

# epaNews

The newsletter of the Environmental Protection Agency

## Farm Waste Prevention - cost savings and environmental gains for farmers

A new booklet to help farmers cut costs and improve their environmental performance was launched at the Tydavnet Show, Co Monaghan, in August. The booklet, called *Farming the Environment How to protect the environment, prevent waste, save money*, is part of an ongoing project that Monaghan and Longford County Councils have been working on with farmers. Over the past two years they have identified opportunities for more efficient and value-for-money use of farm inputs, energy and water. The booklet brings together case studies and tips for preventing waste and making savings on energy and water costs.

The following are some of the savings demonstrated by farmers working with the two councils:

- A pig farmer is installing two 72,000 litre rainwater storage tanks at a cost of €110,000. Projected yearly savings are €37,000 meaning the system will pay for itself in 3 years and continue to deliver savings into the future.
- A dairy farmer changed delivery of feed from plastic bag to bulk delivery. There are savings of €35 per tonne to be made in changing from bag to bulk. On this occasion the farmer had no capital costs as silos were already in place. Total saving in the first year was €1,800 and 244kg of plastic bags. This saving is possible every year at no cost.

- A pig farmer with 600 sows is saving €776 annually on his farm's energy costs by changing to energy efficient lighting.
- A beef farmer with 88 acres was landfilling 100% of farm and farmhouse non-organic waste. Working with Longford County Council, he found he was able to recycle over 80% of this waste. Waste collection charges dropped from €250 to €60 per year, a 76% cost reduction.

The booklet also provides advice to farmers on how to manage hazardous waste such as batteries, oils and fluorescent tubes, but also farm-specific wastes such as chemical containers, veterinary waste, pesticides and fertilisers.

The booklet is available at [www.lapd.ie](http://www.lapd.ie).

This project forms part of the **Local Authority Prevention Demonstration (LAPD) Programme**, funded by the EPA's **National Waste Prevention Programme**. Monaghan and Longford County Councils are participants in the LAPD Programme. The booklet was prepared by a working group made up of Nial O'Connor (Monaghan County Council), Garry Brady (Longford County Council), James Hogan (Clean

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## Director General's Statement



There is now a heightened global awareness of the fact that we are living in a world that is experiencing climate change. The time for action is short if

we are to avoid the potentially calamitous impacts that climate change might bring about. Clearly, the benefits of strong and early action far outweigh the economic costs of not acting.

While it is not possible to attribute any single incident to climate change, the increased frequency of recent flood events is fully consistent with the predictions that have already been made by Irish scientists, for the future we face. The EPA funded research report *Implications of the EU Climate Protection Target for Ireland* predicted that a global temperature rise of up to 2° Celsius would result in the “increased likelihood and magnitude of river and coastal flooding” and have a “negative impact on water quality”. The findings also showed that these changes will increase over the coming 10-20 years.

Ireland needs to play its part in mitigating and adapting to climate change and urgent actions are needed to reduce the worst effects of unavoidable climate change in the coming decades. Climate change impacts and adaptation are a key thematic working area for the EPA's climate change research programme.

We are developing our understanding in order to better inform our response to the various challenges of the climate.

In order to raise awareness of these issues and the reality of climate change, and to inform the public of the latest information from top climate change experts in the world, the EPA recently held a series of lectures on climate change.

These lectures generated an unprecedented response from the public with over 450 attendees at each lecture. The Q&A sessions proved that there was wide ranging interest, knowledge and a wide spectrum of concern, amongst the general public.

I am delighted therefore to be able to offer continued access to these lectures via video broadcasts on our website. This will ensure that the messages and knowledge from the world's experts on climate change can reach the widest audience. The video broadcasts serve as an excellent record of the lecture series and will be of great interest to those who were unable to attend. They will provide valuable teaching material for schools and any organization or individual interested in finding out more about the key facts from science; about the potential impacts as well as the solutions and actions required.

The seven-part lecture series explored key aspects of climate change ranging from predictions and impacts, to its economic and political consequences.

An impressive group of international speakers presented a comprehensive assessment of the facts, challenges and opportunities arising from a changing global climate. The time for action is now and we need to mobilise everybody to the task if we are to be successful. Clear, accurate and timely information is vital in raising awareness among the public, the politicians and among key policy and decision makers in the country.

We feel that making this series of lectures available on the internet will be a valuable step towards raising awareness about this important topic.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the guest speakers who each gave willingly of their knowledge and time to engage with the Irish public. I would also like to thank Dr John Bowman, for his expert chairmanship of this lecture series. His skill in facilitating discussion after each lecture has been invaluable.

To facilitate ongoing awareness raising and to keep us all up to date with the most recent findings from climate change research, the EPA hopes to hold similar occasional lectures on a regular basis. Details for the first of these lectures held on 21st October 2008, is available on page three.

Mary Kelly

The video broadcasts of this lecture series can now be viewed on the EPA website at:

<http://www.epa.ie>.

Details of each of these lectures are available on page three.

## Climate Change Lecture – 21st October 2008.

The EPA, in response to the large number of requests for more lectures following the earlier series hosted another Climate Change lecture, on Tuesday, 21st October 2008, at the Mansion House, Dublin at 7.00 pm.

The speaker was Dr Wilfried Haeberli, Director of the World Glacier Monitoring Service, which is based in Geneva. He spoke about recent trends in global glacier changes.

Dr Wilfried Haeberli outlined the findings from the recently published UNEP report on Global Glacier Changes: Facts and Figures. This report presents information on the latest fluctuations of glaciers and ice caps and underlies the overall trend of glacial retreat. The report confirms that the average annual melting rate of glaciers appears to have doubled after the turn of the millennium with record losses in 2006 for a key network of reference sites. Dr Haeberli outlined the significance of recent trends in ice retreat in terms of impacts on the environment, human health, natural hazards, water and energy supply.

## Details of previous lecture series

### NO 1: The Science of Climate Change – Facing the Facts

#### Speaker:

Dr Martin Manning, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, USA, Director of the Working Group I Support Unit for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Dr Manning gave an overview of the key findings from the latest IPCC review of the science which showed what changes are occurring, explained what drives climate change and looked at indications for the future.

### NO 2: Time for Action? – Options to Address Climate Change

#### Speaker:

Dr Bert Metz, Environmental Assessment Agency, the Netherlands and Co-chair IPCC Working Group 3.

This lecture outlined the range of actions that are available to address climate change across the economic sectors and presented macro economic cost estimates for the coming decades. Dr Metz gave an overview of the adaptation planning challenges and pointed out where there could be co-benefits. He emphasised the need to clear policies to manage adaptation and mitigation.

### NO 3: Meltdown? – Evidence of Climate Change from Polar Science

#### Speaker:

Dr Eric Wolff, British Antarctic Survey, UK.

Dr Wolff's presentation discusses both the history of Earth's climate as revealed by ice cores, and the likely impact of future climate changes on the polar regions.

### No 4: A World Transformed – The Consequences of Climate Change and Human Land Use

#### Speaker:

Professor Wolfgang Lucht, Potsdam Institute, Germany.

Dr Lucht's presentation explains how climate change, if left unchecked, will cause large-scale changes in vegetation across the globe. He advises how continued expansion and industrialisation of agriculture will cause further deep transformations of landscapes with profound consequences for ecosystems and human cultures.

### NO 5: Technological Solutions: Grey Clouds and Silver Linings

#### Speaker:

Dr Leonard Bernstein, L.S. Bernstein & Associates, member of core writing team for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Synthesis Report and convening author of Working Group 3. Bernstein's presentation explains how full use of currently available technology, and the technologies expected to be commercialized in the next few decades, could achieve the required reductions in GHG emissions.

### NO 6: Gain V Pain – Political and Economic Consequences and Options

#### Speaker:

Mr Michael Zammit Cutajar, Malta's Ambassador for Climate Change, former Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, (Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations).

Mr Zammit Cutajar addresses the reasons why it is necessary to have a coherent, globally agreed policy and programme to deal with the challenges of climate change and gives some insights into how such agreements are achieved and why it is that they can succeed or fail.

### NO 7: Our Own Backyard – Ireland's Response to Climate Change Challenges and Opportunities

#### Speaker:

Mr John Gormley, TD, Minister for Environment Heritage and Local Government.

The Minister outlined the key issues for Ireland in order to respond effectively to the challenges of climate change. He unveiled the government's climate change awareness campaign. This major campaign aims at informing the public about the importance of climate change and mobilising public support for emissions reductions.





## Changes to EPA board

*Dr Padraic Larkin, Deputy Director General and Director of the EPA's Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use retired in April 2008.*

*Padraic Larkin started his career in the private sector and moved to An Foras Forbartha to establish the Regional Water Laboratory in Castlebar. He joined the Environmental Protection Agency when it was first established in 1993, as Programme Manager of the Licensing and Control Division where he played a major role in establishing an Integrated Pollution Control licensing system for Ireland. This brought about a sea-change in the environmental regulation of industrial activities in Ireland with several hundred activities licensed by the EPA in this start-up period. In 1998 Padraic was appointed as a Director of the EPA and also served as Deputy Director General since 2004.*

*He served as Director of the Environmental Monitoring and Laboratory Services Division from 1998 to 2003. During this period he was responsible, among other things, for overseeing major developments in environmental research in Ireland. This laid the foundations for the vibrant and productive environmental research scene that we now have in Ireland.*

*In 2003, he was appointed Director of the Office of Licensing and Guidance following a re-structuring of the EPA, where he was responsible for bringing all of the EPA licensing systems under the one umbrella and guiding the establishment of the National Waste Prevention Programme. In 2007, new climate change and resource use units were formed under Padraic's leadership and the Office became the Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use reflecting the increased emphasis now being placed on climate change and more sustainable use of natural resources. In this role, Padraic was very dedicated to increasing the understanding and raising the profile of climate change issues in Ireland.*

*Throughout his career Padraic was well respected as an expert in his field, working tirelessly on environmental protection issues.*

*I'm sure all our readers who have come across Padraic in a personal or professional capacity will be delighted to join the staff of the EPA in wishing Padraic well in his retirement.*



*Padraic Larkin*



*Laura Burke,  
Office Of  
Climate Licensing  
And Resource Use*



*Micheál O'Cinnéide  
Office Of  
Communications  
And Corporate  
Services*



*Larry Stapleton,  
Office Of  
Environmental  
Assessment*



*Dara Lynott,  
Office Of  
Environmental  
Enforcement*

### **Padraic's retirement has triggered some further changes to the Board of the EPA.**

*Ms Laura Burke, Previously the Director of the EPA's Office of Communications and Corporate Services, took over the position as Director of the Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource use in August. Laura holds a degree in Chemical Engineering and worked in the private sector, before joining the EPA in September 2004.*

*Mr Micheál O' Cinnéide joined the EPA as Director of Communications and Corporate Services in August 2008, following a competitive public interview. Micheál previously worked with the Marine Institute as Director of Marine Environment and Food Safety Services.*

*Mr Larry Stapleton will continue as Director of the Office of Environmental Assessment and has also been appointed as Deputy Director General of the Agency. Mr Dara Lynott will continue in his role as Director of the Office of Environmental Enforcement.*

*The Board of the Agency, under the Director General, Dr Mary Kelly, look forward to continuing to fulfil its priority objective and mission, which is to protect and improve Ireland's environment for present and future generations.*

## Green Home Programme

An Taisce, in partnership with the EPA, officially launched the *Green Home* programme in May 2008.

At the launch Mr. John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, awarded the participating communities with the *Green Home* flag, in acknowledgement of their efforts to improve environmental actions within the home.

The aim of the *Green Home* programme is to raise environmental awareness and support positive and sustainable environmental actions amongst householders and community groups. Through participation in this programme communities are being strengthened as they work together to protect their environment.

The programme focuses on waste reduction, energy efficiency in the home, water conservation and the promotion of sustainable travel. Householders receive information and advice throughout the programme to help them make informed decisions and take various actions that will help the environment, while also reducing costs in the home. The *Green Home* programme, which builds on the very successful Green Schools programme, has been run on a pilot basis since November 2006. To date, almost 2,500 families in seventeen different communities throughout Ireland have been given the opportunity to participate.

The *Green Home* programme aims to support and advise householders on ways to reduce their impact on the environment, while saving

money on household bills. Continuous monitoring of the programme through the use of surveys has shown a positive shift in environmental behaviour amongst participating householders.

Participants were surveyed in 2006, at the beginning of the programme, and again in 2008. The purpose of the survey was to analyse any change in their environmental behaviour and attitudes on completion of the programme. Some results from the surveys, which show an overall improvement are:

### Energy Efficiency:

- Only 10% of respondents in 2006 stated that they “always” turn off electrical equipment fully without leaving them on standby. In 2008, this had increased to 59%.

- The number of respondents to ‘always’ use energy-saving bulbs jumped from 37% in 2006 to 55% in 2008.

### Waste reduction:

- The number of participants who ‘always’ deal with biodegradable waste by composting or running a wormery, has risen from 30% in 2006 to 35% in 2008.

- In 2008, 7% more respondents were recycling paper, plastic, and cardboard than in 2006.

### Water conservation:

- In 2006, 78% of respondents stated that they ‘always’ fix leaking taps quickly. Having completed the *Green Home* programme, 88% of respondents stated that they “always” take this action.

### Sustainable transport:

- In 2006, 29% of respondents stated that they ‘always’ buy cars that are more fuel efficient. This rose to 47% in 2008.

According to the 2008 survey, 59% of respondents felt that participating in the *Green Home* programme raised their awareness on environmental topics either “quite a lot” or “greatly”.

The next phase of the *Green Home* Programme, which began in September, will involve working with 40 new school areas.

Challenges will be set for participating householders over a two-year period, with 10 community areas being targeted. For further information or to join the *Green Home* programme visit [www.greenhome.ie](http://www.greenhome.ie) or contact the *Green Home* Team on [teachgreen2@antaisce.org](mailto:teachgreen2@antaisce.org)



# STRIVE

Environmental Protection Agency Research  
Programme 2007 - 2013



## EPA Strive News

*The Science, Technology, Research and Innovation for the Environment (STRIVE) programme*

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE EPA STRIVE PROGRAMME

#### • October 2007 Calls

Following the call in October 2007, there were 30 successful proposals, corresponding to a budget commitment of circa € 11m, with:

- 8 projects in Waste & Resource Management,
- 9 projects in Environmental Technologies,
- 9 projects in Environment & Health, and
- 4 projects in Sustainable Development and Environmental Socio-Economics.

#### • Masters, Doctoral Scholarships & Research Fellowships Schemes 2008

In February, the 2008 Masters & Doctoral Scholarships and Research Fellowships Schemes were announced, resulting in 12 Masters, 16 PhDs and 7 Fellowships being recently offered. This corresponds to a total budget committed of € 4m.

More information on successful submissions can be found on the EPA website

([www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/funding/](http://www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/funding/)).

#### • Climate Change Research Programme 2008

The Climate Change Research Programme (CCRP) announced a call for Fellowships in March and a call for project proposals in May 2008. These calls were confined to priority topics under the themes: Greenhouse gas emissions, Sinks and mitigation;

Socio-economics and Transboundary air pollution. 35 applications were received. Evaluations of the proposals are almost complete and announcements of awards will be made soon. More information on CCRP can be found on the EPA website

([www.epa.ie/whatwedo/climate/climatechangeresearch/](http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/climate/climatechangeresearch/)).

#### • Future Calls in 2008

There will be calls later this year for research proposals in the areas of Land-Use, Biodiversity, and Climate Change. These will be advertised on the EPA website in November. ([www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/funding/current/](http://www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/funding/current/)).

## CLEANER GREENER PRODUCTION PHASE-4

The Cleaner Greener Production Programme (CGPP) encourages Irish business and organisations to implement cleaner greener practices. To date the EPA has committed €3.7m to 59 organisations that have received part funding for demonstration projects under this programme over 3 Phases. The long-term aim is to ensure that cleaner greener production and eco-efficiency become the established norm in Ireland. The EPA hope that other businesses will learn from and build on past success stories and that will work towards CGPP's tagline objective: "Better Business in a Better Ireland".

The CGPP-2 Summary brochure, available on the EPA website (<http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/tech/>) reports on the projects carried out under Phase 2 of the programme. More information on CGPP can be found on the EPA website ([www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/cgpp/](http://www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/cgpp/)). Phase 4 was announced in March 2008. Following the review of the 146 Expressions of Interest received, 89 applicants were invited to submit a full application. A total of 63 proposals were received in late June 2008 and are currently being evaluated. Awards are expected to be made in the first quarter of 2009.





# STRIVE

## Environmental Protection Agency Research Programme 2007 - 2013



### EPA STRIVE EVENTS

• *Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) –Environment National Information Day – 22nd September 2008*

The EPA held a FP7-Environment & Energy National Information Day on the 22nd September 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Dublin Hotel. This event was an informative session to promote the publication of the FP7 Environment & Energy Work Programmes 2009. It facilitated networking and increased cooperation between European research teams. There were presentations from other Irish & European National Contact Points.

The second FP7-Environment call was published on the 30th November 2007 and closed on the 25th February 2008, with an indicative budget of € 212m. Proposals have now been evaluated and applicants notified of the outcome of their submission. Proposals retained for funding, including 5 with Irish participation, will be entering a negotiation phase with the Commission.

A further call was published on the 3rd September 2008 with a closing date in January 2009. Further information on FP7 is available on the EPA website ([www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/funding/fp7/](http://www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/funding/fp7/)) and FP7 Ireland website ([www.fp7Ireland.com](http://www.fp7Ireland.com))

• *Scholarships & Fellowships Seminar 2008 – 13th-14th November 2008*

The EPA will hold the annual Scholarships & Fellowships Seminar on the 13th & 14th November 2008 at the Royal Dublin Society in Dublin, as part of the Irish Science Open Forum 2008. PhD & Masters students and Research Fellows funded through the EPA (ERTDI & STRIVE) Doctoral & Masters Scholarship and Fellowship Programmes will be presenting their research. More information and registration forms are available on the EPA website ([www.epa.ie/news/events/research/](http://www.epa.ie/news/events/research/)). For general enquiries, please contact: [epa@helixireland.com](mailto:epa@helixireland.com).

#### • *Climate Change Research Programme events*

The Climate Change Research Programme hosted three workshops in the first half of 2008, focussed on essential capability and technology requirements in the following areas:

- Modelling for sustainable emissions management,
- Scenario analysis and data for Adaptation planning, and
- Climate observation systems.

These workshops reviewed the current state of knowledge, identified knowledge gaps and barriers, listed research priorities as well as highlighting areas where investment is required to build capability and improve facilities for climate observation, impact assessment and adaptation planning.

The Climate Change Research Programme also hosted the EPA seven part lecture series on climate change, which concluded in April. Video broadcasts of the seven lectures are available on the EPA website at

### RESEARCH RESOURCES

The following websites provide additional environmental research resources of interest for researchers:

- ERC Environmental Research Data Archive website: <http://erc.epa.ie/safer/>
- National Soil Database Archive website: <http://erc.epa.ie/nsdb/>
- Cleaner Greener Production Programme website: [www.cleanerproduction.ie](http://www.cleanerproduction.ie)
- FP7 website: [www.fp7Ireland.com](http://www.fp7Ireland.com)

Also, 20 reports have been published by the EPA in the first 6 months of 2008. More information on the EPA research publications can be found on the EPA website ([www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/](http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/)).

### STRIVE FEATURES

#### *Developing Environmental Research Potential (DERP) Scheme*

The DERP Scheme is intended to enable outstanding early career researchers develop into team leaders of international standing and to prove their ability as independent principal investigators. Awards under the DERP scheme are of five years duration.

# STRIVE

## Environmental Protection Agency Research Programme 2007 - 2013



In 2007, the first 3 DERP projects were awarded.

- Dr Brian Quinn, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, has received funding to discover the extent of the presence of pharmaceutical drugs and endocrine disrupting compounds in Irish waters, both freshwater and marine, and to develop biomarkers that can indicate the presence of specific harmful compounds.
- Dr Ioannis Dokas, University College Cork, has been awarded a grant to develop a computer-based system to monitor water treatment plants, be capable of alerting decision makers when there is a problem developing, and to provide them with information to deal with the problem.
- Dr Ber Alcock, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, aims to develop three sensors to detect the presence of nitrates, heavy metals and PPCPs (pharmaceutical and personal care products), and, thereby, to facilitate remediation efforts where required.

### Launch of new projects

Following the STRIVE calls for research proposals in June and October 2007, the EPA has awarded four new capability development projects.

- The HYDROFOR project, co-funded with COFORD, is led by Drs. Michael Bruen and Mary Kelly-Quinn in University College Dublin. This project aims at developing modelling tools to predict future impacts of forestry on hydro-ecology and at designing control measures (budget: € 2m).
- The Pathways project is led by Dr. Ray Flynn in Queen's University Belfast. This research will improve our understanding of the pathways transporting particulate and dissolved constituents and provide a more scientifically sound basis for focusing resources in River Basin Districts to achieve good Water Framework Directive status in a cost-effective manner (budget: € 2m).
- The IRLSOIL 250 project, co-funded with Teagasc, is led by Dr Rogier Schulte in Teagasc. This project will address the serious data deficit in the soils thematic area through the application of modern digital soil mapping techniques deployed in tandem with traditional field survey techniques (budget: € 4.8m).
- The SIMBIOSYS project ([www.simbiosys.ie](http://www.simbiosys.ie)) is led by Dr Jane Stout in Trinity College Dublin. This project will quantify impacts of key sectoral activities (in particular: cultivation of bioenergy crops, road landscaping and aquaculture) on genetic, species and landscape biodiversity and the ecosystem services they provide, including pollination, biological pest control, carbon sequestration and resistance to alien species invasion (budget: € 1.6m).

### INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

#### SKEP

The EPA is participating in the SKEP ERA-NET (Scientific Knowledge for Environmental Protection), which is a partnership of 17 government ministries and agencies, from 13 European countries, responsible for funding environmental research. The SKEP network aims to facilitate the improvement of science into policy processes, and to support evidence-led modern regulation.

The objectives include:

- delivering better value for money for our research;
- encouraging innovation through more efficient use of research funding and
- the improvement of environmental protection capability by setting down foundations for co-ordinating research programmes.

The third joint call is due to be launched on 1st January 2009 and may be of interest to Irish researchers. The topics are currently being discussed within the SKEP Network. For more information, please consult the SKEP website [www.skep-era.net/](http://www.skep-era.net/) or contact Shane Colgan [s.colgan@epa.ie](mailto:s.colgan@epa.ie).



## National Water Conference

*The EPA National Water Conference was held in Galway on the 11th and 12th of June and was attended by 315 delegates. The conference, directed primarily at local authorities and other agencies involved in water protection and management, covered a wide range of water issues focusing on ways of improving our drinking water and protecting it from the catchment to the consumer.*

*Opening the Conference, Mr. Michael Kitt TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, spoke of the range of measures being taken to ensure that drinking water quality in Ireland meets National and EU standards. The Minister said that substantial capital investment for necessary infrastructure, along with a stricter regulatory framework, are key aspects of the overall strategy. He added that new and more comprehensive powers given to the EPA now allow the Agency to look at all aspects of supply from source to tap, including reviewing historical failures to meet E. coli or other standards.*

*Professor Jeni Colbourne, the Chief Inspector of the Drinking Water Inspectorate for England and Wales spoke about her experience enforcing drinking water legislation in the UK.*

*Mr Alec Fleming, Clare County Manager, outlined the challenges of water protection and supply by local authorities and focused on the need for practical and effective plans based on risk assessment.*

*Dr. Kevin Kelleher, Assistant National Director of Population Health from the Health Service Executive spoke about the HSE's role in drinking water and incident management.*

*Local authority personnel provided details of initiatives and examples of best practice in their local authorities in relation to source protection, the implementation of the drinking water regulations and new approaches to the management of drinking water.*

*Information was provided on the recently launched hydrometric network website and the source water protection project for group water schemes in Monaghan.*

*The performance of local authority urban waste water treatment plants against the regulations was outlined and the many issues that need to be addressed by local authorities in this area. In the agriculture and water quality session, the implementation of cross compliance, the nitrate regulations and the impacts on rivers of unrestricted cattle access was presented and debated.*

*The final session included presentations on the new water quality data reporting system (EDEN), guidance on the restrictions on landspreading close to abstraction points and the guidelines on river basin planning as developed by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for public bodies.*

*Field trips to the Galway City Council drinking water treatment plant were organised as part of the conference, which were very informative.*

*Presentations from the conference are available to download from the EPA website at <http://www.epa.ie/news/events/old/>*



*Pictured speaking at the conference were: Mr Patrick Kilfeather (Southern Fisheries Board) Mr Ray Spain (South Eastern Regional Fisheries Board) and Mr Martin McGarrigle (EPA).*

## GMO consents issued since April 2008.

**Professor Helen Roche,**  
UCD School of Public Health and Population Science, UCD Conway Institute, Belfield, Dublin 4.

**Professor Paul Moynagh,**  
Department of Biology, BioSciences Building, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

**Dr Sean Doyle,**  
Department of Biology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (GMO Register 288)

**Professor Stephen Gordon,**  
Veterinary Sciences Centre, School of Agriculture, Food Sciences & Veterinary Medicine, College of Life Sciences, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4 (GMO Register 289)

**Dr Eilis Dowd,**  
Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, Distillery Road, National University of Ireland, Galway. (GMO Register 290)

**Dr Ronan Murphy,**  
Integrin & Actin Biology Group, School of Health & Human Performance, Dublin City University, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 (GMO Register 291)

## IPPC Licences issued since April 2008

### Cement waste

Irish Cement Ltd  
Platin Works, Platin  
Drogheda Co Louth  
P003003

Lagan Cement Ltd  
Killaskillen, Kennegad  
Co. Meath  
P0487-0

### Food & Drink

Nutricia Infant Nutrition Limited  
Castlevew Macroom  
Co. Cork  
PO792-01

Wexford Creamery Limited  
Rocklands Wexford.  
PO794-01

Tipperary Co-Operative Creamery  
Limited  
Station Road  
Co- Tipperary  
PO801-01

Shannonside Milk Products Limited  
Dublin Road Ballaghaderreen  
Co Roscommon  
PO802-01

Arrow Group  
The Maudlins Industrial Estate  
Naas Co Kildare  
PO812-01

Dunbia Ireland  
Clara Road Kilbeggan  
Co. Westmeath  
PO820-01

Cooley Distillery PLC  
Castletowncooley  
Rivertown Dundalk  
Co Louth  
PO826-01

M D O' Connor Sons & Co Ltd  
T/A Cappoquin Chickens  
Lefanta Cappoquin  
Co Waterford  
PO834-01

Cont'd on page 11....

## EPA HydroNet

*The EPA was pleased to announce the launch of the EPA HydroNet website in June. The site provides easy access to summary hydrometric data at local authority hydrometric stations throughout the country that has been collected and processed by the EPA. The site contains information from over 200 locations on rivers and lakes around the Republic of Ireland that are grouped on a River Basin District basis.*

*The accessible information includes maps, lists, time series graphs of water level and flow and downloadable files. A range of hydrometric data types are available, including water levels, flows and summary statistics.*

*Introductory pages provide the user with explanations on how to use the site, describes the methodology used in the collection and processing of water level data and the factors affecting the estimation of flow data. The various types of data available to the user are instantaneous water level and flow data collected at 15 minute intervals for the past three months and daily mean values of water level and flow for the past year and also for the entire period of record for each station.*

*The site also includes several stations on telemetry that provide data up to 5:00am each morning. These stations include the two Cork County Council flood-warning stations for Mallow at Dromcummer and Duarrigle.*



*This site will be of particular interest for those who need to know about the flows and water levels in Ireland's rivers and lakes, for planning or water resources investigations and for anyone with a general interest in such matters.*

*EPA HydroNet is an important improvement in the accessibility of hydrometric data from the local authority hydrometric network to the general public.*

*Protecting the aquatic environment from pollution, planning new water supplies and leisure facilities, and many other aspects of economic and daily life are critically dependant on the availability of such information.*

*If you have any enquiries or comments concerning the use of the site or the data provided, please contact Micheál MacCárthaigh or Rebecca Quinn, Hydrometric and Groundwater Section, EPA, McCumiskey House, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14.*

*Phone: 01- 2680138 / 2680136 or email [m.maccarthaigh@epa.ie](mailto:m.maccarthaigh@epa.ie) and [r.quinn@epa.ie](mailto:r.quinn@epa.ie)*

## EPA Completes Ireland's Second National Allocation Plan under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme

The Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is one of the key policies being used by the EU to tackle emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The scheme began on 1 January 2005, with the first phase from 2005-2007 and the second phase from 2008-2012 to coincide with the first Kyoto commitment period. It is the largest "cap and trade" scheme in the world covering 27 EU States and around 12,000 installations. The ETS provides an assurance that, within the European wide allocation cap, emission reductions can be made in the most economic way possible.

The NAP defines the basis on which allocations of free greenhouse gas emission allowances are made to individual installations covered by the Emissions Trading Scheme. Some 100 of Ireland's largest emitters are covered, representing about one third of our national GHG emissions.

On March 4th this year, the EPA took the Final Allocation Decision on Ireland's second National Allocation Plan (NAP2) covering the 2008-2012 period. This completed a complex and lengthy process which began two years ago with a Government Decision on the number of allowances to be divided between the installations covered by the scheme. The first public consultation on the draft plan took place in May/June 2006 following which the draft was submitted to the EU Commission in July 2006.

The EU Commission issued their approvals in November 2006 and July 2007, subject to certain changes which resulted in revised Government Directions being issued to the EPA. All of these changes were incorporated into

an updated plan which was then made available to participants and the public for a second public consultation. The final text was approved by the EU Commission in February 2008 and by the EPA Board in March. The allocations are now final and will be issued to the installations on an annual basis over the next five years.

Under the NAP2 the total quantity of allowances to be allocated in the period 2008-2012 represents around 87% of projected emissions for the period, with the burden falling mostly on the power generation and cement sectors. New entrants to the scheme in the five-year period are catered for through a specific set aside of allowances.

The final text of the National Allocation Plan 2008 – 2012 can be found on the EPA's web site at: <http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/climate/etscheme/naps/>

In order to function correctly, the ETS depends on the creation of a scarcity of allowances which insures a corresponding market price. The National Allocation Plans for each Member State in the Pilot Phase of the ETS (2005-2008) failed to create this scarcity, and the price dropped close to zero. However, thanks to the information produced by the pilot phase, the EU Commission was able to reduce the caps in the National Allocation Plans for the 2008-2012 period which will ensure sufficient scarcity for the scheme to result in meaningful emission reductions. The current price for European Allowances for the 2008-2012 period has risen to reflect this and now stands around €25/tCO<sub>2</sub>, resulting in close to €2.5 billion worth of allowances being distributed by EPA!

Cont'd on page 12....

## IPPC Licences issued Cont'd

Duffy Meats Ltd  
T/A Kerry Foods  
Coolatin Shillelagh  
Co Wicklow  
P0804-01

### Surface Coatings

ALZA Ireland Limited  
Cahir Road Cashel  
Co. Tipperary  
P0645-02

Castle Paints  
Cloncollig Industrial Estate  
Church Road Tullamore  
Co Offaly  
P0833-01

ALPS Electric,  
Clara Road Millstreet  
Co Cork  
P0835-01

Suretank Limited  
Shamrock Hill  
Dunleer Co Cork  
P0836-01

### Energy

Aughinish Alumina Ltd  
Aughinish East, Aughinish West  
Island Mac Teige, Glenbane West  
& Fawnamore Askeaton  
Co. Limerick  
P0035-04

### Other activities

Vitra (Ire) Ltd  
IDA Business Park  
Ballynattin Arklow  
Co Wicklow  
P0823-01

### Intensive Agriculture

Mr Wesley Moffett  
Ballintoppen  
Smithborough Co Monaghan  
P0841-01



## Waste Licences issued since April 2008

### Integrated Waste Management Facility

Rilta Environmental Ltd  
Block 402 Grant's Drive  
Greenogue Business Park  
Rathcoole Co Dublin  
W0192-02

Tonge Industries Ltd  
Unit 7 First Avenue  
Cookstown Ind Est  
Tallaght Dublin 24  
W0239-01

### Materials Recovers Facility

Dublin City Council  
Merrywell Ind Est Ballymount Rd Lwr  
Ballymount Dublin 22  
WQ0238-01

### Hazardous Waste

KMK Metals Recycling Ltd  
Cappincur Ind. Est  
Daingean Road  
Tullamore Co Offaly  
W0113-03

Ormond Organics Ltd  
Unit 643 Greenogue Ind Est  
Rathcoole Co Dublin  
W0237-01

### Landfill

Murphy Concrete Manufacturing Ltd  
Hollywood Great Nags Head  
The Naul Co Dublin  
W0129-02

The EPA was assigned responsibility for the implementation of the Scheme in Ireland and is responsible for drawing up Ireland's National Allocation Plan (NAP) for each trading period, advised by the National Allocation Advisory Group\*.

\*The National Allocation Advisory Group comprises the Chief Executives (or their senior nominees) of the Commission for Energy Regulation, Forfas, the National Treasury Management Agency and Sustainable Energy Ireland, together with the Director General of the EPA, under the chairmanship of Dr Edward Walsh, Emeritus President of the University of Limerick.



- The total allocation of allowances is set at an average of 22.281 million allowances per annum for the five years 2008 – 2012;
- Over 90 per cent of these allowances will be allocated free of charge to existing installations
- Allocations will be made based on historical emissions from existing participants;
- Almost 9 per cent of the available allowances will be held back by the EPA for issue to new entrants;
- Allocations adjusted for increased use of renewables in electricity production; Combined Heat and Power (CHP) to receive special treatment;
- Where companies close during the Kyoto phase, the EPA will withhold the issue of allowances for future years to these companies (except for rationalisations between smaller companies under the same operator where special transfer arrangements will apply). Allowances retained in this way will be added to the new entrant set aside;
- 0.5 per cent (around 500,000) allowances are to be auctioned or sold to defray the expenses of administering the emissions trading scheme;
- Certain smaller installations will be excluded from the scheme under a new de-minimis threshold;
- The total amount of additional linking credits from the Kyoto Protocol project mechanisms that can be used by operators in the scheme for the period 2008 – 2012 has been set at 11% of the allocation to each installation in the Powergen Sector, 11% in the Cement Sector and 5% in the General Sector.

## Local Authority Prevention Conference

*The Local Authority Prevention Conference, which was held last February, was an opportunity for city and county councils involved in the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme (LAPD) to showcase their work and to detail the financial and environmental benefits of prevention in waste and resource use.*

*The conference was attended by approximately 100 local authority staff and councillors. A training session with a difference was provided by the Improvise, who showed the need to adopt new ways of working to achieve waste prevention.*

*A total of 14 local authorities have taken on the prevention challenge and are receiving financial and technical support from the LAPD Programme.*

*Each of these displayed their work, detailing the various sectors that they are working with to promote efficiency and prevent waste of resources.*

*Mr. Tony Killeen T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government met with each local authority before he officially opened the conference. Three of the most advanced projects gave presentations on aspects of their projects.*

*Following a waste audit in one local hospital, Niall O'Connon, Monaghan County Council, found that addressing inefficiencies made savings of €16,000 in waste charges. Action areas included reducing the number of unnecessary bins and bin lifts around the hospital and improving the communication between wards and kitchens to avoid meals being prepared, cooked, chilled, heated, served and binned every day while patients were away from the hospital for scheduled appointments.*

*In the first year of a project looking at paper use in the Limerick County Hall, the LAPD team achieved savings of 13% in the 3,000,000 sheets of paper they were using every year. In her presentation, Pauline*

*McDonagh detailed the audit results which showed that each employee was responsible for 8,000 sheets of paper. She also reported on the prevention actions that lead to a reduction of 1040 sheets per person and further reductions are aimed for 2008.*

*While working with a hotel in County Galway, Sinéad Ní Mhainnín detailed her audit results and benchmarks for other European Hotels that showed great room for improvement in waste generation and water and energy use. Although savings were identified through the audits, the savings would never be realised unless prevention action plans were fully implemented. This emphasised the need for Management commitment and ownership of the process, awareness raising, and training for staff. This theme was echoed in the all of the presentations, prevention is achievable but motivating people and committing them to change is the first stumbling block.*

*International perspectives were also highlighted via expert overseas speakers in the field of prevention. Fabrizio Tollari of the Emilia-Romagna Region in Italy presented the prevention projects underway in clusters of various industries. Johannes Fresner presented the ECOPROFIT programme, which is a preventive approach to Environmental Management for small and medium sized industries that have been in operation in Austria since the 1990's.*

*The preventive strategy works with businesses to minimize the impact of production and products on the environment by stressing the need for good housekeeping with materials and energy, substitution of raw and auxiliary materials, process modification, reuse and recycling and continuous exchange of experiences through a club for businesses that have been through the programme. Savings companies made were startling and inspiring such as a metal manufacturing company that saved 33% in electricity use after the first year!*

*Prevention can limit and avoid growth in waste volumes and resource use.*

*The photos, presentations and posters from the event can be viewed on [www.lapd.ie](http://www.lapd.ie) and the project website <http://www.ctc-cork.ie/lapd/>*



*Speakers from morning session: Dr Gerry Byrne, Programme Manager; Dr Mary Kelly, Director General; Mr. Tony Killeen T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government; and Dr Padraic Larkin, Director, EPA*

## The Quality of Ireland's Bathing Waters

The quality of Ireland's bathing waters remained good for the 2007 bathing season according to the EPA report entitled *The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland – A Report for the Year 2007*. While compliance with the minimum EU mandatory bathing water standards remained the same as in 2006, there was a decrease in the number of bathing areas complying with the stricter EU guide values.

A total of 131 designated bathing areas, comprising 122 seawater and 9 freshwater, were monitored throughout the 2007 bathing season. The results of samples analysed were assessed for compliance with two sets of bathing water standards as specified in the EU Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC):

1. Minimum quality standards (EU Mandatory values) and
2. The more stringent quality targets (EU Guide values).

Results for the 2007 bathing season show that the quality of bathing water remained good with 97 per cent of bathing areas (127 of 131 areas) complying with the mandatory standards, which was the same as 2006. The bathing areas that failed to comply with the minimum EU mandatory standards were: Balbriggan (Dublin Fingal), Clifden (Galway), Youghal (Cork) and Na Forbacha (Galway). Balbriggan failed to meet the EU mandatory standard for both total and faecal coliforms while Clifden, Youghal and Na Forbacha failed to meet the standard for faecal coliforms.

Clifden has failed to meet the mandatory standards for three of the past five years, while Balbriggan has failed to meet the mandatory standard for four of the past five years.

80 per cent of bathing areas (105 of 131 areas) complied with the much stricter EU guide standards. There was a 10 per cent decrease in guide compliance from 90 per cent in 2006 to 80 per cent in 2007 which was due, in general, to the higher than usual rainfall that occurred during the 2007 bathing season.

All of the designated bathing areas within six local authority areas complied fully with the EU guide and mandatory standards. These were

Donegal County Council, Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council, Galway City Council, Kerry County Council, Mayo County Council and Westmeath County Council.

Over the past ten years the quality of water at designated bathing areas in Ireland has remained high. Compliance with EU mandatory values has remained very stable between 95 and 99 per cent while compliance with the more stringent guide values has fluctuated between 79 and 92 per cent.

However, a small number of bathing areas are consistently failing to meet the minimum EU mandatory standards. Adequate measures including the provision of appropriate waste water treatment facilities at these bathing areas are required if they are to comply with current EU standards. These standards are set to become more stringent with the implementation of the new bathing water directive (Directive 2006/7/EC) in the coming years.

The bathing water quality report and map for 2007, are available on the EPA website at: [www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/bathing/](http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/bathing/).





## Prosecutions

A total of six cases were brought by the EPA before the District Courts during the period May and end of August 2008.

All of the prosecutions were taken under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992-2003.

The EPA initiated these legal actions having detected non-compliances through audits, EPA monitoring and site investigations.

### EPA Prosecutes Shannonside Building Supplies Limited

On the 28th May 2008 at the District Court, Kilrush, Co. Clare, Shannonside Building Supplies Limited pleaded guilty to three charges brought by the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to offences under the Environmental Protection Agency Acts 1992 to 2007 for breaches of its IPC Licence.

The Company admitted breaching conditions of its licence by:

- Disposing of waste other than in a manner specified and without prior notice to, and prior written agreement of, the Agency, on two separate dates;
- Failing to keep a full record on matters relating to the waste management operations and practices at the site.

On hearing details of the offences, Judge Mangan imposed fines of €2,000 and EPA costs of €10,862 were also awarded.

Shannonside Building Supplies Limited was granted an IPC licence (Reg. No. P0319-01) on the 9th December 1998 for the treatment or protection of wood, involving the use of preservatives, with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day. The facility is located at Fort Road, Kilrush, Co. Clare.

This prosecution was taken following site inspections undertaken by inspectors from the Office of Environmental Enforcement, on 29th March 2007 & 19th December 2007.

### EPA Prosecutes Mr. Bernard Maguire

On the 12th June 2008 at Cavan District Court, the Environmental Protection Agency took a prosecution against Mr. Bernard

Maguire in relation to an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1992 to 2007 for a breach of his Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence.

Mr. Maguire pleaded guilty to one charge, which related to undertaking landspreading activities other than in accordance with Nutrient Management Plans agreed in advance with the EPA.

On hearing details of the offence Judge Sean McBride applied the Probation Act and ordered that a donation of €500 be made payable to the Cavan Boxing Club.

Mr. Maguire was granted an IPC Licence (Reg. No. P0427-01) on the 3rd January 2001 for the rearing of pigs. The facility is located at Drumsgraddan, Crosserlough, Co. Cavan.

This prosecution was taken following investigations undertaken by the Office of Environmental Enforcement on 24th July 2007.

### EPA Prosecutes Mr. Frank Higgins

On the 12th June 2008 at Cavan District Court, the Environmental Protection Agency took a prosecution against Mr. Frank Higgins in relation to an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1992 to 2007 for a breach of his Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence.

Mr. Higgins pleaded guilty to one charge, which related to undertaking landspreading activities other than in accordance with Nutrient Management Plans agreed in advance with the EPA.

On hearing details of the offence Judge Sean McBride applied the Probation Act and ordered that a donation of €500 be made payable to the Cavan Boxing Club.

Mr. Higgins was granted an IPC Licence (Reg. No. P0466-02) on the 25th August 2003 for the rearing of pigs. The facility is located at Tonymion, Kilnaleck, Co. Cavan.

This prosecution was taken following investigations undertaken by the Office of Environmental Enforcement on 25th July 2007.

### EPA Prosecutes Mr. John Kiernan

On the 12th June 2008 at Cavan District Court, the Environmental Protection Agency took a prosecution against Mr. John Kiernan in relation to an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1992 to 2007 for a breach of his Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence (Reg. No. P0640-01).

Mr. Kiernan pleaded guilty to one charge, which related to undertaking landspreading activities other than in accordance with Nutrient Management Plans agreed in advance with the EPA.

On hearing details of the offence Judge Sean McBride applied the Probation Act and ordered that a donation of €500 be made payable to the Cavan Boxing Club.

Mr. Kiernan was granted an IPC Licence (Reg. No. P0640-01) on the 2nd December 2003 for the rearing of pigs. The facility is located at Skeagh Pig Unit, Tullynaskeagh, Bailieboro, Co. Cavan.

This prosecution was taken following investigations undertaken by the Office of Environmental Enforcement on 6th July 2007.

### EPA Prosecutes Mr. Kevin Kiernan

On the 12th June 2008 at Cavan District Court, the EPA took two prosecutions against Mr. Kevin Kiernan in relation to offences under the Environmental Protection Act 1992 to 2008 for a breach of two Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licences.

Mr. Kiernan pleaded guilty to both charges, which related to undertaking landspreading activities other than in accordance with Nutrient Management Plans agreed in advance with the EPA.

On hearing details of the offence Judge Sean McBride applied the Probation Act and order that a donation of €500 be made payable to Cavan Boxing Club.

Mr. Kiernan was granted an IPC Licence on the 1st June 2000 for the rearing of pigs at his facility in Mullacastle, Kilnaleck, Co. Cavan and on the 14th November 2000 for the rearing of pigs at his facility in Aghafad, Kilnaleck, Co. Cavan. The prosecutions were taken following investigations undertaken by the Office of Environmental Enforcement on 2nd July 2007.

## EPA Headquarters Extension

In March Mr. John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government presided at the official turning of the sod to mark the commencement of the new extension to the EPA headquarters in Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford.

This two-storey extension will provide much needed space for the growing number of staff who now occupy the building. The EPA has outgrown its current office space in its headquarters in Johnstown Castle Estate, having occupied the building since 1998.

The EPA is proud to be located in Wexford, in the beautiful surroundings of Johnstown Castle Estate. With a growing number of staff, who have made Wexford their 'new home', the EPA is committed to the community – with many staff actively involved in local arts, sports, music and of course the environment.

The design of the building was informed by the EPA's overall role in the protection of the environment and the desire to integrate practical sustainable features into the building. Among these features are:

- natural ventilation;
- highly energy efficient lighting control system with occupancy sensors;
- special glazing to reduce heat loss in winter or excessive heat gain in summer;
- rainwater harvesting and a well bore to supply the water demand;
- solar power is proposed to power some facilities in the proposed extension;
- the use of wind power is being considered and
- "green" cement will be used in construction.

The plans and a model of the proposed extension may be viewed at EPA Headquarters from 9am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday.



*Model of extension to EPA headquarters*

*The following contributed to this issue of the EPA Newsletter:*

*Mary Kelly, Matt Crowe, Ken Macken, Alice Wemeare, Brian Meaney, John Feehan, Celine Horner, Annemarie Tuohy, Keiron Phillips, Rebecca Quinn, Teresa Roche, Ann Cowman, Grainne Oglesby, Suzanne Wylde, Anne Fitzharris and Alma Hynes, Niamh Leahy.*



**Headquarters**  
**PO Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate**  
**County Wexford, Ireland**

*Ceanncheatrá*  
*Bosca Poist 3000, Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Shedin*  
*Contae Loch Garman, Éire*

T: +353 53 9160600  
F: +353 53 9160699

**Regional Inspectorate**  
**McCumiskey House, Richview**  
**Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14, Ireland**

*Cigireacht Réigiúnach, Teach Mhic Chumascaigh*  
*Dea-Radharc, Bóthar Cluain Seach*  
*Baile Átha Cliath 14, Éire*

T: +353 1 268 0100  
F: +353 1 268 0199

**Regional Inspectorate**  
**Inniscarra, County Cork, Ireland**

*Cigireacht Réigiúnach, Inis Cara*  
*Contae Chorcaí, Éire*

T: +353 21 487 5540  
F: +353 21 487 5545

**Regional Inspectorate**  
**John Moore Road, Castlebar**  
**County Mayo, Ireland**

*Cigireacht Réigiúnach, Bóthar Sheán de Mórdha*  
*Caisleán an Bharraigh, Contae Mhaigh Eo, Éire*

T: +353 94 904 8400  
F: +353 94 902 1934

**Regional Inspectorate, Seville Lodge,**  
**Callan Road, Kilkenny, Ireland**

*Cigireacht Réigiúnach, Bóthar Challainn*  
*Cill Chainnigh, Éire*

T: +353 56 7796 700  
F: +353 56 7796 798

**Regional Inspectorate**  
**The Glen, Monaghan, Ireland**

*Cigireacht Réigiúnach, An Gleann*  
*Muineachán, Éire*

T: +353 47 77600  
F: +353 47 84987

E: [info@epa.ie](mailto:info@epa.ie)  
W: [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)  
LoCall: 1890 33 55 99

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