



Minutes

14th Meeting of the National Waste Prevention Committee

10th March 2010

Wynn's Hotel, Dublin

Present:

Environmental Protection Agency

Andy Fanning
Jonathan Derham
Marian Lambert (Secretariat)
Odile Le Bolloch
Keiron Phillips
Celine Horner

Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government

Jean Clarke
Pat Fenton
Ronan Mulhall

Irish Small & Medium Enterprises

Andrew Cartwright

Environmental NGOs

Frank Corcoran

Small Firms Association

Des Cummins

Clean Technology Centre

Noel Duffy

Pharmaceutical Ireland

Michael Gillen

Irish Waste Management Association

Brendan Keane

Chartered Institute of Waste Management

Enda Kiernan

Health Service Executive

Helen Maher

Enterprise Ireland

Fred McDarby

Forfás

Alan Quirke

Apologies:

Environmental Protection Agency

Gerry Byrne

Department of Enterprise & Trade & Employment

Nina Brennan

Industrial Products

Marian Byron

IBEC

Conor Gouldsbury

Forfás

Jonathan Healy

IDA

Brendan McDonagh

Not in Attendance

Chambers of Commerce of Ireland

Paul Jevens

Comhar

Cathy Maguire

Department of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries

Tom Quinlivan

IFA

Thomas Ryan

1. Welcome and Introductions

Andy Fanning opened the meeting and apologised on behalf of Gerry Byrne who was unable to attend the meeting. He welcomed members and new members, Alan Quirke and Andrew Cartwright.

2. Minutes of meeting – 6th October 2009

Matters Arising

Jean Clarke advised that the Market Development Programme has been rebranded and is now known as Rx3. A Sustainable Innovation Forum is taking place on 27th April and will include a number of speakers from other countries. She advised members to visit www.rx3.ie for further details.

3. National Waste Prevention Programme - Project Updates

Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN)

Odile Le Bolloch reported that there are currently 12 local authorities participating in various projects. The range of initiatives is wide and initiatives cover many different sectors, for example Limerick County Council will be testing reusable cups at the next rugby match in Thomond Park. A common theme being looked at by all the projects this year is food waste. LAPN participants have set up a network to maintain links between members undertaking similar projects and to provide support to all local authorities wishing to undertake waste prevention and resource efficiency programmes in their functional areas. Jonathan Derham said EPA would be happy to send information on the various projects to committee members. The EPA is organising a conference to showcase these programmes being carried out by local authorities as part of the National Waste Prevention Programme. The Conference will take place in Croke Park Conference Centre on 3rd June and will highlight how the programme has demonstrated that implementing waste prevention and resource efficiencies in an organisation can lead to significant savings, in addition to the obvious environmental benefits. Members of the National Waste Prevention Committee and other interested members in their respective organisations will be invited to attend the conference. Des Cummins said he would be happy to circulate any relevant information to his members.

Greenbusiness.ie

Keiron Phillips advised that there were 313 active businesses had signed up by end of 2009 (target of 300). 24 Resource Efficiency Assessments (REAs) were carried out representing potential savings of €850,000. The project to date has cost approximately €723,361 (incl. VAT) - a significant amount of this cost has been used to develop tools etc. Keiron said that particular sectors to be targeted in 2010 include printing, publishing and food processing and support will be offered to the health care sector. He also said that there would be much more emphasis this year on publicity and the generation of case studies. He said the message in 2010 will be that there is no catch joining this project. Brendan Keane said the return on investment were impressive, and enquired as to how the project is funded. Jonathan Derham said the project receives its funding from the Environment Fund of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government through levies collected on plastic bags, etc. Brendan Keane said there is definitely a push to recycle/reuse, etc. and felt that the waste management industry could assist the NWPP by helping to promote Greenbusiness to its clients provided some useful literature (flyers, etc.) could be prepared for distribution.

Frank Corcoran queried as to whether there is an incentive for businesses to get involved in greenbusiness.ie as this might be replaced by green public procurement. Keiron

Phillips said that the EPA only book venues for meetings with members of greenbusiness.ie and therefore there is an incentive for businesses to get involved. Helen Maher said that there is some resistance within the HSE to putting any type of requirement in green procurement tenders. Jean Clarke said there are training needs for businesses into the benefits of being involved in greenbusiness. Fred McDarby said that there is a lot of confusion around the whole Greenbusiness area and acknowledged that EPA and EI will in 2010 cooperate on the development of a 'map' for businesses as to who to call for resource efficiency and environmental improvement support. Brendan Keane extended an invitation to Keiron Phillips to participate in the IWMA meetings to explain the whole greenbusiness concept. Des Cummins said he would also be happy to circulate information to SFA members in this respect.

Packaging Waste Prevention

Jonathan Derham advised that Repak provide free advice to companies regarding packing waste design, etc.

Green Healthcare Project

Andy Fanning said that the Cork University Hospital project is been expanded to include more hospitals. Helen Maher said there are access problems with some hospitals that are been visited and that a lot more work needs to be done. She said an article on the work been undertaken was highlighted in "Health Matters" magazine. The HSE are working with SEI in relation to energy management issues.

Green Hospitality Awards

Keiron Phillips said that this project has progressed well. There are currently 150 hotels participating which have generated saving of approximately €4.65 million. Brendan Keane enquired if there was anything available for small operators. Keiron said that Fáilte Ireland is looking at developing a pilot programme. Brendan Keane said that there is a need for educating the catering sector in food waste. Jonathan Derham advised members to visit the website www.stopfoodwaste.ie that has been developed as part of a food waste prevention initiative under NWPP, where there is a large amount of information available. A new booklet has also been produced entitled *Less Food Waste More Profit – A guide to minimising food waste in the catering sector* and this is being distributed to the catering sector with a sectoral interest magazine. This booklet is also available to download from the www.ghaward.ie website. Ronan Mulhall advised that ways of raising awareness of the Food Waste Regulations and their implications are being explored by DEHLG at present and an advertising campaign will begin in April/May in advance of their introduction.

4. National Hazardous Waste Management Plan – Implementation update

Economic Study of Solvent Recycling and Treatment Project

Andy Fanning advised that the Report was completed by CTC. A number of barriers that might prevent completion have been identified. Pharmaceutical companies identified as largest producers of this type of waste. Project concluded there is good capacity for treating this waste within Ireland possibly on pharmachem sites. This creates the possibility of changing existing waste management practices. Michael Gillen said that a lot was learned from Noel Duffy's presentation to Pharmachem Ireland last year. He said industry is willing to work with EPA on ways of saving on generation of waste. Noel Duffy said that 95% of the solvent waste created in Ireland comes from the pharmaceutical sector but currently there is no secondary market for solvents. He said there are superb solvent recovery facilities in Ireland and that transport is a significant factor in the waste management.

Regulation of the Vehicle Servicing and Garage Sector Project

Andy Fanning said the outputs from this project include a Smart Garages Guide, Waste Mapping poster and a legal register of all of the environmental legal responsibilities for Garages. These outputs will be disseminated via SIMI and other channels. The Project concluded that an AIC scheme for garages would be appropriate and suggested that there might be potential for a PRI for waste oils and/or waste oil filters. Andy advised that these recommendation and others in relation to other potential PRIs will be discussed with the DEHLG. Code of Practice for Civic Amenity Sites Project

Andy Fanning said that Fehily, Timoney & Co. have produced a draft Code of Practice under contract to the EPA. Further consultation on this will be carried out in 2010 prior to it being published. Pat Fenton reported that Dublin City Council have engaged a company to develop an electronic C1 tracking form and that this system should be compatible with external systems. He said regulations should be ready in the next 5/6 weeks and come into force in October 2010. Helen Maher said that the HSE has encountered some problems with C1 forms and that the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) are unhappy with issues that have arisen in this regard. Enda Kiernan said there has been a huge increase in number of HSA inspections in the Cork area.

Farm Hazardous Waste Project

Keiron Phillips reported that 20 farms were surveyed and the main types of waste reported by the survey as arising on farms were waste oil and batteries, both of which tended to be accumulated by farmers, and both waste streams lacked a consistent disposal mechanism. Other significant waste types included biocide containers, which often tended to be reused on the farm, and plant protection product containers.

The collection trials in Monaghan resulted in 5.6 tonnes of waste being collected from 43 farms. CTC estimate that nationally between 122 and 183 tonnes of plant protection product containers are generated nationally, between 1800 and 2800 tonnes of waste oil and 1200 to 2200 tonnes of waste batteries.

National Difficult Waste Facility Project

Jonathan Derham said that a draft report is being assessed and will be sent to the Department for follow up. He said that meetings have taken place the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) who are working on producer responsibility.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Andy Fanning said that the EPA undertook 64 site surveys in 2009. A number of suspect holdings were identified from these surveys. Findings from these indicated there could still a lot of old electrical transformers/capacitors that may contain PCBs in existence that are not on the national inventory of PCBs. Any equipment containing more than 5 litres of PCBs at a concentration of greater than 0.05% must be disposed of or decontaminated by end of 2010.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS)

Andy Fanning – Regulations are still with DEHLG.

Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS)

Andy Fanning updated the committee in relation to the Euro General Retail Direction and advised that Euro General Retail Ltd. complied with direction.

Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)

Andy Fanning said this relates predominantly to hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), the most commonly used of which is R22. The use of virgin HCFCs was banned at the end of 2009. Requirements for containment, leak checking, training, certification and waste management are clarified in guidance booklets directed at refrigeration and air conditioning contractors and end users.

Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases (F-gas)

Andy Fanning advised that the guidance booklets mentioned above also cover requirements for compliance with the F-gas regulations. The guidance will be available on the EPA website once completed.

5. A.O.B.

Andy Fanning said that the European Week for Waste Reduction was a great success and that a number of participants have been nominated for an award. European Week for Waste reduction 2010 will run from 20 – 28 November and all project partners will be invited to take part.

Frank Corcoran suggested that the Review of Waste Policy be included as an Agenda Item for next meeting. Ronan Mulhall said he would talk about this at next meeting.

Andy Fanning closed the meeting by thanking those in attendance and said date of next meeting will be advised.