

National Waste Prevention Committee Meeting 27

Date: Friday 5th April 2019 10:00 - 14:00

Location: The Rediscovery Centre, Ballymun, Dublin 11

Attendees:

	NAME	ORGANISATION		NAME	ORGANISATION
1	Mary Frances Rochford (Chair)	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	8	Siobhan Ball	Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM)
2	Shane Colgan	Environmental Protection Agency	9	Hugh Coughlan	Eastern Midlands Waste Region
3	Fiona McCoolle	Environmental Protection Agency	10	Declan Breen	Eastern Midlands Waste Region
4	Abigail Murphy	Environmental Protection Agency	11	Kevin Swift	Connacht Ulster Waste Region
5	Jean Clarke	Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (DCCA)	12	Philippa King	Southern Waste Region
6	Olivier Gaillot	Engineers Ireland	13	Claire Downey	Community Reuse Network Ireland
7	Eileen O'Leary	Clean Technology Centre	14	Thomas Ryan	Irish Farmers Association

Apologies: Helen Maher HSE, Mindy O'Brien VOICE, Brendan Keane IWMA, Ray Bowe IDA, Vip Patel CIWM, Michael Gillen Ibec

Item 1: 10:30 Minutes of previous meeting & matters arising

Under AOB there is an item from the HSE on Single Use Plastics (SUP) to be addressed. No other AOB items were raised at this point of the meeting.

Recap of previous meeting minutes:

Action 1: To be progressed by the EPA.

Action 2: Review of NWPC structure. The new programme has been the focus in Q1. Now that this has been progressed the EPA will focus on the NWPC feeding into the new programmes structures before our next meeting.

Action 3: The committee can still send their reflections on the NWPP review process to EPA (a.murphy@epa.ie).

Comments on minutes/actions arising:

A question was raised on how often the committee should meet. It currently meets twice a year, with the next meeting expected in Q4. The EPA will examine previous feedback on the role of the NWPC in the context of opportunities for greater engagement.

The EPA will share presentations from meeting 26 and meeting 27 with NWPC (**Action 1**)

The Farm Hazardous Waste collections programme was highlighted as an area needing attention. A final report from the pilot scheme is due to be completed and published by the EPA to inform any future schemes in this area. The EPA will share the Farm Hazardous Waste Collections report once published (**Action 2**).

Action 1: EPA to share presentations

Action 2: EPA to share report on Farm Hazardous Waste Collections once published

<p>It was noted by DCCAE that Article 8A of the revised Waste Framework Directive has obligations on Producer Responsibility Initiative (PRI) schemes.</p>	
<p>Item 1: Introduction to new NWPP leaflet</p>	
<p>The EPA gave an overview of the NWPP review process, main findings and an update on the initiatives ceased, continuing and commencing.</p> <p>Some updates include: The HSE are considering how the Green Healthcare website and outputs can be merged within HSE platforms. Ibec survey findings on the circular economy in business are being finalised and will be circulated (Action 3).</p> <p>The EPA presented the recently prepared leaflet detailing the new NWPP structure and priority areas. This will be launched at the end of April. Those who would like copies to disseminate can contact the EPA once the leaflet is finalised and released (Action 4).</p> <p>The new NWPP will replace previous BeGreen branding. DAFM have a new representative on the committee who requested to engage with EPA to understand how to feed into the programme and committee (Action 5).</p> <p>It was noted that the statistics underpinning the programme’s priority areas will be an important part of the new KPIs and communications. The statistics in the leaflet are a static point in time and will be updated as new figures are released. The NWPP will be focussed on articulating the scale of the problem in Ireland and demonstrating how the programme is impacting on the national figures.</p> <p>Communications of the new programme will include – a leaflet, video and social media communications as well as peer to peer engagement and presentations. EPA would like the reach to be as wide as possible and will be calling on the committee to promote NWPP in their own communications.</p> <p>Feedback from the committee on the leaflet was overall positive and the ambition to quantify and measure each area to show impact was welcomed.</p>	<p>Action 3: EPA to circulate survey findings on the CE from Ibec once finalised</p> <p>Action 4: Please contact a.murphy@epa.ie for printed copies of the NWPP leaflet for dissemination after launch (end of April)</p> <p>Action 5: EPA to connect with DAFM on role and linkages within the NWPC/P</p>
<p>Item 3: Update on 2019 activities of NWPP programmes</p>	
<p>The EPA updated the committee on 2019 programme activities currently underway. These are being delivered through 3 key pillars – innovation & demonstration, delivering through strategic partnerships and advocacy & communication.</p> <p>The three-year strategic partnership with the Rediscovery Centre was officially launched in January 2019 and will deliver a collaborative national programme of work on the circular economy.</p> <p>Local Waste Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grant aid call for Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) 2019 was launched in Q1. - There are three LAPN working groups on public drinking water fountains, greening festivals/events and Greening Business Communities - This year we will mark 10 years of the LAPN. 	

The committee discussed provision of public drinking water and local authority actions in this area. It was suggested that the LAPN working group should engage with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (**Action 6**). The working group will produce an output on the practical lessons learned by the LAPN public drinking water projects to date. The NWPP Team has worked with Office of Environmental Enforcement colleagues.

The Southern Region informed the NWPC of work they were considering undertaking in the area water fountains and undertook to ensure complementarity with other local government actions in this area (**Action 7**). The committee highlighted the existing work happening in the area which they could avail of including the lessons learned from the LAPN Working Group on refill stations. The positive stories and successes will be important to share. The refill.ie tap map was seen as a useful resource of information mapping locations of public access water.

Construction & Demolition (C&D)

EPA updated the committee on current activity on prevention and circular economy for the C&D sector. It was noted that the Office of Public Works (OPW) and Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) will be good contact points for C&D Green Public Procurement (GPP).

It was noted that EPA's guidance on the criteria for achieving End of Waste (EoW) status for soil and stone could influence this sector. There was an opinion expressed by a committee member that once waste is moved from a C&D site, the transport is expensive and the net value of the by-product could become negative so there is some work to do on considering market opportunities taking EoW criteria into account. (**Action 8**)

It was noted that Eunomia have circulated a survey on EoW and By-products on behalf of the Commission and DCCAIE has provided feedback. There are opportunities for Ireland to be informed by best practice from other countries.

Plastics

It was noted that EPA Research are funding a project on plastics in the home – there will be waste characterisation and an app will be developed. DCCAIE and the EPA are on the Steering Committee.

On the go consumption of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) was discussed and it was questioned if waste characterisations of public bins or at petrol stations bins would yield some useful data. The litter survey and LAPN project completed by Wicklow County Council would provide some information, although this was done 10 years ago.

The DCCAIE are conducting a study on Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) – to be completed in 6 months. DCCAIE will share outputs of this process with the committee (**Action 9**).

The EPA in partnership with the Regional Waste Management Offices (RWMOs) are planning a public survey on attitudes to plastics. It was suggested to learn from behavioural science experts including SEAI/UCD/Simon O Rafferty. Olivier will share a YouTube video/report on this (**Action 10**)

Action 6: EPA to engage with DHPLG through the working group on public access drinking water

Action 7: SWR to engage with EPA on lessons learned from LAPN to complement national plans for public access of water

Action 8: EPA will seek further details on this from Engineers Ireland and circulate to EoW staff within EPA.

Action 9: DCCAIE to share outputs of the DRS process with the committee

Action 10: Engineers Ireland to share resources [public attitude survey](#)

DCCAE noted that the Commission is considering a plastic tax, this could have implications on the cost of plastic material in Ireland due to the current level of plastic consumption.

Smart Farming Update

Resource efficiency audits at participating farms are due to commence for the 2019 Work Programme, 50 will be carried out. All NWPC members were invited to attend Smart Farming Spring Seminar in Portlaoise on 30th April. Thomas Ryan will share the agenda with the committee. **(Action 11)**

Smart Farming MSc student is due to complete project on an innovation decision support tool for drinking water quality.

Teagasc sustainability report has also been published.

Green Government

The Green Government initiative aims to have all government departments submit a resource efficiency action plan by end June. Public bodies are required to provide a report to their respective Minister on the measures they are taking to minimise waste generation and maximise recycling by end November.

Resources and Raw Materials

The EPA built and trialed a sharing platform of public sector bulky items (PREP) but it was not successful – lessons learned are feeding into the CRNI project on bulky items.

Food Waste Update

Grow Cook Eat Season 2 is currently being aired and is supported by Stop Food Waste (SFW) and Bord Bia. This year there are targeted waste prevention messages. There has been strong social media activity for SFW (6k twitter, 9k Facebook, 2k Instagram).

SFW plan to be at Bloom in June 2019 and plans include an attitudinal survey on food waste. One was conducted at the Ploughing event and it would be interesting to compare the two.

SFW Challenges and Master Composting training continues to take place nationally.

Stop Food Waste week will be held in June to highlight food waste prevention on a national scale – coinciding with this week will be a Forum on Food Waste event and the Retail Action Group will share data outputs. The EPA will share dates & further information with the committee once confirmed **(Action 12)**.

The NWPP food waste team will also be focusing on the food services sector this year.

A short paper on the nature and extent of food waste in Ireland will be published. A commercial food waste report is due to be published by Clean Technology Centre.

and [video](#) with EPA

Action 11: Smart Farming to share agenda and publications of interest from Teagasc

Action 12: EPA to share Food Waste prevention activities and dates with the committee

<p>It was noted that the RWMOs TriFocal project will be hosting a closing event to share the project outputs on June 14th. The EPA may be asked to be on the panel at the event. EPA and Eastern Midlands Region (EMR) to liaise on this. (Action 13)</p> <p>The RWMOs will be hosting ACR+ annual assembly in June. ACR+ is an association of cities and regions. 60-70 members will travel in from Europe and RWMOs will engage with key stakeholders in Ireland. The Circular Economy will feature.</p>	<p>Action 13: EMR to liaise with EPA on Food Waste event Tri Focal</p>
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Item 4: Tour de Table

<p>Waste RWMOs</p> <p>The WMRs recently submitted a business case to DCCAE focussed on targets for recycling and waste prevention (reference to regional waste plans).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) MyWaste.ie is a tool to communicate with the public about waste management options and best practice for managing their waste and will continue to be developed in 2019. 2) Businesses will be a focus for residual waste and waste reduction based on the recent findings of the EPA waste characterisation report. 3) It was noted that the RWMO waste prevention budget is down from previous years. The RWMOs may look to work with EPA on developing new waste prevention approaches, for example waste prevention actions in non-domestic settings such as convenience stores. <p>The RWMOs are focussing on building consistent waste bye-laws, a template is being rolled out to all LA's. It was noted that there is a challenge in getting people to participate so the RWMOs are raising awareness with targeted promotions.</p> <p>The RWMOs will run Reuse month in October 2019.</p> <p>A report on household hazardous waste collections will be published. Promotion of the collection day for homes is under review.</p> <p>The role and future focus of civic amenity (CA) sites is under review, 30 will be reviewed in total (15 owned by LAs and 15 owned on behalf of LAs). This review will be complete 6 months after the waste management plans review.</p> <p>The EPA highlighted the value in the strategic partnerships to leverage on programmes and initiatives at national level and make best available use of funds. The EPA participates in the national waste communications strategy group (chaired by DCCAE) which includes RWMOs, Repak and the Price Monitoring Group. It was noted that consumer power and pressure has increased in the last year, this is potentially accelerating and stimulating change & leading to more investments in the Circular Economy by industry.</p> <p>CRNI</p> <p>CRNI are developing policy positions with the European RREUSE Network and are looking at effective policies for reuse for transposition into Irish policies. They are</p>	
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collaborating with CTC and the Rediscovery Centre on an EPA research study on qualification and quantification of reuse.

CRNI is looking at ways to roll out national reuse and grow their network of members. CRNI is looking at new business opportunities, such as public procurement.

It was noted that the EPA is looking at the assets of NWPP programmes concluded recently and is developing a process to capture and transfer outputs. Q1 was mainly focussed on developing the new NWPP programme.

Recap of Actions

Action 1: EPA to share presentations

Action 2: EPA to share report on Farm Hazardous Waste Collections once published

Action 3: EPA to circulate survey findings on the Ibec Circular Economy survey once finalised

Action 4: Please contact a.murphy@epa.ie for printed copies of the NWPP leaflet for dissemination after launch (end of April)

Action 5: EPA to connect with DAFM on role and linkages within the NWPC/P

Action 6: EPA to engage with DHPLG through the working group on public access drinking water

Action 7: SR to engage with EPA on the LAPN public drinking water working group document

Action 8: EPA will seek further details on this from Engineers Ireland and circulate to EoW staff within EPA.

Action 9: DCCAE to share outputs of the DRS process with the committee

Action 10: Engineers Ireland to share resources on [public attitude survey](#) and [video](#) with EPA

Action 11: Smart Farming to share agenda and publications of interest from Teagasc

Action 12: EPA to share food waste prevention activities and dates with the committee

Action 13: EMR to liaise with EPA on food waste event Tri Focal

13:00 - AOB & Close

Date of the next NWPC meeting to be confirmed. Likely to be November.

DCCAE response to AOB item from HSE submitted by email on Single Use Plastics: The SUP banning process for the public sector was initiated by DCCAE, the process has been positive but messages are not out fully to all public-sector bodies. The ban is focused on cups, cutlery and straws. Purchasing of these SUPs will cease within all the public sector. It is understood that there may be stock in place for this year. There will be a survey to all public-sector bodies in Q1 asking what actions have been taken to ban the items listed.

There were no further comments from the committee. This concluded the business of the meeting. The meeting ended at 2pm.