

National Waste Prevention Committee Meeting 24

Date: 23rd February 2017 from 10.00am-1.00pm

Location: The Rediscovery Centre, Ballymun, Dublin 11

Attendees:

Name	Organisation	Initials
Marian Byrne	Department of Food, Agriculture and the Marine (DAFM)	MB
Shane Colgan	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	SC
Thomas Cooney	Irish Farmers Association (IFA)	TC
Olivier Gaillot	Engineers Ireland	OG
Colum Gibson	Clean Technology Centre (CTC)	CG
Brendan Keane	Irish Waste Management Association	BrK
Jane Kenneally	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	JK
Bernie Kiely	Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (DCCAE)	BK
Maria Martin	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	MM
Pauline McDonagh	Southern Waste Region (SWR)	PMD
Abigail Murphy	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	AbM
Anne Murphy	Ibec	AM
Simon O'Rafferty	UL/EPA	SOR
Mindy O'Brien	VOICE	MOB
Keiron Phillips	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	KP
Joanne Rourke	Eastern Midlands Waste Region (EMWR)	JR
Tom Ryan	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	TR
Kevin Swift	Connacht Ulster Waste Region (CUWR)	KS
Maeve Thornberry	Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI)	CD
Stephen Treacy	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	ST

Apologies: Ray Bowe (IDA), Jean Clarke (DCCAE), Jane Brogan (EPA), Killian Farrell (CUWR), Cathal Fitzgerald (DJEI), Helen Maher (HSE), Conor McGovern (CIWM), Elisha Collier O'Brien (CI), Kevin O'Donoghue (DCCAE)

Item 1: 10:00: Presentation by Rediscovery Centre

The CEO of [The Rediscovery Centre](#) Sarah Miller gave a very informative presentation to the committee with highlights such as:

- The centre used to be the old boiler house supplying hot water to the Ballymun Flats
- The project began in 2012 with EU LIFE funding ([WISER Life Project](#)) and joint funding from the Department & Ballymun Regeneration
- The centre reuses & up cycles materials from tables, chairs, sheep's wool, sinks and bricks etc....
- Sustainable natural materials were used such as Hemp exposed on walls throughout the building
- The Centre sells products and provides facilities for up cycling workshops including Rediscover Fashion, Paint, Bicycles and Furniture.

The Committee are one of the first meetings to be held in the centre, it is due to open to the public in May 2017.

The Rediscovery Centre do not have difficulties in accessing materials for reuse due to donations, however the centre would like donors to see value in the labour involved in reuse and up cycling. Support from donors could be in the form of contributing to the rediscovery centre services or purchasing rediscovery centre products & services. The Rediscovery Centre was invited to write a 1 pager on how they would like to work with waste management organisations. (Action 1)

Item 2: 10:15: Minutes of previous meeting & Introductions, Tom Ryan (Chair)

TR – The Chair welcomed the committee to the 24th NWPC meeting and opened the floor to introductions. Following introductions, the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Item 3: 10:30: Review of NWPP in 2016

SC – Introduced the assorted highlights of the NWPP in 2016. Topics covered included communications, NWPP annual report due to be published Q2, Programme achievements, Dr. Simon O Rafferty Open practices ([Link to blog](#)), Green Enterprise Funding [Awards 2016](#), EPA Sustainability, [Sustainable Communities Handbooks](#) and [LiveGreen](#) portal (See SC Presentation: S Colgan_NWPP2016 ppt.) (Action 2)

The Chair opened the floor to discussion on the topics presented in Item 3 of the agenda

Discussion on Stop Food Waste

The [Stop Food Waste](#) Campaign has run 50 challenges to date (reaching 600 people), however it was discussed that there are challenges in encouraging attendance at workshops which can be time consuming work with limited resources. The new 'sustainable communities' research project may identify alternate groups which could facilitate these challenges also. It was noted that challenges are more effective when working with smaller, personal groups. With smaller groups there is usually full participation and revisits during the challenge, however after there could be some slippage (e.g. Mother and Toddler groups returning to work).

As well as the challenge it was emphasized that a unified awareness campaign, through channels such as social media, could be an opportunity to highlight programmes and raise awareness.

Two areas were suggested as potential links in which the Stop Food Waste campaign could feed into, these included:

- HSE dieticians who use materials to assist with their work in which the Stop Food Waste campaign materials could be linked
- Current call out for new Home Economics programmes in schools where Stop Food Waste could feed into.

Green Healthcare Guides

Colum Gibson (CTC) informed the group that the HSE may do a 'Road Show' on [Green Healthcare](#) in order to raise awareness of the programme to a wider audience.

Green Healthcare will publish 2 guides which will be circulated to the committee (Action 3)

Communications

It was highlighted by the Department that the profile of these programmes needs to be raised. DCCA suggested that the EPA identify other Fora to communicate too and to think more expansively in communications of these programmes.

Suggestions included:

- Engage local and political networks and spread communication channels
- Create a Working Group or subgroup to design communications paths and review reach & statistics
- Replicate the mapping exercise which the Waste Regions are hoping to implement to map their connections.
- Consider carbon metrics & climate change messages in communication
- Hold briefings with politicians and local councillors in local area (Ibec)
- Create a Communications Plan
- Consider including engaging and lobbying with communications
- Review EU communication plans, assess if which were successful and implement in an Irish context (e.g Scottish and Swedish Governments use carbon metrics)
- Consider communications Brainstorm Sessions.

(Action 4)

Smart Farming

Thomas Cooney (IFA) updated the committee on the Smart Farming programme which for 2017, will include 50 farm visits to identify best practice with respect to water, energy and fertilisers. The findings from each of these visits will be disseminated to a further 20 farmers via discussion groups, giving total contact of 1,000 farmers. The programme objective is to achieve €5,000 in savings per farm to be achieved through improved practices around nutrient management; soil fertility; energy & water usage; and time management. Smart farming will have a monthly full-page article Farmers Journal from April to October to assist in publicising the campaign.

It was suggested to connect with EPA Catchments who are implementing the River Basin Management Plans. Links between Farming and water quality as well as the effects of improving soil fertility on receiving waters may be of interest to the Smart Farming programme.

It was also noted that there are informal links between Smart Farming and Origin Green.

Item 4: 11:00 Proposed 2017 NWPP activities- for discussion (all)

SC – Introduced Proposed 2017 NWPP activities, this included: Developing activities, Grant Schemes, New focus-areas, Events and Communications. (See SC Presentation: S Colgan_2017 Priorities & Activities ppt.)

The Chair opened the floor to discussion on the topics presented in Item 4 of the agenda

Discussion on proposed topics 'Plastics'

The importance of engaging with REPAK on the issue of Plastic Waste was highlighted. The EPA held a meeting with REPAK in January 2017 and will continue engagement.

The committee discussed possibilities for research topics on plastic in 2017, this included, identifying barriers to setting up PET recycling plants, assessing the use of a deposit scheme, and the use of plastic as fuel for cement kilns.

Once the Waste Characterisation Studies are finalised, it was noted that there will be more information on plastic wastes available. While the UK are phasing out the black bins, the process can lead to confusion and problems for the recycling business.

Suggestions on plastic waste from the committee included:

- Focussing on the Circular Economy Package. This would involve assessing the design process of plastics
- Assessing consistencies of treatment of plastic waste with a focus on hospitals where plastics are incinerated
- Engage managers, designers and decision makers of plastic packaging or invite those to discuss the process to gain an insight
- It was noted that changes in plastic packaging will be difficult to implement without European Legislation and Law as well as financial incentives
- Create awareness on the Circular Economy through the supply chain through REPAK
- EPA Liaise with REPAK, Waste Operators, and recyclers to see how the EPA could provide input
- Ibec could engage with Plastic Ireland and speak with designers to see what is involved
- Engage with academics (e.g. SMURFIT) to assess is the consider the Circular Economy is considered in their strategies
- Simon highlighted an EU funded ERASMUS programme in UL where 12 design schools in Europe had sustainability as part of the course.

Discussion on proposed topics 'Construction and Demolition (C&D)'

It was highlighted that in order to discuss C&D, those that work in the C&D area will need to be involved.

The committee highlighted an existing C&D group which could be engaged; however the group may be more 'reactive' rather than 'proactive' in the area of waste.

Suggestions from the committee on C&D include:

- Referring to the STRIVE report with the recommendations a basis for discussions
- Gaining multiple views from C&D groups, Public Procurement and Private Sector
- Assess how the NWPP could input/ influence national frameworks that are up for consultation
- Connect with the Construction Industry Federation (CIF)
- Assess the need for increased audits on demolition
- Identify and discuss the requirements or needs for those involved in C&D and ask them to identify areas which could be funded
- Assessing any requirements for Architects to acquire a 'Green Cert' was discussed

- The Department, who are on the C&D group, agreed to assess the likelihood of the EPA engaging the committee on resource efficiency within the sector-the Department will report back from the group
- Consideration should be given to the possibility of Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP) waste arising in C&D (e.g insulation) as POPs
- It is noted that a representative from the EPA sits on the C&D committee.
(Action 5)

New focus areas (Action 6)

A discussion followed on new focus areas and how the NWPP could influence/ impact.

It was suggested to:

- Chose an area to influence, have an influence on an area and then leave this area to continue practicing what we have influenced
- Keep communications with areas that we influence
- Finding areas that could be influenced once and use this as a blanket application to all similar areas (e.g tenders and procurement)
- Look at a Short, Medium and Long term influence.

The Chair agreed that there may be new focus areas worthy for exploration. No particular actions on this discussion were highlighted.

It was emphasized that the NWPP input would focus on prevention; however there could also be scope for including GHG emissions and Carbon. It was also emphasized that a focus on the Circular Economy should remain.

Item 5: 11.45 - Update on National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP)

JK – Updated on the NHWMP, topics included: Hazardous Waste Subgroup, List of Sub group members, Tasks undertaken by sub-group included NHWMP recommendations # 1-4, #5 Disposal of Unused Medicines Properly (DUMP), Quantities collected by Cork/Kerry region in recent years, Case study: France, Policy & Legislation, Next steps, Farm Hazardous Waste Campaign 2013-2016 and Other NHWMP activities (J Kenneally_NWPP2016 ppt.)

The Chair opened the floor to discussion on the topics presented in Item 5 of the agenda

Discussion on Paint Hazardous and Non-Hazardous (Task 1)

While the level of hazardous substances in paint has significantly decreased and the fundamental risk has been reduced, there is an issue with reporting non-hazardous paint as hazardous.

The Department funded 9 Hazardous Waste Collection Days in 2016 and the Waste Regions are currently promoting issues on paint to the public ([See Paint Squirrel pdf.](#))

It was suggested to link with the Farm Hazardous Waste Collection Days and to disseminate promotional material on paint waste prevention at these events.

Discussion on Healthcare Hazardous Waste (Task 3)

Colum Gibson (CTC) will be attending the next Hazardous Waste Subgroup on the 22nd May in order to provide an update on Green Healthcare.

An Bord Altranais (Nursing and Midwifery Board) was identified as a group that may be interested in the inclusion of information on healthcare hazardous waste in the curriculum for nurses.

GP, dentists and householders were also suggested as groups that could be included in healthcare hazardous waste.

Discussion on DUMP project – should there be a national scheme?

The Dispose of Unused Medicines Properly ([DUMP](#)) campaign was an initiative of the Health Services Executive (HSE) in 2002. Since 2007 the DUMP campaign has been running annually in Cork and Kerry with 260-280 (98%) of pharmacies over a 6 week period. According to recent media reports the average household spends €500 on pharmaceuticals, 40% more than EU averages.

It was noted that weights of medicines reported can include medicine packaging also.

The committee were asked for their suggestions/ comments on whether there should be a national DUMP scheme. If there should be a national DUMP scheme the committee were asked how it should operate ([Action 7](#)).

Discussion on Farm Hazardous Waste (FHW)

The Farm Hazardous Waste project report is due to be published in Q2 of 2017, and will be circulated to the committee ([Action 8](#)).

The committee discussed plastic waste on farms and it was questioned if the Irish Farm Film Producers Groups (IFFPG) provides guidance to farmers.

Thomas Cooney (IFA) informed that there could be more done for farmers in this area.

Olivier Gaillot (EI) informed of a producer responsibility report which would be more specific to tag on to collection system in IFFPG.

Triple rinse items were discussed, containers, washed on the farm, can be recycled or reused. They are not part of the FHW collections however some farmers would dispose of contaminated containers at a cost of €2-€4 per container.

While farmers have a large plastic waste stream it was noted that there may be some difficulties with take up of a Farm Film Recycling Scheme.

Brendan Keane offered to become a member of the Hazardous Waste sub-group ([Action 9](#)).

BK – Bernie Keily (DCCA) provided an update to the group on Food Waste 2017. This is an area of interest of the Minister of Communications Climate Action & Environment. The Second Forum on Food Waste to be held 9th March 2017 will have specific focus on the Sustainable Development Goal ([SDG](#)) target 12. (See **SC Presentation: S Colgan_Food Waste 2017 ppt.**)

“By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.”

The National Waste Policy 2012 focuses on segregating organic waste (Brown Bins), rather than focusing on prevention of Food Waste. The Department has worked with Odile Le Bolloch (EPA) on how to upscale and accelerate what has been done already via the Stop Food Waste Programme. Food waste prevention should be a democratic undertaking of all in the production and consumption chain.

The Department has set up a Retail Action Group consisting of Lidl, Aldi, Dunnes, Tesco and Musgraves. This group will convene at the Food Waste Forum event in March 9th 2017.

The focus will be on collaborating and sharing data as well as setting achievable targets to prevent food waste. Preventative measure by the UK and EU will also be reviewed to assess what food waste prevention activities practiced elsewhere could be replicated and implemented in Ireland.

The Forum on Food Waste on March 9th in Radisson Blu Golden Ln will have a Ministerial opening. There will be a launch of the Food Waste Charter which will be signed into effect by the Minister and Director General of the EPA (**Action 10**).

There is an interest in the REACH that can be achieved on preventing food waste as well as alternate channels of engagement (e.g. Tidy Towns, Fair Trade Towns and Equality Issues). Food waste prevention is currently being negotiated with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Communications Climate Action & Environment will have a lead role on the agenda.

The Chair opened the floor to discussion on the topics presented in Item 6 of the agenda

Discussion on Food Waste Prevention

Suggestion on the implementation of Food Waste Prevention included:

- Creating a food waste alliance that includes all across the sector (production consumption and charities)
- Including a communications campaign via regional adverts, radio, social media
- It was suggested to include FoodCloud and Board Bia Origin Green as well as participate in EU Food Waste and Food Losses
- It was questioned if DAFM or IFA have data on food losses at farm level and if this was currently measured in Ireland. (**Action 11**)

- It was highlighted that the SDG does not specify or details what the 50% reduction includes
- Review Sainsbury's studies on food waste and age group studies which suggest that younger generations (18-35) waste the most food
- Consider linking CSR with tailored training on food waste
- Create Challenges with students ('Healthy CIT')
- Potential research project on accurate food waste indicators
- Target restaurants through Green Business.

Item 7 & 8 : 12.35 - Update on Reuse and NWPC reflection subgroup

KP- Updated on the NWPP 2017 Re-Use Activities. This included highlights in 2016 for CRNI (new website here), SMILE Resource Exchange, FreeTrade Ireland, Research outputs (Best Practice Guides, "[Heads Up](#)"), Other Ongoing Projects & Activities and [Digital Stories](#). (See **KP Presentation: K Phillips NWPC – feb 2017 ppt.**)

TR- Updated on the NWPC subgroup, a reflection meeting was held on 23rd November 2016. The EPA will prepare a one page reflection to circulate to the reflection subgroup for comment and this will be an item on the agenda for the 25th NWPC meeting (**Action 12**)

There were no further comments from the committee. This concluded the business of the meeting

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| Action-1: | Rediscovery Centre was invited to write a 1 pager on how they would like to work with waste management organisations. This could be sent to Brendan Keane who will disseminate to contacts in waste management. |
| Action-2: | AM to circulate EPA Waste & Resources YouTube Channel and SOR's Final Report ' Moving Towards the Circular Economy ' to committee when published. Committee to consider and express interest in participating in a workshop led by SOR. |
| Action-3: | AM to circulate Green Healthcare Water Efficiency Guides to committee once published. |
| Action-4: | Send your interest in partaking in a Communication Working Group to create a communication plan and raise awareness of the NWPP Programmes to a.murphy@epa.ie . |
| Action-5: | Department to assess likelihood of EPA engaging C&D committee on resource efficiency. |
| Action-6: | Please send any ideas or comments on new areas of interest to a.murphy@epa.ie |
| Action-7: | Please send suggestions/ comments on whether there should be a national DUMP scheme. If there should be a national DUMP scheme, please comment on how this should it be 'packaged'? |
| Action-8: | AM to circulate FHW report to the committee once published. |
| Action-9: | Jane Kenneally to invite Brendan Keane to the Hazardous Waste sub-group. |
| Action-10: | Please submit all comments on the Food Waste Charter to AM. |
| Action-11: | IFA and DAFM to report if food losses on farms are recorded to Colum Gibson (CTC). |
| Action 12: | EPA to circulate 1 pg reflection to the NPWC Reflection sub-group for comment. |

13:00 - AOB & Close

Date of the next NWPC meeting to be confirmed