



The National Waste Prevention Programme

First Annual Report 2004/05

**Presented to
Mr. Dick Roche, T.D.,
Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government**

July 2005

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the following people who assisted in the initiation and commencement of the National Waste Prevention Programme:

- The Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government for the provision of funding and assistance in launching the initiative;
- Mr Pat Macken and his staff at the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government for ongoing support and guidance;
- The Board of the EPA for providing the opportunity and resources following the Strategic Review in 2002/3;
- All members of the National Waste Prevention Committee who provide their time and collective knowledge freely to the programme;
- The Core Prevention Team: Mr Brian Meaney, Ms Caitriona Collins, Ms Odile Le Bolloch, Mr David Dodd, Ms Deirdre Murphy, and Ms Kirsty Nolan for their enthusiastic creativity in devising and launching the projects cited in this report;
- All other organisations and persons who helped in any way with this important initiative.

To all of the above, I offer my most sincere thanks.

*Gerry Byrne BA (Mod), PhD, MBA.
(Chairman, National Waste Prevention Committee)*

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1. Overview

Commitment to a National Waste Management Programme was made in the policy document “Preventing and Recycling Waste - Delivering Change” published in March 2002. The objective as stated is to establish an ambitious and well-resourced programme to deliver substantive results on waste prevention and minimisation across all waste streams. Policy envisages that prevention measures should apply to both hazardous and non-hazardous waste arisings. The goal is to stabilise waste arisings, reverse current trends in waste production, decouple waste generation from economic growth and minimise the environmental impact of waste. These are long-term strategic national objectives and will need sustained effort and adequate resources over many years for their accomplishment.

The policy statement “Waste Management – Changing our Ways” (1998) confirmed waste prevention as the preferred policy option for dealing with waste issues, the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2001 provided details of what might be involved in the implementation of prevention measures for hazardous waste. The proposed programme for hazardous waste prevention included production/process and product waste prevention elements. The annual cost for a hazardous waste prevention programme alone was estimated then at €7.89 million.

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government announced funding of €2 million to start a broad waste prevention initiative in April 2004. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were invited to lead this programme and immediately published an Outline Work Plan 2004-2008 (see www.epa.ie/TechnicalGuidanceAndAdvice/NationalWastePreventionProgramme/).

This document reviews existing waste prevention initiatives and some trends in waste production by different sectors. It examines how a National Waste Prevention Programme might build on the achievements of these activities and augment them going forward. A number of work packages were proposed for further study including consultation and information dissemination, training, research on waste, guidance on resource efficiency audits, indicators for waste prevention, producer responsibility and hazardous waste prevention.

A Core Prevention Team (CPT) was selected from experienced staff already working in the waste management area within the EPA. The CPT continues to retain responsibility for essential complementary duties such as the annual National Waste Database Reports and the monitoring/review of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. The funding provided is being used to support all of the work of the team including appointment of consultants and provision of grants for waste prevention initiatives by other bodies.

A National Waste Prevention Committee was formed at the invitation of the Minister to oversee the development and implementation of the programme. It is chaired by Dr Gerry Byrne, Programme Manager, EPA, and comprises a wide range of stakeholders from industry, commerce, agriculture, local authorities, non-governmental organisations and Government Departments (see Appendix A). Terms of Reference were established for the committee (see Appendix B) that now also takes on the work done previously by the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan Implementation Committee.



*Former Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Martin Cullen TD
and
Dr. Mary Kelly, Director General, EPA,
at the first meeting of the National Waste Prevention Committee at
EPA Offices, McCumiskey House, Dublin*

A range of possible waste prevention initiatives, as presented in the Outline Work Plan, were examined and discussed by the Committee. Specific training was undertaken by the Core Prevention Team to develop their knowledge and understanding of waste prevention. This included attendance at relevant conferences on waste prevention and management in Ireland and abroad. A range of specific actions has been initiated and the progress on each project is outlined below. Members of the Committee provided input to Steering Groups for many of these projects in addition to providing input to the main Committee meetings as indicated above.



*Core Prevention Team
From Left, Dr. Gerry Byrne, Caitríona Collins, Brian Meaney, Odile Le Bolloch
Deirdre Murphy, Fiona McCooile & David Dodd
Missing from Photograph, Kirsty Nolan*

2. Current Project Status

Waste Characterisation Research

In order to understand and quantify the various elements arising in municipal waste, waste characterisation studies have been carried out in the past by local authorities using different methodologies at different times of year. These studies were mainly conducted prior to the advent of the segregated collection of waste and the surge in packaging waste recycling. Arising from this, the Core Prevention Team identified that there were data gaps in the understanding of current waste composition. Therefore, a waste characterisation research project was initiated for the sampling and quantification of this material. Two sampling and analysis surveys were conducted and a report on the findings will be published in August 2005. It is proposed to follow through with a series of comparable studies on a periodic basis using the same methodology in order to increase intelligence in this important area of research.

Waste Prevention Case Studies

In the past, a number of excellent waste/pollution prevention initiatives have been undertaken by different organisations. These include those by Enterprise Ireland (Environmentally Superior Products and grants for Environmental Management Systems), Sustainable Energy Ireland (conservation of energy), Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government (Race Against Waste) and the EPA (Cleaner Greener Production Programme, IPPC licensing and Waste Prevention publication). In order to maximise the value from, and build on these previous important initiatives, an in-depth research programme is ongoing to identify and develop prevention case studies for wide dissemination. This is to demonstrate the cost and other benefits arising from waste prevention to business. Findings will be disseminated using seminars and training programmes with a particular focus on company visits.

Certified Waste Prevention and Minimisation Training

In order to develop capacity for waste prevention, it is essential that key decision makers have the necessary information and skills to apply these concepts in their own organisations. Grant aid was provided to the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC) to assist in the development of a suitable waste prevention training course for business. A modular course was developed in consultation with the Clean Technology Centre (CTC) which includes lectures, directed home study as well as in-company applied waste prevention projects.



Dr. Gerry Byrne, EPA, Donal Buckley, IBEC and Noel Duffy, CTC, at the launch of the Certified Waste Prevention and Minimisation Training Programme.

The course commenced in April 2005 with participants from a wide variety of service and industrial organisations. It will run until November 2005 after which the first graduates are anticipated from Cork Institute of Technology (CIT). It is proposed to run the course annually and in a number of locations depending on demand.

It is envisaged that similar courses will be developed in the future in consultation with the national training body FÁS.

Solvents Directive

The Solvents Directive (1999/13/EC) aims to prevent hazardous waste arising in a range of different industrial sectors. It requires that operators register with their Competent Authority, maintain detailed records of solvent use/reduction and undergo annual inspections of their operations. This Directive is being implemented in Ireland by way of an Accredited Inspection Contractor (AIC) scheme for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). A National Audit Protocol has been published and guidance has been developed for three SME sectors. With the Irish National Accreditation Board, the appropriate international standard (ISO 17020) was identified to support the AIC scheme specified in the Regulations. Concerted efforts have been made to encourage suitable organisations to progress to AIC status. A pilot audit/gap analysis exercise has been completed in consultation with several volunteer businesses. A research project has been initiated to identify all SME businesses that will be affected and to alert them to their obligations. A directory of such businesses will be published to enable them, as well as AICs and local authorities, to prepare for the implementation of the Solvents Directive by 2007. Additionally, input is being provided to research on larger solvent users who are covered by the EPA's Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control (IPPC) licensing system and to develop the national report on the implementation of the Directive for the European Commission. There is a large number of companies impacted by the Solvents Directive and so there is the potential for significant reductions in hazardous waste solvents. Another Directive (2004/42/CE) limiting the solvent content of paints used in vehicle refinishing will also need to be taken into account in rolling out the Solvents Directive.

Hazred Project

This is an EU/Life funded applied research project aimed at identifying SME sectors that generate significant amounts of hazardous waste and seeks to develop guidance and audit tools to promote waste prevention. A successful joint application to the European Union for funding was made by the Core Prevention Team in partnership with the Environment Agency (England & Wales) and other bodies. The project commenced in December 2004 and in the course of this three-year project, selected SMEs in Ireland will be involved in demonstrating the efficacy of this new approach to waste prevention. Ultimately, the best practice guidance and audit/monitoring approach could be incorporated into sector waste prevention nationally.

Waste Prevention Webpage

Information on waste management policy, plans, statistics and management initiatives and opportunities are widely available but often in disparate locations. This makes the gathering of this information, whether for business or other interested parties, an arduous task. In turn this leads to the impression that waste is not being managed in a coordinated manner nationally. This results in barriers to better understanding of the true position and to the mobilization of effort to resolve outstanding waste issues.

The entire waste section of the EPA website is being completely revamped to include extensive electronic links to information and documentation on all aspects of waste management in Ireland. Everything from policy documents, to regional/national waste plans, to database reports and waste management initiatives will be included. A new section on the National Waste Prevention Programme will be added with multiple electronic links to relevant case studies as well as information and guidance on waste prevention. The idea is to provide a “one-stop shop” which would act as an important Waste Information Resource Centre for businesses and the general public. For example, clear information on waste trends, management opportunities and waste prevention opportunities will be provided.

Resource Efficiency/Waste Audits

The policy document, *Delivering Change*, proposes the introduction of a programme of mandatory waste audits for business incorporating waste reduction plans. The Core Prevention Team is conducting research into this area with a view to making recommendations to the Minister in due course as provided for in the policy document.

A survey of available waste and resource efficiency audit tools has been undertaken to determine best practice in Ireland and internationally. Suitable assessment tools along with methodologies for waste prevention planning will be developed combining the most effective elements. The “Race Against Waste” audit tool is being tested in-house with a waste audit of EPA headquarters. A pilot audit programme for businesses will be developed to further define and optimise the methodology. In time it is envisaged that such exercises should be carried out widely in production and service industries on either a voluntary or mandatory basis.

Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme

Extensive consultation and development work has been done on developing a grant scheme to enable local authorities to deliver on the waste prevention elements of their Regional Waste Management Plans. Proposals have been discussed with the Committee, an international panel of waste prevention experts as well as the City and County Managers' Association. A pilot demonstration programme involving a small number of local authorities will be conducted initially. Selection criteria and assessment protocols are currently being finalised with a view to commencing the programme in late 2005/early 2006.

The idea is to develop Regional and Local Waste Prevention Programmes providing capacity and resources to develop practical local initiatives relevant to different circumstances on the ground. The precise details will be developed in consultation with the participating local authorities with the help of expert consultants. Initially, projects based on the Regional Waste Management Plans, experience gathered by the Race Against Waste project team and the broad ideas developed for the National Waste Prevention Programme will be explored. As the programme develops, a rolling series of grants to progressively include more local authorities is proposed. This will allow lessons learned from earlier implementation phases to be applied throughout the local authority network nationally.

Producer Responsibility Initiatives

Producer Responsibility Initiatives are economic instruments arising from EU Directives in which the producers (both manufacturers and importers of products) retain responsibility for the management of products when they become waste. Producers are required to take account of the environmental impact of their products through design and end of life management.

The Core Prevention Team provides input and support to the implementation of existing Producer Responsibility Initiatives via Repak, the National Construction & Demolition Waste Council, the Market Development Group and the taskforce on the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directives. A pilot project on the statistical determination of "packaging placed on the market" in Ireland involving the Central Statistics Office and Repak has been initiated in response to the findings of previously commissioned research in this area.

Packaging Waste Prevention

The packaging Directive and associated regulations, include objectives for the reduction of packaging use. While considerable progress has been made in the segregated collection of packaging waste for recycling, there is a need to progress to the actual prevention of packaging waste.

Consideration has been given to methods to prevent packaging waste arising and discussions are ongoing with a number of parties on this issue. The National Waste Prevention Programme will sponsor a category in the Annual Repak Awards with particular priority to be given to those participants demonstrating significant packaging waste prevention achievements. Companies tend to reduce or "lightweight" their packaging to reduce transport or other costs. There is a need to educate consumers to demand less packaging and for business marketing decision

makers to understand the environmental impacts of their packaging choices. Early discussions have taken place with Repak with a view to collaborating on practical packaging waste prevention initiatives.

E-Reporting and Waste Information Management System

Providing an efficient means of collecting and collating data on waste generation and management in every sector of society is considered an important tool for measuring progress against waste management targets including waste prevention. At present, while electronic spreadsheets are used to collate information on waste, additional information technology capability is needed to collect and analyse this data. E-Reporting is an important facet of the national e-Government Strategy and needs to be embraced in the area of waste statistics and intelligence gathering. Extensive analysis is ongoing within the EPA on information systems architecture and the needs of the National Waste Prevention Programme will be included in these developments. Ultimately, it is envisaged that all players in waste management will have a facility to make single electronic returns to the regulatory authorities (EPA or local authorities) providing all necessary intelligence on waste flows. This capability would also expedite and simplify the preparation of the annual National Waste Database Reports.

The National Waste Database Reports

As noted previously, the Core Prevention Team views the provision of accurate information and trends on waste arising to be key to an effective waste prevention programme and consequently retain responsibility for the National Waste Database (NWD) annual reports. They provide basic intelligence on trends in waste arisings from a variety of sectors and help to direct prevention efforts towards priority waste streams. The NWD reports also fulfil the very important function of providing periodic feedback regarding the impact of Regional Waste Management Plans, local authority waste plans, and the activities of the waste management industry. Additionally, they highlight relevant indicators on waste to the regulators and policy makers. Extensive detailed waste data must be collected from numerous players in the waste management sector including waste operators, recyclers, industry and local authorities. The scope of the NWD 2004 report will cover all waste arisings in 2004 and will conform to the EU Waste Statistics Regulation. Publication is anticipated by end 2005. A new cycle of two yearly NWD reports will then apply on an ongoing basis providing ever more timely feedback on waste trends.

The National Hazardous Waste Management Plan

The National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP) has the prevention of hazardous waste as a cornerstone of its proposals. As noted earlier, the National Waste Prevention Committee now actively oversees the implementation of this plan. The Core Prevention Team continues to gather intelligence on hazardous waste management and presents the results to the Committee on a periodic basis. A full report on the implementation of the NHWMP was last presented to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in August 2004. In 2005/6, the plan will be revised and subjected to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the SEA Directive. The Core Prevention Team has already commenced this process with a Steering Group meeting in April comprising many members of the Committee. Plans are in place for the development of a draft plan, preparation of an SEA Environmental Report and the necessary public consultation process. Additional responsibilities assigned to the EPA concerning the

management of hazardous substances such as PCBs and POPs will be included in the revised plan.

Public Communications and Liaison

On an ongoing basis, the Core Prevention Team prepares press releases on significant events during the roll-out of the projects described above, providing suitable copy to a variety of publications and speaking at many relevant conferences/seminars on the National Waste Prevention Programme projects. The recently broadcast “Eco-eye” television series commissioned by the EPA included a member of the Core Prevention Team discussing the prevention programme. A further series of “Eco-eye” is being commissioned and will be partly supported by the prevention programme to highlight the work being undertaken. These activities help raise awareness of the issue of waste prevention and of the ongoing prevention programme. The Core Prevention Team works closely with the Race Against Waste campaign which is promoting the message widely of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle which links well with the objectives that the prevention programme is pursuing.



*Attending the Enterprise Ireland Environmental Forum in March 2005,
From Left Bob Sutcliffe (Environmental Efficiency Consultants),
Paschal Marry (McCann & Byrne), Dr Gerry Byrne (EPA) & Liam Curran (Enterprise
Ireland)*

3. Future Work

Each of the projects described above will continue to be progressed in consultation with all collaborating parties. Opportunities for widespread dissemination of the emerging results will be sought on an ongoing basis. Ideas and solutions emerging from the roll-out of the projects will be pursued and incorporated into the overall programme.

As the projects described above develop, consideration will be given to the initiation of additional waste prevention projects. For example, the development of capacity in Environmental Management Accounting in businesses could enable key decision makers to identify the true costs of waste and develop innovative ways of resolving the issue themselves; strengthening the links between waste prevention and Environmental Management Systems in IPPC licensed (and other non-licensed) companies could ensure waste is further reduced in the larger companies in Ireland;

provision of grants to support waste prevention techniques could enable SMEs to reduce their waste arisings and the widespread dissemination of Green Procurement (for the public and private sectors) could also effectively support the National Waste Prevention Programme.

4. Conclusions

In the first year of the National Waste Prevention Programme considerable progress has been made by the Core Prevention Team in the development of a range of practical projects that are designed to achieve the aims and objectives in the published multi-annual Outline Work Plan. These applied projects mainly target the industrial/commercial and the household sectors, as these are the waste streams of greatest concern.

In addition, the Core Prevention Team is involved with the practical implementation of a range of Producer Responsibility Initiatives via the WEEE Task Force, the National Construction & Demolition Waste Council and the Packaging Strategy Group. They also participate in the Market Development Group that seeks to identify indigenous market opportunities for recyclable materials.

In the years to come, these waste prevention projects and the other ongoing initiatives will yield important results and the Core Prevention Team will work to ensure that all lessons learned are applied to the ongoing development of a culture of waste prevention in Ireland.

Best practice means for enabling the widespread adoption of the techniques and methods of waste prevention will be kept under continual review. This will include provision of advice and recommendations emerging from the National Waste Prevention Committee on necessary changes to legislation or regulations as appropriate.

The ultimate objective for Ireland is to stabilise waste arisings, reverse current trends in waste production, decouple waste generation from economic growth and minimise the environmental impact of waste. Such a long-term strategic objective will need continued sustained effort and commensurate resources over many years to ensure its achievement. The National Waste Prevention Programme will vigorously pursue the necessary resources to ensure that the Core Prevention Team are provided with the capacity to become the recognised leader in this important endeavour.

5. Schedule of Meetings

The National Waste Prevention Committee met on 4 occasions in the period covered by this report.

- 13th July, 2004
- 30th September, 2004
- 01st December, 2004
- 09th March, 2005

Appendix A

National Waste Prevention Committee Representatives

Representative	Organisation
Dr. Gerry Byrne, Chairman	Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Pat Macken / Mr. Brian Leech	Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government
Mr. Dale Crammond	Department of Agriculture & Food
Mr. Gerry Wrynn	Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment
Mr. Declan Nelson	City & County Managers Association
Mr. Donal Buckley	Irish Business & Employers Confederation
Mr. Brendan Keane	Irish Waste Management Association
Dr. Duncan Martin	Chartered Institute of Waste Management
Ms. Marion Byron	Irish Pharmaceutical & Chemical Manufacturers Association
Mr. Des Cummins	Small Firms Association
Dr. John Ryan	Irish Small Medium Enterprises
Mr. Tom Dunne	Irish Farmers Association
Dr. Dorothy Maxwell	Enterprise Ireland
Ms. Bernie Walsh	Comhar
Mr. Noel Duffy	Clean Technology Centre
Mr. Frank Corcoran	Environmental NGO's Core
Mr. Paul Javens	Chambers of Commerce of Ireland
Mr. Lorcan McCabe	Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association

Appendix B

Terms of Reference

National Waste Prevention Committee TERMS OF REFERENCE

- Monitor the development and implementation of the National Waste Prevention Programme;
- Monitor the implementation, by relevant public authorities, of National Hazardous Waste Management Plan recommendations;
- Advise and provide strategic direction to the Core Prevention Team in developing and driving the National Waste Prevention Programme;
- Provide input to the Environmental Protection Agency for the purpose of section 26(6) of the 1996 Waste Management Act;
- Identify priorities for action and make recommendations to relevant public authorities and private bodies;
- Consider and make recommendations to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding appropriate policy and legislative initiatives;
- Have regard to national, European Union and international policy and legislation and best practice in relation to waste prevention and hazardous waste management;
- Facilitate, support and promote co-ordination and liaison between relevant bodies, public and private, on the National Waste Prevention Programme and the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan;
- Consider and make recommendations to relevant bodies regarding public awareness requirements in relation to hazardous waste and the prevention of waste;
- Monitor and evaluate new research and data on waste prevention, trends in hazardous and non-hazardous waste production and waste management practices;
- Consider and make recommendations to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on research priorities;
- Monitor progress in sectoral producer responsibility initiatives;
- Disseminate information on best practice in waste prevention and hazardous waste management;

- Consider and make recommendations to relevant bodies regarding the provision of funding to support implementation of the National Waste Prevention Programme and the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan; and
- Prepare and submit to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government an annual report outlining progress on the implementation of the National Waste Prevention Programme and the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan.

Appendix C

Agendas & Minutes of Meetings

Agenda – 1st Meeting 13/07/04

First Meeting of the National Waste Prevention Committee

**13 July 2004 at 11am
EPA, McCumiskey House, Dublin**

1. Welcome
2. Address by the Minister
3. Introductions
4. Terms of Reference/Standing Orders/Governance
5. Policy and Legislative Context
6. National Waste Statistics
7. EPA Proposed Waste Prevention Programme
8. Discussion
9. Meetings Schedule

Minutes

1st Meeting of the National Waste Prevention Committee

13th July, 2004

EPA Regional Inspectorate, McCumiskey House, Richview, Dublin

Present:

Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government	Mr. Martin Cullen, T.D. (part)
Environmental Protection Agency	Dr. Mary Kelly (part)
Environmental Protection Agency	Dr. Gerry Byrne (Chairman), Brian Meaney
Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government	Pat Macken
Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government	Dr. Brian Leech
Department of Agriculture & Food	Dale Crammond
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment	Gerry Wrynn
County & City Managers Association	Declan Nelson
Irish Business & Employers Confederation	Erik O'Donovan
Irish Waste Management Association	Laura Burke
Irish Pharmaceutical & Chemical Manufacturers Federation	Marion Byron
Small Firms Association	Des Cummins
Irish Small Medium Enterprises Ltd.	Dr. John Ryan
Chambers of Commerce of Ireland	Paul Javens
Enterprise Ireland	Fred McDarby
Comhar	Bernie Walsh
Clean Technology Centre	Noel Duffy

In attendance:

Environmental Protection Agency	Deirdre Murphy (Secretariat)
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Apologies:

Irish Farmers Association	Tom Dunne
Chartered Institute of Waste Management	Dr. Duncan Martin

Not present:

Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association	Lorcan McCabe
Non-Governmental Organisations	Frank Corcoran

Dr. Mary Kelly opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance. Dr. Kelly, in addressing the committee, pointed out that huge strides have been made in recent years in waste management and disposal since the introduction of the licensing system which has brought strict control to a previously under-regulated sector and we are now seeing the benefits in well-managed waste management and disposal facilities. We now need to turn to the most difficult and most challenging area, that of waste prevention. Dr. Kelly advised that we need the help and direction of this Committee to move the National Waste Prevention Programme forward and to find areas where we can get results.

Minister Martin Cullen thanked all present for agreeing to participate on the National Waste Prevention Committee (NWPC) and went on say that prevention is a difficult area but an interesting one. Waste must become a recognised cost on the bottom line. Prevention is a big step in that direction. He pointed out if the Committee could move forward with one or two good ideas that this would make a difference. This might be by way of a strong demonstration project that would capture the public imagination.

Minister Cullen went on to say that there is a recognition of a need to place greater emphasis on methodologies that will secure the fullest possible integration of natural resource and waste considerations into production processes and product design. "There is also a clear recognition that as consumer society becomes more prosperous, demand for products will continue to grow. As we all know, many consumer products now have a shorter lifespan and their growing technological sophistication and use of a wide range of substances increases the risks to the environment and health. If we are to achieve more sustainable patterns of production and consumption, we will need to pursue policies and strategies that will achieve greater resource efficiency, promote eco-design and be based on a life-cycle approach".

Dr. Gerry Byrne (Chair) advised the Committee that the National Hazardous Waste Management Implementation Committee (NHWMP IC) has now been subsumed to the National Waste Prevention Committee and that a report on the findings of the former Committee had been prepared and would be submitted to the Minister shortly. He acknowledged that a lot of progress had been made in the area of waste management but pointed out that we now need to focus our attention on preventing the generation of waste, thereby avoiding the need to manage waste. He brought the Committee's attention to the document, *National Waste Prevention Programme: Outline Work Programme 2004-2008*, and the core project areas that have been initiated by the EPA under the Programme. He went on to say that 3 projects are at an advanced stage in the tendering process. Gerry suggested that the Committee would meet on a quarterly basis. He also suggested that individual Committee members may be asked to participate in smaller forums convened to steer or advise on individual projects.

1. Introductions

All committee members briefly introduced themselves and identified their organisations.

2. Terms of Reference & Standing Orders

The 'Terms of Reference' and 'Standing Orders' were adopted.

Committee members were advised to be aware of any conflicts of interest which may arise as a result of their participation on the Committee. DEH&LG are drafting guidelines to provide clarity in procedures to be followed in the event of any conflicts of interest arising.

3. Policy and Legislative Context

Pat Macken gave a presentation on the policy context of the National Waste Prevention Programme and Committee. A copy of the presentation is attached. Prevention represents the pinnacle of waste management options and this is reflected in the modernised national policy framework that we now work in. Recent developments have focused on the provision of recycling facilities and increased recycling rates are now coming through as a result. The focus must now move to waste prevention. The policy area of waste prevention was taken forward during the Irish presidency of the EU and conclusions on the thematic strategies on waste prevention and recycling, sustainable use of natural resources and integrated product policy were agreed in June 2004.

4. National Waste Statistics

Brian Meaney gave a presentation on waste statistics. Waste statistics provide the yardstick by which progress in waste prevention would be measured and provide a call to action rather than being an end in themselves. A copy of the presentation is attached.

5. EPA Waste Prevention Programme

Gerry Byrne gave a presentation on the document, *National Waste Prevention Programme: Outline Work Programme 2004-2008*, which was distributed to Committee members during the meeting. Gerry Byrne pointed out that waste prevention has already been happening to some extent but we intend to use the expertise of this committee to move this new Programme forward. Gerry Byrne asked that Committee members think about their own sectors with regard to waste prevention and advise the Committee of other areas where they may be aware of progress with prevention initiatives. He also suggested that Committee members may wish to review the document, *Assessment and Development of a Waste Prevention Framework for Ireland*, produced by the Clean Technology Centre under the EPA-operated ERTDI Programme. (This document is available on the EPA website on www.epa.ie. A copy was circulated to each Committee member following the meeting).

6. General Discussion

A general discussion took place during which a number of points were raised. The following are the key points arising from the discussion:

- The EPA outlined that, as part of the Programme, projects on the National Waste Database 2003 and on municipal waste characterisation have gone for tender. Expressions of interest have been sought in relation to a project to develop further for the framework for the National Waste Prevention Programme.
- It was suggested that the development of the accountancy tool, environmental management accounting (EMA), should be a priority under the Programme.
- Enterprise Ireland outlined a service to its client companies to develop “eco-indicators” with the objective of identifying potential cost savings. Take-up of the scheme is slow: 250 to 300 companies have taken part to date. Given enough data, eco-indicators provide an opportunity to benchmark environmental performance within sectors.
- The development of guidance and a programme for waste and materials audits is a priority for the EPA under the Programme. Committee members expressed the opinion that the term “audit” should not be used in this context as it may inhibit take-up of any programme that may be developed. It was agreed that the term “assessment” may be more appropriate. The option of mandatory “assessments”, as suggested by national policy, was offered in the event of inadequate take-up with a waste “assessment” programme. This option was rejected by several Committee members who suggested that the message of potentially reduced costs is sufficient to convince companies of the merits of waste “assessments” if accompanied by appropriate capacity-building measures.
- It was agreed that case studies are important in disseminating the prevention message. Case studies must show where, how and what costs were saved. It was thought that confidentiality should be respected. It was suggested that information-sharing will form part of any grant-aid or assistance programme. There are several sources of information for case studies, including IPC-licensing and the IPCMF’s¹ Responsible Care initiative. It was noted that Enterprise Ireland, at its regional forums, does not generally experience difficulty in getting companies who are willing to share success stories with their peers. Experience shows that companies often have difficulty in preparing promotional material – assistance from the Programme would be appropriate.
- The Programme should be cross-media where appropriate. It was agreed generally that environmental management accounting initiatives, and waste and materials “assessments”, should not concentrate on waste alone. Water consumption, the prevention of packaging, and the management of end-of-life products were highlighted as potential focus points in this regard.
- At the community level, the importance of promoting good practice was illustrated by the example of schools not having a budget for the

¹ Irish Pharmaceutical and Chemical Manufacturers’ Federation

recycling of waste collected by in-school initiatives or the innovative management of waste (and its prevention), despite the fact that local or central government often promote these initiatives.

- Closing the discussion, the secretariat undertook to forward a pack of relevant documents to Committee members.

7. Schedule of Meetings

Thursday, 30th September, 2004 – EPA Regional Inspectorate, McCumiskey House, Richview, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14.

Wednesday, 1st December, 2004 – EPA Regional Inspectorate, McCumiskey House, Richview, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14.

Agenda – 2nd Meeting 30/09/04

National Waste Prevention Committee Agenda

**30 September 2004 at 11am
EPA, McCumiskey House, Dublin**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Update on progress of National Waste Prevention Programme**
- 3. National Hazardous Waste Management Plan, Implementation Committee – Annual Report to Minister**
- 4. Next meeting**
- 5. AOB**

Minutes

2nd Meeting of the National Waste Prevention Committee

30th September, 2004

EPA Regional Inspectorate, McCumiskey House, Richview, Dublin

Present:

Environmental Protection Agency	Dr. Gerry Byrne (Chairman) Brian Meaney Deirdre Murphy (Secretariat) Pat Macken
Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government	
Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government	Dr. Brian Leech
Department of Agriculture & Food	Dale Crammond
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment	Gerry Wrynn
County & City Managers Association	Declan Nelson
Irish Business & Employers Confederation	Donal Buckley
Irish Waste Management Association	Brendan Keane
Small Firms Association	Des Cummins
Chambers of Commerce of Ireland	Paul Javens
Enterprise Ireland	Dorothy Maxwell
Clean Technology Centre	Noel Duffy
Non-Governmental Organisations	Frank Corcoran
Chartered Institute of Waste Management	Dr. Duncan Martin
Apologies:	
Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association	Lorcan McCabe
Irish Small & Medium Enterprises Ltd.	Dr. John Ryan

Not present:

Irish Pharmaceutical & Chemical Manufacturers Federation	Marion Byron
Comhar	Bernie Walsh
Irish Farmers Association	Tom Dunne

1. Welcome

Dr. Gerry Byrne (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. He outlined the meeting agenda and asked all if they were in agreement with the minutes that were issued to the Committee via e-mail on 23/07/04. Some members advised they had not received a copy of the minutes via e-mail. A hard copy was issued at this meeting. Any comments on these minutes should be forward to Dr. Gerry Byrne.

2. Update on Progress of the National Waste Prevention Programme

Dr. Byrne went on to update the committee on the activities of the National Waste Prevention Programme. He advised that there had been 2 consultancy contracts awarded and there are 4 consultancy projects which will be finalised for tender in October/November 2004. One local authority grant-aid project for prevention is also at an advanced stage of preparation.

i) Municipal Waste Characterisation

This project commenced in August 2004 and was awarded to RPS-MCOS and the Clean Technology Centre. It is a repeatable programme of characterisation surveys on household and non-household municipal waste.

ii) Recycling Survey 2003

This project commenced in August 2004 and was awarded to Enviros Consulting. It involves the collating, analysing and quantitative reporting on waste recycling by recycling organisations. The data will form part of the National Waste Database Interim Report 2003.

iii) Waste Reduction Planning

This project is about to go through the tender process and involves the preparation of a methodology for preparing waste reduction plans, a pilot phase to test the methodology, a communications programme (for dissemination of the methodology and results of the pilot) and recommendations for policy implementation. It is intended to pilot the methodology on up to 10 organisations across a range of sectors.

iv) Baseline Research Studies

The Baseline Research Studies project will involve up to 10 priority sectors and is also about to go out to tender. This project will determine sectoral practices, waste prevention needs, opportunities and priority actions in the context of the National Waste Prevention Programme. It is proposed that an external project manager will be appointed to prepare the technical specifications for, and co-ordinate completion of the individual studies.

A discussion took place around this item and a number of comments were made. It was agreed that:

- a steering group would be established for the project and, as appropriate, for individual sectoral baseline studies to, *inter alia*, ensure that existing work is not unnecessarily duplicated;
- the focus of the studies would be on pollution prevention as opposed to simply waste prevention. Impacts associated with products and services will also be considered, as appropriate.

It was suggested that the considerable knowledge and skills accruing from this project should be kept in-house and that the project should be managed by the Environmental Protection Agency (Waste Prevention Team). It was noted that staff resources are not available within the Agency at present to manage the project.

v) Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Project (LAPD)

The EPA explained that phase 1 of the LAPD project is envisaged as a grant-aid project focussed on providing funding and expertise to local authorities to pilot waste prevention initiatives. It is planned to initially grant-aid ambitious, multi-strand prevention programmes in 1-3 local authorities during 2005 and 2006. A request for expressions of interest will be issued to local authorities around November 2004. It is thought that phase 2 of this project will be rolled out to during 2006 to between two and five more local authorities.

The project proposal was welcomed. It was agreed that an information session for local authorities would be organised in November/December 2004 to explain to them what exactly is on offer. The EPA also agreed to present the proposal to a meeting of the environment sub-committee of the CCMA in November 2004. It was recommended that, despite the EPA's original plan to run the preparatory stages of the LAPD project in parallel with the revision of waste management plans and the preparation of estimates for 2005, February/March 2005 would be a better time to launch this project to allow local authorities the space to prepare comprehensive proposals. Other committee members thought that local authorities are already aware of what needs to be done in the area of prevention and that a mindset change is what is required. The EPA agreed to consider these recommendations in consultation with local authorities (via the CCMA in the first instance).

vi) Solvent Users Directory Project

The solvent-users' directory project is intended to generate a database of solvent users in Ireland (solvent waste being the largest hazardous waste stream). IPPC facilities are already captured under the EPA licensing process but smaller SME users of solvents need to be identified to advise them of the regulations in good time and to provide information to local authorities and accredited inspection contractors. It was suggested that some information could be available via the C1 forms and it was agreed that any electronic C1 records held by local authorities would be examined in this context. Gerry Byrne asked committee members to contact the EPA with any information on likely sources of information on solvent users. All members of the committee will be circulated with the tender document and will be contacted as appropriate by the investigators appointed to develop the solvent-users' directory.

Additional Internal Projects

- National Waste Database Interim Report 2003 and ongoing development of waste data surveys, with current emphasis on the local authority questionnaire.
- New mechanisms for calculating packaging waste recycling rates are in development.
- Consideration of need in providing guidance and disseminating information on green public procurement
- A series of case studies are being developed to illustrate the benefits of prevention and improved waste management.

- The EPA is a statutory consultee in the waste management planning process and will be making submissions on draft revised regional waste management plans.
- Business training for waste prevention.

A short discussion took place in relation to green procurement. It was clarified that this committee can make policy submissions to the DOEHLG or the EPA. Gerry Byrne advised that the EPA will explore the issues further and try to encourage green procurement. It was explained that the Government Contracts Committee published a document on green procurement which could be circulated.

It was proposed that the Committee should consider making a recommendation for the use of economic instruments to achieve packaging waste prevention and to, for example, discourage the use of difficult-to-recycle multi-material packaging such as bimetallic cans or beverage cartons with plastic tops. It was suggested that recycling should be a positive financial option, and not perceived as a negative business cost. It was stated that it was important to incorporate all current strategies to achieve prevention measures. The issue of packaging waste prevention will be raised at subsequent meetings.

The EPA undertook to circulate a recent press release by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on packaging.

3. **National Hazardous Waste Management Plan, Implementation Committee – Annual Report to Minister**

A copy of the annual report of the Implementation Committee (which is now subsumed into the National Waste Prevention Committee) was circulated. Gerry Byrne briefly outlined progress on the priorities listed on page 3 of the report. The report will be circulated to all local authorities as input to the development of the revised regional waste management plans.

The following comments were made by Committee-members:

- Mobile collection services are expensive but provide publicity on the need to segregate and separately collect hazardous waste. The quantity of hazardous waste taken by the mobile service in any one area is a function of the amount and quality of publicity preceding the service.
- Hazardous waste landfill is best provided as a standalone cell at an existing facility. To minimise costs, it was suggested that local authorities should provide these facilities. It was clarified by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government that grant-aid applications for hazardous waste landfill will be considered.
- It was stated that progress in implementing the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan has been poor. It was further stated that costs to hazardous waste generators have halved in the last 15 years and that a large amount of additional treatment capacity, particularly for solvent wastes, is becoming available.

The NHWMP will be revised by mid-2006 and scoping for this project will begin in 2005. The plan will also have to undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance with the new Directive in this area.

4. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place in Dublin on Wednesday 01st December in the conference room of the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Custom House, Dublin 1, starting at 11.00am.

The first meeting of 2005 will take place on 9th March 2005 – venue to be advised.

5. **Declaration of Interest**

Gerry Byrne asked that each committee member return the signed declaration of conflicts of interest to Deirdre Murphy.

It was requested that the presentation made by the EPA be circulated to all committee members (copy attached).

Agenda – Meeting 3 09/03/05

3rd Meeting of the National Waste Prevention Committee

09th March 2005 at 2:30pm

**Environmental Protection Agency Offices, McCumiskey House,
Richview, Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14.**

1. Welcome
2. Update on Prevention Projects
3. National Hazardous Waste Management Plan
- Revision & SEA of NHWMP in 2005/06
4. Next meeting
5. AOB

Minutes

3rd Meeting of the National Waste Prevention Committee

01st December, 2004

Custom House, Dublin

Present:

Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Gerry Byrne (Chairman)
Brian Meaney
Deirdre Murphy (Secretariat)

Department of Environment, Heritage & Local
Government

Pat Macken
Brendan O'Neill for
Dr. Brian Leech
Sharonne O'Reilly

Department of Agriculture & Food

Dale Crammond

Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment

Gerry Wrynn

County & City Managers Association

Declan Nelson

Irish Business & Employers Confederation

Donal Buckley

Irish Farmers Association

Tom Dunne

Irish Pharmaceutical & Chemical Manufacturers
Federation

Marion Byron

Irish Small & Medium Enterprises Ltd.

Dr. John Ryan

Irish Waste Management Association

Brendan Keane

Small Firms Association

Jim Dowdall for Des Cummins

Chambers of Commerce of Ireland

Paul Javens

Enterprise Ireland

Dr. Dorothy Maxwell

Clean Technology Centre

Noel Duffy

Non-Governmental Organisations

Frank Corcoran

Chartered Institute of Waste Management

Dr. Duncan Martin

Not present:

Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association

Lorcan McCabe

Comhar

Bernie Walsh

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Dr. Gerry Byrne (Chair) opened the meeting and asked all if they were in agreement with the minutes that were issued to the Committee via e-mail on 12th October 2004. Noel Duffy highlighted an issue related to the focus of studies to be undertaken and use of the term “pollution prevention”. It is important that this should not be interpreted as meaning end-of-pipe treatment. It was agreed that no amendment was necessary. The minutes were adopted.

2. National Hazardous Waste Management Plan

Dr. Byrne invited comments on the annual report of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan Implementation Committee.

Dorothy Maxwell, Enterprise Ireland said that a number of waste minimisation initiatives are not included in the Report. Dorothy agreed to put a list of these together and forward to Deirdre Murphy.

Dr. Byrne advised that preparatory work for a review of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP) will start in 2005. Proposals will be put before the Committee. The next NHWMP will have to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment according to the new SEA Regulations. Proposals for funding the NHWMP revision and SEA will be discussed between the EPA and DEHLG.

3. National Waste Prevention Programme

(a) Update on Prevention Projects

Dr. Byrne updated the committee on the activities of the National Waste Prevention Programme and Brian Meaney presented details on several projects.

i) Municipal Waste Characterisation

Having commenced in August 2004 the first phase report is due this week. Phase 2 is scheduled for March 2005. The Steering Group (EPA, CCMA, DEHLG and Fingal County Council) will meet on 7th December 2004 to discuss this interim report. The data from the project will form one element of the National Waste Database 2004 Report which will be published in 2005. The final project report will not make recommendations outside of its remit of quantifying municipal waste composition.

- In response to queries, the EPA clarified that it has developed a formula, used by local authorities, to calculate “uncollected” household waste; that is, household waste generated by householders that do not have an available collection service or that choose not to avail of a collection service.

ii) Recycling Survey 2003

This project commenced in August 2004 and was awarded to Enviros Consulting. It involves the collation, analysis and quantitative reporting on recycling data, provided by recycling organisations. The data will form part of the National Waste Database Report 2003 which will be available by year end. Preliminary data indicated that packaging recycling is up by circa 35%.

The EPA pointed out that the survey is now 95% complete that the EPA and Enviros are reconciling packaging waste data against Repak files. For the third year, a comprehensive reconciliation took place. Significant differences in information provided by individual organisations to the EPA and Repak have been discovered. Independent auditors will be appointed in January 2005 to explore further.

iii) Waste Reduction Planning (waste audits guidance)

A steering group, represented by Enterprise Ireland, IBEC, ISME and DEHLG, met on 20th October 2004 to discuss this project proposal. The ISME delegate excused himself from this meeting due to a potential conflict of interest. The principal discussion point at the meeting was the proposed scope of the guidance: i.e. whether it should be limited solely to waste and resource use, or whether the quantification of emissions should also be dealt with. As a compromise, the EPA proposed a multi-layered guidance providing access to simple waste audit procedures leading stepwise to in-depth examinations of other issues. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the broader scope was appropriate. It was suggested that a broadly-scoped overview should precede detailed examination of waste, or any other, issues. It was also suggested that consideration be given to several tools already published, for example, to quantify environmental performance. The EPA will further consider the outcome of the discussion and will revert to the steering group with further proposals.

Responding to the question of whether this system would be optional or mandatory, the EPA said that decisions have not be made at this first stage of development but the issue would be likely to depend on the level of participation of industry.

It was proposed that the Committee consider making a budget submission for next year on fiscal and economic instruments to drive prevention: for example, a variable reduced VAT depending on the level of waste generation. It was stated that work on fiscal benefits has already been done in other countries. There was concern that this may put some companies at a disadvantage. It was pointed out that previous discussions with regard to variable VAT rates for eco-labelled products did not conclude with agreement.

iv) Baseline Research Studies

A steering group, represented by Enterprise Ireland, IBEC, ISME and DEHLG, met on 20th October 2004 to discuss this project proposal. The ISME delegate excused himself from this meeting due to a potential conflict of interest. In general terms, while the scope of this project as a whole was welcomed, the scale was queried as being too great. The EPA outlined a revised proposal to carry out 3 studies and to internally project manage them. The Committee was asked for proposals for priority studies. The following suggestions were made:-

- the buildings and transport sectors have been identified in an EU report as the most significant sectors
- waste water treatment sludges

The EPA will consider the scope for three priority sectors, products or services, taking into consideration priorities identified in earlier work and will revert to the steering group.

v) Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Project (LAPD)

A presentation to the Environment Sub-committee of the CCMA will be made on 10th December, 2004. A call for expressions of interest for phase 1 of the project will be issued to local authorities early 2005. It is envisaged that phase 2 of this project will be rolled out during 2006. A steering group will be formed prior to finalising the project specification.

It was suggested that details of the Answer project, undertaken by Kerry County Council, be circulated to local authorities.

vi) Solvent Users Directory Project

The 'solvent-users' directory project is intended to generate a database of solvent users in Ireland (solvent waste being the largest hazardous waste stream). The Steering Group met on 16th September, 2004 and are represented by staff from IBEC, Small Firms Association, Enterprise Ireland, ISME, Chambers of Commerce of Ireland, ICMA (Irish Chemical Marketers Association) and the Clean Technology Centre. Tender documents have issued to 4 companies and submissions are due on 20th December 2004. This project will commence in 2005.

vii) Packaging Data Development

Brian advised that a significant new procedure is being piloted for the calculation of packaging placed on the market in 2004 based on Repak members' data. If the pilot is successful, this system may replace the current waste-based calculation in national reports on packaging. The participation of the Central Statistics Office in the pilot was noted.

viii) Green Public Procurement

The EU Commission has published a guide to green public procurement: "Buying Green". The EPA is involved or aware of green procurement initiatives in the DEHLG, Race Against Waste and the Forum on Public Procurement. A "wait and see" approach to the question of whether guidance should be developed by the NWPP has been adopted pending completion of other initiatives. Noel Duffy advised that a green procurement project was submitted for funding under the Cleaner Greener Production Programme.

(ix) Prevention Training

IBEC and CTC are developing a prevention training programme for industry. The development of the training programme is part-funded by the NWPP.

(b) Development of a National Waste Prevention Strategy

The Committee was invited to consider the definitions of prevention circulated prior to the meeting. The importance of agreeing a definition was generally acknowledged, given the apparently inconsistent understanding of the term. An extract from the Prevention Framework Report was circulated. Due to time constraints, the discussion or strategy will continue at the next meeting.

(c) Quick Hits – Ideas on Quick Wins in Waste Prevention

The following ideas were put forward:-

- Case studies – despite the EPA's difficulty in obtaining good prevention case studies (i.e. not recycling), it was stated the Cleaner Greener Production Programme and IBEC have good waste prevention case studies. IPCMF, Enterprise Ireland and CTC undertook to provide input to the generation of waste prevention case studies.
- Building industry – the planning system should require waste management plans to prevent the disposal of soil on wetlands – the work of the National C&D Waste Council as highlighted in this regard. DEHLG undertook to circulate the draft waste management planning guidelines for construction activities.
- Dissemination of CGPP Phase 1 case studies – for example, in relation to the construction industry, the Valuegreen and Oran Pre-cast studies.
- Educational document on the National Waste Prevention Programme with “best tips” on how to prevent waste. This could be rolled out to schools, universities, industry and the construction industry.
- Best practice guides for SME's including prevention.

4. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 9th March 2005, at EPA Offices, Richview, Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14, starting at 11.00am.

A further meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, 1st June 2005, at the same venue.

5. **A.O.B.**

Committee members who have not returned the signed declaration of conflicts of interest to Deirdre Murphy should do so immediately.

Agenda – Meeting 4 - 09/03/05

4th Meeting of the National Waste Prevention Committee

09th March 2005 at 2:30pm

**Environmental Protection Agency Offices, McCumiskey House,
Richview, Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14.**

1. Welcome
2. Update on Prevention Projects
3. National Hazardous Waste Management Plan
- Revision & SEA of NHWMP in 2005/06
4. Next meeting
5. AOB

Minutes

4th Meeting of the National Waste Prevention Committee

9th March, 2005

McCumiskey House, Dublin

Present:

Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Gerry Byrne (Chairman)

Brian Meaney

Dr. Padraic Larkin

Department of Environment, Heritage & Local
Government

Pat Macken

Dr. Brian Leech

Department of Agriculture & Food

Dale Crammond

Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment

Gerry Wrynn

County & City Managers Association

Declan Nelson

Irish Farmers Association

Tom Dunne

Irish Waste Management Association

Brendan Keane

Small Firms Association

Des Cummins

Chambers of Commerce of Ireland

Paul Javens

Enterprise Ireland

Dr. Dorothy Maxwell

Clean Technology Centre

Noel Duffy

Non-Governmental Organisations

Frank Corcoran

Chartered Institute of Waste Management

Dr. Duncan Martin

Environment & Heritage Service Northern Ireland

Allison Townley

Apologies:

Environmental Protection Agency

Deirdre Murphy (Secretariat)

Irish Business & Employers Confederation

Donal Buckley

Irish Pharmaceutical & Chemical Manufacturers
Federation

Marion Byron

Comhar

Bernie Walsh

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Dr. Gerry Byrne (Chair) opened the meeting and asked all if they were in agreement with the minutes of the last meeting that were issued to the Committee via e-mail. As there were no comments these minutes were adopted.

2. National Waste Prevention Programme

The committee was updated on each of the prevention and related waste projects already underway in the Prevention Unit of the EPA (see attached paper circulated at the meeting). Comments on various aspects of the projects were offered and discussed by the committee. The IBEC/CIT Certified Prevention Course brochure is to be circulated to all members by the EPA. Good progress was reported on prevention case studies and suggestions were made for further possible examples from Heat Merchants (packaging) and Pfizers (toll refining of solvents). On the National Waste Database 2004 Report it was noted that a contract had been put out to tender. The EPA stated that data will be verified insofar as is possible but that, in general, the database will only be as good as information submitted by respondents. It was noted that illegal waste activities were the subject of separate Office of Environmental Enforcement investigations.

Barriers to the uptake of prevention were discussed including legal drivers (packaging, WEEE Directives etc) and the need for focus on business benefits. It was noted that Environmental Management Systems can now be installed in companies at relatively little cost with grant aid from Enterprise Ireland and via a new scheme from ISME/Certification Europe. Nevertheless, voluntary uptake can be low.

Variable VAT rates were put forward as a suggested mechanism to reduce packaging waste not amenable to recycling. It was pointed out that Repak charges already add additional costs to producers of composite packaging. It was requested that a Repak representative address the next meeting to explore this issue further. The National Strategy Group on Packaging Waste Recycling are considering these issues and the Prevention Unit will continue to provide input. The Essential Requirements (CEN Standards) in the Packaging Directive are the subject of an EU Perchards publication and their implementation will need to be considered.

It was noted that much waste prevention had resulted from IPPC licensing but this has not been systematically recorded. Direct intervention is considered necessary in order to achieve waste prevention and direct intervention is going to be widespread with the roll out of the Solvents Directive, the waste auditing/waste reduction planning project and the EU/Life Hazred project. The EPA is undertaking an examination of current zero waste initiatives worldwide and input from committee members was requested. A report on zero emissions and waste has been prepared but not published for the Macroom area project. There may be opportunities to apply lessons learned to the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Project.

It was noted that the Market Development Group are dealing with uses domestically for materials collected as resources for economic products. Much paper collected includes newspapers but the industry is not willing to accept a Producer Responsibility Initiative in this respect. National Spring-

clean Week should raise awareness of everyone on the need to be responsible with waste given evidence of increased fly-tipping perhaps due to pay-by-weight implementation.

3. National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP)

A paper on the revision of the NHWMP was circulated and outlined to the meeting for discussion. A steering group meeting will be convened in the near future to plan in detail for the revision of the plan.

Alison Townley of the Northern Ireland Environment & Heritage Service described work that is ongoing in Northern Ireland to plan for hazardous waste particularly in light of the ban on co-disposal in landfills in 2004. Priority waste streams have been identified along with regulatory, education, enforcement and capacity needs. Limited infrastructure is in place in Northern Ireland so most hazardous waste is transported to Great Britain. There may be scope to look at all-island solutions in this regard and the Northern Ireland Hazardous Waste Forum will be consulted during the review of the NHWMP. UK policy on the export/import of waste states that no waste should flow in or out of UK for disposal (there is an exemption for Irish waste destined for high temperature incineration). A revision of the policy by DEFRA has been deferred pending revision of the EU Transfrontier Shipment of Waste (TFS) Regulations. This issue will most likely be followed up by the Forum. Further information on the work of the Forum may be found at www.ehsni.gov.uk under waste/special waste/NI hazardous Waste Forum.

Given differences in licensing standards/costs between treatment facilities in the North versus the South, it was felt that waste might move North either for treatment or onward shipment to UK. It was noted that with the transfer of the licensing function to the EHSNI such disparities might disappear. In relation to farm plastics, a lot of such plastics not subject to levy moves South. It was noted that a study comparing waste plans North and South has been done by Kirk McClure Morton.

On other aspects of the NHWMP, it was suggested that civic amenity sites might need additional support to improve the collection of small scale hazardous waste to complement the Chemcar collections (these may need additional advertising to increase collections also). It was suggested that a carrier's round authorisation procedure be introduced, as in Northern Ireland, in place of the burdensome C1 forms needed for each collection.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in the same venue as the National Strategy Group on Packaging Waste Recycling namely the Repak offices on the Naas road. The chair of this group has proposed either the 8th, 9th or 10th of June as possibilities. The chair will be in touch to finalise arrangements.

5. A.O.B.

It was requested that the list of projects underway by the Prevention Unit be issued on a spreadsheet indicating milestones and progress.