



Minutes

9th Meeting of the National Waste Prevention Committee

18th October, 2007

Herbert Park Hotel, Dublin

Present:

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| Environmental Protection Agency | Dr. Gerry Byrne (Chairman) Brian Meaney Deirdre Murphy (Secretariat) |
| Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government | Pat Macken |
| Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government | Jean Clarke |
| Department of Agriculture & Food | Dale Crammond |
| Irish Farmers Association | Thomas Ryan |
| Irish Waste Management Association | Brendan Keane |
| Enterprise Ireland | Fred McDarby |
| Irish Business & Employers Confederation | Donal Buckley |
| Clean Technology Centre | Tadhg Coakley |
| Environmental NGO's Core | Frank Corcoran |
| Small Firms Association | Des Cummins |
| Irish Small Medium Enterprises | Dr John Ryan |
| Chartered Institution of Wastes Management | Dr Duncan Martin |
| Chambers of Commerce | Paul Javens |

Guest Speaker

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| OVAM | Ms. Katrijn Siebens |
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Apologies:

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| Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment | Margo Monaghan |
| Pharmachem Ireland | Marian Byron |

Not in Attendance

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| ICMSA | Conor Creedon |
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1. Dr. Gerry Byrne (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
2. **Minutes of meeting - 17th April, 2007.**
Minutes were adopted without amendment.
3. **National Waste Prevention Programme Annual Report to Minister & Update on NWPP Projects**

Dr. Byrne thanked committee members who had forward comments in relation to the draft annual report. He updated the committee on the various ongoing projects and invited questions.

Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme (LAPD)

The LAPD programme is going well overall. Over the last six months it has shown dividends on the ground. Fifteen local authorities are now participating and each project will yield a prevention case study, representing a blueprint for further dissemination. Two plenary meetings have taken place with participating local authorities. Donal Buckley (IBEC) presented the business perspective at one meeting. To single out two projects: Dundrum shopping centre is now segregating all its waste, with a focus on biodegradable waste, and are claiming savings of about €40,000 per quarter; three healthcare institutions in Co. Monaghan have seen waste management cost savings and the HSE are interested in exploring this potential further.

Brendan Keane asked if it is prevention or diversion that the groups are buying into. It is acknowledged that prevention can be a two-step process – first improved waste management followed by awareness of the potential for prevention.

The EPA is organising a national prevention conference for local authorities on 7th February 2008 to present and highlight results from LAPD projects to date. Mr John Gormley (TD) Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government has been invited to open the proceedings.

It will be important to ensure that the local authorities retain the experience gained by the many individual staff members if the LAPD funding terminates in 2008/9.

Prevention Training Programme

A prevention training programme for local authorities will be delivered by CTC on behalf of the EPA commencing in November 2007.

Green Homes Programme

The EPA has been working with An Taisce on the Green Homes Programme. The programme has a strong emphasis on waste prevention and recycling, water conservation and energy. Over 2,200 families have participated in the programme to date.

Jean Clarke advised that the Global Action Plan Programme is running a similar programme. Tadhg Coakley advised that this was a good approach based on a Danish model, however the programme has reduced in recent years with perhaps two groups still operating in the country.

Packaging Waste Prevention Programme

Repak have appointed Colm Munnally to work on the Packaging Waste Prevention Programme which is being jointly supported by the EPA. Several projects are ongoing including a detailed study of decision making in the supply chain with regard to packaging.

Green Business Initiative

Two major projects are out to tender. The management of the dedicated website, www.greenbusiness.ie, forms the core of one project and will include management and marketing of a waste audit tool, a water consumption audit tool, and potentially a resource efficiency audit tool. Affordable expert site visits to participating companies are also envisaged. The rollout of the Greening Irish Hotels project will also commence in 2008 and is the subject of the second tender. Large potential savings (costs, waste, energy and water) have been identified by the EPA CGPP research in the hotel and hospitality sector and this project will seek to exploit these findings over a further twelve-month pilot.

In response to Fred McDarby, Dr. Byrne advised that a list of expert consultants will be made available. This information, and experiences generally, will need to be shared between Enterprise Ireland, Sustainable Energy Ireland and EPA such that each programme augments the others.

Case Studies

The EPA is developing a case studies implementation project, first looking at the Cleaner Greener Production Programme case studies, with a view to disseminating them widely to relevant companies.

Hazred

Hazred is coming to an end. Dr. Byrne advised that the programme was very UK orientated. However we will have six sets of guidance to develop for the various sectors involved.

Waste Prevention Training Programme

The certified Waste Prevention Training Programme is ongoing and the EPA would hope to make the training widely available, perhaps through FÁS.

Solvents/Deco Paints

Deco Paints – new and updated guidance will be finalised by the end of October 2007. Businesses have until 1 March 2008 to register and comply.

A discussion followed:-

Brendan Keane has experienced good takeup from dry cleaners but talking to vehicle refinishers there is a diversity of views. The main problem is the fact that there is a diversity of chemical suppliers. He wondered if local authorities are well enough resourced to help businesses comply? Dr Byrne outlined the steps that will be taken to support the enforcement effort including harnessing the supply chain eg advising insurance companies to only use registered vehicle refinishing operators.

John Ryan said the change in regulations have clarified things. Companies had to comply with the solvent regulations but are waiting for the change. He commented that reporting templates are confusing unless one is quite familiar with them.

Study of Waste Across other Countries

Frank Corcoran commended the Annual National Waste Prevention Report. He asked whether we are looking to best international practice (beyond Europe) on waste prevention and suggested that he would prepare a paper for peer review by the Committee and that the topic be put on the Committee's agenda for a full exchange of views. In the context of zero waste, Frank suggested that a 15-20 year target be considered for the reclassification of waste as a raw material.

Dr. Byrne responded to say that the EPA will review the NWPP work plan in 2008 and this will be brought to the Committee for input.

Tadhg Coakley advised that similar studies have already taken place.

Jean Clarke agreed to forward a UK published report on waste prevention to Deirdre Murphy for circulation to the committee.

Pat Macken said we operate within a framework of EU law which has been developed on the basis of minimising environmental impact. He commented that the waste framework directive is under review and will in all likelihood provide for waste prevention programmes, benchmarks and targets. The draft directive will do for a second reading in 2008. Any review of the national waste prevention programme should be mindful of these developments. Pat also commented that the programme for government envisages a major review of waste policy including a review of waste prevention policy.

Frank Corcoran committed to undertake an international review of waste prevention policy within his own network of organisations and would contribute this to the review of the National Waste Prevention Programme.

Duncan Martin commented that we need a fundamental review of the causes of waste and that the EPA should be provided the resources it needs to undertake such a review.

4. **2nd National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP)**

Brian Meaney gave an overview of the EPA's draft Proposed National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012.

The Proposed Plan will be published in early November for public consultation over three months. The final Plan will be published in the first quarter of 2008 to be followed by a five-year implementation programme. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Brendan Keane observed that asbestos is a high profile issue and suggested that clarification is given on the two different principal types of asbestos waste (asbestos insulation and asbestos sheeting). He commented that landfill gate fees are lower in Northern Ireland and a landfill was more likely to be licensed there. In relation to civic amenity sites, Brendan commented that a review of licensing is needed, as is staff training.

Duncan Martin agreed that training of CA site staff is important, and these sites should be open to small business. He commented that pharmacies would be a better route for managing waste medicines. Brian Meaney observed that pharmacists are not obliged to take back medicines and that a national scheme is recommended in the Proposed Plan. Duncan also suggested that DIY stores could operate hazardous waste centres, possibly implemented through planning.

In relation to veterinary medicines, Pat Macken observed that the animal remedies regulations require the take back of unused or out of date materials. The Departments of Environment and Agriculture, with the farm plastics organisations, are piloting take back modes. Bring facilities have proven successful in the past with farm waste generally. These schemes are supported by the IFA (Tom Dunne) and several farm suppliers have expressed a willingness to financially support such schemes.

Donal Buckley said the recommendation for national self-sufficiency raised significant questions and asked whether it would mean a fundamental change to the how the waste market

operates. The EPA clarified that the recommendation is that Ireland aims to become self-sufficient within the bounds of what is economically/technically feasible and allowable under national and EU law with regard to the movement of waste.

Tadhg Coakley suggested that awareness should be raised amongst householders on hazardous waste, but we must also be able to offer services and alternatives.

Tom Ryan asked whether the proposed soil framework directive will influence the Plan. Pat Macken said the DEHLG are attending discussions. Pat agreed to keep Tom informed on developments with this.

Dr. Byrne advised the Committee that an information session on the Proposed National Hazardous Waste Management Plan will be held at the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise on 15 November, 2007 between 3pm and 8pm. The plan will be presented and any general questions will be answered.

5. **Presentation by Katrijn Siebens, OVAM, Flanders**

Dr. Byrne introduced Katrijn Siebens to the committee. Katrijn leads a waste prevention group comprising 13 people in OVAM, Flanders' public waste management agency. A large range of supports and services to business and households are provided and co-ordinated by OVAM. A copy of Katrijn's presentation is attached.

6. **Next Meeting**

No date was set for the next meeting but it will take place in the first quarter of 2008.