

National Waste Prevention Committee Meeting 23

Date: 16th June 2016 from 10.00am-1.00pm

Location: Sandymount Hotel, Dublin 4

Attendees:

| Name | Organisation | Initials |
|--|---|----------|
| Marian Byrne | Department of Food, Agriculture and the Marine (DAFM) | MB |
| Jean Clarke | Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (DECLG) | JC |
| Shane Colgan | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | SC |
| Des Cummins | Small Firms Association (SFA) | DC |
| Claire Downey | Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI) | CD |
| Olivier Gaillot | Engineers Ireland | OG |
| Robert Geraghty | Enterprise Ireland (EI) | RG |
| Colum Gibson | Clean Technology Centre (CTC) | CG |
| Jane Kenneally | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | JK |
| Bernie Kiely | Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (DECLG) | BK |
| Philippa King | Southern Waste Region (SWR) | PK |
| Odile Le Bolloch | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | OLB |
| Maria Martin | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | MM |
| Pauline McDonagh | Southern Waste Region (SWR) | PMD |
| Conor McGovern (on behalf of Enda Kiernan) | Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM) | CMG |
| Anne Murphy | Ibec | AM |
| Abigail Murphy | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | AbM |
| Mindy O'Brien | VOICE | MOB |
| Kevin O'Donoghue | Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (DECLG) | KOD |
| Mark O'Mahoney | Chambers Ireland | MOM |
| Keiron Phillips | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | KP |
| Joanne Rourke (on behalf of Hugh Coughlan) | Eastern Midlands Waste Region (EMWR) | JR |
| Tom Ryan | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | TR |
| Stephen Treacy | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | ST |

Apologies: Jane Brogan, EPA; Hugh Coughlan EMRWO; Cathal Fitzgerald, DJEI; Michael Gillen, Ibec; Brendan Keane, IWMA; Enda Kiernan, CIWM; Helen Maher, HSE; Simon O'Rafferty, NES; Thomas Ryan, IFA; Declan White, EI.

Item 1: 10:00: Introduction & Minutes, Tom Ryan (Chair)

TR - Attendees were welcomed to the 23rd NWPC meeting and the floor was then opened for introductions.

Following introductions, the agenda was agreed. **TR** highlighted a change which included moving the item entitled "Revisiting the purpose of the NWPC" from second to third item on the agenda.

Item 2: 10:10: NWPP activities in 2015 & 2016 update (EPA & CTC)

SC – Introduced the assorted highlights of the NWPP so far in 2016. Topics covered included: NWPP Annual Report 2015 (See **Action-1**); EPA's new web page Livegreen.ie: www.epa.ie/livegreen; Green Business & Greening the fleadh <http://fleadhcheoil.ie/about/green-fleadh>; SMILE (See **Action-2**); SmartFarming; Farm Hazardous Waste; LAPN and the NWPP 2016 budget. (See SC Presentation: **COLGAN_NWPCJune2016_Slides_SC**)

KP– Updated on the EPA Green Enterprise Projects. Topics covered included: Green Enterprise; Recreate www.recreate.ie; Lean Water Central Solutions www.central-solutions.com/product/Lean-

[Water-Energy](#) and Residential Sustainability Ratings. (See KP Presentation: PHILLIPS_GreenEnterprise)

CG – Updated on the CTC Sustainable Community project. Topics covered included: Sustainable Communities; International Approach to Sustainability; Definition of what is a sustainable community; where this work should be targeted in Ireland and methods of fostering a sustainable community. (See CG Presentation: **GIBSON_NWPC Update 2016**)

Item 1: TR opened the floor to discussion on the topics presented in Item 1 of the agenda

Discussion on the NWPP report: Those that had mentioned during the meeting that they had yet to comment on the NWPP report were reminded to send their comments to **AbM** (See **Action-1**)

Discussion on Green Enterprise applications: **JC:** It was noted that the Green Enterprise funding model does not encourage participation by consultants in projects, and that as some organisations cannot allocate or recruit staff solely for these projects, they can therefore not participate.

SC: Confirmed that to date the funding only covered project costs (with no profit margin); but that this would be reviewed during H2-2016 as part of a broader review of the funding model.

Discussion on Fostering Sustainable Communities:

CG: Highlighted that a focus on LAGs and LCDCs fostering a sustainable community, advocating and promoting is good. There are well established programmes already in place that could be merged properly for big gains. –LAs, The County and City Managers' Association (CCMA) and CTC could work together on these initiatives and programmes in the future.

Action-1: Send comments on the NWPP annual report to Abigail a.murphy@epa.ie (**ALL**)

Action-2: Robert Geraghty (EI) was invited to join the National Group for Industrial Symbiosis

Item 3: 10:30 Revisiting the purpose of the NWPC (all)

SC – Presented and updated group on Sustainability and the EPA Strategy, this included the main tasks of the Resource Efficiency Unit such as 1) Developing a framework to guide sustainability 2) Advocacy and partnering 3) Engaging communities (See SC Presentation: **COLGAN_Sustainability & Strategy**).**TR** opened the floor to comments.

Discussion on Sustainability and the EPA Strategy: **PK:** Food waste and Food losses were highlighted as popular and innovative (FoodCloud and BIA Food Initiative) with good examples of 'nudge' behaviour change.

SC: Mentioned that the terminology 'food waste' can be misleading to consumers and needs to be considered. The EPA will continue to network and meet with CTC, BIA Food Initiative and FoodCloud.

No actions for Item 3

Item 4: 11:00 Other updates (DECLG, CRNI)

JC – Update on Circular Economy, including the Circular Economy Action Plan and associated legislation (See **Action-3, -4, -5 & -6**). (See JC Presentation **CLARKE_NWPP June16**)

Discussion on the Circular Economy: **MOB** – Asked how the national target of 10% reduction of waste to landfill is measured in Ireland.

JC: Informed the 10% reduction threshold is still a proposal and the next version of the document will be released on the 1st July which will include the latest ideas on how targets will be measured.

CD and JC: Highlighted the difficulties in measuring reuse materials, gathering statistics on packaging and in raising the issues of measuring reuse with Nordic states who due to their reliance on deposit and return schemes have particular proposals to take this into account.

MOB: Asked if 'packaging' related to textiles and paper or other forms of packaging.

JC: Informed that for packaging there are proposed rules around the general operating of producer responsibility schemes – there may not be flexibility and could force a textile initiative down the full PRI route.

MOB: Asked if membership is mandatory.

JC: Highlighted the need to start discussing PRI's and the implications of PRI's (See **Action-7**).

TR: Suggested to revisit these issues on measuring reuse and PRI's in the next NWPC meeting (See **Action-7**).

CD – Update on CRNI. Topics covered included: Waste reuse; Measurement; Question for NWPC what should we be aiming for? (See CD Presentation: **DOWNEY_CRNI_NWPC meeting**)

Discussion on what reuse target should we be aiming for? (See **Action-8**): **AM** Suggested that global barriers to reuse are an issue and behaviour change should be European led.

JC: Questioned what a reuse economy is like and how it would impact on the circular economy model? Opportunities in service models, service contracts, repair of electronics were highlighted but the benefits would need to be better defined in order for industry to buy in and drive reuse.

OG: Mentioned an opportunity exists in refurbishing and marketing phones and IT equipment, and capturing how this adds to society (with a win for the environment and the economy).

CG: Highlighted that food waste was missing from the statistics presented. He informed that BIA Food Initiative and FoodCloud could provide data and questioned if food waste is included in the Circular Economy package.

JC: Informed that there are no targets for food waste reduction (as these were taken out of the CE package) and replaced with the sustainable development goals.

CD: Highlighted that if it is not regulated then it is not considered a 'waste' and so statistics are not always available.

JC: Highlighted again that there difficulty in measuring reuse as more community groups are selling items through other channels (online groups/ websites).

BK: Updated on the change in the Department (document circulated to NWPC before the meeting). Once legislation and responsibilities are transferred (July) **BK** will update the NWPC.

Action-3: NWPP annual report to include 5th key action in the circular economy package (**EPA**)

Action-4: Innovation and investment is a large part of H2020 (investment of €650 million). Jean mentioned the EPA research projects looking at a Reuse protocol and Guidance for the operation of Resource Exchange Schemes - link to be sent to all NWPC attendees for info (**JC**). It was suggested that a presentation could be made to the group at next meeting.

Action-5: Send feedback/ interest in being part of a Circular Economy email list to **JC (ALL)**

Action-6: Circular Economy Package proposals open to comment -on agenda Meeting 24 (**ALL**)

Action-7: Feedback & comments on implementation of PRI's, will be an item on the agenda for Meeting 24 (**ALL**)

Action-8: Send any feedback on what targets should be aimed for when it comes to reuse to **CD** – This Item could be revisited in Meeting 24 (**ALL**)

TR: OPEN QUESTION AND DISCUSSION

Is there more that the NWPC can do in terms of action? Develop new goals rather than discussing

what is our contribution to sustainability.

JC: Highlighted that we could feed into the circular economy package, reuse is an area of growth and there is opportunity to promote this, also could revisit/audit companies to see are they continuing to save on resources/save money and the best practice they learned from participating in the RE audits.

SC: Informed that CTC are revisiting companies in 2016.

CG: Highlighted that behaviour change takes time to implement and there is an issue of how to get quantitative and qualitative indicators of this.

MOB: Questioned how to engage businesses and industry and asked how the NWPC could change behaviours especially in the case of single use items which were highlighted as an issue. Should there be a survey? A National economic dialogue? **MOB** asked the NWPC: How do we (the NWPC) as a group become effective? There could be opportunities in meetings to direct programmes.

DC: Highlighted that take-away cups are non-recyclable and the NWPC could find a solution to this problem.

AM: Suggested a compostable cups incentive.

OG: Suggested to identify challenges to be further actioned or discussed, **OG** highlighted that subgroups are useful sometimes. This suggestion was welcomed by the NWPC.

CG: Suggested merge actions with subcommittee, have a sustainability agenda and use skills to implement actions and create opportunity. **CG** also suggested looking at other organisations that are not currently in the NWPC and to research who would be an expert at specific tasks/actions in sub group.

JR: Highlighted the importance of dissemination within a group, the NWPC is a good example - providing updates during meetings.

SC: Asked the NWPC who from the NWPC would like to be part of a subgroup and for any further suggestions/ nomination to be sent (See **Action-9**)

JC: Suggested to have industry themselves in a sub group to address what are the barriers to the people on the ground

JR and BK highlighted the need for the subgroup to be focused and task oriented

AM: Suggested that she could engage business/ industry on the aims of the NWPC.

TR: Suggested forming and sending suggestions for the subgroup between now and November and revisiting this item at the 24th NWPC meeting (See **Action-9**)

Sub group volunteers from NWPC: EPA, Jean Clarke, One person from Waste Regions, Claire Downey, Mindy O'Brien (See **Action-9**)

Action-9: Send proposals/nominations of participants in the NWPC subgroup. State reasons why they should be part of the subgroup and how they will contribute, consider organisation that are not already in the NWPC. In addition express your interest in being part of the subgroup. All to be sent to Tom Ryan t.ryan@epa.ie up until November - This item will be revisited and presented at the next NWPC Meeting 24 (**ALL**)

Item 5: 11:30 National Hazardous Waste Plan (EPA) JK

JK – Updated on the EPA National Hazardous Waste Plan. Topics covered included: Updates on 2016-Farm Hazardous Waste Collections; 4 priorities; National Hazardous Waste Subgroup. (See JK Presentation **KENNEALLY_NWPC_meeting_June_2016**)

TR opened the floor to comments from the NWPC

Discussion on Hazardous waste subgroup (See **Action-11**): **MOB** Mentioned SMILE and industrial symbiosis. The contact Michael Gillen was also mentioned as he could provide information on chemical reuse (See **Action-12**).

SC: Mentioned that chemical reuse is starting to be developed but it is slow due to hazardous waste disposal and concerns of dangerous substances returning to systems.

Suggestions were also provided to involve regions and the Department.

CD: Suggested to involve industry – possibly Brendan Keane (See **Action-12**).

JK: Will email a proposal of the subgroup (See **Action-10**).

OG: Suggested to include representations from Engineers Ireland (See **Action-12**).

CG: Suggested to have CIWRM as a representative (See **Action-12**).

Action-10: JK to email all NWPC with proposal for the formation of a Hazardous Waste subgroup (JK)

Action-11: EPA will lead a strategic group on Hazardous Waste - contact JK j.kenneally@epa.ie if you are interested in participating or if you would like to nominate an expert in the area that can contribute to any of the 4 priorities (**ALL**)

Action-12: Follow up with suggested participants for the Hazardous Waste subgroup (Suggestions included: Michael Gillen, Brendan Keane, Engineers Ireland and CIWRM) (JK)

Item 6: 11.50 - Regional Waste Management Offices: Prevention activities (SWR) PMD

PMD - Regional Waste Management Offices: Prevention activities (SWR) (See **Action-13**). Topics covered included: Update on prevention actions by regions (See **Action-14**); Pay by weight; Paint. (See PMD Presentation **MCDONOGH_Regional Waste Prevention Activities**)

Discussion on prevention activities: JK: Returned to the point on paint and informed of a regulation opportunity that is already in place. Bring centres segregate hazardous and non-hazardous paint. It was highlighted that not all surplus paint is hazardous waste and there is a need to assess what is and what is not hazardous.

JK: Suggested targeting the painting and decorating industry as there is potential for reuse.

SC: Questioned if different sizes of paint could be offered in store to suit the amount the consumer needs as this could be interesting from a prevention point of view.

PMD: Mentioned that industry is cautious to commit to offering different sized paint, however it was highlighted that industry is open to awareness-raising.

DC: Highlighted the difficulty of there being no standard mix of colours.

CD: Suggested there could have a subgroup with regions to address these issues.

CMG: Mentioned the issue of contamination of green bins with paint waste which is very high and suggested that green bins could be an awareness target for industry to highlight.

JC: Raised issue on disposing of residual waste into the green bin (no cost to consumer in pay by weight charges 2016) and the need to work with contractors of bin collections who- could refuse to collect green bins if this type of dumping happens.

MOB: Highlighted the issue in setting a maximum allowance as urban and rural areas have different waste collection needs and systems. It was also highlighted that bin sharing in rural areas will likely drop.

Discussion on other issues:

DC: Highlighted take-away cups as a major issue.

CG: Informed of some effort to encourage reuse cups and suggested that some coffee shops could be encouraged to have a discount in place for those who bring in reusable cups (with promotion during road shows/at festivals). He also highlighted a new compostable cup; that the United Kingdom is

considering taxing take-away cups; and that there is an issue with false advertising/ misconceptions that takeaway cups can be recycled.

OG: Some of the engineers' key functions are in the design and specifications of products and services. Engineers can have significant influence on products and services environmental impacts. They are therefore key stakeholders to engage with regards to promoting prevention and reuse. Assuming relevance to Engineers Ireland, EI members can be targeted by articles in electronic journal, lectures & training held at Engineers Ireland HQ.

TR: Returned the discussion to the EPA Sustainability strategy which will be written in the coming weeks, TR opened questions to the group to think about and discuss/give feedback on in the coming weeks. (See **Action 15**).

Question to the group: What can we (the NWPC) as a committee do? How do we address organisations? How do we influence our networks? How do we impact/ change behaviours?

Action-13: Send suggestions on local region and national activities/ events relating to prevention/ reuse and repair to **PMD** pauline.mcdonagh@srwmo.ie– what will be useful? Suggestions on KPI's? (**ALL**)

Action 14: Send feedback on 5 year plan to **PMD** - would like to collaborate with NWPC during 5 year plan with regular updates and feedback (**All**)

Action 15: Consider questions asked by **TR** for the next NWPC meeting 24: What can we (the NWPC) as a committee do? How do we address organisations? How do we influence our networks? How do we impact/ change behaviours?

Item 7: 12.20 - Relevant activities in NWPC member organisations (All)

TR Opened item 7 to the group to update on current relevant activities.

AM: Mentioned 4 seminars with a key note speaker in Limerick and Dublin – information is on the Green Business website at: <http://greenbusiness.ie/green-business-seminar-agenda-announced/>

CD: Mentioned the vision and policy bi annual conference – interactive conference with business model for reuse.

MOB: Mentioned Food Rescue will be at events in Ireland – working with local shops on food and raising public awareness – 16 in the past <http://voiceireland.org/general-news/what-is-food-rescue/>

CG: Mentioned a recent research project on commercial food waste generation – Food waste in industry and organisations. Businesses that the NWPC work with can be part of this research- **CG** will be in touch with the NWPC on this. (See **Action 16**).

TR: Stephen Treacy will update on waste statistic in the next NWPC meeting (See **Action 17**).

ST: Will disseminate information on waste stats (WEE, anaerobic etc) as soon as possible (See **Action 17**). Update @ResEff on twitter will be renamed to @EPAWasteRes, and will also now include updates on waste statistics.

Action-16: **CG** to send information on Food Waste in industry and gather suggestions of contact from the NWPC (**CG & ALL**)

Action-17: **ST** to update group on waste statistic, send information as soon as available and update as an item in the next NWPC meeting 24 (**ST**)

13:00 - AOB & Close

Date of the next NWPC meeting 24 will be in November (date to be confirmed)