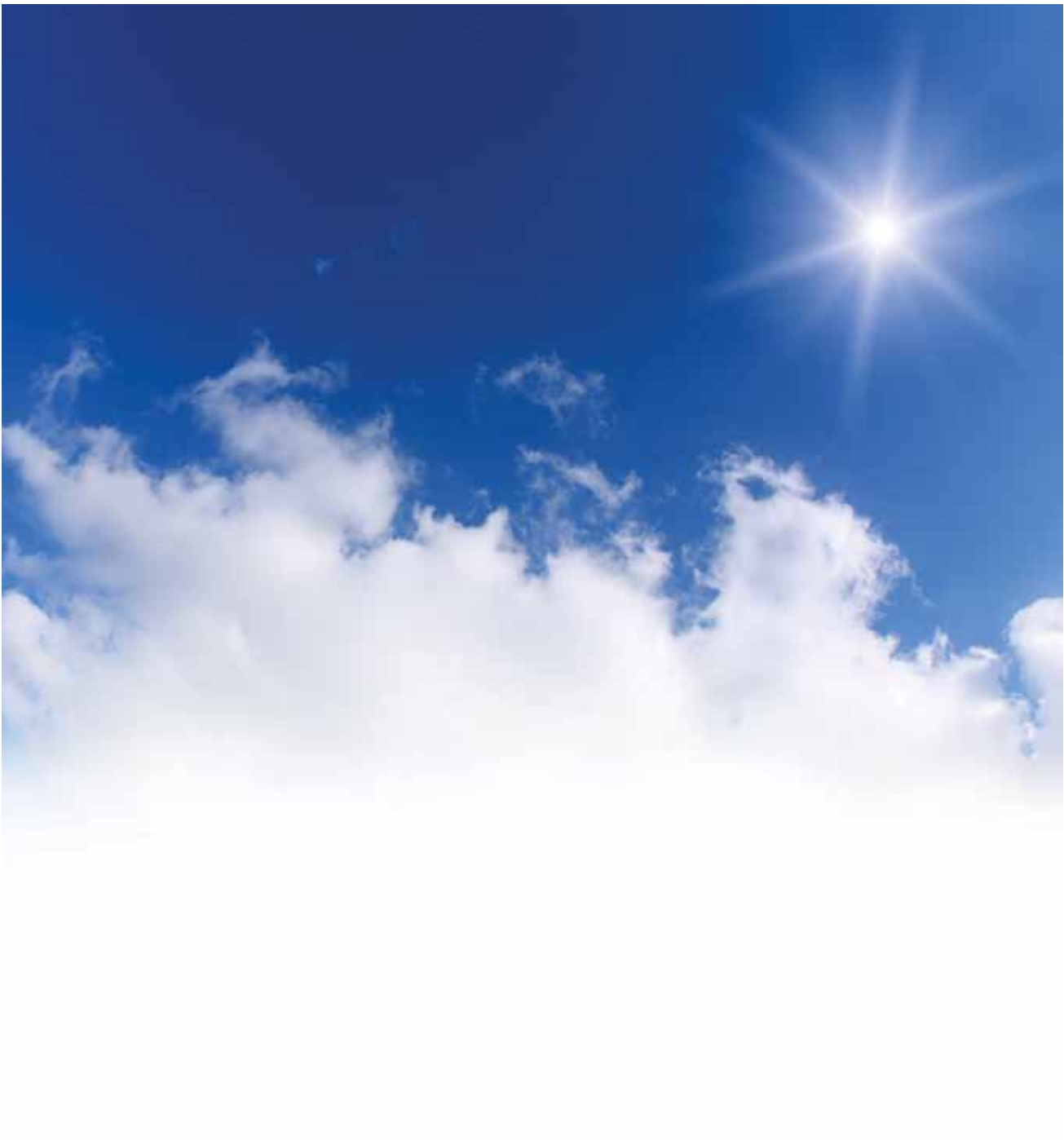
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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT

Welcome to the 2009 Annual Report and Accounts for the Environmental Protection Agency. This report provides details of our outputs during 2009, in addition to the EPA financial statements.

For our 2009 Annual Report we have moved away from our traditional style of reporting on our functions by Office, to reporting on outputs under the six strategic environmental goals set out in *2020Vision*. The EPA set out its long-term vision for Ireland's environment in its corporate strategy *2020Vision*. This vision sets out goals for Ireland's environment 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 EPA annual work programmes are aligned to these strategic goals for Ireland's environment and this is reflected in the structure of this report. In addition to the six environmental goals, *2020Vision* set out that our overarching goal continues to be the development of a high performance organisation, working smartly and efficiently, building effective partnerships and delivering positive environmental outcomes. This report also addresses outputs in four key areas – competent / committed people, environmental champion, customer focused and organisationally efficient.

Like all public sector organisations the EPA is being impacted by the downturn in the economy and the steps that the government is taking to restore finances. We have to operate with less money and fewer people. In the current economic climate, 'doing more with less' is a high priority for the EPA and we are examining a range of options for getting things done more efficiently and using technology to best effect, to help our people work more efficiently and effectively. Despite the economic downturn and reductions in both budgets and staff, our mission, vision and values remain the same and the challenge for the EPA is to make the best use of the people and resources available to it to deliver on our strategic objectives.

The same environmental protection challenges remain and, if anything, have been made more difficult because of the economic crisis. In the simplest terms, there is less money to invest in environmental protection and many of our problems, such as the water shortages witnessed recently in the aftermath of unprecedented rainfall and snow, require very significant and on-going investment for them to be resolved.

This is why it is crucial to keep environmental protection centre-stage. 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. If, as a society, we want to make sure that future generations inherit a clean and productive environment, action and investment now is essential.

There are, however, many reasons to be optimistic for the environment. Green technologies and green business are being seen as integral to the new 'Smart Economy'. Sustainable development is now at the heart of the European Community and Europe is leading the way globally on climate change. A new European Commission has recently been put in place and the three priorities for the new environment commissioner are promoting a green economy, halting the loss of biodiversity and implementing and improving existing environmental legislation. Climate change is of such central importance that a separate new directorate has been created. In Ireland, despite all of our problems, we still have a high quality environment. State of the Environment reports and the many other EPA reports on air quality, water quality, waste management, enforcement, climate change and other issues – coupled with the outputs from EPA-funded research – provide us with an evidence base to show where the problems are and what needs to be done to remedy them.

During 2010, we will be reviewing progress to date with our *2020Vision* strategy and consulting with our stakeholders on the actions required by the EPA and others between 2011 and 2014 to progress this vision, with a new corporate strategy to be prepared. During 2010, the review of the EPA provided for in the programme for government will also be carried out. My fellow Directors and I welcome this review which will help chart the way forward for the EPA for the foreseeable future and will be key to the development of the EPA's new corporate strategy.

CLIMATE CHANGE

There was considerable disappointment in Europe that more substantial progress was not made at the global summit on climate change in Copenhagen in December. There is a long and difficult road ahead for Ireland, Europe and the rest of the world in facing up to, and dealing with, the consequences of climate change and it is more important than ever that the issue remain prominent. It will be important to take the positives from the Copenhagen Accord and build on them to bring about a meaningful global agreement. As part of the framework for a new Climate Change Bill, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has proposed

the creation of a new Office of Climate Change, to be located in the EPA and I look forward to taking on this important challenge when it comes to us.

An EPA highlight in 2009 was the publication of a summary of the state of knowledge about climate change in Ireland. The report pulls together information from a number of climate change studies funded by the EPA through its research programmes. It provides a strategic assessment of possible impacts for key economic sectors in Ireland and identifies a number of adaptation options and gaps in knowledge. During 2009, we also continued our successful series of public lectures on climate change with two lectures arranged as part of the run up to the global summit on climate change in Copenhagen. These lectures continue to attract large audiences and we intend to hold some additional lectures during 2010.

WATER

The EPA is involved in many aspects of water management in Ireland and is well positioned to identify the challenges facing us in future years. Recent flooding and freezing events brought home to many of our citizens the fragility of our infrastructure for delivering a secure supply of safe drinking water and our latest report on water quality, published in December 2009, spells out the challenges that Ireland faces in restoring our rivers, lakes, estuaries and groundwaters to good ecological status. This report also highlighted the dramatic decline in high quality river sites during the last 20 years. This was the first report to use the new water quality classification system required under the Water Framework Directive and it clearly signposted the scale of the challenge ahead in meeting the targets set by that Directive.

The EPA continued to supervise the provision of drinking water by public authorities and actively managed the remedial action list drawn up in 2008. This is a list of public drinking water supplies that required examination from source to consumer to determine whether replacements or upgrades were needed, or whether operational practices should be improved. Of the 339 public water supplies identified by the EPA and placed on a Remedial Action List (RAL) in early 2008, 96 supplies have been removed from the list having completed the necessary remedial actions and 58 have been added. Overall at the end of 2009 there were 301 supplies on the RAL.

2009 was the first full year for the EPA in its new role as regulator of urban wastewater treatment plants, the last major unregulated point of discharge into the aquatic

environment. During 2009, 49 licences were issued to local authorities for most of the larger plants around the country and the EPA is now enforcing these licences. Over 500 plants will be regulated by the EPA and this new licensing system should result in significant improvements in water quality in future years and help Ireland meet the targets set by the Water Framework Directive for Irish water bodies.

During the summer we launched a new web service called Splash, to provide the public with up to date information on bathing water quality. The site, which won an award from Irish Water Safety, also gives details about lifeguard availability, blue flag status, tides and weather forecast. The website was developed in co-operation with IBM, An Taisce, (the body responsible for awarding Blue Flags to Irish bathing areas) and Irish Water Safety.

Unpolluted and well-protected fresh water is one of the most precious natural resources that we have in Ireland and a key challenge for Ireland over the coming decade will be to put the necessary systems and infrastructure in place for freshwater management, which will guarantee the inheritance by future generations of this most precious of resources. Water, though, as the recent flooding and freezing events have shown us, can also be very damaging and we must also put the systems and infrastructure in place to control and manage flooding and minimise damage to property. If we do this we will be better prepared for the changes to our weather and rainfall patterns that are likely to happen as a result of climate change. These recent climatic events have also highlighted issues regarding the governance of water at national level which need to be addressed.

SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES

Despite the economic downturn, the National Waste Prevention Programme continued to provide leadership in the area of waste prevention. 142 hotels are now involved in the green hospitality programme and over 9,000 households have participated in the Green Home programme. The EPA coordinated Ireland's participation in the first European Week for Waste Reduction in November of last year, which provided an opportunity to showcase many of the initiatives being funded through the programme. Partner organisations included An Taisce, Repak and the local authorities and the week was used to highlight the importance of waste prevention and minimisation and more sustainable use of our natural resources. The Programme also received favourable mention by the OECD in its report on Ireland's environmental performance, published in November 2009.



LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT

Highlights for 2009 in the area of licensing and enforcement included the review of all landfill licences, the ramping up of our licensing of urban wastewater treatment plants, which I mentioned earlier, and the publication of our second Focus on Enforcement Report.

All of our landfill licences were reviewed in 2009 to bring them into compliance with the Landfill Directive targets for reduction of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill. Reducing the quantity of biodegradable waste going to landfill will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the potential for odour at landfill.

We published our second Focus on Enforcement Report in November. The report assesses Ireland's enforcement of environmental standards and highlights the challenges we face in complying fully with European requirements for air, water and waste. It includes detailed information about enforcement activities by the EPA and other environmental enforcement authorities over the period 2006 – 2008. A new Code of Practice for the development of an enforcement policy for unauthorised waste activities was also published in 2009. The Code of Practice provides a framework for local authorities to respond to unauthorised waste activities and complements waste management controls already in place to protect the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The EPA is responsible for the promotion and coordination of environmental research in Ireland and continues to support the growth and development of this area through its Science, Technology, Research and Innovation (STRIVE) programme. In 2009, 28 research reports covering climate change, water, waste and resource management, soils and biodiversity, environmental technologies and socio-economic issues, were published by the EPA. Awards were also made for 45 new projects. We now have a mature environmental research sector in Ireland, which is supporting policy development and implementation across a range of areas. The outputs from STRIVE and earlier EPA research programmes are also helping Ireland comply with its many international environmental obligations and avoid the financial consequences of failing to comply with these obligations.

2009 was also a year when the potential benefits of a green and low carbon economy for Ireland gained greater prominence. There are economic advantages to low carbon economic growth as well as environmental ones. The EPA is playing its part in building a greener economy in Ireland by investing in it through its STRIVE programme. Some of the outcomes of this investment were showcased in the

EPA report Innovation for a Green Economy, launched by Minister Gormley in June. Environmental licensing is another key driver of green innovation and it is of crucial importance that investment in environmental research and innovation continues so that we can lay the foundations for a cleaner greener tomorrow and take advantage of the global trend towards a low-carbon future.

HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANISATION

The effects of the moratorium on employment in the public sector saw the EPA undergo a reduction in terms of staff numbers during 2009. The sanctioned staff complement for the EPA at the end of 2009 is 340. However, 7 posts fell vacant during the year leaving a total of 333 posts at the end of 2009.

The EPA is committed to staff development and training, and in 2009 a *Corporate Learning Strategy 2010-2012* was developed to provide a framework through which the EPA can meet its staff development commitments set-out in *2020Vision*. The strategy provides for a more strategic and proactive approach to meeting and identifying training and development needs and to ensuring that there is an appropriate balance between corporate and individual needs.

During 2009 the EPA began roll out of a People Management Programme for managers. 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. A HR Guidance Manual for Managers was also developed and issued to all Line Managers in 2009. The manual is designed to help Line Managers in their day-to-day interaction with staff and to help the EPA maintain its status as a high performance organisation with competent and committed people.

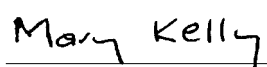
Once again, in 2009, the EPA continued to conduct internal audits under the stewardship of the Internal Audit Committee. The Committee was formed under the *Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies*, and it held four meetings in 2009. Two internal audits were conducted throughout the year in the areas of Events Management, Hospitality, Sponsorship and Travel & Subsistence and on the Use of Consultants, Contractors and External Service Providers in the EPA. A review of internal audit was also undertaken as well as preparatory work on conducting Value for Money Audits during 2010.

An Internal Audit Plan covering the period 2010 – 2011 was approved by the Internal Audit Committee and by the EPA Board.

The EPA is committed to leading by example when it comes to reducing its environmental impact. Greening the EPA was identified as one of the Big Six priorities in EPA Work Programme for 2009. The EPA continued with the implementation of its Environmental Management System (EMS) with aim of achieving ISO14001. Pre assessment audit completed at the end of 2009 recommended proceeding to certification audit in early 2010.

As part of its commitment to customer service the EPA established an Environmental Queries Unit in 2009. During 2009, the Unit dealt with over 2,200 queries. A survey of users of the service was conducted in late 2009 which showed a high level of satisfaction with the service with 89% of respondents to the survey agreeing that the Environmental Queries Unit was helpful in dealing with their query.

In closing, I want to pay special tribute to Larry Stapleton who retired as a Director of the EPA in November 2009, having served with the EPA since its foundation in 1993 and with An Foras Forbatha and the Environmental Research Unit for 17 years beforehand. I also want to pay special tribute to Paddy Nolan, Ciaran O'Donnell, George McHugh, Hugh Horan, John O'Hare and Jim Penny, all of whom retired in 2009. I want to thank all of the staff of the EPA, my fellow Directors, the EPA Advisory Committee, the EPA Internal Audit Committee, the GMO Advisory Committee, the National Allocation Advisory Group, the National Waste Prevention Committee and the Environmental Enforcement Network Steering Committee and the many other groups and individuals who have advised and assisted us, for their support and commitment during the year and for their dedication to protecting the environment. I also want to thank the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for his support for the EPA in 2009 and to the many officials in his Department with whom we work very closely.



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 overarching 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.

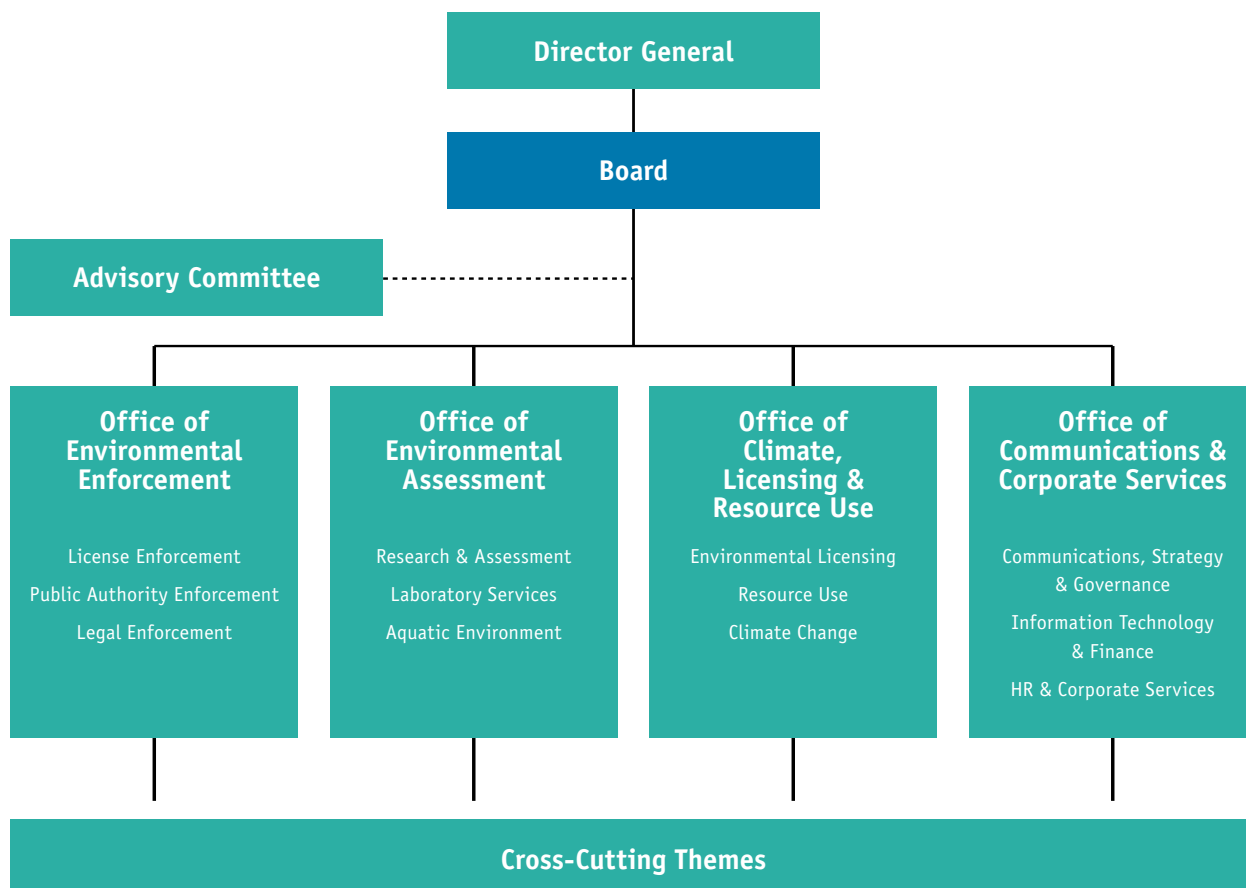
Protected Soil & Biodiversity – The soil of Ireland will be protected from contamination and loss and will support dependent plants and animals. Our biodiversity will be protected and managed for future generations to enjoy.

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 Larry Stapleton

Deputy Director General; Director, Office of Environmental Assessment (to November 2009)

Ms Laura Burke

Director, Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use

Mr Dara Lynott

Director, Office of Environmental Enforcement

Mr Micheál Ó'Cinnéide

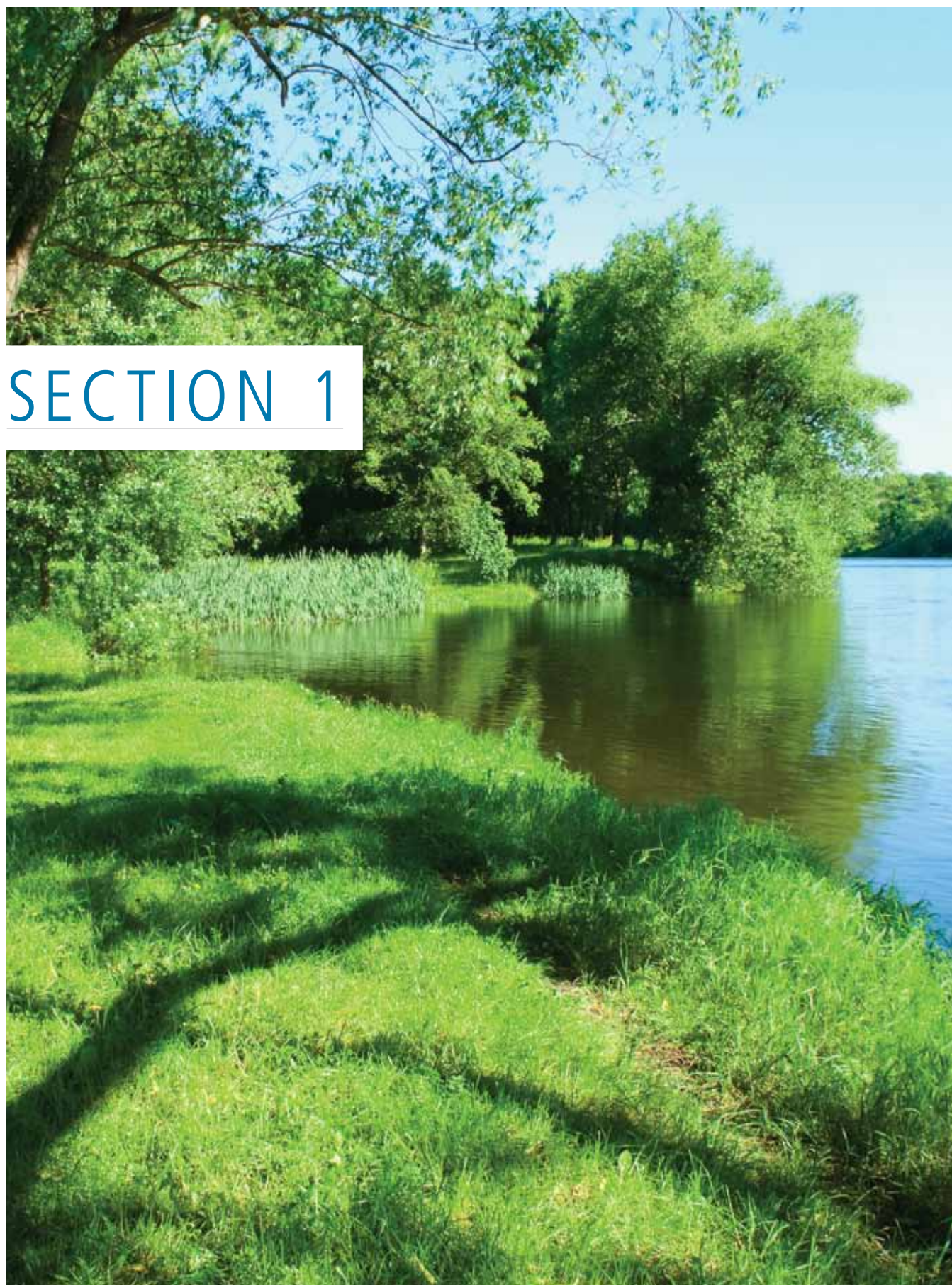
Director, Office of Communications and Corporate Services

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 Advisory Committee is appointed by government for a three year term. The Advisory Committee's term of office ended on 28th February 2009. The outgoing Advisory Committee comprised of:

Chair: Dr Mary Kelly	<i>(ex-officio)</i>
Ms Katherine Walshe	<i>Cork Co. Council (nominated by IEI)</i>
Ms Jeanne Meldon	<i>Planning consultant (nominated by Failte Ireland)</i>
Ms Marion Byron	<i>Pharmaceutical Ireland (nominated by IBEC)</i>
Mr Donal Harte Farmer	<i>(nominated by ICMSA)</i>
Ms Carmel Dawson	<i>Chairperson of An Grianan (nominated by ICA)</i>
Mr Willie Callaghan	<i>Kildare Co. Councillor (nominated by AMAI)</i>
Dr John Sweeney	<i>NUI Maynooth (nominated by RIA)</i>
Ms Irene Sweeney	<i>Community representative, Arklow</i>
Mr John Buckley	<i>Community representative, Killarney</i>
Mr John Dillon	<i>Outgoing President of IFA</i>
Mr Sean Byrne	<i>Wicklow Uplands Council</i>





SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the EPA Annual Report 2009. This report provides a summary of the EPA's key activities and environmental and organisational outcomes achieved during 2009. 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 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 and granting consents for genetically modified organisms.

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: co-ordinating a national environmental research programme; 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, licences, publications and newsletters can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie.



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 20.38 Mtonnes reported for 2008.
- ▲ 104 installations covered by the emissions trading scheme in Ireland held valid permits requiring them to monitor and report emissions 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.
- ▲ Work commenced on the extension of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme to the Aviation sector.

NATIONAL EMISSIONS INVENTORIES

- ▲ The EU Commission agreed a package of proposals that seeks to deliver a 20% reduction in total EU greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 (relative to 1990 levels) and at the same time to increase to 20% the amount of renewable energies in energy consumption.
- ▲ The national inventory for 2007 was finalised, while the preliminary inventory for 2008 was published in December for the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's second carbon budget.
- ▲ Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2008 fell 210,000 tonnes (0.3%) to 67.43 million tonnes. There was a 523,600 tonnes (4.4%) reduction in emissions from the Industry and Commercial sector and a smaller decrease of less than 1% from the Agriculture and Transport sectors. There was an increase in emissions of 603,700 tonnes from the Residential sector which cancels out any reductions in other sectors. Improved methodologies in the Energy and Waste sectors have resulted in emissions decreasing by 1.56 million tonnes in 2008.
- ▲ Distance from our Kyoto Limit is now 4.4 million tonnes (7%).

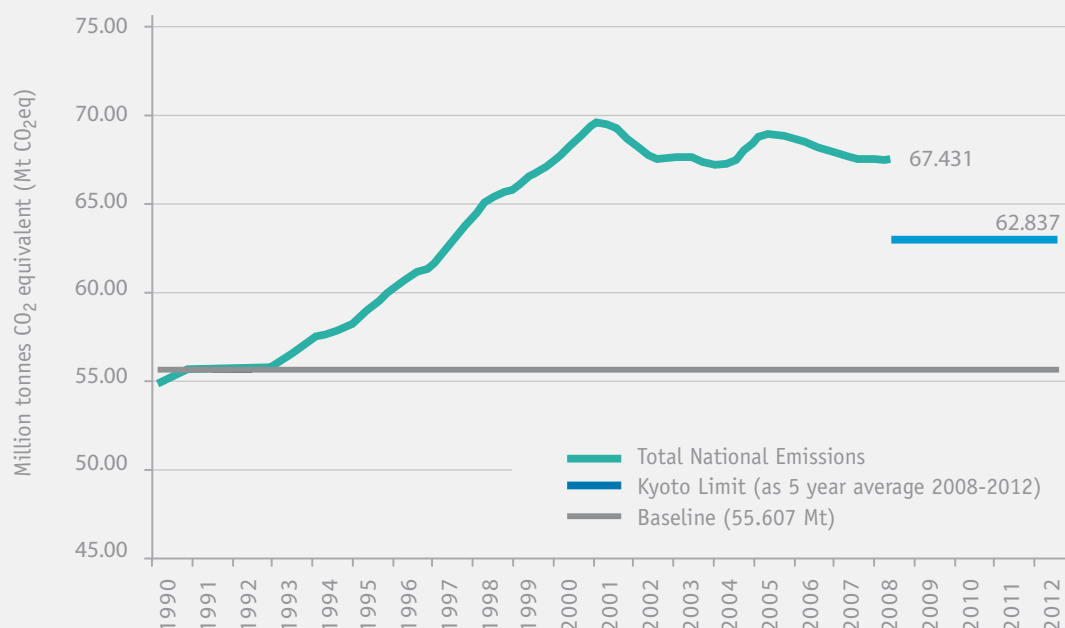


Fig 1: Distance to Ireland's Kyoto Limit (source: EPA 2009)

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 27% of all emissions and 40% 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.
- ▲ Current projections show Ireland will still exceed its Kyoto Protocol limit by an average of 1.3-1.8 MtCO₂eq annually in the period 2008-2012. Additional domestic policies and measures and/or Government purchases of carbon credits will be required to bridge this gap. In the longer term to 2020, Ireland's unique position within the EU as the country with the highest national proportion of agricultural emissions, together with further projected growth in transport emissions, will present this country with major challenges in meeting the EU's proposed future emission reduction targets. In the best-case scenario, non-Emissions Trading Scheme sector emissions

are projected to be 7 million tonnes of CO₂ higher in 2020 than the binding target for that year. This gap will be even larger if the EU target is further reduced in the event of an appropriate international agreement to follow the Kyoto Protocol.

AIR CLIMATE SCIENCE

During 2009 there was a strong focus on the outcome of the UNFCCC talks on future international actions on climate change with a very intensive level of talks on future actions and the structures required to deliver them.

In 2009 the EPA:

- ▲ Continued to maintain a strong presence in international activities on air and climate science.
- ▲ Continued interactions on the future work and development of the IPCC and other international fora.
- ▲ Contributed to work of the EU Science Expert group on climate change in preparation for the Copenhagen Climate Change meeting.
- ▲ Acted as member of the Irish delegation at UNFCCC meetings.
- ▲ Represented Ireland at meetings of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Advisory Council.

- ▲ In 2010, Ireland will formally participate in the ICOS10 project which aims to provide an accurate greenhouse gas emission monitoring network across Europe.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- ▲ Funding of a total of €5 million was committed to research in this area during 2009. Priority projects have been progressed on Carbon Capture and Storage; National Energy/Emissions Modelling, and Sustainable Transport.
- ▲ The report *Climate Change in Ireland: Refining the Impacts for Ireland* shows that:
 - ▲ by 2050 average temperatures will rise by 1.4°C to 1.8°C.
 - ▲ Summer and autumn are projected to warm faster than winter and spring, with the midlands and east warming more than coastal areas. Winter rainfall is projected to increase by 10%, while reductions in summer rainfall of between 20 – 28% are expected in southern and eastern coasts. Longer heat waves and drought may occur, which will be especially important for eastern and southern parts of Ireland.
 - ▲ The report concludes that there is an urgent need to adopt appropriate mitigation and adaptation responses to the risks posed by climate change, notwithstanding the challenges of economic events.
- ▲ The CelticFlux report showed that the management of Irish grasslands can have an important role in addressing climate change. The report indicates that grasslands take up between 11 tonnes and 18 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the air, per hectare, per year. It is estimated that 10 – 15% of the carbon is sequestered into the soil, with a positive environmental benefit.
- ▲ The report A Summary of the State of Knowledge on Climate Change Impacts for Ireland is an assessment of the current knowledge on climate change and expected impacts for Ireland. It provides a high level assessment of possible impacts for key economic and social sectors in Ireland and identifies a number of adaptation options and gaps in knowledge. The report showed air temperature increased by 0.4°C between 1980-2008;

a significant increase in total rainfall in the North and West; an observed decrease in the frequency of storms but their intensity has increased. Adaptation planning and actions will be required to avoid the adverse impacts of climate change and to take advantage of any opportunities that may arise.

- ▲ Work on analysis of other GHG emissions mitigation options was also advanced in 2009 including an assessment of the potential for Geological Storage of CO₂ in key areas of Ireland. A report on this assessment will be produced in 2010.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE INITIATIVES

- ▲ The climate change web-pages were updated and now offer frequently asked questions on climate change; the latest research findings from EPA funded projects; up to date information from international climate negotiations; links to international organisations working on climate change and carbon calculator tools for personal and business use. Visit: www.epa.ie/whatwedo/climate/
- ▲ The EPA has also produced a new booklet, The EPA and Climate Change, which outlines the roles and responsibilities that the EPA has in the fight against climate change.
- ▲ The EPA's public lecture series on Climate Change continued in 2009, with 2 further lectures taking place covering the role of Peat Bogs and Climate Science in Climate Change.
- ▲ Further lectures will be held in 2010.





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

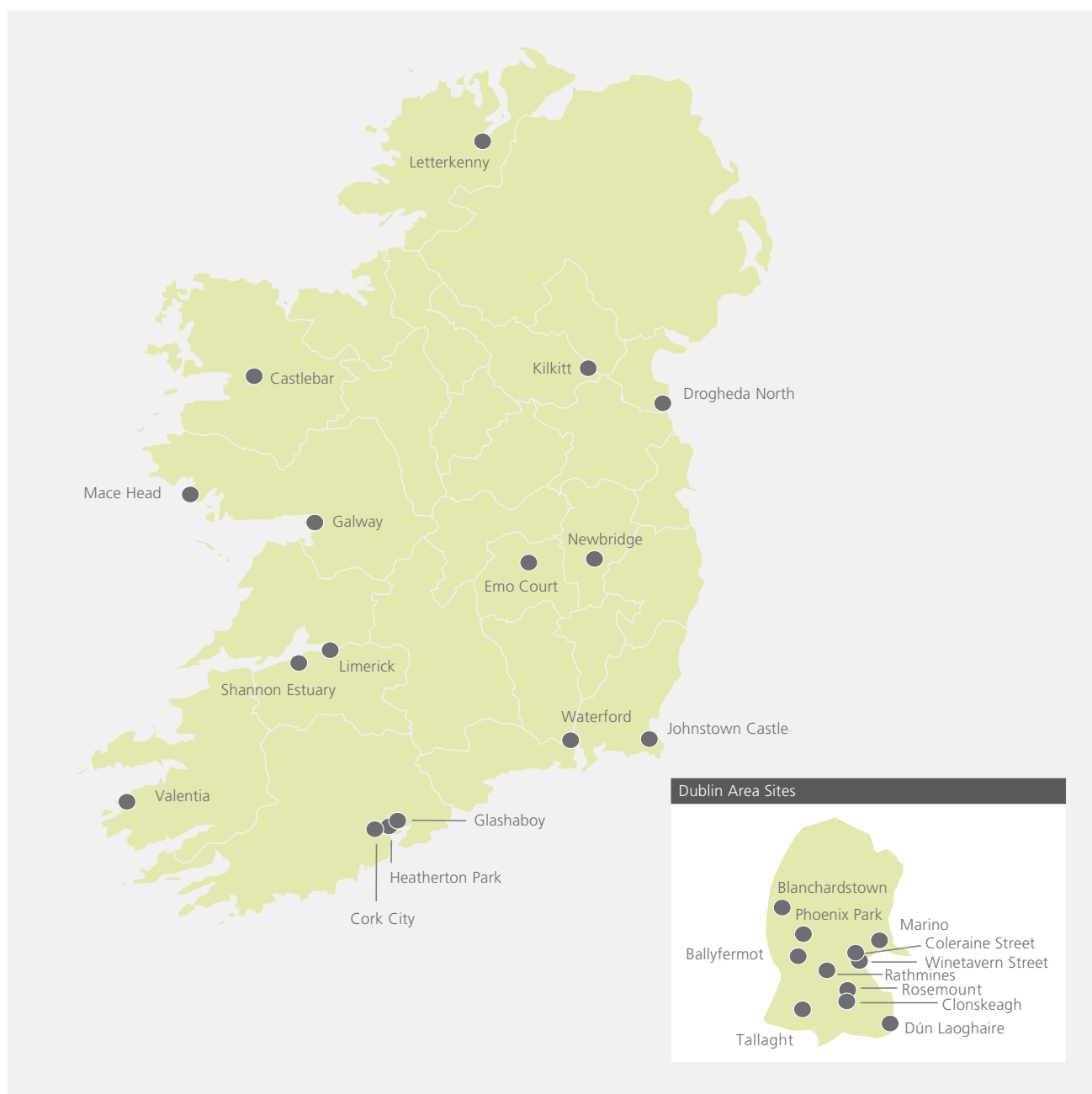
- ▲ The report Air Quality in Ireland in 2008 – Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality found that air quality was good at all monitoring stations, meeting all EU standards. In cities, emissions from traffic are the main threat to air quality whilst in smaller towns, elevated emissions are due to continued use of bituminous coal.
- ▲ This graph, on page 20, illustrates trends in PM₁₀ concentrations in Dublin, Cork, Galway and a rural site outside Drogheda between 2004 and 2008.

AIR MONITORING NETWORK

- ▲ New EU legislation relating to the monitoring of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air, came into force in 2009.
- ▲ New air monitoring sites in 2009 included Ringsend and Rosemount, Co. Dublin; Ennis, Co. Clare and Newbridge, Co. Kildare.
- ▲ Three new PM_{2.5} sites (where PM levels are less than 2.5 microns in size) were established in Dublin to meet the requirements of the 2008 EU Directive on ambient air quality and clean air for Europe.
- ▲ The map on the following page shows the locations of current monitoring sites.

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.
- ▲ In advance of the Noise Mapping requirement for 2012, the EPA circulated guidance documents on both Noise Mapping and Action Planning to all local authorities and Noise Mapping Bodies providing details on how this process should be undertaken.



National air quality sites map

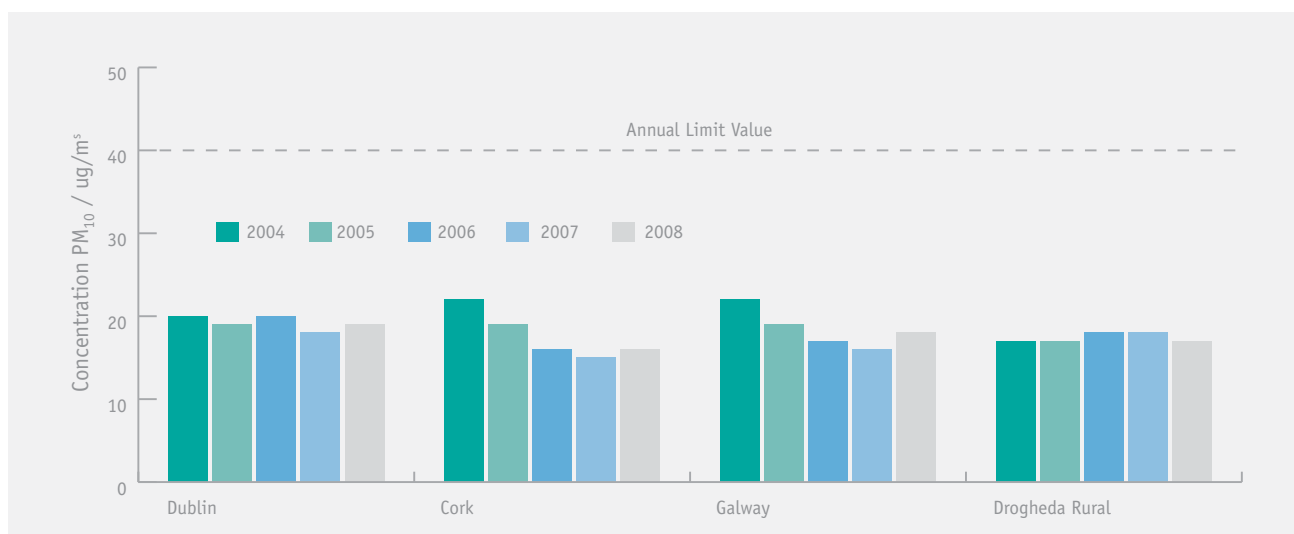


Fig 2: PM₁₀ Concentration Graph and National Air Quality Graph

AIR ENFORCEMENT

- ▲ The Air Enforcement Unit in the Office of Environmental Enforcement developed a proposed Technical Endorsement Scheme with the aim of improving and standardising the quality of monitoring results received by the EPA from licencees.

The proposed scheme was presented to licencees, the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC) and monitoring contractors at a workshop in November.

OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES, POLYCHLORINATED BI-PHENYLS (PCBS) AND PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS)

- ▲ A nation-wide survey for PCBs and an inventory for POPs were completed. Following on from this inventory work, the development of a draft National Implementation Plan for POPs has commenced.

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

- ▲ The EPA and the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) agreed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding areas of mutual responsibility and shared interest with respect to the operation and enforcement of the REACH Regulation.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- ▲ The research project *Innovative Data Capture and Presentation Techniques in Support of the EU Environmental Noise Directive* developed methodologies for the creation of data required for accurate noise modelling in road environments.

- ▲ The *Focus on Enforcement Report* reported the outcomes of a TCD-led research project, which developed an Environmental Emissions Index (EEI) model. 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.
- ▲ There are a number of on-going projects relating to air quality funded under the Environment and Health pillar of the STRIVE programme – dealing with indoor air pollution, air quality at ports and 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.
- ▲ A report was published on dioxin levels in the Irish environment (based on the levels in cows' milk in a 2008 survey). The report showed that all of the samples over this two-year period had levels well below the relevant EU limit.





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 2007–2008 – Key Indicators of the Aquatic Environment showed:

- ▲ 70% of river channel length and 90.4% of lake surface area examined, were of satisfactory water quality;
- ▲ The percentage of high ecological quality river sites has almost halved since 1987, from approximately 30 per cent of the total sampled in the 1987-1990 period to less than 17 per cent currently;
- ▲ 84% of the estuarine/coastal water bodies examined were classified as being unpolluted or in an intermediate condition;
- ▲ 34% of all groundwater samples and almost seven of every ten groundwater sampling locations were contaminated by faecal coliforms, while nitrate concentrations exceeded the annual mean nitrate threshold concentration at almost 10% of sampling locations;
- ▲ 49% of river waterbodies; 57% of lake waterbody surface area and 59.4% of transitional and coastal water bodies were classified as being in high or good status using the extensive Water Framework Directive Classification schemes;
- ▲ 22 and 34 fish kills were recorded respectively in 2007 and 2008.

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD)

- ▲ In 2009, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government issued Regulations on the biological classification systems and the physico-chemical and chemical standards for surface waters based on recommendations submitted by EPA.
- ▲ The EPA completed an interim status assessment for each water category and issued these to each River Basin District (RBD) for the purpose of objective setting in their final management plans.
- ▲ An assessment of each of the draft RBD management plans was completed and issued to RBDs.

HYDROMETRIC PROGRAMME

- ▲ Monitoring of river flows has been aided by new acoustic doppler equipment and the installation of new weirs in Wexford, Kildare and Donegal. Significant progress was made in some local authority areas in improving the health and safety aspects of the hydrometric stations.

DRINKING WATER

- ▲ A key priority for the EPA in 2009 was to reduce non-compliance with Drinking Water Standards.
- ▲ The EPA conducted 124 audits of drinking water supplies and served 28 directions on nine different local authorities in relation to drinking water issues.
- ▲ At the end of 2009 there were 301 supplies on the Remedial Action List, a significant driver for prioritising investment in drinking water infrastructure.
- ▲ A report on compliance with the *E. Coli* standard was prepared for the European Commission. In 2009 there were 82 open *E. Coli* investigation files.
- ▲ At the end of 2009 there were 19 public water supplies on boil water notices. 7 of these boil water notices were imposed during 2009.
- ▲ Six drinking water advice notes were issued to all local authorities, and published to the EPA website during the year. These related to lead compliance monitoring, lead pipes and plumbing, *E. Coli*, disinfection by-products, turbidity and restoring public water supplies affected by flooding.
- ▲ Two further guidance booklets were issued to all local authorities during the year in relation to the Remedial Action List for public water supplies and drinking water returns.

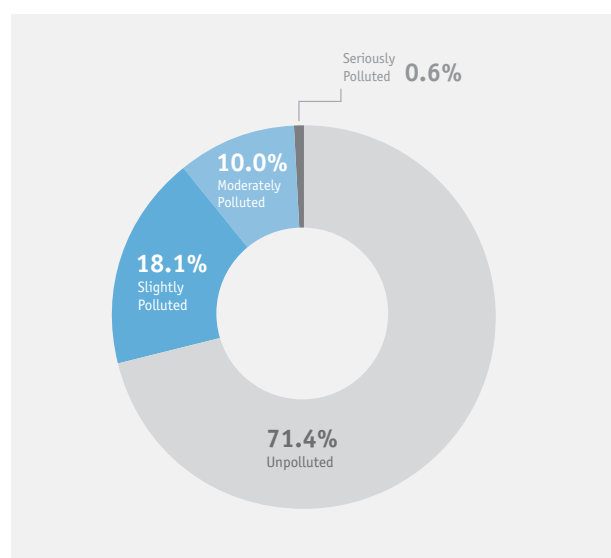


Fig 3: River Water Quality 2006 – 2008

- ▲ The report *Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland for the years 2007-2008* noted many improvements in the areas of safety and security of supplies. However, some concerns included:
 - ▲ over 31% of private group water schemes were contaminated at least once during 2007.
 - ▲ boil water notices or restrictions on use were put in place on 53 supplies in 2008.
 - ▲ compliance with several indicator parameters, in particular compliance with aluminium and turbidity parametric values, remained poor.
 - ▲ compliance with tighter standards in the future (e.g. tighter lead standard in 2013) will be a challenge.
- ▲ The *Urban Waste Water Discharges Report for 2006-2007* showed that continued investment in waste water treatment is required, as well as a dramatic improvement by local authorities in the operation and monitoring of existing waste water treatment infrastructure.

GROUNDWATER

- ▲ The upgrading of the national groundwater monitoring network was completed, with the installation of 61 wells and 27 flow measurement systems, mainly weirs on springs.
- ▲ Zones of contribution have been delineated around the majority of the groundwater quality monitoring points, thus contributing to the evaluation of the data and the protection of the sources.

- ▲ Guidance on delineation of landspreading exclusion zones was prepared and assistance was given to preparation of Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Guidance on Integrated Constructed Wetlands.

BATHING WATER QUALITY

The *Bathing Water Quality Report 2008* bathing found that;

- ▲ 93% of the designated bathing sites met the minimum EU Mandatory Standards achieving sufficient water quality status. This represents a fall of four percentage points from 97% in 2007.
- ▲ 78% of bathing areas achieved the higher standard of good status, a reduction of 2% on the 2007 figure.
- ▲ The EPA launched the new online bathing water quality website "Splash", available at www.bathingwater.ie, to give "as near to real time" information as possible on 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 1,000 electronic data uploads, consisting of over 31,000 water samples from local authorities and national organisations including the EPA.

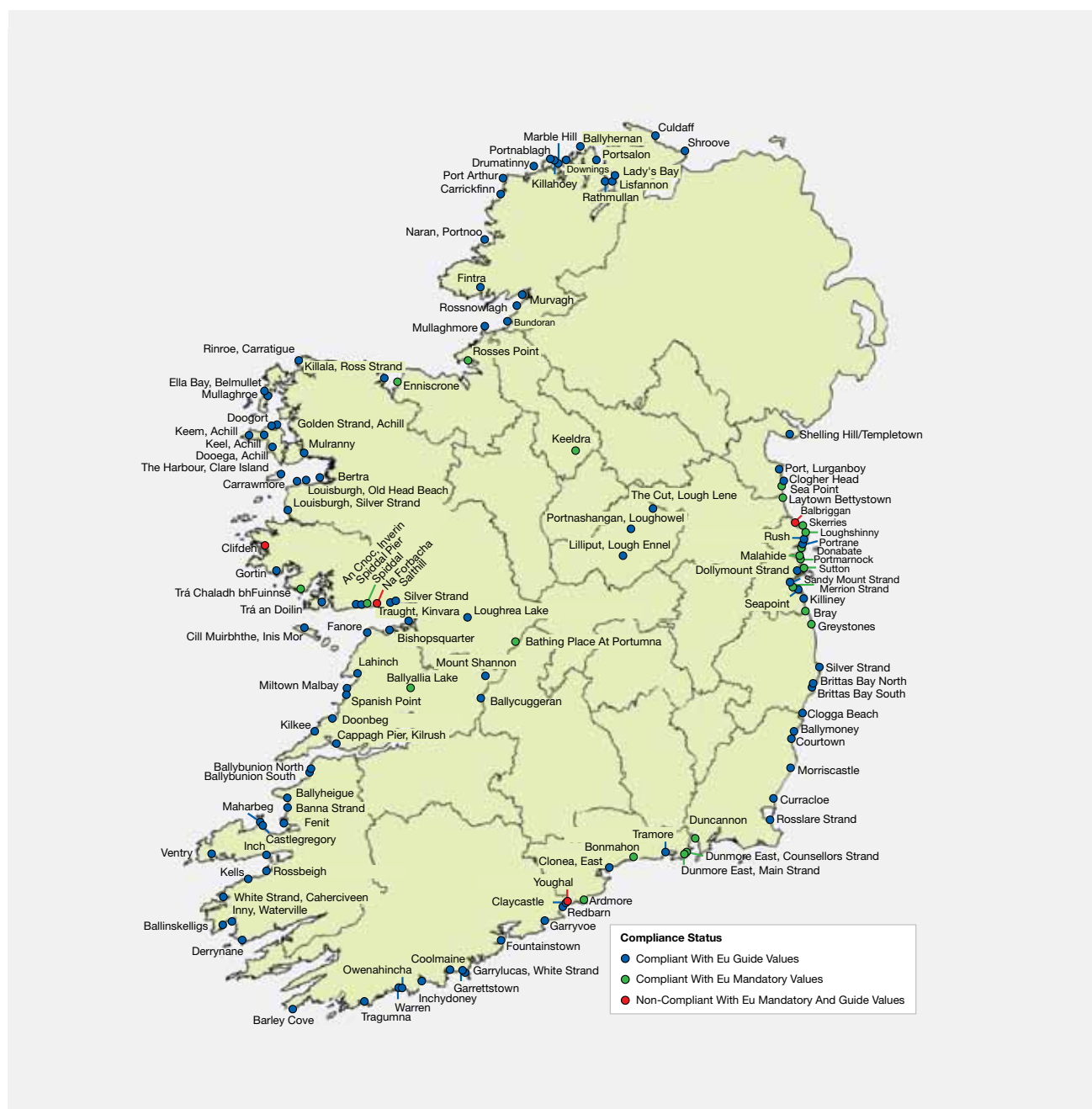
RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- ▲ A peer review publication was published highlighting the key role of the EPA-funded research in WFD implementation in Ireland.

- ▲ A significant research report investigated the attenuation of chemical and microbiological pollutants in domestic wastewater through relatively fast percolating subsoil and also through reed bed treatment systems. Findings from this research were incorporated into the recently published EPA Code of Practice on Wastewater Treatment for Single Houses.
- ▲ The EPA in conjunction with NUI Galway and Galway County Council established 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 and Marine Institute jointly published three research reports on Advanced Technologies for Water Quality Monitoring as part of an innovative programme of environmental technology research in support of the Water Framework Directive to underpin the development of the Smart Green Economy.
- ▲ The EPA co-operated with other environmental agencies in the UK to co-fund research projects that aim to support WFD implementation through the Scotland & Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research (SNIFFER) initiative.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE INITIATIVES

- ▲ The EPA hosted a national drinking water conference in June. Over 350 delegates from 70 organisations attended. The focus this year was on protecting and enhancing our water resources to improve monitoring, implementation and enforcement of water related legislation.



Bathing Water Quality 2008



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.

IRISH SOIL INFORMATION SYSTEM (ISIS) PROJECT

- ▲ The ISIS project aims to produce a digital soil map for all of Ireland at a scale 1:250,000 as well as deliver a Soil Information System, which will provide publicly-available digital information on soils. The ISIS project will be of huge benefit to the future of soils. With the added use of field techniques the project shall also build up thematic data on Irish soils which have been seriously lacking.

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>.

SOIL ORGANIC CARBON PROJECT

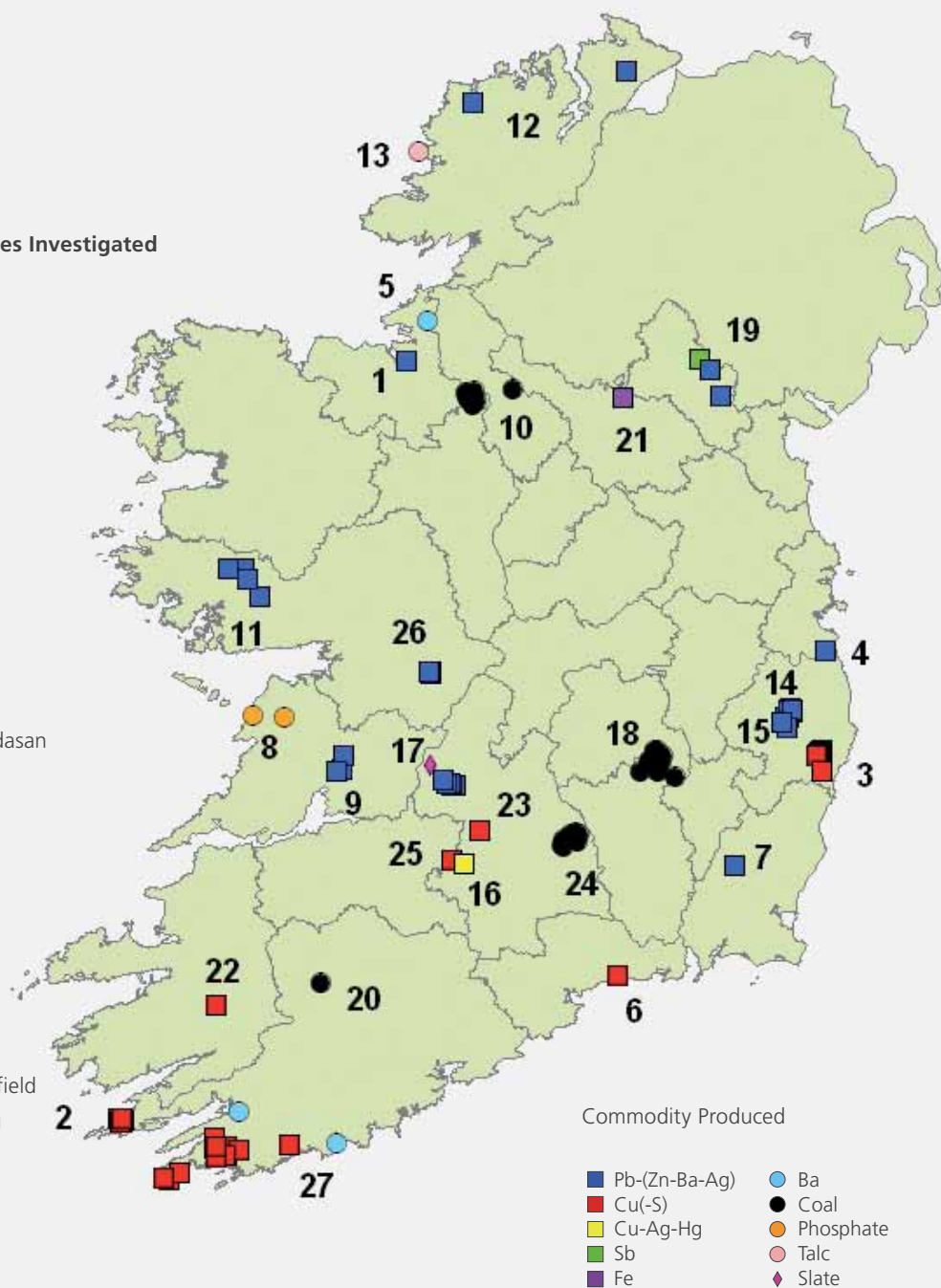
- ▲ The Soil Organic Carbon project, led by UCC, measured and modelled the soil carbon stocks and stock changes in a representative number of Irish soils. This research has a role in informing policy makers and stakeholders to improve sustainable management of Irish lands in respect to carbon management. The report is available for download at: <http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/land/>.

HISTORIC MINES SITES PROJECT

- ▲ The *Historic Mine Sites – Inventory and Risk Classification (HMS-IRC) project Volume I*, was completed in late 2009, and will be launched in Quarter 1 of 2010. This was a multi-agency project between the EPA and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (the Geological Survey of Ireland

HMS-IRC Project**Mine Districts And Sites Investigated**

- 1 Abbeytown
- 2 Allihies
- 3 Avoca
- 4 Ballycorus
- 5 Benbulbin
- 6 Bunmahon
- 7 Caim
- 8 Clare Phosphate
- 9 Clare Pb
- 10 Connacht Coalfield
- 11 Connemara
- 12 Donegal Pb
- 13 Donegal Talc
- 14 Glendalough-Glendasan
- 15 Glenmalure
- 16 Gortdrum
- 17 Killaloe Slate
- 18 Leinster Coalfield
- 19 Monaghan Pb
- 20 Munster Coalfield
- 21 Redhills
- 22 Ross Island
- 23 Silvermines
- 24 Slieve Ardagh Coalfield
- 25 Tipperary Minor Cu
- 26 Tynagh
- 27 West Cork Cu-Ba



and Exploration and Mining Division). The project has produced the most comprehensive inventory of historic mines sites in Ireland.

UNREGULATED WASTE DISPOSAL SITES

- ▲ The EPA published the “Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites” in 2007 for Local Authorities to identify and assess their unregulated waste sites. In December 2008 the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government published the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations. These Regulations required Local Authorities to register all “closed landfills” by 30th of June 2009 and for the EPA to facilitate the Local Authorities by providing the form and layout of the register. This register is known as the Section 22 Register. The EPA added a Web tool to the Section 22 Register that allowed the user to complete a desk top risk assessment automatically following the completion of a site walkover survey.

LAND COVER – CORINE

- ▲ During 2009 the EPA completed an update to the land cover/land use map of Ireland, as part of the European Corine Land Cover initiative. The updated CORINE Dataset is available on the EPA’s ENVision map viewer.

CONTAMINATED LAND

- ▲ An Environmental Liability Unit was established within the EPA to handle matters arising from the Environmental Liability Regulations. The EC (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008, S.I. No. 547 of 2008 came into effect in 2009, and the EPA is the competent body for the enforcement of these regulations. This Directive aims to prevent and remediate environmental damage. One of the main implications of this directive is the enforcement of the polluter pays principle. This will have a great influence on contaminated land in Ireland.

BIODIVERSITY

- ▲ The EPA prepared a *Biodiversity Action Plan* in 2009, for publication 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 to build on the National Soils Database and Archive. In a further extension of the soil database project, key outputs from this project will be a 1:250,000 soils map of Ireland and an associated Soil Information System.
- ▲ An international workshop was organised as part of a large-scale EPA funded project on soil biodiversity in Ireland, which was attended by over 70 key stakeholders

BIODIVERSITY

- ▲ The report from the Ag-Biota research project showed that the abundance and diversity of bees, birds and other species of insects and plants have suffered serious losses as a result of changing farming practices in Ireland. These findings were presented to scientists, policymakers and other stakeholders at a special conference in Dublin on Friday 27th March.
- ▲ The research project *Biochange* provided necessary information for protecting the diversity of Ireland’s flora and fauna and focused on emerging and important issues surrounding Irish biodiversity.
- ▲ The EPA worked closely with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to re-establish the National Platform for Biodiversity Research to facilitate biodiversity research in Ireland.





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 fifth annual report for the National Waste Prevention Programme was published. This provides a comprehensive overview of activities during 2008 and 2009 and is available on the EPA website at www.epa.ie.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ▲ 81 hotels now hold Green Hospitality Awards, including some of the largest and most prestigious hospitality properties.
- ▲ Successful completion of the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme and the establishment of a Local Authority Prevention Network to provide capacity for prevention projects across the country.
- ▲ Over 230 companies have registered on greenbusiness.ie, which is a site offering resource efficiency assessment and water audit tools, backed up by confidential free expert advisors and a helpline.
- ▲ The booklet, Calling Time on Waste: a publican's handbook to a leaner, greener cost base was launched to help publicans cut costs and improve their environmental performance.
- ▲ The Green Home Programme recruited a further 9,000 households to engage in waste prevention, energy and water savings, as well as composting and recycling activities.
- ▲ A new project on food waste prevention and home composting commenced.

PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVES; Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and battery regulations

- ▲ Two successful District Court cases were taken against non-compliant producer businesses.

- ▲ A webpage at www.batteries-enforcement.ie has been set up to facilitate the provision of guidance to the specific stakeholders in relation to the new Batteries Regulations.

PACKAGING REGULATIONS

- ▲ The essential requirements in relation to restricted hazardous substances in packaging are being addressed by the development of the website www.preventandsave.ie through the Packaging Prevention Programme.

REDUCTION OF HAZARDOUS COMPONENTS

- ▲ A product recall direction was issued to one company in relation to a dangerous toy and was pursued through the Circuit Court and High Court.

NATIONAL WASTE REPORTING

- ▲ The *National Waste Report 2008* 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, and to prevent waste arising from all sectors of society.
- ▲ A revised National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement was published in 2008. The EPA is taking the lead in implementing, or influencing others to implement, a large number of the Plan's recommendations as well as monitoring the overall implementation of the plan in consultation with the National Waste Prevention Committee. The plan sets out the known facts on hazardous waste arisings and current management practices. Recommendations are made in relation to enhancing hazardous waste prevention; improving collection rates as well as enhanced self-sufficiency in environmentally sound treatment and disposal.

EUROPEAN WEEK FOR WASTE REDUCTION

The first ever European Week for Waste Reduction took place in 2009. A range of activities to highlight waste reduction practices and promote more sustainable consumption and production were organised by a variety of organisations, and coordinated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- ▲ The report *Innovation for a Green Economy – Environment and Technology: A Win-Win Story*, highlights the many successes and impacts of research and innovation supported by the EPA research programme. This investment is also yielding wider economic benefits such as patents, licence agreements and in one case a new spin off company.
- ▲ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) invited the EPA to present this report at the recent Global Forum on Eco-Innovation in Paris.
- ▲ An EPA funded research project by Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. showed that urban community composting has the potential for significant social, environmental and economic benefits.
- ▲ A number of other EPA-funded research projects examined emerging issues for waste management including projects on mechanical biological treatment, pay-by-use waste collection charges, use of food waste macerators, organic waste management in apartments and the development of an Industry-Led Compost Quality Standard.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE INITIATIVES

- ▲ The EPA hosted the National Waste Enforcement Conference.
- ▲ The National Waste Prevention Programme 2008-2009 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.

FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT REPORT 2006 – 2008

- ▲ The *Focus on Environmental Enforcement in Ireland* report showed an increased level of enforcement activities in line with an increase in legislation, with 130,000 inspections, 10,000 enforcement actions and over 750 prosecutions by Environmental Regulators. The report also showed that complaints from large industry, and waste transfer stations have decreased while odour complaints from landfills have doubled. The number of seriously polluted river stations has decreased by 10 from 39 to 29. Emissions of air pollutants have reduced significantly in the pharmaceutical/chemical sector (by 59%), and the energy sector.

INTEGRATED POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPPC) LICENSING

In 2009:

- ▲ 55 IPPC licences were granted while 7 licence applications (piggeries) were rejected.
- ▲ 47 Proposed Decisions were issued.
- ▲ Technical Amendments were made to 95 licences in accordance with the licensing regulations.
- ▲ 18 IPPC Sector Best Available Techniques (BAT) Notes have now been published and are available on the EPA website.
- ▲ 359 Article 11 requests received, to determine if facilities require a Waste License or Permit.

WASTE LICENSING

In 2009:

- ▲ New or revised licences were granted for 11 landfills; 3 waste transfer stations; 2 soil recovery facilities; 1 integrated waste management facility and 2 composting facilities.

- ▲ 30 Proposed Decisions were issued.
- ▲ Technical Amendments were made to 11 licences, in accordance with the licensing regulations.
- ▲ The EPA re-opened the Oral Hearing on Fingal County Council's application for a proposed landfill at Nevitt, Lusk, County Dublin. No decision on the application has issued to date.

COMPLIANCE WITH LANDFILL DIRECTIVE

- ▲ Guidance document published on pre-treatment of residual waste: *Municipal Solid Waste – Pre-Treatment and Residuals Management*.
- ▲ Review of 25 landfill licences was initiated and 25 proposed decisions issued in October 2009.
- ▲ 15 PDs were objected to and Technical Committee reports will be prepared for the EPA Board.

	IPPC Licences	Waste Licences	Waste Water Licences	Certs of Auth	GMO Consents	Certs of Registration
Apps Received	41	29	304	150	43	59
Proposed Decisions	47	30	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objections Received	19	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Final Decisions	55	19	49	0	44	25

Table 1: Licensing Activities 2009

Inspection Type	No.
Licence application and review inspections	102
IPPC Enforcement inspections	496
IPPC Enforcement audits	118
Waste Enforcement inspections	266
Waste Enforcement audits	75
IPPC monitoring visits (water)	653
Waste monitoring visits (water)	173
Landfill Gas Monitoring	35
IPPC compliance meetings	101
Waste compliance meetings	37
Local authority audits	154
Section 63 investigation inspections	242
GMO facility inspections	14
Emission Trading inspections	38
PCB Surveys and Inspections	64
WEEE/Battery Producer Inspections	52
WEEE Retailer Inspections	134
Companies inspected for WEEE/Batteries at Trade Shows	34
ODS/F Gas End User Inspections	48
Paint Retailer Inspections	6
Joint VR installation inspections with Local Authorities	2
National Waste Report Local Authority Inspections	10
National Waste Report Waste Treatment Operators Inspections	12
National Waste Report MSW Operator Inspections	8
National Waste Report Metal Handlers Inspections	6

Table 2: Audits and Inspections 2009

Activity	Number in 2009
IPPC & Waste Enforcement Inspections	762
IPPC & Waste Enforcement Audits	193
Complaints Received	2182
Notification of Non Compliance Issued	730
Compliance Meetings Held	138
Incidents Notified to the Agency	2406
Water Monitoring Visits	860
Landfill Gas Monitoring Visits	35

Table 3: Enforcement Activities 2009

Activity	Number in 2009
Audits – Drinking Water, Urban Waste Water and Integrated	154
Investigations Initiated during the Year	242
Investigations Closed during the Year	236
Directions Served	27

Table 4: Public Authority Enforcement 2009

- Final decisions issued for 10 licences, which were not objected to.

WASTE WATER LICENSING

- 304 waste water licence applications were received in 2009
- 49 wastewater discharge licences (WWDL) were issued.
- 174 Certificate of Authorisation applications for agglomerations with a population equivalent of less than 500 were received. These applications are currently being processed.

CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION

- The EPA issued 25 Certificates of Registration in 2009 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.
All permits will be reviewed in 2010.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO)

BY THE END OF 2009:

- There were 349 entries on the register of GMO users in Ireland.
- 44 Consents were granted for the contained use of GMOs.
- GMO site inspections were carried out at 14 registered premises, where a total of 47 registered users were inspected throughout these premises.

LICENCE ENFORCEMENT

- The EPA completed 193 audits and 762 inspections of waste and IPPC licenced sites.
- 730 notifications of non-compliance (NONCs) were issued by the EPA.
- 138 meetings were held with licencees to address non-compliance issues.
- Complaints received during the year in relation to these licenced sites totalled 2182. 91% of these related to odour issues.
- Incidents notified to the Agency (in accordance with the terms of licences) totalled 2406.

WASTE ENFORCEMENT

- The *Code of Practice for the Development of an Enforcement Policy for Unauthorised Activities* provided a framework for local authorities to respond to unauthorised waste activities.
- The National Waste Workshop focussed on issues including BAT (Best Available Techniques) for the waste sector, landfill gas and odour, treatment of waste, waste classification, leachate management, and landfill cover.

ENFORCEMENT OF WASTE WATER DISCHARGE AUTHORISATIONS

- The EPA published a Code of Practice for *Waste Water Treatment and Disposal Systems serving Single Houses* in relation to on-site systems for protection of our environment and specifically drinking water.
- 24 audits were carried out at these sites

ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY UNIT

LEGAL ENFORCEMENT

- The Agency brought 22 successful prosecution cases to court. 20 of these were heard in the District Court. 2 were in the Circuit Court (including the EPA's first trial by jury). 8 cases were brought against waste licencees and 9 against IPPC licencees.
2 were brought under the Waste Management (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations. 1 was under the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations.
1 was in relation to carrying on an unlicensed IPPC activity 1 was in relation to the disposal and transfer of control of waste. Costs and fines imposed amounted to €584,651.

COMPLAINTS IN RELATION TO STATUTORY PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- The EPA conducted 6 integrated audits of local authorities, in addition to 124 drinking water audits and 24 wastewater audits.
- The EPA received 242 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 236 investigations were closed out during the year.
- 27 Directions were issued to local authorities. These all related to drinking water issues.

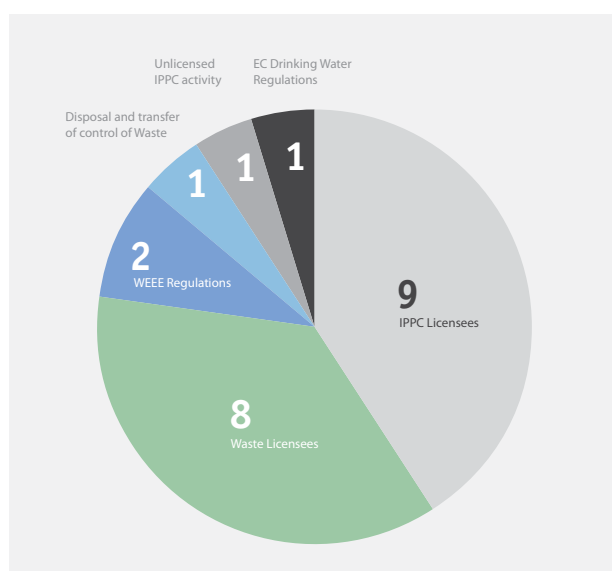
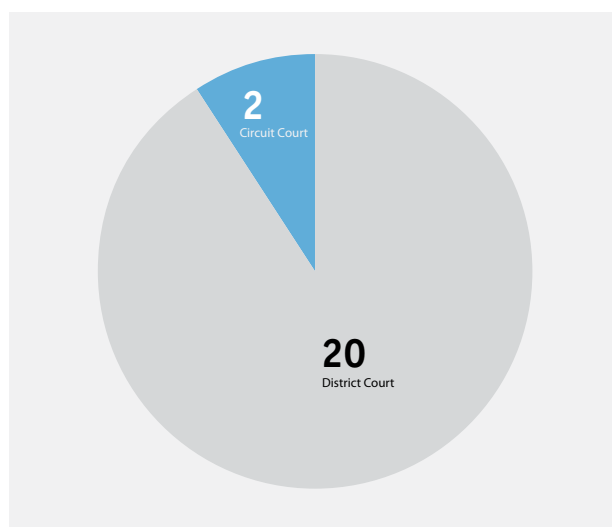


FIG 4: EPA Prosecution Cases

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 European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) is an inventory of pollutant emissions from industry and other sources across Europe. The first report

from facility operators was coordinated by the EPA and submitted to the European Commission in September. Results can be viewed at

<http://prtr.ec.europa.eu>.

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 2009 include:

- ▲ 7 WFD River Basin District Management Plans
- ▲ 6 Shellfish Waters Regional SEAs – covering 63 Pollution Reduction Programmes
- ▲ 6 County Development Plans
- ▲ 15 Town Plans
- ▲ Greater Dublin Strategic Water Supply Scheme Phase II.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

- ▲ The Assimilative Capacity Model system was finalised and made available to the EPA's Urban Waste Water licensing inspectors in 2009.
- ▲ The EPA developed a GIS based online risk assessment to assist local authorities in carrying out these assessments. This GIS tool was integrated with the existing Unregulated Waste Sites Register (UWSR web page) to provide a single website for landfill registration and assessment. This integrated tool was made available to Local Authorities via the Environmental Data Exchange Network (EDEN).
- ▲ An application for generating a flow duration curve at a site with no hydrometric gauge was completed in conjunction with the Hydrometric team and in co-operation with ESBI through a joint project with them. The website is available to River Basin Districts and Local Authorities through the Environmental Data Exchange Network (EDEN).

LABORATORY SERVICES

- ▲ 23,991 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, decreased by 3 to 123 in 2008. These include local authority and contract laboratories, other laboratories supplying data to the EPA and also the EPA's five regional laboratories.
- ▲ The register of laboratories, provided for under Section 66 of the EPA Act, 1992, was updated in June 2009 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 is to be published in 2010.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- ▲ The EPA released a report entitled *A Study on the use of Administrative Sanctions for Environmental Offences in other comparable countries and assessment of their possible use in Ireland*. The overall objective of this report was to assess whether the introduction of administrative sanctions for environmental pollution offences in the Republic of Ireland would be in the interests of the main stakeholders (i.e. relevant government departments, the business community, the general public) and the environment.
- ▲ In 2009 the STRIVE programme included the following:
 - ▲ 15 projects in Cleaner Production
 - ▲ 4 Projects in Environmental Technologies
 - ▲ 1 Large Socio-Economic project on Developing a Green Net National Project for Ireland
 - ▲ 9 Doctoral Scholarships.

- ▲ 21 research reports were published in 2009. In addition, there were 6 small-scale studies finalised and released.
- ▲ 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 4,000 researchers throughout Europe.

KEY EVENTS

- ▲ The EPA National Environment Information Day showcased Irish research projects that have successfully leveraged EU FP7 funding to date. In addition, key experts from the European Commission, European Environment Agency and various industrial and academic institutions highlighted knowledge gaps and emerging issues across various environmental areas.
- ▲ The 7th Annual EPA Doctoral and Post-doc Seminar represented 16 universities and colleges.
- ▲ The year also marked the completion of the 46th PhD under the Direct Scholarship Scheme since 2001.
- ▲ There were seven research-supported events hosted this year attended by 700 stakeholders.

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 got underway in early 2009. The findings of the review of this business area has led to the establishment of a project named LEMA (Computer Application for Licence Enforcement and Monitoring) which will result in the development of a new IT application for automation of much of the business processes in this area.





7. BUILDING A HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANISATION

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

Competent/Committed People;

Environmental Champion;

Customer-Focused and

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 2009 is 340. However, the effects of the moratorium on employment in the public sector meant that 7 posts that fell vacant during the year could not be filled. Therefore, the total number of posts at the end of December 2009 was 333. 158 are located at EPA Headquarters in Wexford with the remaining staff strategically located in five Regional Inspectorates and four Offices throughout the country.
- ▲ A HR Guidance Manual for Managers was developed and issued to all Line Managers in 2009. The manual is designed to help Line Managers in their day-to-day interaction with staff and to help the EPA maintain its status as a high performance organisation with competent and committed people.
- ▲ A Staff Skills Database was developed to map in-house expertise with a view to maximising the usage of the various skills that the EPA staff possess.
- ▲ 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.

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 €727,000.
- ▲ During 2009 staff participated in a programme of 270 (internal, external & group) training courses, workshops, conferences and seminars, amounting to a total of 2,097 training days, giving an average of 6.2 days training per person.
- ▲ The EPA began roll out of a People Management Programme, with 25 senior staff members having completed the course by end 2009. 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.
- ▲ A *Corporate Learning Strategy 2010-2012* was developed to provide a framework through which the EPA can meet its staff development commitments set-out in *2020Vision*. The strategy provides for a more strategic and proactive approach to meeting and identifying training and development needs and to ensuring that there is an appropriate balance between corporate and individual needs.
- ▲ 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 commenced in 2009 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 2009.
- ▲ Emphasis continued in 2009 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 an audit of the landfill monitoring programme. The audit found that overall, risks have been adequately addressed, any safety-related requests are quickly dealt with and a "safety first" attitude was common to all the staff interviewed.

The theme of Cross Office collaboration was highlighted as a priority for the EPA in its 2009 Annual Work Programme. Cross Office activities include:

- ▲ A range of technical Cross Office groups 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.
- ▲ Formal Cross Office projects, such as the LEMA (Licensing, Enforcement and Monitoring Application) project (2009/2010), and the development of an Assimilative Capacity tool for river water where staff are tasked on a part or full time basis to deliver agreed EPA priorities;
- ▲ A series of Cross Office groups were set up to implement the EPA's *2020Vision* challenges, with the groups on Climate Change, Water and Biodiversity delivering a set of papers and outcomes.
- ▲ A range of Cross Office Initiatives such as the IM&T Group, Web Advisory Group, Staff Development Group and Green Team have been led and supported by OCCS staff and 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 2009, *Meitheal* continued to play a significant role in the ongoing development of the Performance Management and Development System for staff, the co-ordination of Health and Safety initiatives, Staff Development Group and Quality Customer Service. The Green Team carried out significant work preparing the EPA for ISO 14001 accreditation.

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 fifth annual *Environment Ireland* conference in September 2009. 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. The themes for 2009 were *Towards a smart green economy, Adapting to a changing climate and Investing in Ireland's environmental infrastructure*.
- ▲ The EPA continued the climate change lecture series with occasional lectures held in October and November. These, and the other lectures from the series, are all available for viewing as podcasts on the EPA website at www.epa.ie.
- ▲ The EPA continued to sponsor and contribute to the *EcoEye* TV series in 2009. A seventh series was broadcast on RTE 1 in early Spring. Each programme was viewed by an average of 490,000 people.
- ▲ EPA staff engaged with stakeholders at a range of national and local events during the year, including the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition, The Sustainable Environmental Fair at the National Botanic Gardens, and The National Ploughing Championships held in Athy, Co. Kildare. The EPA presented a Special Award at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition.
- ▲ An Taisce, in partnership with the EPA's National Waste Prevention Programme, continued to run the *Green Home* programme in 2009. The programme continues to grow and is now running in over sixty communities with 64 schools, over 9,000 households and several community groups and businesses throughout Ireland.
- ▲ A conference on the topic of Greening Irish Communities was held in 2009. This conference was the starting point for mobilising communities in Ireland to live more environmentally sustainable lives. The conference was jointly hosted by the EPA, the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government and An Taisce.
- ▲ Greening the EPA was identified as one of the Big Six priorities in the EPA Work Programme for 2009. Some of the key activities included:



The Meitheal Committee 2009

- ▲ Implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) continued with the aim of achieving ISO14001. A pre assessment audit completed at the end of 2009 recommended proceeding to certification audit in early 2010.
- ▲ The extension to EPA Headquarters completed in 2009 included the following sustainable features; a biomass boiler heating system, heat recovery from air-conditioning plant, energy efficient lighting system, photovoltaic panels and rain water harvesting.
- ▲ Agency and Local Green Teams continued to co-ordinate greening the EPA activities.
- ▲ The EPA continued to develop its web based information in 2009. Key developments included:
 - ▲ Installation of Google Search to improve the search capability.
 - ▲ Climate Change pages were improved to offer more information.
 - ▲ An objections and submissions module was added to Licensing Pages allowing submissions and objections to be made online.
 - ▲ New online bathing water quality website "Splash" was launched and is available at www.bathingwater.ie.
 - ▲ Video Broadcasts were made available.
 - ▲ Improved delivery of information from EPA funded research through the SAFER data resource which is available through the EPA web-site. There are now 118 resources and 1333 data files publicly available which is improving public access to data generated by EPA-funded research.

CUSTOMER FOCUSED

The EPA strives to be a customer focused organisation.

- ▲ The 2009 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 the first year of operation over 2,000 queries were dealt with and closed out by the unit, providing customers with a higher level of service.
 - ▲ A Customer Service Survey was completed at the end of 2009 which will inform the EPA QCS Action Plan for 2010. Overall the feedback received for contact made by phone, in writing and in person was positive with the courtesy of staff and quality of information provided receiving over 85% approval rating. A survey of users of the new Environmental Queries Unit was also carried out to get feedback from customers availing of the service. Almost 90% of respondents felt that the Environmental Queries Unit was helpful in dealing with their query, and over 87% felt that the Environmental Queries Unit provided them with useful information. The EPA's Customer Charter is available on the EPA website.
 - ▲ There were six complaints referred to the QCS officer in 2009. One of these was deemed not to be a QCS issue and was dealt with outside the QCS process, two were withdrawn by the complainant, and the remaining three 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 2009, 430 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 cleaner environmental technologies, managing septic tanks, waste generation, climate change, backyard and fireplace burning, green business and seasonal tips at Christmas.
 - ▲ The EPA *Annual Highlights* document, which provides information on the key undertakings of the EPA during the previous year, was published and distributed in April 2009 and three editions of EPANews, the corporate newsletter, were distributed to subscribers during the year.
 - ▲ The EPA has developed educational resources for teachers of primary and secondary level. These have been circulated to every school in the country and continue to be distributed on request. A new teaching resource for second level education was developed and will be available early in 2010.
 - ▲ The EPA sponsored a lesson on environmental technologies in *Science and Technology in Action*, a multimedia resource for second level schools.
 - ▲ A significant programme of work continued in 2009 to improve accessibility to EPA premises and services for people with disabilities including the installation of a lift in the EPA offices in Monaghan to improve accessibility.

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

- ▲ During 2009, Internal Audits were undertaken in the following areas:
 - ▲ Events Management, Hospitality, Sponsorship and Travel & Subsistence; and
 - ▲ Use of Consultants, Contractors and External Service Providers in the EPA.
- ▲ An Internal Audit Plan covering the period 2010-2011 was developed in 2009 and agreed by the Internal Audit Committee and by the EPA Board.
- ▲ A Revised Code of Practice for State Bodies was published by the Department of Finance in May 2009. A review of Governance within the EPA was commenced in 2009 to ensure compliance with the Revised Code.

BOARD OF THE EPA

- ▲ The EPA Board is comprised of five full time Executive Directors. 46 meetings were held in 2009, including 11 general meetings, at which corporate policy, strategy, finance and planning issues were dealt with and 35 technical meetings, at which, licence applications, prosecutions and operational issues were dealt with.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The EPA continued in 2009 to maximise its use of technology to ensure that information systems are in place to enable staff to work efficiently and increase our capacity to deliver high quality environmental assessments. In 2009, the EPA's Information Technology services continued to provide the regular services to its customers, while also working towards the long-term goal of improving the collection, assessment and provision of information, to all stakeholders.

- ▲ In early 2009, the EPA undertook a Business Analysis review of a number of core business areas within the EPA to identify areas where the Agency's business process could be improved, by the appropriate application of IT.

- ▲ An outcome of the review is the initiation of a project covering EPA's core processes of Licensing Enforcement Monitoring Application (LEMA), which should yield major efficiencies in work practices. A pilot project is being undertaken for Urban Wastewater Treatment Licences and if this is successful LEMA will be extended to Waste Licensing, IPPC and other areas.
- ▲ This project is part of an overall programme of priority projects already underway such as Environmental Data Exchange Network (EDEN), Gathering and Reporting Water Data (AQUARIUS), ETSWAP, Technology Change Programme and the SharePoint Corporate Portal. These projects formed the main focus for IM&T activity in 2009 and will continue to do so in 2010.
- ▲ During 2009, a number of system improvements were delivered to support EPA's role in protecting the environment, including:
 - ▲ The development and implementation of an IT system that will be the EPA's central repository for Water Framework Directive information.
 - ▲ Improvement of customer service through the development and implementation of an IT system to manage and respond to Environmental Queries in an efficient and effective manner.
 - ▲ The Upgrade of existing IT systems to improve the collection and reporting of data for the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) on emissions and waste – e.g. online submissions of Annual Environmental Reports (AER). Other upgrades to the IT system included enabling the public to make online submissions, objections etc.
- ▲ A review of systems in use by the Office of Communications and Corporate Services, including Finance and HR, was carried out. Findings from this review will be considered by the Board in early 2010
 - ▲ Enhancements have also been made to the EPA's internal systems to improve the efficiency of EPA's internal processes and the dissemination of information amongst EPA staff. This has led to efficiencies in such areas as administration / management of the enforcement of IPC/Waste Licenses; improvements in the processing of VOC samples, and administration / management of Drinking Water Notifications.





SECTION 2

CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS ENGAGED IN 2009

Achilles Procurement Services	Fehily Timoney	Simon Shilton (Isonic)
Arum Exploration Services	Ford Consulting	SKM Enviros Limited
AWN Consulting	Helix Partnership	SLR Consulting
Barry Doyle & Co	Hospitality Solutions Limited (HSL)	Stephen Bowe
BEC Consultants	HydroLogic	Tim Mulvey
Carl Stuart	Institute of Public Administration	TMS Consultancy, Percy Place, Limerick
CDM	JB Barry's	Tobins
Ceram Building Technology	Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants	URS Consulting Limited
Clean Technology Centre (CTC)	LHM Casey McGrath	White, Young & Green
Cork County Council	Maire Halpin	WRC PLC
Damian Smyth	MJ Gray	
Darlington Consulting	Mudway Health	
David Ball	OCM	
Deloitte	Powerline Limited	
Enviros	Resolve Consulting Limited	
ESP Technologies Ltd.	RPS Consultants Limited	
ESRI	RSK ENSR	
Garrett Kilroy	Ryan Hanley	

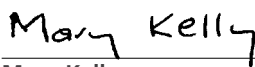
PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT, 1997

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 29 late payments with values in excess of €317 during 2009 and these exceeded the due payment date by an average of 22 days. The value of these late payments was €280,802. Overall, late payments represented 0.7 % of the total value of payments covered by the Act, with total associated penalty interest of €660.



Mary Kelly

Director General, EPA
23 November 2010

EPA PUBLICATIONS 2009

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/

- ▲ Air Quality in Ireland 2008
- ▲ CO₂ EPA Emission Factors 2009
- ▲ Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2008
- ▲ Ireland's National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2008-2020
- ▲ Dioxin Levels in the Irish Environment 2008

CORPORATE

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

- ▲ EPA Annual Highlights 2008
- ▲ EPA Annual Report and Accounts 2008
- ▲ EPANews Spring 2009
- ▲ EPANews Autumn 2009
- ▲ EPANews Winter 2009

ENFORCEMENT

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

- ▲ Focus on Environmental Enforcement in Ireland – for the years 2006-2008
- ▲ Ireland's 2007 European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) Report
- ▲ Pollutant Release and Transfer Register Datasets
- ▲ A Study on the use of Administrative Sanctions for Environmental Offences in other comparable countries and assessment of their possible use in Ireland

WASTE

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

- ▲ EPA Enforcement of WEEE Regulations to date
- ▲ Calling Time on Waste

- ▲ National Waste Report 2008
- ▲ National Waste Prevention Programme – Annual Report 2008-2009
- ▲ Municipal Waste Characterisation 2008 Surveys – Final Report

WATER

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

- ▲ The Provisions and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland – A Report for the years 2007-2008
- ▲ Water Quality in Ireland 2007-2008: Key Indicators of the Aquatic Environment
- ▲ The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland – A Report for the year 2008
- ▲ Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland for Population Equivalents Greater than 500 persons – A Report for the Years 2006-2007

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.
- ▲ Code of Practice for the Development of an Enforcement Policy for Unauthorised Waste Activities.
- ▲ WEEE Regulations – Information for Retailers of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Batteries.
- ▲ Municipal Solid Waste – Pre-Treatment and Residuals Management – An EPA Technical Guidance Document.
- ▲ Code of Practice – Waste Water Treatment and Disposal Systems serving Single Houses.
- ▲ Guidance for the Farming Community on Protection of Water Resources and Habitat Quality from Impacts due to Livestock Access to Water.
- ▲ EPA Guidance Note for Strategic Noise Mapping.
- ▲ EPA Guidance Note for Noise Action Planning.

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/

- ▲ A Summary of the State of Knowledge on Climate Change Impacts for Ireland. (CCRP 1) Margaret Desmond et al.
- ▲ CELTICFLUX: Measurement and Modelling of Greenhouse Gas Fluxes from Grasslands and Peatland in Ireland. (STRIVE 24) Gerard Kiely et al.
- ▲ Conflicts between Energy Policy Objectives and the National Climate Change Strategy in Ireland. (STRIVE 31) Brian Ó Gallachóir et al.
- ▲ Climate Change – Refining and Impacts for Ireland. (STRIVE 12) Sweeney, J et al.

WATER

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

- ▲ Macroalgal Biomonitoring – Applying Phenolic Compounds as Biomarkers for Metal Uptake Characteristics in Irish Coastal Environments. (STRIVE 42) Soléne Connan and Dagmar B. Stengel.
- ▲ On-Site Waste Water Treatment: Investigation of Rapid Percolating Sub-Soils, Reed beds and effluent distribution. (STRIVE 28) Laurence Gill et al.

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/

- ▲ Predicting the Impact of Coexistence-Guided, Genetically Modified Cropping on Irish Biodiversity. (STRIVE 39) Ewan Mullins et al.
- ▲ AGBIOTA (STRIVE 21) G. Purvis et al.

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/

- ▲ Development of an Industry-Led Quality Standard for Source-Separated Biodegradable Material Derived Compost. (STRIVE 22) M. Prasad and P. Foster.
- ▲ The Development of an Audit Methodology to Generate Construction Waste Production Indicators for the Irish Construction Industry. (STRIVE 26) Mark Kelly and John Hanahoe.

- ▲ Implementation of an Urban Community Composting Programme. (STRIVE 40) Sarah Miller et al.

SOCIO-ECONOMICS

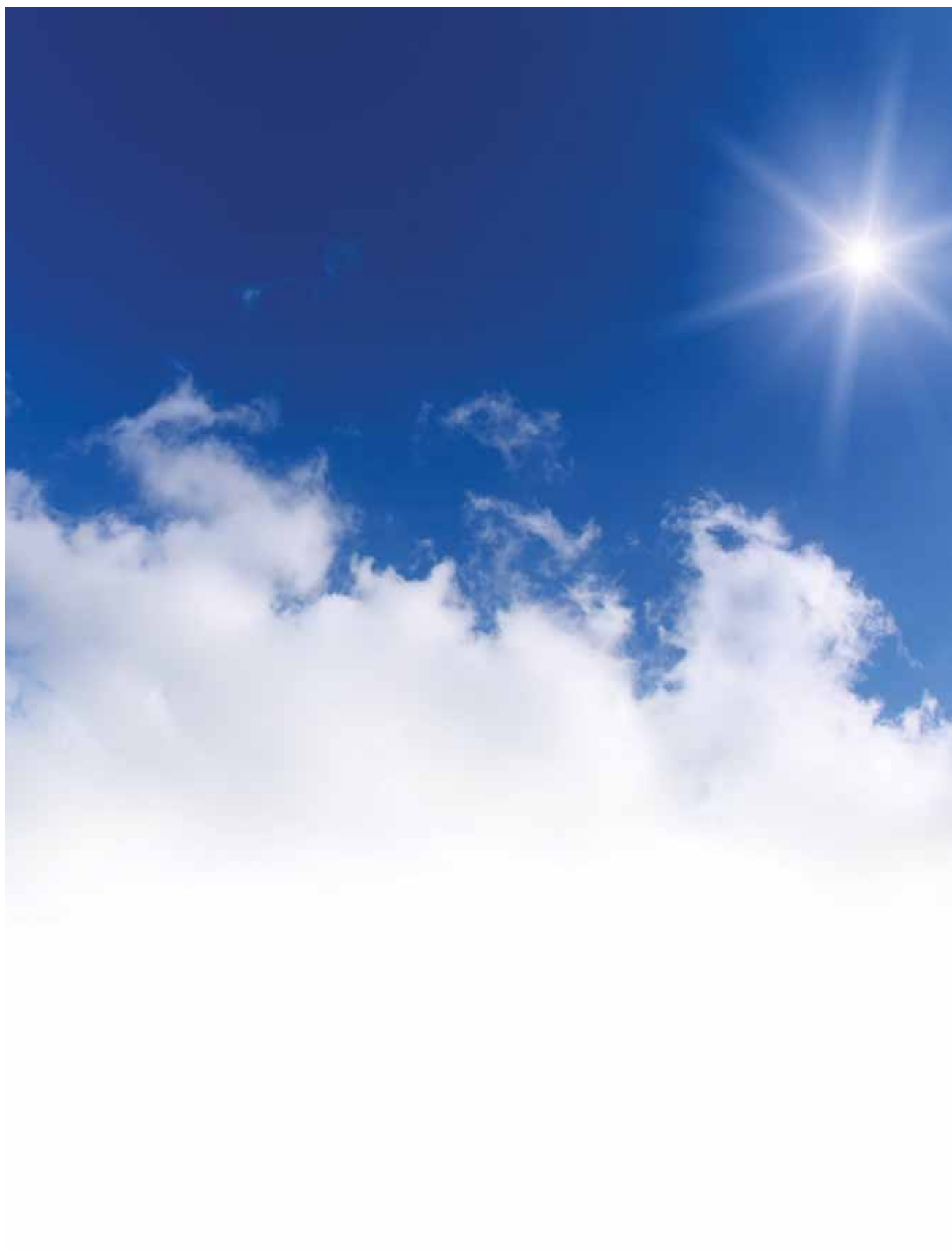
The following socio-economic research reports can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/econ/

- ▲ Public Participation in the Selection of Sustainable Development Indicators in Limerick and Freshford, Ireland. (STRIVE 13) B. O'Regan and R. Moles.
- ▲ Deriving Quality of Life Indicators in Urban Areas – A Practitioner's Guide.
- ▲ Galway 21: Implementing the Principles and Practices of Sustainable Development in Galway City Council. (STRIVE 17) Frances Fahy.
- ▲ Guide to Establishing an Eco-Industrial Network.
- ▲ Establishing an Eco-Industrial Network for SME's in the Mid-West Region (STRIVE 19) B. O'Regan and R. Moles.
- ▲ Innovative Data Capture and Presentation Techniques in Support of the EU Environmental Noise Directive (STRIVE 25) Gearóid Ó Riain and Tim McCarthy.

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

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

- ▲ Innovation for a Green Economy – Environment and Technology: A Win-Win Story (STRIVE).
- ▲ Sustainable Logistics: Towards the Development of Environmentally Conscious Supply Chains. (STRIVE 32) Paul Ryan et al.
- ▲ The Use of Mesoporous Silicas to Absorb and Separate Metals and Nanoparticles from Aqueous or Organic Solutions. (STRIVE 33) Aoife Burke.
- ▲ Development of a Novel Environmental Monitoring System based on Optical Oxygen Sensing and Respirometry. (STRIVE 23) Dmitri B. Papkovsky et al.
- ▲ Demonstration of a Minutuarised Multi-Channel Cytometry System and its Suitability for Autonomous Deployment. (STRIVE 29) Barbara Fogarty et al.



SECTION 3



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2009

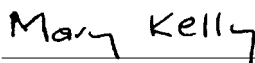
- ▲ Statement of Responsibilities of the Agency
- ▲ Statement on Internal Financial Control
- ▲ Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General
- ▲ Accounting Policies
- ▲ Income and Expenditure Account
- ▲ Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses
- ▲ Balance Sheet
- ▲ Cash Flow Statement
- ▲ Notes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

 Maitha Gormley

Director

23 November 2010

STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL 2009

1. On behalf of the Board of 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 also acknowledge 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.

- Financial Statements

- ▲ All purchasing is conducted through the EPA's financial management system and no purchase can take place without the raising of a purchase order through this system. Payments are also authorised through goods matching within this system and it is not possible to either raise a purchase order or authorise payment without it being recorded in the EPA's financial management system.
- ▲ 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.
- ▲ 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 2009 – 2010 was progressively implemented with two developmental projects completed during 2009 and two internal audits conducted. The developmental projects were conducted in the areas of developing a methodology for Value for Money reviews and conducting a Review of Internal Audit in the EPA. The internal audits were carried out in the areas of:

- ▲ Events Management, Hospitality, Sponsorship and Travel & Subsistence; and
- ▲ Use of Consultants, Contractors and External Service Providers in the EPA.

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

An Internal Audit Plan for the period 2010 – 2011 was developed in 2009 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.

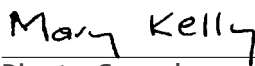
vi) In addition to the key controls outlined above, the following new controls were implemented during 2009:

- ▲ A Policy for monitoring and assessing compliance with corporate legislation was implemented fully in the EPA;
- ▲ The EPA Procurement Officer role was further enhanced with comprehensive guidance and documentation developed for budget holders;
- ▲ A review of Finance was commenced and is due to be completed in 2010;
- ▲ A review of systems in use by the Office of Communications and Corporate Services, including Finance and HR, was carried out. Findings from this review will be considered by the Board in early 2010.

4. Annual Review of Controls

I can confirm that the Board of the EPA conducted a review of the system of internal controls in the EPA in 2009.

Signed on behalf of the Board.



Director General

23 November 2010

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

I have audited the financial statements of the Environmental Protection Agency for the year ended 31 December 2009 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.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AGENCY AND THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

The Agency is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, and for ensuring the regularity of transactions. The Agency prepares the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. The accounting responsibilities of the Members of the Agency are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Agency.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. I also report whether in my opinion proper books of account have been kept. In addition, I state whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

I report any material instance where moneys have not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions do not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report if I have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of my audit.

I review whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control reflects the Agency's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and report any material instance where it does not do so, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information of which I am aware from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control covers all financial risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the risk and control procedures.

I read other information contained in the Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION

In the exercise of my function as Comptroller and Auditor General, I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board and by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures and regularity of the financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Agency's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations that I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

OPINION

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the Agency's affairs at 31 December 2009 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

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



John Buckley

Comptroller and Auditor General

29 November 2010

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 1%) 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 2009 the costs of the ETU were recovered from the proceeds of the sale which took place in 2009. In 2008 the costs of the ETU were recovered in part from the proceeds of the auctions of allowances by the Agency which took place during 2006. The remainder of the 2008 costs were carried forward to 2009 and were recovered from sale of allowances which took place in 2009. Auction / sale proceeds retained by the Agency to fund the ETU are recognised as income of the 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%
▲ 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.

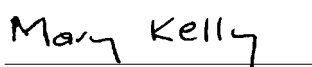
Actuarial gains or losses arising from changes in Actuarial assumptions and from experience surpluses and deficits are recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the year in which they occur and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department 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 ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009


		2009	2008
		€	€
INCOME	Note		
Oireachtas Grants	1	51,531,573	51,142,902
Emissions Trading Unit Costs Recovered	2	1,302,400	1,121,758
Other Services		28,379	29,377
Income from Regional Laboratories		1,720,107	1,869,631
Licencing Activities	3	2,327,815	1,669,716
Enforcement Activities	4	7,307,941	7,418,901
Sundry Receipts	5	260,980	237,510
Net deferred funding for pensions	22(c)	5,626,597	7,250,099
		70,105,792	70,739,894
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries and PRSI	6	21,857,958	19,740,526
Pension Costs	22(a)	7,709,748	8,259,847
Travelling Expenses	7	1,456,445	1,918,964
Laboratory and Field Costs	8	1,256,973	1,304,297
Accommodation Costs	9	1,367,431	1,293,342
Other Administration Costs	10	6,576,764	6,175,456
Consultancy Costs	11	1,367,196	462,630
Contractors, Grants and External Service Providers	12	8,866,226	9,927,558
Environmental Research	13	14,813,233	11,670,939
Depreciation	18	2,295,345	1,998,748
		67,567,319	62,752,307
Transfer to Capital Account	14	2,068,827	7,513,365
		69,636,146	70,265,672
Operating Surplus		469,646	474,222
Surplus / (Deficit) on Disposals of Assets		20,823	(208,287)
Surplus before Interest		490,469	265,935
Interest Received	15	4,694	19,329
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	16	(136,671)	(138,622)
Surplus for Year		358,492	146,642
Surplus at 1 January		180,916	34,274
Surplus at 31 December		539,408	180,916

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

23 November 2010



Director

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Note	2009 €	2008 €
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		358,492	146,642
Experience gain / (loss) on pension scheme liabilities		6,267,000	(5,002,000)
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of pension scheme liabilities		3,673,000	15,280,000
Actuarial Gain on Pension Liabilities	22(b)	9,940,000	10,278,000
Adjustment to Deferred Pension Funding		(9,940,000)	(10,278,000)
Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the Year		358,492	146,642

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.

Mary Kelly

Director General

23 November 2010

Math Comer

Director

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

		2009	2008
	Note	€	€
FIXED ASSETS	18	37,409,152	25,624,668
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	19	2,819,207	13,913,523
Cash on Hand and at Bank	20	12,770,211	6,232,610
		<u>15,589,418</u>	<u>20,146,133</u>
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors (Amounts falling due within one year)	21(a)	(15,134,949)	(10,129,660)
Net Current Assets		<u>454,469</u>	<u>10,016,473</u>
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)	21(b)	(2,055,353)	(2,260,192)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities before Pensions		<u>35,808,268</u>	<u>33,380,949</u>
Pension Liabilities	22(b)	90,987,560	95,300,963
Deferred Pension Funding	22(c)	(90,987,560)	(95,300,963)
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Net Assets		<u><u>35,808,268</u></u>	<u><u>33,380,949</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
Capital Account	14	35,268,860	33,200,033
Income and Expenditure Account		<u>539,408</u>	<u>180,916</u>
		<u><u>35,808,268</u></u>	<u><u>33,380,949</u></u>

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



Director General

23 November 2010



Director

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	2009 Note	2008 €	€
RECONCILIATION OF SURPLUS TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Surplus for year		358,492	146,642
Interest Received	15	(4,694)	(19,329)
(Surplus) / Deficit on Disposal of Assets		(20,823)	208,287
Transfer to Capital Account	14	2,068,827	7,513,365
Depreciation charge for year	18	2,295,345	1,998,748
Decrease / (Increase) in Debtors and Prepayments		1,042,316	(7,996,986)
Increase in Creditors (other than Loan Creditors)		5,036,793	680,306
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities		10,776,256	2,531,033
CASH FLOW STATEMENT			
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities		10,776,256	2,531,033
RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE			
Bank Interest		4,694	19,329
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds on disposal of fixed assets		44,776	33,280
Payments to acquire fixed assets		(4,051,782)	(2,165,501)
Net Cash Inflow Before Financing		6,773,944	418,141
FINANCING			
Fixed Asset Loan Repayments		(236,343)	(229,609)
Increase in Cash		6,537,601	188,532
RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOVEMENT IN CASH BALANCES			
Increase in cash in year		6,537,601	188,532
Funds at 1 January		6,232,610	6,044,078
Funds at 31 December		12,770,211	6,232,610

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

Mary Kelly

Director General

23 November 2010

Math Comer

Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2009	2008
	€	€
1 OIREACHTAS GRANTS		
Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Vote:		
Grants from the Vote:		
Current	27,908,528	26,476,902
Capital	3,900,000	7,466,000
Research Funding	13,640,000	11,500,000
Other Programmes	6,083,045	5,700,000
	51,531,573	51,142,902

The Research Funding is a specific allocation to meet the cost of Environmental Research.
 €14,813,233 was expended on these research activities in 2009 (2008 €11,670,939).

2 EMISSIONS TRADING UNIT (ETU) ACTIVITIES	€	€
(a) Cost of Emissions Trading Unit	1,302,400	1,121,758
Emissions Trading Operator Registration Fees, etc.	38,191	8,649
Costs to be recovered from Auction Funds, etc.	1,264,209	1,113,109
Total Funding of ETU Costs	1,302,400	1,121,758
(b) Summary of Emissions Trading Unit Funds:	€	€
Funds Carried Forward	0	517,149
Total Funds Generated	2,877,271	35,338
Prior year costs to recover from current year funds	(569,271)	0
Total Current Year ETU Costs	(1,302,400)	(1,121,758)
Costs to recover from proceeds of future sale of allowances (see Note 19)	0	569,271
Funds available to finance future ETU costs	1,005,600	0
Paid to DoEH&LG	0	0
Balance of ETU Proceeds brought forward to 2010 (see Note 21 (a))	1,005,600	0

3 LICENSING ACTIVITIES - IPPC, WASTE AND WWD	€	€
Licence Fees prepaid at 1 January	5,081,017	2,311,183
Fees Received	5,178,963	4,483,383
Less Refunds Paid	(29,489)	(43,833)
Licence Fees prepaid at 31 December (see Note 21 (a))	(7,902,676)	(5,081,017)
Amount credited to Income and Expenditure Account	2,327,815	1,669,716

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.

	2009	2008
	€	€
4 ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES - IPPC AND WASTE		
Enforcement Charges Invoiced and Fees Received	<u>7,307,941</u>	<u>7,418,901</u>

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	145,198	3,558
Sales of publications	9,871	9,034
Sundry	105,911	224,918
	<u>260,980</u>	<u>237,510</u>

6 SALARIES AND PRSI	€	€
Salaries	20,288,335	18,298,657
Employers' PRSI	1,569,623	1,441,869
Total Salary Costs	<u>21,857,958</u>	<u>19,740,526</u>

The numbers of employees on 31 December were:

Headquarters	149	160
Regional Inspectorates:		
Castlebar	28	29
Cork	41	41
Dublin	82	84
Kilkenny	22	20
Monaghan	14	17
Regional Offices	8	8
	<u>344</u>	<u>359</u>

Director General's Remuneration Package and Director's Fees

The Director General received a salary of €215,043 in 2009 (2008 €215,739) 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 so no performance related payments have been paid.

Pension Levy

In 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	1,343,083	1,791,544
Motor Vehicle Expenses	131,260	148,171
Travel Refunds	(17,898)	(20,751)
	<u>1,456,445</u>	<u>1,918,964</u>

7 TRAVELLING EXPENSES (CONTINUED)**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 2009 amounted to €2,650 broken down €1,753 mileage, €813 subsistence and €84 other expenses. The 2008 total was €3,820 (€1,795 mileage, €1,899 subsistence and €126 other expenses).

A sum of €181,729 (2008 €233,676) in respect of travelling expenses is included under staff development and training costs at Note 10.

	2009	2008
	€	€
8 LABORATORY AND FIELD COSTS		
Laboratory and Field Expenses	931,551	963,178
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	305,477	323,704
Protective Clothing	19,945	17,415
	1,256,973	1,304,297

9 ACCOMMODATION COSTS

	€	€
Rent and Rates	416,676	405,324
Power, Light and Heat, Cleaning	644,265	546,884
Repairs, Maintenance, Security	306,490	341,134
	1,367,431	1,293,342

10 OTHER ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	€	€
Telephone and Postage	342,050	281,860
Printing of Publications and Stationery Supplies	563,771	633,080
Insurance	120,437	100,756
Computer and Data Processing Costs	3,103,882	2,556,632
Audit Fees	16,500	14,400
Corporate Governance and Internal Audit Costs	68,858	118,913
Legal Fees	494,407	395,161
Staff Appointment Costs	42,903	290,081
Bank Interest and Charges	4,930	3,513
Books, Periodicals, and Library	52,129	49,863
Staff Development and Training Costs	726,823	707,741
Advertising	421,077	319,909
Communications	510,623	509,403
Sundries	108,374	194,144
	6,576,764	6,175,456

11 CONSULTANCY COSTS

	€	€
Consultants	1,367,196	462,630

The work programme activities which made use of these consultancies were:

	€	€
Water Framework Directive Programme	678,782	421,579
Environmental Assessment	4,902	41,051
Environmental Enforcement	213,562	0
National Waste Prevention Programme	469,950	0
	1,367,196	462,630

	2009	2008
12 CONTRACTORS, GRANTS AND EXTERNAL SERVICE PROVIDERS		
	€	€
Contractors	482,271	2,785,705
Grants	1,280,880	638,536
External Service Providers	7,103,075	6,503,317
	<u>8,866,226</u>	<u>9,927,558</u>

The main work areas which incurred costs under this heading were:

	€	€
Communications and Corporate Services	420,453	185,748
Water Framework Directive Programme	3,405,215	3,835,658
Environmental Enforcement	1,496,198	2,401,299
National Waste Prevention Programme	3,193,080	3,198,124
Environmental Assessment	305,026	298,692
Climate, Licensing and Resource Use	46,254	8,037
	<u>8,866,226</u>	<u>9,927,558</u>

13 ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH	€	€
STRIVE Research Programme	9,936,409	10,217,155
Climate Change Research Programme	<u>5,073,774</u>	<u>1,635,495</u>
Research Programme Payments	15,010,183	11,852,650
Co - Funding Research Income	(196,950)	(181,711)
	<u>14,813,233</u>	<u>11,670,939</u>

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 2009 commitments entered into but not yet charged to the financial statements in respect of Research projects amounted to **€41.087M** (2008 €44.278M) with the following breakdown:

	€ '000	€ '000
Outstanding Grant Commitments at 1 January	<u>44,278</u>	<u>27,582</u>
Grants Approved during the year	9,242	30,903
Grants Decommitted during the year	0	(4,011)
Grant Payments made in the year	(12,433)	(10,196)
Outstanding Commitments at 31 December	<u>41,087</u>	<u>44,278</u>

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

	2009 €	2008 €
14 CAPITAL ACCOUNT		
At 1 January 2009		33,200,033
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account:		
Income Allocated for Capital purposes		
- Fixed Asset Additions	4,051,782	
- To Fund Future Additions	100,000	
- Repayment of Loans	236,343	
	<u>4,388,125</u>	
Less		
Disposals	417,595	
Less prior depreciation on disposals	(393,642)	
	<u>23,953</u>	
Depreciation charge for year	2,295,345	
Net Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account		2,068,827
At 31 December 2009		35,268,860

As at 31 December 2009, the Capital Account balance includes €256,570 (2008 €10,208,570) in respect of prepayments for fixed assets (see Note 19 - Debtors and Prepayments).

	€	€
15 INTEREST RECEIVED		
Bank deposit interest	<u>4,694</u>	<u>19,329</u>

	€	€
16 INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR CHARGES		
Bank Loans repayable by Instalments - Mortgage on Headquarters building	<u>136,671</u>	<u>138,622</u>

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 2009	39,144,564	25,114,204	2,314,741	2,987,177	7,668,757	1,059,685
Transfers	10,052,000	10,052,000	0	0	0	0
Purchases	4,051,782	2,243,814	358,529	380,938	872,280	196,221
Disposals	(417,595)	0	(2,390)	(22,261)	(188,696)	(204,248)
At 31 December 2009	<u>52,830,751</u>	<u>37,410,018</u>	<u>2,670,880</u>	<u>3,345,854</u>	<u>8,352,341</u>	<u>1,051,658</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2009	13,519,896	3,831,908	1,565,987	2,241,589	5,167,817	712,595
Charge for Year	2,295,345	750,237	208,602	427,647	756,336	152,523
On Disposals	(393,642)	0	(2,390)	(21,570)	(188,139)	(181,543)
At 31 December 2009	<u>15,421,599</u>	<u>4,582,145</u>	<u>1,772,199</u>	<u>2,647,666</u>	<u>5,736,014</u>	<u>683,575</u>
Net Book Value						
At 31 December 2009	<u>37,409,152</u>	<u>32,827,873</u>	<u>898,681</u>	<u>698,188</u>	<u>2,616,327</u>	<u>368,083</u>
At 31 December 2008	<u>25,624,668</u>	<u>21,282,296</u>	<u>748,754</u>	<u>745,588</u>	<u>2,500,940</u>	<u>347,090</u>

18 FIXED ASSETS (CONTINUED)

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. The EPA is in the process of finalising a long - term lease of this site from Teagasc. 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.

The EPA and Cork County Council shared a building at Inniscarra, Co Cork for a number of years. By agreement the EPA took possession of the entire building in 2008. The legal transfer of the premises is being handled by the respective legal advisers. 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

	2009	2008
	€	€
Debtors	2,562,637	3,135,682
ETU income - costs to recover from future sale of allowances (see Note 2 (b))	0	569,271
Prepayments for Fixed Assets	256,570	10,208,570
	<u><u>2,819,207</u></u>	<u><u>13,913,523</u></u>

Prepayments for Fixed Assets:

At 31 December 2009 prepayments totalling €256,570 (2008 €10,208,570) 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 2008 advance payments of €10,052,000 had been made to the OPW. Of this, €9,967,000 was in respect of refurbishment and an extension at the Agency's headquarters building at Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford and €85,000 was in respect of refurbishment works in the Regional Inspectorates at Monaghan and Kilkenny. Work on these projects was completed in 2009 and these payments have been transferred to Fixed Assets. A further €100,000 was paid to OPW in 2009 in respect of minor capital works in Regional Inspectorates.

Advance payments for other Fixed Assets:

An amount of €143,000 was paid to Mayo County Council in 2008 in respect of the conversion of attic space into office accommodation and other refurbishment work at the Regional Inspectorate in Castlebar.

An amount of €13,570 was been paid in 2008 in respect of an engineering feasibility study and preparation of outline designs for a proposed extension of the Richview Regional Inspectorate.

All debtors fall due within one year.

20 CASH ON HAND AND AT BANK

	2009	2008
	€	€
Cash and Bank Balances	<u><u>12,770,211</u></u>	<u><u>6,232,610</u></u>

The prepaid Licensing income (see Note 3) accounts for €7,902,676 of the Bank balances at the Balance Sheet date.

	2009	2008
	€	€
21 CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS		
(a) Amounts falling due within one year:		
Licence Fees (see Note 3)	7,902,676	5,081,017
Proceeds of sale of ETU Allowances to Fund future costs (see Note 2 (b))	1,005,600	0
Trade and Other Expenses	5,885,164	4,675,630
Instalments due on purchase of Fixed Assets	341,509	373,013
	<u>15,134,949</u>	<u>10,129,660</u>
(b) Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Instalments due on purchase of Fixed Assets	<u>2,055,353</u>	<u>2,260,192</u>
22 PENSION COSTS		
(a) Analysis of total pension costs charged to Expenditure	€	€
Current Service Cost	3,018,000	3,527,000
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	5,600,000	5,552,000
Employee Contributions Received	(908,252)	(819,153)
	<u>7,709,748</u>	<u>8,259,847</u>
(b) Movement in Net Pension Liability during the financial year	€	€
Net Pension Liability at 1 January	95,300,963	98,328,864
Current Service Cost	3,018,000	3,527,000
Interest Costs	5,600,000	5,552,000
Actuarial (Gain) / Loss	(9,940,000)	(10,278,000)
Pensions paid in the year	(2,991,403)	(1,828,901)
Net Pension Liability at 31 December	<u>90,987,560</u>	<u>95,300,963</u>
(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	8,618,000	9,079,000
State Grants applied to pay pensioners	(2,991,403)	(1,828,901)
	<u>5,626,597</u>	<u>7,250,099</u>

The deferred funding asset for pensions at 31 December 2009 amounted to €90.988 million (2008 €95.301 million).

22 PENSION COSTS (CONTINUED)**(d) History of defined benefit obligations**

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	€ '000	€ '000	€ '000	€ '000	€ '000
Defined benefit obligations	90,988	95,301	98,329	98,980	80,800
Experience Gains / (Losses) on Scheme Liabilities:					
Amount (€ '000)	6,267	(5,002)	(583)	(9,891)	(4,076)
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	6.9%	5.2%	0.6%	10.0%	5.0%

The cumulative actuarial loss recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses amounts to €4,741,000.

(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 19 March 2010 by a qualified independent actuary taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2009.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:

	2009	2008
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50%	3.50%
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	3.25%	3.50%
Discount rate	5.75%	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 2008, 2028 and 2048.

Year of attaining age 65	2008	2028	2048
Life expectancy - male	86.5	89.4	91.4
Life expectancy - female	88.2	90.5	92.3

23 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

A number of changes have been made to the presentation of items in the financial statements and the comparative figures have been restated where necessary on a basis consistent with the current year presentation. In particular, the outstanding Environmental Research grant commitments have been restated in the 2008 comparative figures at Note 13, following a comprehensive analysis and to take into account the decommitment of research funding from projects.

24 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.

25 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 23 November 2010.

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