

epaNews

The newsletter of the Environmental Protection Agency

Innovation for a Green Economy

On 29th June, Mr. John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, officially launched the report *Innovation for a Green Economy - Environment and Technology: A win-win story*. This report outlines some practical outcomes in the areas of environmental technologies and innovation from the investment made to date by the EPA, through its Science, Technology, Research and Innovation (STRIVE) programme.

The environmental technologies' sector is one of the fastest growing markets internationally. Since 2005 the EPA has funded 189 research and innovation projects in the technologies area, representing an investment of €30 million. This has led directly to the engagement of 200 new researchers in full-time roles.

This report profiles several successes and impacts of research and innovation undertaken to date.

These include high-value products from waste, energy from sewage treatment, smart filters that can remove metal ions from water, pollution sensors and a sustainable,



ecological high-performance computer. A survey of 18 large-scale projects funded by the EPA in 2005 and 2006 found that the research investment had led to wider benefits including:

- the filing of five patents with seven additional patents in preparation;
- nine non-disclosure agreements;
- one licence agreement;
- one new spin-off company.

This return on investment compares very favourably to similar investments elsewhere in the EU and in the USA.



EPA STRIVE team pictured at the launch of the *Innovation for a Green Economy* research report. L-R: Brian Donlon, Lisa Sheils, Larry Stapleton, Micheál Lehane and Shane Colgan.

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The report also provided a roadmap showing where further progress is required nationally to meet the environmental and economic challenges ahead. The EPA sees a strong need to continue to prioritise environmental research and innovation investment with the aim of:

- Supporting the continued development of the environmental goods and services sector;
- Contributing to environmental protection by delivering applicable and relevant solutions, information and knowledge;
- Supporting research and the integration of eco-innovation into all relevant sectors

The EPA is among the main bodies fostering growth in this area through the provision of funding for research and innovation. Aside from the academic excellence of this work and its contribution to building Ireland's reputation as a centre for research and innovation, the investment is also yielding wider economic benefits.

The report is available on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/tech/.

Director General's Statement



The unprecedented crisis in global financial markets, along with the collapse of the construction industry in Ireland, has created major challenges for Ireland. It is widely recognised that there is no quick-fix to these economic challenges. However, building a smart and resilient economy is a priority so that Ireland can secure competitive advantage and recover its prosperity.

Along with the financial crisis, Ireland like other countries is faced with the twin environmental challenges of a climate change crisis and an eco-systems crisis. There have been many warnings based on sound scientific evidence about the potentially catastrophic effects of climate change. The many people who attended the EPA public lecture series on climate change last year were left in no doubt about this.

We continue to place unsustainable pressure on our natural world. Many studies have shown that at national levels and at international levels the ecological footprint of the planet is much larger than its bio-capacity. We must not ignore these warnings. We must design our recovery plan to provide for a low carbon economic recovery. This will respect our natural capital and adopt a sustainable

approach to the eco-system, which, after all, supports life on earth.

Around the world the new realities, financial, social and environmental, are hitting home. The UN has launched its Green Economy Initiative working towards a 'Green New Deal' designed to create millions of jobs in renewable energies, clean technology ventures, sustainable agriculture, conservation and the intelligent management of the planet's ecosystem and nature based infrastructure. The new administration in the US is promoting the idea of 'green-collar' jobs. The EU Commission is encouraging Member States to develop green economies as a way of creating new jobs and technologies, overcoming our energy security constraints and achieving new environmental goals.

Ireland is already making headway in this area. The government has recently announced a new strategy for digital and clean technology, which will create 30,000 jobs in the next decade and position Ireland as early movers in the clean technology revolution. ESB and Bord na Mona also announced the creation of new jobs in green energy, resource recovery and smart metering. A high-level Action Group on Green Enterprise will report shortly to the government. However, other countries are not standing still and Ireland must embrace the 'Green New Deal' by actively selecting low carbon recovery pathways including renewable energies, smarter technologies and much higher energy efficiencies if we are to benefit from early mover advantages in this area.

Investment in research to achieve these ends will be key to a more sustainable future as the economy recovers. The EPA

outlined some practical outcomes in the areas of environmental technologies and innovation when we launched our report *Innovation for a Green Economy – Environment and technology: A win-win story* in late June. The examples stem from the investment made to date through our Science, Technology, Research and Innovation (STRIVE) programme. You can read more about the report on the front cover of this newsletter. The EPA has also developed a range of successful programmes to 'green' hotels, businesses and homes and we will continue to play our part in developing green enterprise and a low carbon economy in Ireland.

There are economic advantages to low carbon economic growth as well as environmental ones. The Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) sector is currently worth about €3.6 billion in Ireland and €600 billion worldwide. A joint report published by Forfás and InterTradeIreland recently identified a number of sub-sectors as having strong growth and enterprise potential including renewable energies, efficient energy use and management (including eco-construction); waste management, recovery and recycling; water and wastewater treatment and environmental consultancy and services.

There are few positive aspects to the current economic downturn, but one that has been reported by the EPA is that greenhouse gas emissions are reducing. However, even if Ireland were to implement all the proposed climate change mitigation policy measures in full and on time, our forecasts still show that Ireland will need to purchase between €13 million and €18 million worth of carbon allowances per annum over five years to meet our 2012 commitments.

IPPC Licences issued since February 2009

Significant cuts in emissions in the agricultural, residential, energy and transport sectors will be required as targets tighten at EU and international levels.

There is a possibility that if the economy contracts further Ireland may even meet its Kyoto obligations without further purchases, but relying on a contracting economy to meet these obligations is not a strategy to be contemplated. Ireland needs to be able to meet its international obligations on climate change, which are likely to become more challenging, while sustaining economic growth.

We must cut greenhouse gas emissions by radically reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and comprehensively improving energy efficiency and conservation. A Green New Deal for Ireland must involve a complete decoupling of greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth and a move to sustainable production and consumption across the wider economy so that economic recovery does not mean a return to the old and unsustainable practices of the past.

The Government is faced with stark choices in the short and medium terms to stabilise the financial situation and to stimulate and prepare for economic recovery. In making those choices the environment should not be sidelined, but rather should be used as a platform for sustainable recovery. A new Green Deal for Ireland is what is required.

Mary Kelly

Director General, Environmental Protection Agency

Cement

Irish Cement Limited
Castlemungret, Co Limerick
P0029-02

Food and Drink

Slaney Foods International Limited and Slaney Proteins,
Ryland, Bunclody, Co Wexford
P0047-03

Arrabawn Co-operative Society Limited,
Stafford Street, Nenagh, Co Tipperary
P0791-01

Surface Coatings

Waterford Plating Company Limited,
Unit 605/606/655, Northern Industrial Estate, Old Kilmeadan Road, Waterford
P0280-02

Brosna Paints Limited,
Kilpatrick, Mullingar, Co Westmeath
P0845-01

Kiernan Structural Steel Limited,
Kiltyreher, Carriglas, Longford
P0855-01

Energy

Edenderry Power Limited,
Ballykillen, Edenderry, Co Offaly
P0482-03

Bord Gais Eireann
Whitegate, Co Cork
P0830-01

Power and Energy Holdings (ROI) Limited,
Avoca River Park, Arklow, Co Wicklow
P0848-01

Chemicals

Pfizer Biotechnology Ireland,
Ballintaggart, Shanbally, Ringaskiddy, Co Cork
P0864-01

Sigma Aldrich Ireland Ltd,
Vale Road, Arklow, Co Wicklow
P0089-04

Intensive Agriculture

Roughty Valley Co-op Society Limited,
Meelick, Kilgarvan, Co Kerry
P0708-02

J.P.H Enterprises Limited,
Mullatigorry, Smithborough, Co Monaghan
P0838-01

Mr Martin McAree,
Drumconnelly, Emyvale, Co Monaghan
P0850-01

Mr Gabriel McAree,
Edenmore, Emyvale, Co Monaghan
P0851-01

Mr Peter McKenna,
Feebagbane, Scotstown, Co Monaghan
P0852-01

Mr James Corr,
Corlat, Smithborough, Co Monaghan
P0853-01

Mr Seamas Treanor,
Doogary, Tydavent, Co Monaghan
P0854-01

Corby Rock Eggs Ltd.,
Ballybay Road, Monaghan
P0860-01

Mr. Maurice McCarey,
Barratitoppy, Scotstown, Co Monaghan
P0865-01

Mr James McGlone,
Rossnaghlough, Aghabog, Co Monaghan
P0872-01

Mr Sean Clerkin,
Tattincake, Drum, Co Monaghan
P0873-01

Mr John O'Reilly,
Castletown, Corraneary, Cootehill, Co Cavan
P0876-01

Mrs Michelle Roberts,
Clonandra, Redhills, Co Cavan
P0877-01

Mr Leo Treanor,
Corvoy, Ballybay, Co Monaghan
P0879-01

Mr Brian Coleman,
Longfield, Castleblaney, Co Monaghan
P0880-01

Mr William Brogan,
Mullymagaraghan, Aghabog, Co Monaghan
P0881-01

Mr Jim Byrne,
Tonystackan, Scotstown, Co Monaghan
P0882-01

Derrykennigh Poultry Limited,
Derrykennigh Beg, Emyvale, Co Monaghan
P0883-01

Mr John McPhillips,
Drumlloo, Newbliss, Co Monaghan
P0884-01

Mr David Murray,
Garballagh, Duleek, Co Meath
P0887-01

Assessment of the Safety and Security of Ireland's Drinking Water Supplies

The EPA recently published a report entitled *The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland: A Report for the Years 2007-2008*. This report assesses the safety and security of drinking water supplies covered by the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations, 2007. The report provides an assessment of the quality of drinking water based on the results of monitoring carried out in 2007 and highlights EPA enforcement in the period September 2007 to September 2008.

The Safety of Drinking Water in Ireland

The safety of drinking water supplies in Ireland is determined by comparing the results of almost 240,000 monitoring tests carried out on 952 public water supplies, 830 public group water schemes, 588 private group water schemes and 888 small private supplies, against the standards set in the Drinking Water Regulations.

In relation to the safety of drinking water in Ireland the EPA has found that:

- *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli* - an indicator of whether human or animal waste has entered a water supply) was detected on at least one occasion in 52 public water supplies during 2007. This figure is down from 77 in 2006. Nonetheless, this indicates that intermittent contamination of 5% of public water supplies occurred in 2007.
- The microbiological quality of private group water schemes remains poor as compared to the public supplies. The number of private group water schemes where *E. coli* was detected dropped from 246 in 2006 to 184 in 2007.

However, despite this improvement, over 31% of private group water schemes were contaminated at least once during 2007.



- Overall compliance with the chemical standards is satisfactory at 99.1% but challenges exist regarding the replacement of old lead service pipes connecting water distribution mains to individual properties.
- Compliance with several indicator parameters, in particular compliance with aluminium and turbidity parametric values, remains poor.
- An outbreak of cryptosporidiosis associated with the Galway City supply took place in 2007.

The Security of Drinking Water in Ireland

The security of water supplies is assessed under three activity areas as recommended by the World Health Organisation. These are as follows:

- Assessment of risk to the quality of the supply from catchment to consumer.
- Monitoring of the risks identified to the quality of the water supply from catchment to consumer.
- Management of the supply during normal and incident conditions by personnel adequately trained and resourced to deliver clean and wholesome drinking water.

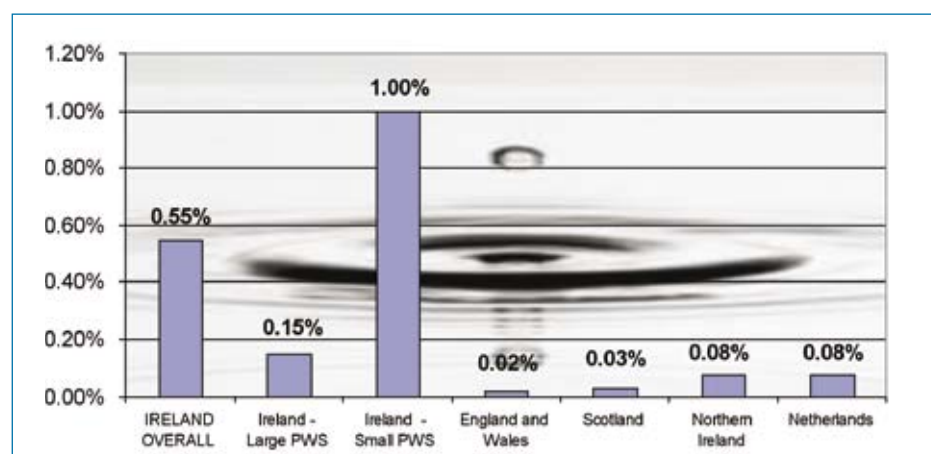
In relation to the security of water supplies the EPA has found that:

- Of the 339 public water supplies identified by the EPA and placed on a Remedial Action List (RAL) in early 2008, 51 supplies completed the necessary remedial actions and were removed from the RAL. However, the EPA identified a further 53 public water supplies which need to be upgraded, improved in respect of operational practices or discontinued to ensure that the water supplied is wholesome and clean. Thus, at the end of September 2008, 341 public water supplies were on the RAL.
- Local authorities have reported that there are 57 public water supplies that originate from surface water that have no treatment other than disinfection. These supplies have no treatment barrier to prevent *Cryptosporidium* (if present in the raw water) entering the supply.
- Chlorine monitors and alarms are a vital part of the infrastructure of a drinking water plant. At the end of August 2008, 40% of public water supply treatment plants had such equipment in place. This is a 10% increase since January 2008.
- Boil water notices or restrictions of use (e.g. do not drink) were put in place in 53 supplies serving approximately 118,000 persons in 2008.

A number of Member States, including the UK and the Netherlands, publish information on the quality of drinking water on an annual basis. However, the majority of EU Member States do not make drinking water quality information available in this manner.

A comparison of non-compliance with the *E. coli* parametric value in public water supplies in Ireland with the UK and Netherlands shows that further improvement is necessary in Ireland.

The majority of public water supplies in Ireland are small (serving less than 5,000 persons) while in the UK and Netherlands few public water supplies of this size exist. Hence, the graph illustrates the comparison of larger Irish public water supplies with those in the UK and Netherlands. This graph illustrates that the smaller supplies have a higher rate of contamination as compared to the larger supplies.



Comparison of Non-Compliance with the *E. coli* Parametric Value in Public Water Supplies in Ireland and Other EU Countries.

The Enforcement of Drinking Water Quality in Ireland

The EPA is notified by local authorities of each failure to meet the microbiological and chemical standards or where there is a risk to health. During the period September 2007 to September 2008:

- The EPA has received and assessed 283 notifications of failure to meet drinking water standards.

- The EPA has carried out 59 audits of water treatment plants in the first 9 months of 2008. Of the plants audited many were found to be operated with a low awareness of the risks to the quality of the drinking water while many others were found to have inadequately considered source protection. A significant proportion of the plants audited were found to have unsatisfactory process control (e.g. no chlorine monitors) and poor chemical dosing arrangements.

- The EPA has issued 47 legally binding Directions to 15 local authorities requiring specific actions to be undertaken to improve the security of the supply in question.
- The EPA has prosecuted one local authority (Galway County Council) for the failure to comply with a Direction requiring the installation of a chlorine monitor and alarm.

Waste Water Discharge Authorisations issued since February 2009

Meath County Council,
Enfield.
D0131-01

Mayo County Council,
Westport.
D0055-01

Meath County Council,
Duleek.
D0133-01

Mayo County Council,
Castlebar.
D0047-01

Kildare County Council,
Leixlip.
D0004-01

Limerick County Council,
Castletroy.
D0019-01

Mayo County Council,
Ballina.
D0016-01

Limerick County Council,
Kilmallock.
D0106-01

Laois County Council,
Portlaoise.
D0001-01

Limerick County Council,
Rathkeale.
D0112-01

Publicans are calling time on waste

A new booklet to help publicans cut costs and improve their environmental performance is being distributed to pubs throughout the country. The booklet, *Calling Time on Waste: a publican's handbook to a leaner, greener cost base*, is the result of a collaboration between the Environmental Protection Agency, Monaghan County Council and the Vintners' Federation of Ireland (VFI).



The handbook for publicans contains guidelines on how to save money by conserving water, saving energy and preventing waste. By implementing some of the no-cost and low-cost measures, publicans can reduce their carbon footprint and save money in an increasingly competitive economy. As well as making good environmental sense, eliminating or preventing waste therefore makes financial sense also. It is estimated that the average pub will save €1,000 per annum if the recommendations are followed, and it is hoped that up to 4,000 pubs throughout the country will introduce these measures in the coming months.

The key message in the booklet is that if we don't create waste in the first place we won't have to pay the financial and environmental costs of dealing with it subsequently. As the financial climate for all sectors looks more challenging, publicans can use the tips in this booklet to ensure that they are getting the best value for money spent on inputs, water and energy. Small innovations in business practice can lead to real savings in cost and improvements in environmental performance.

Public houses in County Monaghan participated in an Environmental Programme organised by VFI Monaghan Branch and Monaghan County Council Environment Section and the guidelines in the booklet were developed based on their experiences. They achieved the following cost savings:

Waste:

- By preventing waste at source one bar reduced the number of bin lifts per week from six to two, saving themselves €4,000 per annum on waste charges.
- Another saved €1,200 per annum on waste charges by implementing a source segregation scheme and by re-tendering for waste management.

Energy:

- One pub changed all existing light bulbs to energy efficient CFLs resulting in a saving of €1,400, the equivalent to over 8000 kWh of electricity.
- Another bar saved €800 on its bi-monthly bills by installing energy efficient lighting and timers on fridges.
- By turning off fridges in the "back room" during the week a publican saved €300 per annum.

- By installing timers on their beer cooling system another pub saved €400 per annum on operating costs.
- By installing a night meter a publican saved €600 per annum on his electricity charges.

Water:

- By installing solenoid valves on urinals one bar saved €500 per annum on water charges.
- By installing rain water harvesting another pub has saved €400 per annum in water charges.
- By installing displacement devices and dual flush toilets a pub saved €150 per annum on waste charges.

This project forms part of the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration (LAPD) programme, funded by the EPA's National Waste Prevention Programme. Local authorities in the LAPD Programme have been tackling the challenge of waste prevention and resource efficiency in partnership with businesses, public organisations and communities in their areas. The Programme provides financial and technical support to the local authorities involved to assist them in this task. The experience and case studies generated by the LAPD Programme are now being used as a template to implement further best practice waste prevention initiatives nationwide.

Further details and a copy of the booklet can be found on the EPA website at www.lapd.ie.

Administrative Sanctions for Environmental Offences

The EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) published 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 report reviewed the use of civil/administrative sanctions relevant to environmental protection in Ireland, the UK, USA, Germany and Australia.

The drivers for the study from a regulatory point of view were:

- The burden of proof required to use the current criminal code for regulatory offences, and the associated resources.
- The lack of options between the maximum District Court Sanction of €3,000 and the maximum Circuit Court Sanction of €15million.

The study, commissioned by the EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement, identified 20 administrative sanctions that are available to environmental regulators to enforce environmental law without resort to criminal or civil court proceedings.

In total, Ireland already has access to 11 of the 20 non-criminal sanctions identified. Some of the non-criminal sanctions that Ireland either does not have, or does not have a legislative basis for, are:

- **Enforcement Undertaking** - Written undertakings to remedy the harm done that can be enforceable in court.
- **Fixed or variable Penalties** - Payment of specified or variable monetary amounts to discharge or compensate for the breach (on the spot fines or infringement notices).
- **Environmental or Community Services Order** - Offender carries out a specified project for public benefit. Examples include the provision of recycling

facilities, conservation or remediation work, training or education initiatives etc.

- **Compensation Order** - Offender compensates the regulator or third party for costs incurred in taking action.
- **Name and Shame or Publicity Orders** - Order requiring publicity of environmental consequences, penalties etc.

New environmental legislation and the nature of illegal activity requires an increasingly sophisticated and flexible enforcement response to attain compliance. Administrative sanctions have the potential to put the environmental regulator in a better position to match their response to the realities of enforcement. This report will contribute positively to the debate about better regulation.

The study also identified a number of hurdles that would need to be addressed if additional administrative sanctions were to be introduced. These include the identification of the costs versus the benefits, the right to appeal against a sanction and the protection of the constitutional rights of the individual.



The report is available free to download from the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/enforcement/.

Waste Licences issued since February 2009

Soil Recovery Facility

Behans Land Restoration Limited,
Blackhall Soil Recovery Facility,
Punchestown,
Naas,
County Kildare
W0247-01

Landfill

Bord na Mona Plc,
Drehid Waste Management Facility,
Co Kildare
W0201-02

Integrated Waste Management Facility

Nurendale Ltd trading as Panda Waste Services Ltd.,
Beaupark,
Navan,
Co Meath
W0140-03

Compost Facility

Waterford City Council,
Springfield House,
Gorteens,
Co Kilkenny
W0244-01

Waste Transfer Station

Advanced Environmental Solutions (Ireland) Ltd.,
Solsborough,
Springfort Cross,
Nenagh,
County Tipperary
W0240-01

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

Doctoral Scholarship Scheme 2009:

Following the call in March 2009, 91 proposals were received in the following topics:

- Novel techniques for environmental protection;
- Green chemistry;
- Monitoring & modelling for environmental compliance;
- Sustainable development and the smart economy.

As of July 2009, 12 successful proposals have been offered to:

- Dublin City University (2);
- NUI Galway (3);
- Trinity College Dublin (4);
- University College Cork (1);
- University College Dublin (2).

This corresponds to a total commitment of around €1.1 million.

Climate Change Research Programme (CCRP) Fellowships Call 2009

In April 2009, the CCRP Fellowship Call was announced. 29 proposals were received and are currently under evaluation.

STRIVE FEATURES

Cleaner Greener Production Programme

The Cleaner Greener Production Programme (CGPP) encourages Irish business and organisations to implement cleaner greener practices. The long-term aim is to try to ensure that cleaner greener production and eco-efficiency become the established norm in Ireland. This programme will further support the Governments framework for a 'Smart Economy'.



Following the Phase 4 call in April 2008, 15 projects have been awarded and are now up and running. These include:

1. Achieving a zero-landfill waste facility (Tool and Plastic Industries Ltd, Longford);
2. Applying eco-design and world class manufacturing (Larkin Engineering Ltd, Tuam, Galway);
3. CIT's sustainable campus programme (Cork Institute of Technology, Cork);
4. Cleaner Greener Cleaning Services (Noonan Services Group, Dublin);
5. Development of process technology to remove polystyrene core from the manufacturing process (Honeywell Turbo Technologies Ireland, Waterford);

6. Greening Green-Isle manufacture and delivery (Green Isle Foods Ltd, Kildare);
7. Iameco 2- Low carbon, resource efficiency and long life in PC design (MicroPro Computers, Dublin);
8. Implementation of an environmentally efficient continuous flux treatment system (Galco Steel Ltd, Dublin);
9. Low cost, battery-powered, CO₂ and toxic-gas detector system (ChipSensors Ltd, Limerick);
10. Project LYSIS - novel use of proteolytic enzymes in food waste processing (Rosderra Irish Meats Ltd, Offaly);
11. Recycling of process water with heat recovery (Organic Lens Manufacturing, Ennis);
12. Reduce & reuse at Tech Group Europe (Tech Group Europe, Dublin);
13. Super-Sustainable: Biodegradable / compostable product packaging & overall improvement in environmental performance (Supermac's, Galway);
14. Targeting water, energy and packaging - three environmental improvement projects (Dawn Meats, Mayo) and
15. Waste reduction programme focused on process technologies (Connaught Gold Shannonside Facility).

More information on the CGPP can be found in the EPA website www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/cgpp/.

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EPA STRIVE News

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

EPA STRIVE EVENTS IN 2009

Launch of EPA-funded research report

On 27th May 2009 Mr. John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government launched the EPA-funded research report, *Development of an Industry-Led Quality Standard for Source-Separated Biodegradable Material Derived Compost*. The final results of the project were presented to scientists, policymakers and other stakeholders at a special event in Dublin. The report is available on the EPA website at: www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/waste/.

Reviewing New Directions in Waste Management Seminar

A number of EPA-funded research projects examining emerging issues for waste management have recently been completed. The seminar, held on 25th May 2009, was attended by over 70 representatives from local authorities, consultancies and waste management companies, and provided an overview of the conclusions from the work and facilitated discussion with the researchers. More information is available on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/news/events/research/past/.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FP7-Environment National Information Day - 9th October 2009

The EPA is organising a National FP7-Environment Information Day to promote the publication of the FP7 Environment Call (Work Programme 2010) on Friday 9th October 2009. The event will take place at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Dublin Airport. This event will aim at facilitating networking and at discussing Knowledge Gaps & Emerging Needs looking towards future FP7 calls (2011 & Beyond). More information is available at: www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/europeanfunding/fp7/events/.

Researchers Seminar 2009 - November 2009

Policy & Commercialisation Seminars - 2009

Information on these two events will be made available on the EPA website at www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/.

EPA-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS HELD IN 2009

23rd - 24th February 2009: *Understanding the ecological responses of streams to nutrient enrichment* Workshop

The UCC project team brought together Irish and international experts to discuss the relationship between nutrient

enrichment and primary producers in streams. More information is available at: www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/projects/water/.

27th March 2009: Ag-Biota Conference

The final results of the five-year EPA-funded Ag-Biota project were presented to scientists, policymakers and other stakeholders at a special conference in Dublin on Friday 27th March. The project has made a significant contribution towards Ireland's obligations under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), and subsequent agreement by EU member states to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The Final Report is available at: www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/biodiversity/.



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

4th June 2009: *Anticipating the future to guide lake management* Workshop

This workshop, was aimed at environmental managers, policy-makers, regulators and scientists with an interest in fresh water bodies and their catchments. More information is available at: www.oscan.net/tcd/ILLUMINATEWEB/Illuminate/illuminate_home.php.



Upcoming Workshop:

08/09/2009: *Soil Biodiversity Research in Ireland and Britain* Workshop:

This international workshop is organised as part of the CréBeo project, a large-scale EPA funded project on soil biodiversity in Ireland. www.ucd.ie/crebeo

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Framework Programme 7:



Open Calls

Several calls relevant to the Environment Theme were published on the 30th July 2009. These include:

- **FP7-ENV-2010:** The aim of the 2010 FP7 Environment Call is to address *Environmental safety and welfare* as an overarching theme for all activities across the work programme 2010. Deadline: 5th January 2010

- **FP7-OCEAN-2010:** The call on *The ocean of tomorrow: Joining research forces to meet challenges in ocean management* aims at encouraging pluri-disciplinarity in marine sciences and technologies. Deadline: 14th January 2010

- **FP7-AFRICA-2010:** The aim of this call is to address some of the Science & Technology objectives of the *Africa - EU Strategic Partnership* putting emphasis on *Water and Food Security* and *Better Health for Africa*. This call will be implemented through cross-thematic collaboration. Deadline: 14 January 2010

- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** A key feature of the 2010 work programme is the participation in actions within the European recovery package. This objective will be implemented under the scheme of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), namely *Energy-efficient Buildings* and *Green cars*:

- **Energy-Efficient Buildings:** Deadline 3rd November 2009.
- **Sustainable automotive electrochemical storage:** Deadline 14th January 2010.

More information on these calls is available at:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

IRISH RESULTS:

The third FP7-Environment call closed in January 2009. Proposals have now been evaluated and applicants notified of the outcome of their submission. Proposals retained for funding include four projects with Irish participants and are currently at negotiation phase with the Commission.

Further information on FP7 is available on the EPA website:
www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/funding/fp7/
and
<http://www.fp7ireland.com/>.

SKEP



The EPA is participating in the SKEP ERA-NET (Scientific Knowledge for Environmental Protection). The SKEP network aims to facilitate the improvement of science into policy processes, and to support evidence-led modern regulation. The third joint call was launched in January 2009 and closed in July. Seven proposals were received including four with Irish partners.

For more information, please consult the SKEP website www.skep-era.net or contact Shane Colgan (s.colgan@epa.ie).

STRIVE

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EPA STRIVE News

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

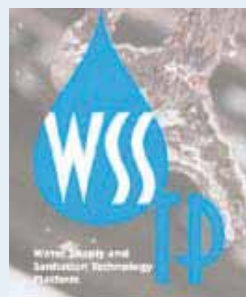
ERA-ENVHEALTH



The EPA is a member of the ERA-ENVHEALTH (Coordination of National Environment and Health Research Programmes - Environment and Health ERA-NET) funded under the FP7 Programme. ERA-ENVHEALTH, by bringing together 16 participants from 10 countries, will contribute to establish collaboration among the different funding organisations of environmental and public health research communities. For more information, please contact Shane Colgan (s.colgan@epa.ie) or consult the ERA-ENVHealth website: www.era-envhealth.eu/.

WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM (WssTP)

The Water supply & sanitation Technology Platform (WssTP) is a European Commission sponsored Research & Technology development platform. It is led by industries in collaboration with academics, research



organisations and water users to improve efficiency and financial opportunities in the sector. The EPA is a member

of the WssTP Member States Mirror Group. The WssTP aims to develop an effective collaboration between the different communities working in the water sector: Industrialists, Research Groups, Policy Makers, Financiers, Water Consumers. The mission and related goals of the WssTP are to strengthen the competitiveness and the potential for:

- Technological leadership by the European Water Industry;
- Solving European water issues;
- Addressing the challenge of an integrated and sustainable management of water resources.

More information on the WssTP is available at: www.wsstp.eu.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

The following websites provide additional resources of interest for researchers:

- EPA Research Publications: www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/.
- 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.
- FP7 website: www.fp7ireland.com
- Online Catalogue of Irish Expertise in Environmental Research: www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/funding/fp7/catalogueofirishexpertise/.
- SKEP website: www.skep-era.net/.
- ERA-ENVHealth website: www.era-envhealth.eu/.



Larry Stapleton, Director, EPA and Mary Kelly, Director General, EPA present Mr John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government with the *Innovation for a Green Economy* report.

Municipal Waste Pre-Treatment Guidance

In June 2009 the EPA published a Technical Guidance document entitled *Municipal Solid Waste: Pre-treatment and Residuals Management* to clarify the pre-treatment requirements for municipal waste for disposal at EPA licensed facilities. This Guidance document was produced following widespread consultation with waste operators, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and industry representative groups.

waste continue to be significant challenges in Ireland, in particular with regard to meeting EU obligations. Notable amongst those obligations are those associated with the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC).

In order to assist Ireland's compliance with the Landfill Directive, the EPA will review landfill licences, restricting the quantity of biodegradable household and commercial waste that can be accepted by landfill operators.

the separate collection of biodegradable waste and the sorting, recovery and recycling of this waste.

The EPA's guidance document is complemented by a range of proposed initiatives from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to assist in meeting Ireland's targets under the Landfill Directive.

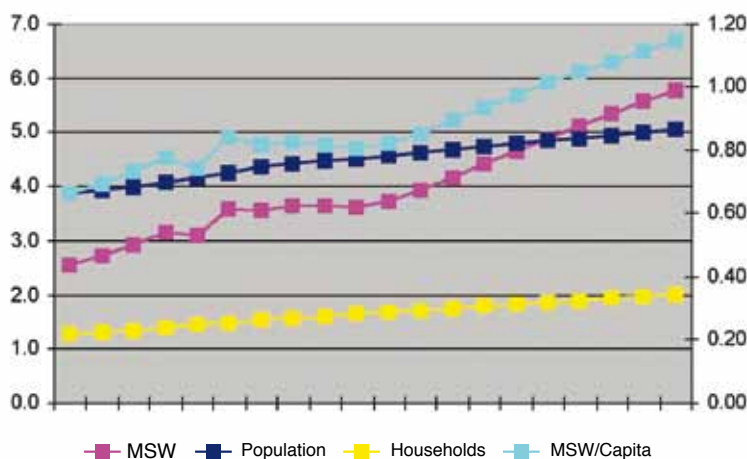
These include:

- increasing the landfill levy;
- rolling out brown bin collections; and
- intensifying efforts to promote at source/home composting and source segregation and collection of commercial biowaste.

The EU Landfill Directive sets specific limits on the tonnage of biodegradable waste that can be accepted at landfills. The first of these obligations will come into place in 2010. The national waste management statistics published by the EPA indicate a continuing trend of increasing biodegradable municipal waste generation. These projections indicate that, even in the current economic environment, Ireland will deviate significantly from the position required by the EU Waste Landfill Directive and articulated in the National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste, unless urgent action is now taken.

Latest EPA statistics show that:

- Approximately 3.4 million tonnes of municipal waste is generated annually;
- Of this, 2 million tonnes is landfilled;
- This equates to a 36% recycling rate;
- Approximately 1.5 million tonnes of the landfilled municipal waste is biodegradable.



The Guidance document applies to operators and developers of both landfills and incinerators and indicates to the waste industry as a whole what it must do to improve overall performance in the coming years. The guidance will require operators of landfill and incineration facilities to demonstrate, via their waste acceptance policy, that waste accepted at these facilities has been subjected to appropriate pre-treatment. The essence of the guidance is to ensure that useful resources are not unnecessarily disposed of, or value to society under-utilised.

Despite notable successes in relation to recycling rates for packaging waste (64%), WEEE (80%) as well as for Construction and Demolition wastes (72%), the management, processing and disposal of

This will:

- Maximise the use and value of waste before it is disposed of to landfill;
- Encourage the development of waste recycling secondary use activities by ensuring a steady supply of suitable resources (through diversion from landfill);
- Assist compliance with the EU Landfill Directive;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills; and
- Reduce the potential for odour at landfills.

The EU Landfill Directive requires measures to be taken to reduce the landfill of biodegradable waste and encourages

Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland

In July, the EPA published a report on *Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland for Population Equivalents Greater than 500 Persons - A Report for the Years 2006-2007*. This report provides a review of the treatment of waste water at 482 villages, towns and cities in Ireland and the quality of discharges from 370 secondary waste water treatment plants during the reporting period 2006/2007. The main findings of the report are outlined below.

Level of Treatment of Waste Water

At the end of 2007, waste water from 112 locations, representing 10 per cent of the total waste water arisings in the country, was being discharged with either no treatment or basic treatment, and in most cases was discharging to estuarine or coastal waters. The remaining 90 per cent of waste water arisings received secondary treatment or higher in 2007.

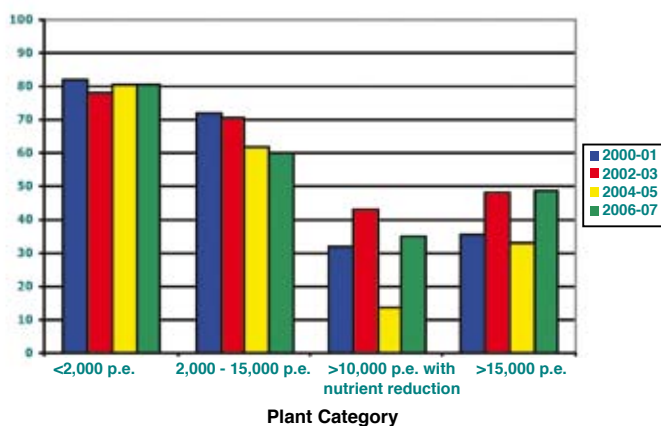
Of the 158 locations requiring secondary treatment or higher by the December 2005 deadline, set by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, the required level of treatment was not in place at 28 of these agglomerations at the end of the reporting period 2006/2007. New secondary treatment plants were commissioned for Donegal Town and the agglomeration of Balbriggan/Skerries during 2008. Large towns that had no secondary treatment included Bray, Killybegs, Shangannagh, Waterford City and Sligo Town with treatment plants for Waterford City and Sligo Town due into operation in 2009.

Level of Operation of Waste Water Plants

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations set specific standards to be achieved for waste water treatment plants. In addition, the Regulations set out a regime of monitoring by local authorities of discharges from waste water treatment plants.

In the 2006/2007 reporting period non-compliance for the very large plants (i.e. >15,000 p.e.) increased by 16 per cent over the previous reporting period, while the majority (81 per cent) of smaller treatment plants (i.e. <2,000 p.e.) did not comply with the required standards. One-in-five plants failed to take an adequate number of samples in 2007. Monitoring returns from 2007 showed that there were 192 treatment plants (51 per cent) where the effluent quality is not meeting the EU standards due to waste water treatment plants either not operating properly or being overloaded.

The non-compliance rates are summarised below.



Non-compliance rates for secondary waste water treatment plants from 2000/01 to 2006/07

While there has been significant investment in waste water infrastructure in Ireland over the past decade, which has increased the capacity to treat waste water, the level of infrastructure has to increase and be deployed at a faster rate to:

- Meet the EU standards;
- Prevent the pollution of rivers, lakes, estuaries and bathing waters; and
- Protect drinking water supplies.

In addition, the management of waste water treatment systems needs to improve, as a quarter of the non-compliances in large waste water treatment plants can be attributed to insufficient sampling.

Level of Impact of Waste Water Discharges

EPA biological monitoring in 2007 identified 13 seriously polluted river sites that can be attributed to urban waste water discharges. In addition, 7 bathing water areas failed the EU mandatory limits during the reporting period 2006/2007 due to the impact of waste water discharges.

In 2006 and 2007 the EPA audited 22 local authorities and inspected 41 waste water treatment plants as part of these audits. The following recurring problems were identified:

- Inadequate collecting systems for waste water (e.g. poorly performing combined sewer overflows);
- Insufficient treatment capacity;
- Insufficient sampling frequencies;
- Poor effluent quality;
- Poor assimilative capacity for discharged effluent in some receiving waters; and
- Poor sludge management on site.

Licensing and Enforcement

The introduction of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations in 2007 brought into effect a system for the licensing or certification of waste water discharges. Discharges from these plants will be regulated and controlled by Authorisations granted by the EPA over the coming years that will require appropriate remedial actions that will ensure that appropriate protection is afforded to the receiving water environment. EPA enforcement of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations and Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations will be risk-based and outcome-driven. Failure to implement the programme of improvement set out in the Urban Waste Water Discharge Authorisations will result in enforcement action by the EPA up to and including prosecution.

EPA National Water Conference 2009

The 2009 EPA National Water Conference was held in Galway and was attended by around 340 delegates. The conference is directed primarily at Local Authorities, and other agencies involved in water protection and management such as the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Health Service Executive.



Pictured at the EPA National Water Conference were (back row) Ger O'Leary and Neil Foley and (front) Aisling Nolan, Valerie Doyle, Shirley Murphy and Dara Lynott.

The Conference allowed discussion to take place on the prominent issues faced by water service providers such as:

- the challenges faced by local authorities and other agencies involved in water protection and management;
- outcomes achieved to date; and
- up dates on new legislation and reporting requirements.

Opening the Conference, Mr. David King, of the UK Energy Saving Trust, spoke of the issues faced in managing water resources and planning for the impacts of climate change. Mr King stated that water is key to climate change adaptation and as pressures on our water resources increase, through rapidly expanding populations, strategic plans must be developed to mitigate climate change. He concluded by saying water is already a scarce resource, and we need to act now on what we know and plan for the future.

Dara Lynott, Director of the EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement outlined our environmental and economic challenges and highlighted the importance of water conservation in achieving a more sustained use of our water supplies. He emphasised the need for skilled and well-trained staff in achieving our objectives under increasing complex regulations.

Mr Jack Keyes, Cavan County Manager, provided an insight into the fiscal challenges facing local authorities and the need for a fresh approach to improving our environmental infrastructure. Dr Kevin Kelleher of the HSE outlined new HSE guidance on Drinking Water and Professor Martin Cormican, HSE spoke of the risk of low-level continuous or intermittent exposures to chemical substances.

Updates were given on Good Agriculture Practices Regulations, Code of Practice on Single House Treatment and Municipal Waste Water Licensing. EPA speakers gave a summary of the enforcement provisions

of the municipal waste water regulations and our methods for capturing and disseminating information. Mr Denis McGuire, Executive Chemist with South Tipperary County Council, spoke of his experience in operating Waste Water Treatment Plants.

The EPA's Office of Environmental Assessment provided Interim Status Assessments on rivers, lakes, transitional and costal waters, and ground waters. The final session included presentations from Mr Peter Pollard, of the Scottish EPA, on water planning and implementation in Scotland. Seán Ó Breasail of the South Western River Basin Project Office spoke on River Basin Management Plans in Ireland and The Sustainable Water Network (SWAN) provided a summary from Ireland's leading environmental groups on working together to implement the Water Framework Directive.

All the presentations from the conference are available to download from the EPA website at www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/other/events/oee/water09/.



The Quality of Bathing Waters in Ireland

On the 26th of May the EPA released the latest figures on the *Quality of Bathing Waters in Ireland*. In 2008, a total of 131 designated bathing areas, comprising of 122 seawater and 9 freshwater were monitored. The results of the samples were analysed and assessed against two sets of EU standards:

- The minimum EU mandatory values and
- The stricter EU guide values.

The bathing areas are classified as follows:

- Compliant with guide and mandatory values achieves **good** water quality status.
- Compliant with mandatory values only achieves **sufficient** water quality status.
- Non compliant with mandatory values results in **poor** water quality status.

The report found that the quality of Ireland's bathing waters remained high during the 2008 bathing season with 93 per cent (122 of 131 areas) complying with the minimum EU mandatory values and achieving sufficient water quality status. From 2007 to 2008, the proportion of bathing areas of sufficient water quality decreased by four per cent. Of the nine bathing areas that failed to achieve sufficient water quality status, six were seawater and three were freshwater:

Seawater

- Balbriggan, Loughshinny, Malahide, Portrane (Dublin Fingal)
- Clifden (Co. Galway)
- Ardmore (Co. Waterford)

Freshwater

- Ballyallia Lake (Co. Clare)
- Keeldra Lough (Co. Leitrim)
- Lilliput, Lough Ennel (Co. Westmeath).

This is the highest number of bathing waters classified as poor, since reporting began in 1991, and the first year sufficient water quality status was not achieved at all freshwater bathing areas. The bathing areas at Clifden and Balbriggan continue to be noncompliant with EU mandatory standards and are classified as poor.

Clifden has failed to achieve sufficient water quality status for four consecutive years, while Balbriggan achieved sufficient water quality status only once in the last six years. Four of the six seawater bathing areas classified as poor are within the administrative area of Fingal County Council.

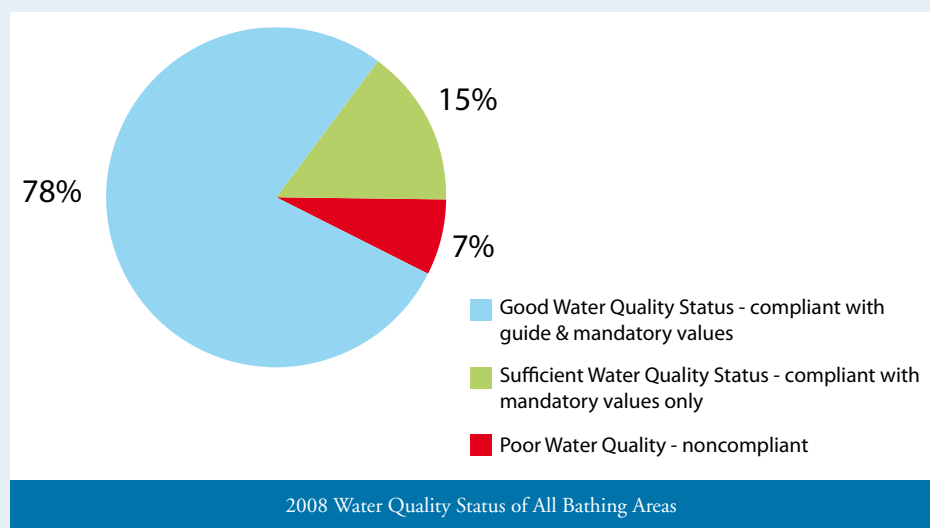
In 2008, 78 per cent of bathing areas (102 of 131 areas) complied with the guide values and achieved good water quality status. From 2007 to 2008 the proportion of bathing areas of good water quality decreased by 2 per cent.

The lower proportion of bathing areas achieving sufficient and good water quality status is due, in general, to the higher than usual rainfall that occurred during the summer of 2008.

Of particular note, all of the designated bathing areas within the following five local authority areas achieved good water quality status: Donegal County Council, Galway City Council, Kerry County Council, Mayo County Council and Meath County Council.

The report concludes that, while the overall level of bathing water quality remains acceptable, a small number of bathing areas are consistently classified as poor. Adequate measures including the provision of appropriate waste water treatment facilities are required if these bathing areas are to comply with EU standards. Furthermore, given the higher rainfall in recent summers, measures need to be taken to minimise its effects on bathing waters including adherence to good agricultural practices.

The findings of the report *The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland – A Report for the Year 2008*, along with a map of the quality of Ireland's bathing water, are available on the EPA website at: www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/bathing/.



GMO consents issued since February 2009

Professor Raymond Stallings,
RCSI, York House, York St., Dublin 2

UCD School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science,
Conway Institute,
UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4

Dr Tewfik Soulimane,
Chemical & Environmental Sciences
Department,
Materials & Surface Science Institute,
MSSI-015,
University of Limerick

Professor Gary Walsh,
Industrial Biochemistry Program,
CES Department,
University of Limerick,
Castletroy,
Limerick City

Dr. Martina Schroder,
Institute of Immunology,
NUI Maynooth,
Maynooth,
Co. Kildare

UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Sciences,
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Dr. David Clark,
UCC, Department of Microbiology,
Cork

Dr. Derek Walsh,
National Institute for Cellular
Biotechnology,
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Dr. Jennifer McManus,
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Dr. Daniel Walsh,
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Limerick Institute of Technology,
Moylish Park,
Limerick

Wyeth Medica Ireland,
The Wyeth BioPharma Campus,
Grange Castle,
Clondalkin,
Dublin 22

Fort Dodge Laboratories Ireland,
Division of Wyeth,
Finisklin Industrial Estate,
Sligo

Get Splashing - for online information on your local bathing water sites.

On the 30th of July the EPA launched the new online bathing water quality website *Splash*, available at www.bathingwater.ie. This map-based website provides the latest information, supplied by local authorities, on compliance status with EU bathing water quality standards at the 131 designated bathing sites around the country. The site also provides information about the compliance history of these bathing sites, from 2003 onwards. In addition, this user friendly website provides a description of the beach, aerial and ordinary photography, details of blue flag status and lifeguard availability, as well as current weather and tidal information. This will enable the general public, and visitors to Ireland, to make informed choices about where to bathe.



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. Bathing water quality data that is uploaded directly to the site by local authorities will be used by the EPA, to assess the overall compliance of a bathing area with EU standards, and by An Taisce, in their assessment of bathing sites for Blue Flag status.

Find out more information about your local bathing water sites at www.bathingwater.ie.

Always consider safety before bathing in any bathing waters.

Prosecutions

The EPA brought ten cases before District Courts during the period February to end of July 2009 and two further cases were heard in the Circuit Court during the period. These two cases had originally been brought before the District Court in 2008 but were refused jurisdiction.

Taking all twelve cases in total, six of the prosecutions were taken under the Environmental Protection Agency Acts 1992 to 2007; four cases were taken under the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2008; one prosecution was taken under the Waste Management (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) (WEEE) Regulations 2005 and one was taken under the Drinking Water Regulations 2007.

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

EPA Prosecutes South Dublin County Council

On the 26th February 2009 at Naas District Court, South Dublin County Council pleaded guilty to two charges brought by the EPA in relation to offences under the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2008 for breaches of its Waste Licence (Reg. No. W0004-03).

The Council admitted breaching a condition of its licence by failing to ensure that activities carried out did not result in significant interference with the environment beyond the facility boundary on two separate occasions.

On hearing details of the offences, Judge Early imposed a fine of €300 for each charge and awarded EPA costs. This prosecution was taken following a number of site inspections and

odour assessments carried out by EPA inspectors.

EPA Prosecutes Waste Recovery Services (Fermoy) Limited

On the 27th February 2009 at Fermoy District Court, Waste Recovery Services (Fermoy) Limited pleaded guilty to a charge brought by the EPA in relation to an offence under the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2008 for a breach of its Waste Licence (Reg. No. W0107-01).

The Company admitted breaching a condition of its licence by accepting a tonnage of waste that exceeded the maximum annual tonnage permitted.

On hearing details of the offences, Judge Patwell imposed a fine of €2,000 and awarded EPA costs of €7,961.55.

This prosecution was taken following a site inspection carried out by an EPA inspector on 10th April 2008.

EPA Prosecutes Galway County Council

On the 3rd of March 2009 at Galway District Court, the EPA took a prosecution against Galway County Council in relation to an offence under the European Communities (Drinking Water)(No. 2) Regulations (S.I. 278/2007).

The Council pleaded guilty to the charge of failing to comply with a direction issued to it by the EPA on 20th June 2006, requiring it to ensure that the existing UV treatment system (or any upgrade of the existing UV system) operate within its validated design specifications as soon as possible and no later than 20th July 2008. On hearing details of the offence, Judge Mary Fahy postponed sentencing until September 2009. EPA costs of €6,750 were awarded.

This prosecution was taken following a site audit carried out on 8th May 2008 by an inspector from the EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement.

EPA Prosecutes PPI Adhesive Products Limited

On the 13th March 2009 at Waterford District Court, PPI Adhesive Products Limited pleaded guilty to five charges brought by the EPA in relation to offences under the Environmental Protection Agency Acts, 1992 to 2007 for breaches of its Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence (Reg. No. P0093-01).

The Company admitted breaching conditions of its licence by:

- Exceeding emission limit value to the atmosphere;
- Failing to keep appropriate training records for personnel;
- Failing to maintain an environmental management document system which was to the satisfaction of the EPA;
- Failing to maintain a programme for the identification and reduction of fugitive emissions to air which was to the satisfaction of the EPA; and
- Failing to develop a dedicated Bypass Response Procedure.

On hearing details of the offences, Judge Kennedy imposed fines of €1,000 on charge one, taking the other charges into account, and awarded EPA costs of €5,155.

This prosecution was taken following air monitoring and an audit carried out by inspectors from the EPA on 23rd January 2008 and 7th February 2008 respectively.

Prosecutions continued

EPA Prosecutes Carbury Compost Limited

On the 26th March 2009 at Kildare District Court, Carbury Compost Limited pleaded guilty to a charge brought by the EPA in relation to offences under the Waste Management Acts, 1996 to 2008 for breaches of its Waste Licence (Reg. No. W0124-01).

The Company admitted breaching conditions of its licence by failing to install infrastructure within specific timeframes.

On hearing details of the offences, Judge Zaidan imposed a fine of €2,800 and awarded EPA costs of €10,204.

This prosecution was taken following an audit carried out by EPA on 29th April 2008.

EPA Prosecutes Mr. Patrick Moore

On 30th March 2009 at Carlow District Court the EPA took a prosecution against Mr. Patrick Moore in relation to offences under the Environmental Protection Agency Acts, 1992 to 2007 for breaches of his Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence (Reg. No. P0470-01).

Mr. Moore admitted breaching conditions of the licence by:

- Failing to report to the EPA details of the Slurry/Manure Register;
- Failing to maintain a Slurry/Manure Register on site for inspection by authorised personnel of the EPA;
- Disposing of and recovering waste in a manner other than in accordance with a Licence granted under the Waste Management Act 1996.

On hearing details of the offences, Mr. Moore was fined €3000 and must pay the EPA costs, which will be determined at a later date.

This prosecution was taken following a site inspection carried out by EPA inspectors on 30th May 2007.

EPA Prosecutes Kildare Chilling Company

On the 14th May 2009 at Kildare District Court, Kildare Chilling Company pleaded guilty to five charges brought by the EPA in relation to offences under the Environmental Protection Agency Acts 1992 to 2007 for breaches of its Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence (Reg. No. P0170-01).

The Company admitted breaching conditions of its licence by:

- Causing or permitting emissions to a sewer that exceeded the ELV on three separate occasions.
- Failing to carry out monitoring and analysis of emissions to sewer.
- Failing to record all sampling, analysis, measurements, examinations, calibrations and maintenance carried out and to maintain such records on site for inspection by the Agency.

On hearing details of the offences, Judge Zaidan imposed a fine of €3,000 for each charge and awarded EPA costs of €8,500.

This prosecution was taken following an audit and EPA monitoring carried out on 22nd July 2008, 7th May 2008, 18th June 2008 and 1st September 2008 respectively.

EPA Prosecutes Keaney Medical Limited

On the 25th May 2009 at Court No. 49, Dolphin House, East Essex Street, Dublin 2, Keaney Medical Limited pleaded guilty to two charges brought by the EPA in relation to offences under the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2007.

Keaney Medical Limited is not a licensable activity under the Environmental Protection Agency Acts 1992 and 2007 or under the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2008. The Company distribute medical products to hospitals and health boards nationwide. It specialises in providing pressure relieving mattresses and beds for rental and sale.

The Company pleaded guilty to the following charges:

- Disposal of waste in a manner that was likely to cause environmental pollution and
- Transferring the control of waste to an unauthorised person.

On hearing details of the offences, Judge Blake imposed a fine of €1,000 for each charge and awarded EPA costs of €3,250.

This prosecution was taken following site inspections carried out by inspectors from the EPA at a licensed transfer station on 30th April 2008 and 1st May 2008 respectively.

Prosecutions continued

EPA Prosecutes Mr Padraig Kiernan

On the 26th May 2009 at Granard District Court, Co Longford, Mr Padraig Kiernan pleaded guilty to three charges brought by the EPA in relation to offences under the Environmental Protection Agency Acts 1992 to 2007 for breaches of the Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence (Reg. No. PO613-01).

The licensee admitted breaching conditions of his licence by:

- Failing to ensure a minimum of six months slurry storage capacity at each pig yard;
- Failing to ensure that a freeboard of at least 100mm from the top of each covered slurry storage tank and 500mm from the top of uncovered slurry storage tanks were maintained at all times;
- Failing to retain on site the Slurry/Manure Register for inspection by authorised personnel of the Agency.

On hearing details of the offences, Judge Neilan applied the Probation Act and, by agreement, costs of €10,461.50 were awarded.

This prosecution was taken following a site inspection carried out by the EPA on 13th March 2007.

South East Recycling Company Limited Prosecuted on Indictment

On the 30th June 2009 at Wexford Circuit Court, South East Recycling Company Limited pleaded guilty to offences under the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2008 for breach of waste licence (Reg. No. W0111-01.)

The licensee admitted breaching a condition of the waste licence, by exceeding the annual waste tonnage limit

in 2007, at its facility at Carrigbawn, Pembrokestown, Wexford.

Judge Doyle heard details of the offence and on 1st July 2009 imposed a fine of €350,000 and awarded EPA expenses of €10,450. The licensee sought leave to appeal. This prosecution was taken following inspections undertaken by EPA inspectors during 2007. Due to the serious nature of this offence and the licensee's history of offending, this case was referred to the Director of Public Prosecution for prosecution on indictment.

EPA Prosecutes Advanced Bar & Catering Services Limited

On 20th July 2009 Advanced Bar & Catering Services Limited, A4 Calmount Road, Ballymount, Dublin 12 pleaded guilty to charges brought by the EPA in relation to seven offences under the Waste Management (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment)(Amendment) Regulations 2008 and the Waste Management Acts 1996 (as amended).

At Dublin Metropolitan District Court Judge Victor Blake heard the case and the company admitted breaching the Regulations by:

- Placing electrical and electronic equipment on the market at a time when the company was not registered as a producer of such equipment;
- Failing to apply to the registration body for registration or renewal of registration as a producer;
- Failing to declare to the registration body the quantities, by weight or number of units, of electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market.

Fines totalling €3,500 were imposed in relation to the seven charges and costs of €4,500 were awarded to the EPA.

This prosecution followed several notifications issued by the EPA to the Company informing them of their obligations and one inspection carried out by the EPA's Resource Use Unit, in November 2008.

Chemifloc Limited Prosecuted on Indictment

On the 22nd July 2009 at Clare Circuit Court, Chemifloc Limited was convicted of offences under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 to 2007 for breach of its Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) Licence (Reg. No. P0076-01.)

A jury found the licensee guilty of breaching a condition of its licence by causing or permitting emissions to the atmosphere at Smithstown Industrial Estate, Shannon, Co. Clare on 24th May 2007.

Judge Seán ÓDonnabháin heard details of the offence and on 23rd July 2009 imposed a fine of €5,000 and awarded EPA expenses of €5,000.

This prosecution was taken following an inspection undertaken by EPA inspectors following an incident on 24th May 2007. Due to the serious nature of the offence this case was referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions for prosecution on indictment.

Occasional lecturer for education on sustainable development

In December 2002, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 57/254 to put in place a United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), spanning from 2005 to 2014. The goal for the ESD decade is to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning.



Gavin Harte is passionate about sustainable development and has been a high profile spokesperson on environmental and sustainability

issues in Ireland for many years. He has worked as the national director of An Taisce and was the founder and developer of Ireland's first eco-village in Cloughjordan, Co Tipperary.

In 2008 Gavin developed a multimedia presentation on sustainable development. He approached the EPA for help and in association with the Department of Energy, Communications and Natural Resources, ENFO and Comhar - the sustainable development partnership - the occasional lecturer for education on sustainable development was born.

Gavin is convinced that the third level sector is key to making real progress on sustainable development. He feels that "if the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development are to be understood and implemented by future policy and decision makers, it is essential to target education for sustainable development at third level now."

The following contributed to this issue of the EPA Newsletter:

Mary Kelly, Alice Waemeare; Jonathan Derham; Odile le Bolloch; Kirsty Nolan; Darragh Page; Ann Marie Egan; Brian Donlon; Gavin Harte; Suzanne Monaghan; Ann Kavanagh; Noeleen Keavey; Suzanne Wylde; Annette Cahalane and Niamh Leahy.

Gavin identified that "within third level there already exists a process whereby a visiting speaker can provide an *occasional lecture* on specialist subjects outside of the core curriculum for students". The *occasional lecture* route is a way to bring education for sustainable development to third level students in an efficient, fast and cost effective manner.

Gavin has a master's degree in sustainable development and his skill in communicating environmental issues is well recognised. Strongly influenced by Al Gore's multimedia presentation, Gavin's mix of photographs, video clips, and animations, documents the enormous influence human activity is having on our planet and the serious impacts these are likely to have in the near future.

Gavin has built lectures on 14 different aspects of sustainable development - from climate change to biodiversity loss, from transport, waste and water to ecological footprints and sustainable planning. These different chapters are then available for lecturers to pick and choose from when tailoring a presentation suitable to their particular classes' requirements.

Gavin wants to see the creation of a foundation course in sustainable development available to all students across all disciplines. "Recognising the true value of our environment is the challenge for our generation. Students need to understand that our world is changing and changing rapidly. Education for sustainable development is an essential part of this understanding and embedding this learning in the form of a foundation module is key. What's needed now is the full integration of sustainable development as a core education module for all students at third level."

For Further information visit www.esdtraining.net.



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