

Public Service Agreement 2010-2014 (Croke Park Agreement) Action Plan

Environmental Protection Agency

Summary of Main Progress Achieved in the Six Month Period April 2011 to September 2011

Summary Status of Actions

- 62 actions in total. 58 on track; 2 delayed 1 to 2 months; 2 delayed greater than 2 months.
 - Better HR Management: 17 actions underway with 15 on track.
 - Better Business Processes: 27 actions underway with 25 on track.
 - Delivering for the Citizen: 18 actions underway with all on track.

Some highlights during the reporting period

1. Cost saving Initiatives

- The EPA is on track to achieve the targeted reduction of 10% in core operating costs.
- Irish businesses are continuing to make significant cost savings through the EPA's National Waste Prevention Programme. The Green Hospitality Programme has resulted in €5.6 million in actual annualised savings to 160 businesses. Additionally, the Green Business programme has identified potential savings of €1.65 million in 60 other businesses. Green Healthcare has identified minimum immediate potential savings of €1.2 million in the hospitals it has surveyed.
- Through efficiencies developed to deal with the high level of applications from local authorities (462 issued to date) for waste water discharge certificates of authorisation, costs savings have been achieved in 2011 to the value of €377,000.

2. Better HR Management and Inter-Agency Collaboration

- Excellent progress and on-going engagement with FAS graduate scheme and new JobBridge scheme. 35 people have been placed with the EPA to date with at least 8 of these moving on to employment outside of the EPA. 11 people currently placed with EPA with an additional 18 placements in train.
- The EPA is making good progress in working with other Agencies operating in a similar environment. Initiatives underway with:
 - **local authorities** and other agencies (environmental enforcement network, EDEN);
 - **Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland** (assessment of synergies and report to DECLG);
 - **Ordnance Survey** and other Agencies (developing a cross-agency approach to land-use and land-cover mapping);
 - **Office of Public Works** (to review and reform hydrometrics services in Ireland building on synergies between EPA and OPW);
 - **Forfas, Enterprise Ireland, IDA and SEAI** (a new green enterprise guide for business)
 - **Health Services Executive** (to establish better mechanisms for dealing with environment and health issues).

3. Better Business Processes and Delivering for the Citizen

- The EPA, working with Local Authorities, has replaced a historical paper based waste data reporting system with an ePortal based system. This will lead to significant efficiencies for Waste Industry and Public Authorities. Waste management companies now only have to report once and not multiple times to different authorities. The EPA can now collect data for national and EU reporting purposes at one location through the e-portal making reporting easier and less onerous for both local authorities and waste operators.
- The EPA is continuing to expand on the EDEN (Environmental Data Exchange Network) to facilitate environmental reporting by Local Authorities and plans to extend the EDEN system to the Marine Institute. The EPA continues to monitor and analyse its communications services to ensure value for money and that efficient service is provided.
- The EPA is continuing to improve access to environmental information through its web-site. The environment in focus section is being continually updated with the most recently published indicator data. A new section was added in October 2011 to the EPA web-site (called PRTR) publishing the emissions records of factories, farms, waste water treatment plants, power generators and other regulated industries. These developments are making environmental data more accessible to the public and encouraging public participation in environmental decision making.