



MINUTES

**22nd Meeting of the National Waste Prevention Committee
The Sandymount Hotel, Dublin – 16th November 2015**

Present:

Environmental Protection Agency	Shane Colgan (Chairperson)	SC
	Keiron Phillips	KP
	Maria Martin	MM
	Simon O’Rafferty (EPA Research Fellow)	SO
	Lisa Cullimore (Secretariat)	LC
Chambers Ireland	Mark O’Mahoney	MO ¹
Community Reuse Network	Joanne Rourke	JR
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government	Bernie Kiely	BK ¹
Department of Food, Agriculture and the Marine	Marian Byrne	MB
Eastern-Midlands Waste Region	Hugh Coughlan	HC
Engineers Ireland	Olivier Gaillot	OG
Ibec	Ann Murphy	AM
Ibec	Michael Gillen	MG
Irish Farmers Association	Thomas Ryan	TR
Irish Waste Management Association	Brendan Keane	BK ²
Southern Waste Region	Philippa King	PK
VOICE Ireland	Mindy O’Brien	MO ²

Apologies:

Environmental Protection Agency	Jonathan Derham
	Tom Ryan
	Jane Brogan
	Odile Le Bolloch
Chartered Institute of Waste Management	Enda Kiernan
Clean Technology Centre	Dermot Cunningham
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government	Jean Clarke
	Philip Nugent
Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation	Catherine Curran
	Tracey Murphy
Enterprise Ireland	Declan White
	Robert Geraghty
Health Service Executive	Helen Maher
IDA	Ray Bowe
Small Firms Association	Des Cummins

Not in Attendance:

Enterprise Ireland	Robert Geraghty
Irish Small Medium Enterprises	Andrew Cartwright
Connacht Ulster Waste Region	Kevin Swift

Item 1 – Welcome & Minutes

Shane Colgan (**SC**) welcomed all to the meeting. The minutes of the meeting on 6th May 2015 were approved.

Item 2 – Waste Prevention in Action

After taking first place in the REPAK Waste Prevention Business Award, Ruth Cooper (Sandymount Hotel) gave a presentation to the committee describing the reductions achieved by the organisation in landfill waste, food waste and other wastes. The presentation included examples of the measures already taken, and possible areas where further reductions could be made.

Item 3 – Progress and Activities in 2015

2015 NWPP Activities

SC - LAPN: New methods had been introduced for the payment of LAPN grants to local authorities. It had been noted that the new award structure of making equal payment amounts to each local authority will be reviewed at year-end, in conjunction with the waste regions.

Hugh Coughlan (**HC**) advised there had been some difficulty in engaging local authorities, particularly due to the short-term nature of the projects. **HC** further advised each local authority is to set aside 15 cents per head of population for waste prevention projects, and it is expected that this funding could be linked with LAPN activities. Philippa King (**PK**) stated the lateness of the 2015 budget had also caused issues, and confirmed that the new award structure was not ideal.

SC - Stop Food Waste: the Stop Food Waste team have been out and about at various events throughout the year, raising the profile of the project. In December EPA & the Stop Food Waste team plan to meet with Bia Food Initiative and FoodCloud to explore the possibility of collaborating on issues related to wasted food.

SC - Green Healthcare: the Health Service Executive (HSE) had proposed a focus on delivering training to staff throughout 2015. EPA & Green Healthcare also met with Nursing Homes Ireland (representing 400 plus private nursing homes) - the initial indications are positive as the sector seems keen to work with the programme.

SC - Sponsorship: the programme has continued to sponsor awards throughout 2015, and this included the Green Awards, Irish Hospitality Institute Awards, & National CSR Awards -.

SC - Eco Eye: the EPA will be meeting with the Eco Eye team later this week to discuss the NWPP-sponsored 'waste' episode, which will be starting in Inishbofin, and will feature the Reuse Workshop – this episode is to air in January 2016.

KP - Green Business: a new Green Business Guide has been developed to enable the message to be delivered in a concise format. The Green 50 project has just been launched, and details of this are included in the new guide. During 2015, 33 site visits have been carried out.

KP - Free Trade: over the last six months 2,295 items have been reused, there have been 137,548 visits to the website, and 802 new members have signed up. Approximately 90% of the activity has taken place in the Dublin region, although expanded participation throughout the country was a goal for 2015 and will be reviewed at year-end.

KP - SMILE: SMILE currently has 1,249 members, and a technical assistance team have helped to facilitate the exchanges. The model has worked very well, and several synergies have been identified in the 1,000 + tons range including one of over 10,000tpa range. Six video clips have been produced this year, and there are a number of case studies relating to job creation. The ability to offer the technical assistance into 2016 will be dependent on funding being available. The new direction taken in 2015 has been very successful and has produced excellent results. A new pan-European project has been initiated which looks at collection and end-use of discarded fishing nets, and the possible development of enterprises.

Brendan Keane (**BK²**) asked whether bale netting could be incorporated into this project, particularly with a view to looking at end-use opportunities. KP to arrange contact between BK2 and SMILE to further investigate.

SC - PREP: the PREP platform is now fully live and operational. The EPA currently has 10 items listed, and will be looking at ways of highlighting Prep and encouraging people to use it - in partnership with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

Joanne Rourke (JR) – Community Reuse Network Ireland: during 2015 a series of Revival roadshows were held around the country. The roadshows had a variety of different focuses, including textiles, pallet furniture and bicycle maintenance. The aim was to give people upcycle skills, and ideas for their own projects. A total of 62 roadshows were held, and around 600 people attended. CRNI has also been involved with two television shoots (Nationwide and Eco Eye).

KP - Green Enterprise Project Awards: a total of 34 qualifying applications were received, and 12 of these will be funded (consisting of 9 from 2015 applications and 3 from the previous shortlist), with further 1 being held on the reserve list – funding of the reserve list will be subject to budget availability. EPA to circulate summary information on the new awards to the committee.

KP - EPA Vans: the EPA are currently looking into the possibility of renovating two old EPA vans, with a view to donating them to Boomerang and Bia Food Initiatives to assist with their collections and deliveries.

KP - Craft Brewing Project: there have been some challenges recruiting the requisite number of breweries to the project, for a number of different reasons. . However, we now expect to have 5 craft breweries of different sizes and capacities on board.

Thomas Ryan (TR) - Smart Farming: The programme focusses on economic savings through smart farm management, and average savings of €5,000 per farmer have been achieved. At the end of 2015 the programme will also be reporting on the environmental benefits through to the use of Bord Bia's carbon navigator. In 2016 the programme will be able to build in energy savings too. The programme has been very successful and is currently over-subscribed (approximately 600 farmers have signed up to it) and a waiting list has been formed.

Simon O'Rafferty (SO) - Presentation: "Co-design of policy interventions that support sustainable behaviour and practices in Ireland". SO gave a summary of the focus of his research, the purpose and reasons behind it, and his findings.

Michael Gillen (**MG**) asked whether **SO** and the steering committee for Financial Incentives to Produce a Resource Efficient Ireland could look at the potential synergies between the two projects. **PK** asked when this would be fed back to the people on the ground (i.e. the waste regions). **SO** advised workshops will be held and visuals will be produced – they will be going back out to the service providers with this and people can take elements from it and put them into practice. **BK²** queried whether (since we are at the change-over point for pay by weight) **SO** could talk to the contractors regarding why people don't engage. **BK²** also asked whether a householder version of the Green Business Guide could be produced to advise people on the potential for financial savings in respect the new waste charges. **SC** advised the EPA is currently developing the Live Green website for householders – this website will include a section on waste. Marian Byrne (**MB**) asked if case studies could be included (e.g. Origin Green), **SO** confirmed that this had already been used as an example.

LIFE Funding Application

SC advised the committee that an application for LIFE funding had been prepared and submitted. The application was based around the expansion of the Stop Food Waste Challenge, and approval would allow the programme to be expanded massively throughout Ireland, over a 4 year period. The total project budget is €1.6m with 60% to come from the EU It is expected that the results will be announced during Q1, 2016.

Policy & EPA Updates

SC informed the committee there are a number of staff changes and structural re-organisations taking place within the EPA. These changes will include Jonathan Derham's departure from the Office of Climate, Licensing & Resource-Use and his move to the Office of Evidence and Assessment. Jonathan will be replaced by Tom Ryan, from the Office of Radiological Protection, and the NWPP programme will be within the newly renamed 'Office of Environmental Sustainability'.

MG asked if an organisational chart including details of the new contacts could be made available.

Bernie Kiely (**BK**¹) gave the following updates:

- There will be a forthcoming consultation on exporting resource opportunities, focussing on opportunities which we may be missing.
- The Circular Economy package proposal should be out by mid-December
- The 2016 Action Plan for Jobs is being finalised, and will include resource efficiency and sustainability initiatives.
- Hard copies of the RX3 report are now available for committee members.

EPA is to circulate an update note on waste policy to the committee. This was originally prepared by DECLG for a meeting of the National Waste Forum.

National Hazardous Waste Management Plan

Maria Martin (**MM**) gave a presentation on the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP), which included its content and ongoing projects. The presentation also included an update on the 2015 Farm Hazardous Waste Collections – it was noted that whilst participation was still very good, the figures were slightly down on the 2014 pilot collections. However, this may be weather-related, significant amount of hazardous waste had nevertheless been removed from the environment as a result of these collections.

BK² asked how the figures compared to previous estimates of uncollected hazardous waste in the environment. **MM** advised this comparison needs to be made.

Green Public Procurement

SC informed the committee that the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) are raising the profile of Green Public Procurement (GPP), and will be looking at ways of increasing focus on it and getting engagement from local authorities etc. **BK**¹ added that the EPA and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government will be working together to develop an understanding of how GPP works. End-users must take ownership and responsibility for GPP. The next meeting of the GPP Implementation Group will be held in Spring 2016. They will also be looking for pilot projects, and will walk-through the various steps with the contracting authority to show how GPP is achievable.

PK stated the OGP need to build GPP into their frameworks. **BK**¹ advised end-users should take the opportunity to voice their requirements when the OGP frameworks are being created.

Item 4 – Programme Priorities and Projects for 2016

SC asked the committee for ideas and suggestions for 2016:

- **BK**² asked if we can involve waste prevention in the publicity campaign for pay by weight.
- **MG** asked if we can do something for the householder on the take-back of medicines, and whether the EPA could drive the HSE to offer this service.
- **MG** noted that the EPA should ensure whatever is developed on their main website should also be available on their mobile site, and to limit the number of clicks required to find information.
- Mindy O'Brien (**MO**²) suggested educational material is produced for the householder on the separation of recyclable materials as there is a perception from the public that everything is dumped into one pile.
- Olivier Gaillot (**OG**) asked whether there was potential for a research project into producer responsibility, which could examine the barriers etc.
- Mark O'Mahoney (**MO**¹) suggested we could look at ways of engaging employees (as opposed to management) to become involved in waste prevention/reduction within their organisations.
- **MG** asked whether the Waste Prevention messaging could be rolled out to individuals via the Green Flag Schools
- **JR** asked if a way could be found to move upcycled products into the mainstream retailers (e.g. the products are offered for sale within an established retail outlet).

Item 5 – Resource Efficiency for Ireland

Item 5 was deferred due to time constraints.

Item 6 – Any Other Business and Close

SC thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.