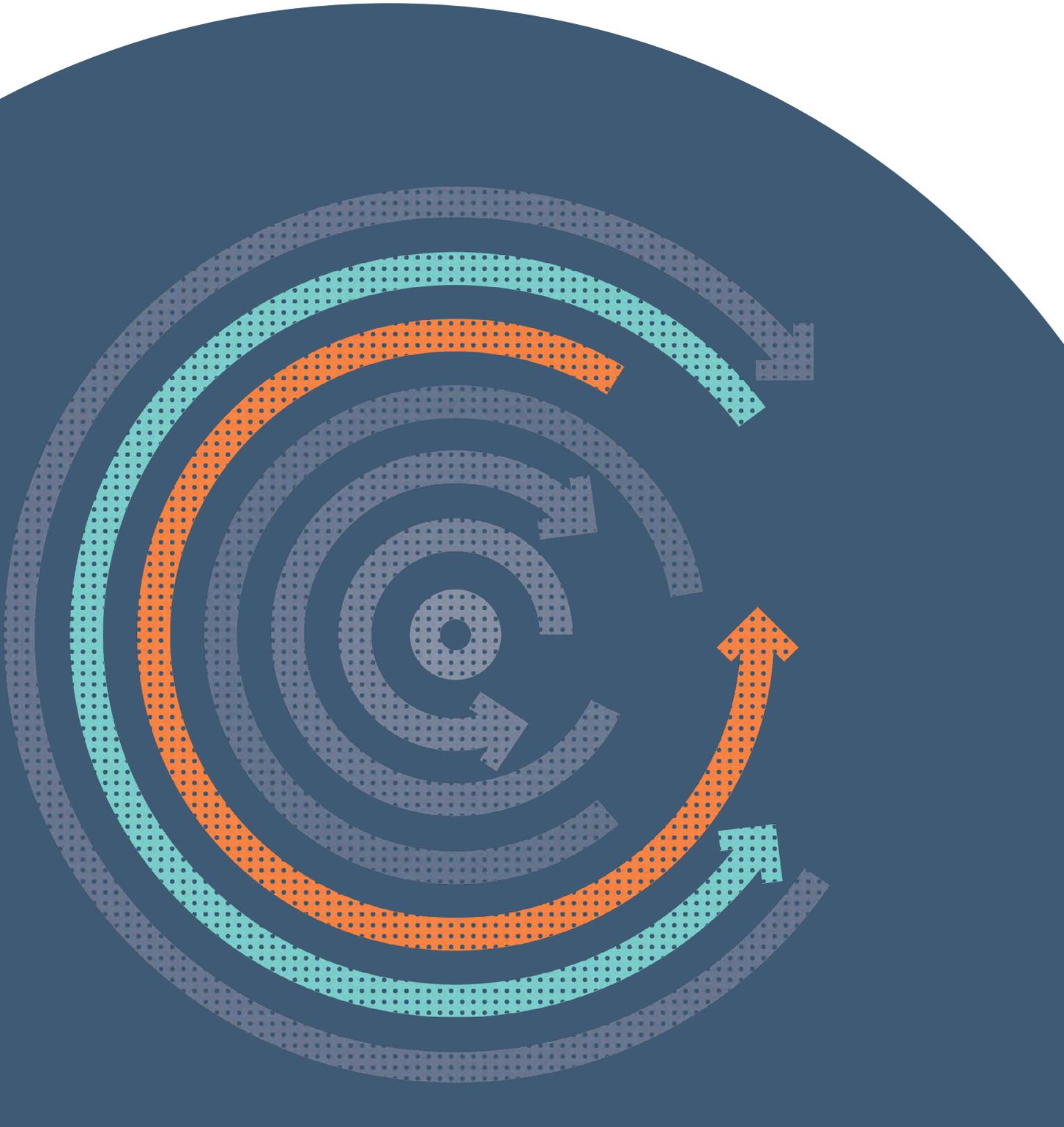




Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Environmental Protection Agency

# NATIONAL WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Preventing Waste, Driving the Circular Economy

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

### The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

*Regulation: We implement effective regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.*

*Knowledge: We provide high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making at all levels.*

*Advocacy: We work with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental behaviour.*

## Our Responsibilities

### Licensing

We regulate the following activities so that they do not endanger human health or harm the environment:

- waste facilities (e.g. landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations);
- large scale industrial activities (e.g. pharmaceutical, cement manufacturing, power plants);
- intensive agriculture (e.g. pigs, poultry);
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- sources of ionising radiation (e.g. x-ray and radiotherapy equipment, industrial sources);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea activities.

### National Environmental Enforcement

- Conducting an annual programme of audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities.
- Overseeing local authorities' environmental protection responsibilities.
- Supervising the supply of drinking water by public water suppliers.
- Working with local authorities and other agencies to tackle environmental crime by coordinating a national enforcement network, targeting offenders and overseeing remediation.
- Enforcing Regulations such as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- Prosecuting those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

### Water Management

- Monitoring and reporting on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters of Ireland and groundwaters; measuring water levels and river flows.
- National coordination and oversight of the Water Framework Directive.
- Monitoring and reporting on Bathing Water Quality.

### Monitoring, Analysing and Reporting on the Environment

- Monitoring air quality and implementing the EU Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Directive.
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government (e.g. periodic reporting on the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports).

## Regulating Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Preparing Ireland's greenhouse gas inventories and projections.
- Implementing the Emissions Trading Directive, for over 100 of the largest producers of carbon dioxide in Ireland.

## Environmental Research and Development

- Funding environmental research to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions in the areas of climate, water and sustainability.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Assessing the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment (e.g. major development plans).
- Radiological protection.
- Monitoring radiation levels, assessing exposure of people in Ireland to ionising radiation.
- Assisting in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents.
- Monitoring developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety.
- Providing, or overseeing the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

## Guidance, Accessible Information and Education

- Providing advice and guidance to industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics.
- Providing timely and easily accessible environmental information to encourage public participation in environmental decision-making (e.g. *My Local Environment*, *Radon Maps*).
- Advising Government on matters relating to radiological safety and emergency response.
- Developing a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to prevent and manage hazardous waste.

## Awareness Raising and Behavioural Change

- Generating greater environmental awareness and influencing positive behavioural change by supporting businesses, communities and householders to become more resource efficient.
- Promoting radon testing in homes and workplaces and encouraging remediation where necessary.

## Management and Structure of the EPA

The EPA is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and five Directors. The work is carried out across five Offices:

- Office of Environmental Sustainability
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Evidence and Assessment
- Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland



# **National Waste Prevention Programme**

## **Preventing Waste, Driving the Circular Economy**

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Annual Report 2021

The National Waste Prevention Programme  
is a Government of Ireland initiative.

## Acknowledgements

The EPA acknowledges the following for their support of the National Waste Prevention Programme:

- The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications for providing programme funding.
- The National Waste Prevention Committee members who provided their time and collective knowledge to the programme.
- The Board and staff of the EPA, in particular the National Waste Prevention Programme team.

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## FOREWORD

Since its inception in 2004, the National Waste Prevention Programme has delivered innovative programmes and resources to raise awareness, build capacity, change behaviours and support individuals and organisations to prevent waste. When the National Waste Prevention Programme launched, it was the first national programme of its kind in Europe. Waste policy was shifting from improving waste management to preventing waste. Now the policy focus is on delivering a circular economy – an economy where the use of raw materials is minimised, and the value of materials and products is kept in the economy for as long as possible. Waste prevention is central to circular economy but there is also a focus on reducing raw material consumption and designing our products and services in new ways to reduce consumption and share resources.

The Government's [Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy](#) published in 2020 flagged that the National Waste Prevention Programme would be reconfigured as a Circular Economy Programme, with the EPA co-ordinating national, regional and local activities. Following a public consultation process on a draft plan, the Circular Economy Programme 2021 to 2027 co-launched in December 2021 with the first Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy.

This is therefore the final annual report on the National Waste Prevention Programme and includes information on our innovation & demonstration, partnership, and advocacy & communication activities during 2021. I would like to thank my EPA colleagues, our partners and collaborators for delivering a diverse and impactful programme of activities despite the ongoing challenges of COVID-19.

The EPA established a new Circular Economy Programme at the end of 2021. This new programme will be the driving force for Ireland's move to a circular economy and consists of three

teams leading on circular economy and waste statistics, Implementation, and Regulation. The programme has a statutory footing under the Circular Economy Act (No. 26 of 2022).

Through innovation, advocacy and partnering and with other organisations to extend our support and reach, our vision is an Ireland where everyone uses less resources and prevents waste to achieve sustainable economic growth.

I look forward to leading the delivery of the national Circular Economy Programme in the years ahead, building on the learnings and successes of the National Waste Prevention Programme.



**Warren Phelan**  
Programme Manager,  
Circular Economy Programme



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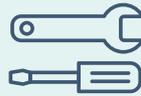
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# NWPP HIGHLIGHTS 2021

## Resources & Raw Materials



Maximising use of products and materials towards a circular economy.

- **39 leading Irish manufacturers** committed to a **>20% reduction in GHG emissions and waste production** through joining CIRCULÉIRE, the national circular manufacturing platform.
- **10 circular economy enterprises** mentored through the Rediscovery Centre's Circular Economy Academy.
- Community Resources Network Ireland supported 40 members to reuse **12,400 tonnes of materials** saving over **171,000 tonnes of carbon**.
- **194 reports** issued to organisations on how to improve their resource efficiency using the TREE tool.
- The RepairMyStuff national online repair directory connected **more than 1,100 repair businesses** with over **98,000 users**.

## Food Waste Prevention



Reducing waste in households, hospitality, retail and along the food production chain.

- **7.5 million people** reached during a national Stretch Out and Save media campaign.
- Organic traffic to the Stop Food Waste website continued to increase showing a growing awareness and interest in the programme by the public.
- **53 per cent increase** in 25–34-year-old male visitors to the Stop Food Waste website during the 3-week period of a campaign targeting busy young males.
- EPA standardised food waste measurement methodologies are being developed and tested by businesses in the supply chain.

## Plastics

Displacing single-use plastic items through prevention, reuse and recycling actions.



- Green Enterprise innovation programme funded:
  - A project to **optimise plastics recycling** in smart vending machines through visual Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things technologies.
  - A project to **develop a composite plastic from recycled PET** completed.
- A project under Enterprise Ireland's Small Business Innovation Research programme estimated the **nature and scale of plastic waste produced in school meals** in Ireland.

## Local Waste Prevention



Mobilising & empowering communities to make changes for sustainable and circular living.

- **16 local authorities** funded €190,000 to carry out 17 community circular economy initiatives.
- **40-businesses** in the Dublin Region were trained on circular economy under the MODOS programme.
- Work began on the sourcing and installation of **36 public drinking water fountains** in schools, at beaches in Wexford and Waterford, on the Blueway in Laois and the Greenway in Limerick.
- **Rush TidyTowns** in Co. Dublin won the inaugural Tidy Towns EPA Special Award for Circular Economy.

## Construction & Demolition



Working with industry and others to tackle high-volume wastes in this critical sector.

- Revised **Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Resource & Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects** published in December.

## Agriculture



Increasing output efficiency and reducing carbon emissions for sustainable food production.

- Smart Farming assessments on **40 farms across 19 counties** identified potential for average GHG emission reductions of 6.5% and average savings of €5,400 per farm.

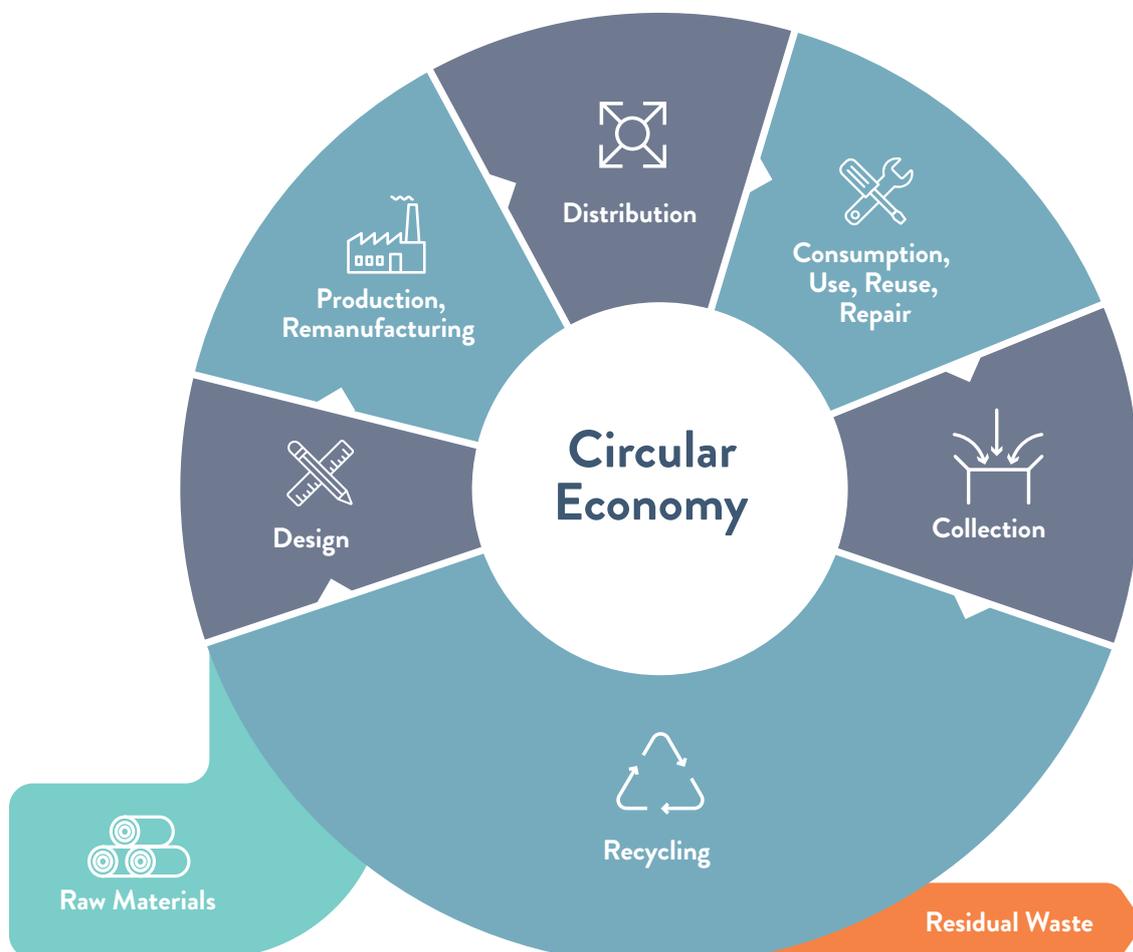


# 1. INTRODUCTION

The National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP) supports national-level, strategic programmes to prevent waste and drive the Circular Economy in Ireland. The programme does this by funding innovation and demonstration projects; by partnering with organisations to deliver our initiatives at national scale; and by publishing evidence & assessments to promote waste prevention and circular economy. In 2021, the NWPP was reconfigured as the Circular Economy Programme, in response to national policy.

The National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP) has the ambition of “preventing waste, driving the circular economy”, with six priority areas and working under three pillars. This report describes NWPP activities in 2021; the programmes we led and supported, and programme expenditure and governance.

In a circular economy, less raw materials are extracted for production, secondary (recycled) materials are used to make products, products are sustainable (reusable, durable and repairable), and how products are distributed takes circular economy into consideration (reducing and reusing packaging). There is less consumption because products are maintained and repaired, they are shared or leased rather than purchased outright and there are less single use items on the market. Repair activities and donation for reuse are default activities, considered before sending material for waste management. Finally, when a product reaches end of life, it is collected so that recycling of materials is maximised and disposal (the least favourable option in the waste hierarchy) is minimised. Circular economy supports climate action, because 45% of greenhouse gas emissions come from how we produce goods and materials.



In 2021, the NWPP was reconfigured as a national Circular Economy Programme, in response to the government's national waste policy, A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy. A draft Circular Economy Programme 2021 to 2027 was published for public consultation in June, and following a review of the twenty submissions received, the finalised programme<sup>1</sup> was co-launched with the first Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy in December. A programme document, leaflet and video are available on EPA website.

Within the EPA, a new Circular Economy Programme was established in 2021, with three teams leading on circular economy **Implementation, Regulation and Waste and circular economy statistics**. The Circular Economy Programme, which has a statutory basis under the Circular Economy Act, will deliver impactful, national-level activities to support the Circular Economy Strategy and the forthcoming National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

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<sup>1</sup> Organisations that responded to the public consultation included the County & City Managers Association, Ibec, Irish Green Building Council, Irish Waste Management Association and WEEE Ireland. For more information see <https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/circular-economy/>

## How We Work

NWPP is delivered in three ways:



## Our Priority Areas

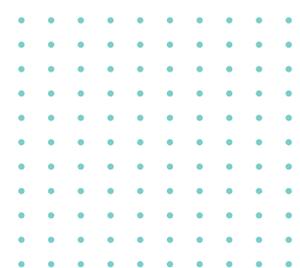
Six focus areas of the NWPP reflect circular economy priorities:



## 2. INNOVATION & DEMONSTRATION



Transitioning to a Circular Economy requires the development of processes and business models that are focussed on design, reducing resource consumption, reuse, repair and recycling. The programme supports innovation and demonstration projects through funding calls. The programme publishes case studies and provides tools to enable implementation of circular economy opportunities in Ireland and showcases innovative models to highlight the economic and environmental benefits of circular business practices.



## DELIVERING IN 2021

### Green Enterprise: innovation for a circular economy

Green Enterprise is the NWPP's flagship innovation funding call which supports organisations to develop and demonstrate new circular economy business models and approaches. For the 2021 call the thematic areas were *Plastics; Construction &*

*Demolition; Food; and Resources & Raw Materials*. Growing engagement by business and industry in the circular economy was reflected in the diversity and number of applications received. Twenty-six applications were received seeking grant-aid of €1.6 million. Following a two-stage evaluation process, the EPA provided grant aid of €710,000 to support eight projects as set out in the table below.

Organisation funded	Description of project	Funding
Irish Wood and Furniture Manufacturing Network	Demonstrate circular economy opportunities for furniture, textiles, upholstery and related products and material streams within the network.	€91,114
Beacon Glass Ltd	Environmental impact analysis of an urban mushroom farm model.	€27,523
FoodCloud	Estimate FoodCloud's annual carbon balance to accurately quantify the GHG emissions of surplus food redistribution.	€100,000
Sensi	Use a smart reverse vending machine with visual Artificial Intelligence (object recognition) and Internet of Things technologies to trial deposit and return system.	€99,865
Furniture Recycling	Use textile and foam material from end-of-life mattresses in the manufacture of building insulation material and soft filling in the standard depths and sizes required.	€100,000
Positive Carbon	Use food waste insights to reduce food waste in commercial kitchens. A database of the most wasted foods in commercial kitchens will be compiled, followed by creating multiple, innovative insights on how to reduce this food waste in the kitchen and followed by a short pilot of the technology in ten locations to demonstrate its impact.	€91,021
Central Solutions	Create a Waste and Circularity Community of Practice platform for the industrial sector.	€100,000
Allied Recycling	Waste plasterboard recycling at an authorised facility, to increase the amount of recycled gypsum in production and reduce the amount of mined gypsum.	€100,000

At the end of 2021, thirteen projects from previous years' calls were progressing and three projects were finalised (see graphic).

### SymbioBeer (2019 call)

*Irish Manufacturing Research*

Funding: €99,451

SymbioBeer was an industrial symbiosis project between two companies in an industrial estate in Co. Longford. It aimed to promote innovative waste prevention solutions across the food production and food processing sectors. It investigated the use of bread production residues as secondary raw material for beer production, and the use of by-products from beer production to create new bread products. Irish Manufacturing Research also developed policy recommendations to inform scaling up of industrial symbiosis in Ireland.



### Minimising Fish Waste in the Supply Chain (2019 call)

*Proiseail (An Clochán Liath) Teoranta*

Funding: €60,000

The primary objective of this project was to reduce fish waste at Irish Fish Cannery, a manufacturing plant. The project used Design of Experiments (DOE) to put a structure on its work. DOE changed the previous haphazard approach to improvements and helped the company to focus on the most important activities that could save waste. In order to quantify the overall benefits from the improvement projects, a Life Cycle Assessment was carried out. This project achieved a 26% reduction in waste per tonne of product produced. Energy was also saved due to the changes made, with a 26% reduction in heating oil and 28% in energy use per tonne of product, due to optimising cook times and reducing reworks.



*"From Sea to Shelf"*

### PROBOT (2018 call)

*Irish Manufacturing Research and Irish Composites Centre (IComp)*

Funding: €93,000

The aim of this research was to investigate the potential uptake of a new composite created by IComp at the University of Limerick's Bernal Institute, using Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) to create a Self-Reinforced Polymer, as opposed to the Polypropylene (PP) Self Reinforced Polymers which are currently used in various industries. The project found that the composite can find applications in a variety of industries. Its main polypropylene-based competitor is currently used in sports equipment, suitcases, audio equipment, automotive equipment, and anti-ballistics equipment. Other possible uses identified include farm machinery and marine equipment.



**IRISH  
MANUFACTURING  
RESEARCH**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
LIMERICK**  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

**Bernal  
Institute**

### Green Enterprise Webinars

The Green Enterprise webinar series which showcases completed projects continued in 2021 with three presentations in May:

- Minimising fish waste in the supply chain (Irish Fish Cannery).
- Producing a composite from recycled plastic (Irish Manufacturing Research/IComp).
- Investigating methods for the expansion of paint reuse programmes (Rediscovery Centre).

The webinars had about 40 attendees each. Webinar recordings are available on EPA's Circular Economy YouTube playlist. For more information on Green Enterprise project outcomes visit: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring-assessment/circular-economy/green-enterprise/green-enterprise-completed-projects-and-outputs/>

## Small Business Innovation Research

The EPA's challenge proposal "Innovating a circular economy for soft plastics" was successful under Enterprise Ireland's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) 2020 call. The challenge invited innovators to develop solutions to prevent and reduce soft and single-use plastic packaging in the provision of school meals.

Following an open EU tendering process, Radical Innovations Group Ab were contracted to carry out a four-month feasibility study. The study analysed data from a sample of schools and school meal providers to estimate the types and quantities of plastic generated from school meals and to examine the challenges and barriers to reducing plastics, which included the lack of incentives to reduce plastics, procurement practices, and budget for school meals. The solution proposed was to build a circular economy backbone to track, monitor and measure the flow of plastics using distributed ledger technology and to examine market opportunities for reusable packaging options or introducing chemical recycling methods. The project didn't progress to the prototyping phase following an evaluation process.

## Circular Economy Online Tools

The NWPP supports the following open access, online tools for promoting and growing circular economy.



The **TREE online resource efficiency tool** enables organisations (businesses and the public sector) to examine their operational processes and their housekeeping

practices to ensure that they are making best use of materials, energy and water. Organisations answer questions around their energy, water and waste management. TREE provides a performance score and a tailored action plan of measures to improve resource efficiency. By the end of 2021 a total of 1,447 organisations were registered on the site (increase of 6% compared to 2020) and reports had issued to 1,243 organisations (194 issued in 2021).

In a circular economy, waste is prevented, product life is extended, and the maximum value is extracted from products while they are in use, so repair is central to circular economy.



**Repairmystuff.ie** is Ireland's national online repair directory, supported by the NWPP and managed by Monaghan County Council. In 2021, the NWPP

provided grant aid of €16,531 to Monaghan County Council for the website's support and management.

In 2021, the website connected more than 1,100 repair businesses with over 98,000 users (34% increase in users compared to 2020). Its search facility allows users to identify the repair service required and their location and provides information on nearby repairers. Enviroguide Consulting were contracted to identify and contact repair organisations that weren't already registered, and this resulted in an increase of 45 per cent in the number of businesses registered on the site.

## Education and Training



**SOLAS** is the State agency tasked with building Ireland's Further Education and Training (FET) sector.

EPA is participating in the Green Skills working group to develop Skills to Advance: Green Skills accredited micro-qualifications. A Level 5 training programme on Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace was submitted to QQI for accreditation. Work on Level 4 training on Sustainability Awareness for the FET Learner was also under development with further modules in planning for 2022.

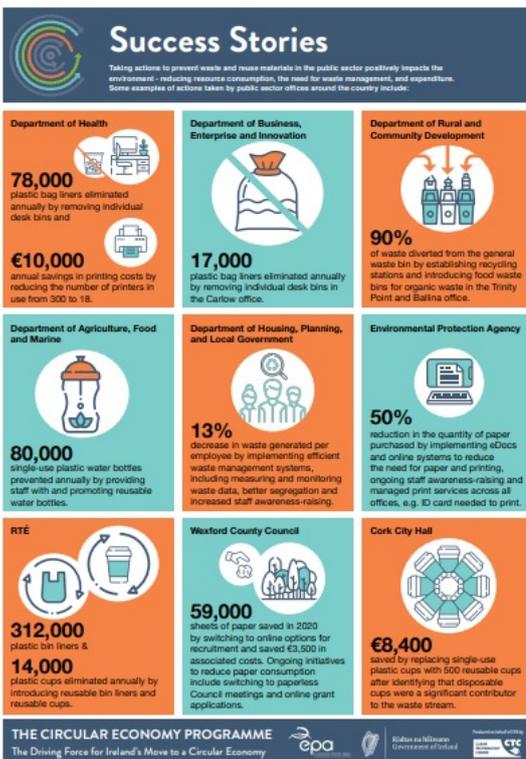
## Case Study:

# Public Sector Circular Economy Factsheets and Success Stories

As part of the Green Government initiative launched in 2019, government departments were tasked with preparing Resource Efficiency Action Plans (REAPs) with the aim of auditing and reviewing resource use in energy, water and waste. The NWPP supported Green Government in 2019/2020 by developing a guidance document, providing technical support and training webinars, compiling data and good practice examples..

In 2021, five fact sheets compiling data and good practice examples for waste prevention/circularity in the public sector were published to the EPA website and shared with Government Departments and agencies. Topics include single use plastic product reduction, food waste reduction, paper reduction and improved waste segregation.

- By eliminating individual desk bins, three public sector offices prevented the use of 407,000 plastic bin liners in one year.
- The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine prevented the use of 80,000 single use plastic bottles by providing staff with reusable bottles and promoting their use.
- The Department of Health saved more than €10,000 by reducing the number of printers in use from 300 to 18.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage reduced by 13% the amount of waste generated per employee.

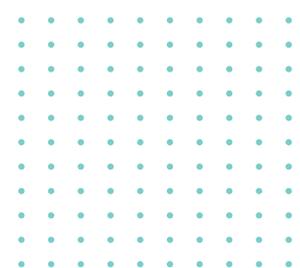


<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring-assessment/circular-economy/circular-and-sustainable-sectors/sectoral-sustainability/public-sector-offices/>

### 3. DELIVERING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



A partnership approach is central to delivering circular economy ambition and vision. We partner with others to extend our influence and to drive growth of the circular economy in Ireland. We collaborate with influential national organisations and networks to deliver strategic, co-created and targeted programmes and solutions for the circular economy. The NWPP provides funding support to deliver partnership programmes and brings expertise on waste prevention and circular economy to developing the programmes.



## 2.1 DELIVERING IN 2021

In 2021, the NWPP had partnerships with national organisations in the manufacturing, social enterprise, agriculture, third level education and community sectors, with Irish Manufacturing Research, the Rediscovery Centre, Community Resources Network Ireland, the Irish Farmers' Association, the Irish Universities Association and The Community Foundation for Ireland.

### Circulaire



The NWPP has a three-year strategic partnership (2020–2022) with Irish Manufacturing Research to deliver CIRCULÉIRE, the

National Platform for Circular Manufacturing. The NWPP is providing grant-aid funding of €250k per year and sits on the platform's steering group. DECC and EIT-Climate-KIC are also partnering with Irish Manufacturing Research.

Some key activities in 2021 were:

- The platform's website was established which includes an open access Circular Economy knowledge library, by the end of 2021 it had over 400 artefacts.
- Circularity assessments completed with 13 members, identifying approx. 340 circularity opportunities.
- Three consortium projects approved for funding under the 2021 Innovation Fund Call: Dawn Meats (meat processing), FreeFoam (packaging/plastic in built environment) and FPD Recycling (battery powered waste electrical and electronic equipment). Total requested budget €427,944.
- Five projects approved for funding under the 2022 Innovation Fund Call: Cirtex (mattresses), Offerre (medical devices), Novelplast (plastics/life sciences), Farrell (furniture), Design & Crafts Council Ireland (textiles & fashion). Total requested budget €511,437.
- Public webinars to present the 2020 thematic group papers on Industrial Symbiosis, Bioeconomy and Circular Procurement.
- Three new thematic groups started on Circular Packaging, Circular Plastics and Circular Design.
- Five organisations selected for Start-Up/New Venture Programme: Harley & Marley, IFF Plastics Ltd, Niskus Biotech, Sensi and Verifact.
- CIRCULÉIRE supported delivery of Holland Circular Economy Hotspot in June and were part of the successful bid to host the Circular Economy Hotspot in Dublin in 2023.

- The annual conference was held as a hybrid half-day event in November at the National Manufacturing & Supply-Chain Expo.
- Membership increased to 39 (from 28 at the end of 2020), primarily in the Textiles & Fashion Sector and the Second-Life Enablers Cluster.

### Rediscovery Centre



The NWPP's three-year partnership with the Rediscovery Centre (2018-2021) aims to support

and develop the Rediscovery Centre's social enterprises and outreach across Ireland.

The NWPP provides grant-aid funding of €150,000 per year and supports the delivery of partnership initiatives and events. The Rediscovery Centre is extending its regional outreach through demonstration, education and collaboration and taking on new roles to strengthen Ireland's circular economy.

Key partnership activities in 2021 included:

- The [Circular Economy Academy](#) continued its work in providing free mentoring and support to its ten members, and a showcase on the Academy was held for the EPA in June.
- In June a series of partnership events to showcase repair were delivered, including a four-part video promotional campaign, an Ask the Expert virtual event on Rediscover Fashion/textiles, a Conversations on a Circular Economy webinar on the Right to Repair which Minister Smyth participated in; and culminating in a Fixit Festival with various virtual demonstrations and Q&A session.



In an international context, the Rediscovery Centre is on the co-ordination group for the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform and led on the successful bid to host the Circular Economy Hotspot in Dublin in 2023.

The Rediscovery Centre's 2021 highlights video can be viewed [here](#).

As the partnership reached the end of its term in 2021, an ex-post evaluation was carried out prior to agreeing a further partnership for 2022.

## Community Resources Network Ireland



Community Resources Network Ireland (CRNI) is a network of community reuse, repair and recycling organisations, established in 2010. In 2021 the NWPP provided grant-aid support of €90,000 to the network.

In 2021 six new members joined CRNI including Killarney Immigrant Support Centre (Kerry), Northside Community Enterprises (Cork) and The Bike Hub (Dublin), bringing the membership total to forty. The economic, social and environmental impact of the network is significant; in 2021 alone 12,429 tonnes of products were reused (saving over 171,226 tonnes of carbon), 10,201 tonnes of materials were recycled, 611 jobs were sustained, 1,495 people were trained and 7,132 volunteered with network members. The network's collective social value was almost €51M.



The network builds capacity in circular economy by providing support and training to its social enterprise and community members. In 2021, CRNI welcomed 217 attendees at 20 member meetings and sent 50 weekly sectoral updates to its members. The network's social media, newsletters and website reached approx. 310,500 stakeholders. A further 4,700 stakeholders were reached directly through CRNI presentations at events (mainly online in 2021).

In terms of policy work CRNI made 6 policy submissions, with 128 recommendations made. CRNI also took part in 23

meetings with policy makers and attended 37 policy working groups across a range of topics relevant to its membership.

CRNI held its biennial conference in June 2021 on 'Jobs and Skills in the Circular Economy' with 198 participants to the online event. The conference explored how to make the most of the evolving policy and funding landscape to create real career opportunities in reuse and repair in Ireland.

In an international context, CRNI currently holds Board Membership of RREUSE and continues to contribute to its work.

The CRNI 2021 highlights video can be viewed [here](#)

## Smart Farming

**Smart Farming** Smart Farming is a partnership with the Irish Farmers' Association to deliver a resource efficiency programme to reduce costs and improve the environment on Irish farms.

The NWPP provided grant-aid funding of €130k in 2021, with IFA providing co-funding of €121k through staff input and other programme costs.

Smart Farming centres on communicating practical actions in [eight thematic areas](#), which, if implemented, will reduce costs and improve the environment.

Smart Farming facilitates free on-farm resource efficiency assessments (REAs) which examine inputs across the farm such as energy, water, fertiliser and relate these to farm output. Farmers receive tailored advice and agree to share the learnings with their peers through discussion groups. In 2021, 40 REAs were completed across 19 counties (dairy, beef, sheep and tillage farms). The REAs identified the potential for average cost savings of €5,400 and greenhouse gas emission reductions of 6.5 per cent on participating farms. The thematic areas which offered the greatest cost savings if implemented by the participants were soil fertility (correcting soil pH, nutrient management planning) and grassland management (reseeding and planting multispecies swards).

- The annual Spring Seminar was held online on 22nd April and the theme of the event was "Restore & Enhance Farmland" with the speakers focussing on restorative and regenerative agricultural practices. There were presentations from the Teagasc Signpost Programme, from Andrew Bergin, a tillage farmer who has established a 'no-till' method of farming in Co. Kildare, and Claire Hill of

Regenerative Agriculture in the UK. Over 100 attended the event.

- An online seminar was held on the evening of 20th October with 140 participants on “Sources and Solutions: The Link between our Soil and Water Quality”. Dr James Ryan (UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science) spoke about the relationship between soil type, soil fertility and water quality. There was a lively Q&A session and five short information videos were launched on:
  - o How to increase soil carbon
  - o How to improve soil fertility
  - o What you can do to improve water quality
  - o What are PIP maps?
  - o How to use PIP maps

These videos were developed in co-operation with the EPA catchments team, Teagasc and a previous Smart Farming participant Karol Kissane. The videos aim to provide practical advice on easy to implement actions on farm to improve resource efficiency and protect the environment.



The NWPP is partnering with the Irish Universities Association on a campus living labs

project to demonstrate the potential for scalable waste prevention and waste reduction behaviour change across Ireland’s university campuses. The NWPP is providing funding and expertise to deliver this programme over a two-year period.

The project officially launched in October with a press release and launch video including Minister Ossian Smyth, EPA Director General Laura Burke and representatives from the Irish Universities Association and Union of Students in Ireland. The design and delivery of behavioural science interventions will start in 2022.

## The Community Foundation for Ireland



The EPA provided grant-aid funding (€50k) to The Community Foundation for Ireland’s Environment & Nature Fund (Circular Economy and Waste), to fund circular economy activities within communities. The Community Foundation for Ireland provided co-funding of €50k. Following a competitive call in 2021 and an evaluation process, fifteen applications were approved for funding on a range of topics including fashion, food, plastic, inhalers, mattresses and toys.

Grant aid funding for a project with SpunOut (25k) to raise awareness of the impact of fast fashion on the environment and Inform young people about sustainable fashion and the circular economy is described in the case study.

## Case Study: Sustainable Fashion campaign for 16 – 25-year olds with SpunOut

The EPA partnered with The Community Foundation for Ireland to fund SpunOut to run a campaign on fast fashion/sustainable fashion for a youth audience (16–25-year olds).

The campaign ran on the SpunOut platforms for two weeks in November/December 2021 using search engine optimisation (SEO) tools and social media posts to drive traffic to the audience.

Thirteen online articles included topics such as “What you need to know before donating clothes to charity”, “How to make more sustainable clothing choices” and “Sustainable fashion on a budget”.

SpunOut ran a Sustainable Fashion Academy (with four workshops) and Certificates of Completion were issued to 24 attendees.

A toolkit for youth workers based on learnings from the project was disseminated to SpunOut’s newsletter of over 1,050 subscribers including youth workers, teachers, and volunteer organisations. [How to run a workshop series on sustainable fashion - spunout](#)

The campaign was highly successful both in terms of reach and impact, reaching 198,762 on Facebook & Instagram through single feed-post images, carousels and stories; 133,791 on TikTok and had 20,036 readers across all content. Based on average figures for a SpunOut social media campaign, the impact was ten times what would be expected in terms of forecasting campaign traffic. The campaign data shows that the most successful content was that which was the most user-centric and addressed real life dilemmas that young people find themselves facing when trying to find alternatives to fast fashion. Content has been optimised for SEO, allowing continued organic traffic to the content over time.

Content created through this funded campaign can be viewed here: <https://spunout.ie/life/climate/sustainable-fashion>



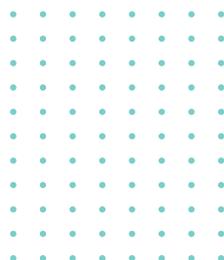
**spunout**

 The Community  
Foundation for Ireland

## 4. COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY



Our communications are targeted to raise the profile of programme activities and outputs with relevant audiences, whether that is the public, public sector, economic sectors or enterprises. We use behavioural insights studies to inform our programmes and communications and provide evidence for the development of national circular economy policy



## DELIVERING IN 2021

### Food Waste Prevention

**Stop Food Waste** is the national food waste prevention campaign for householders. In 2021 we developed and implemented an evidence-led approach to raise awareness and motivate behaviour change to reduce food waste. Communications were informed by a nationally representative attitudes and behaviours study conducted in September 2020.

Stop Food Waste engaged with audiences through traditional media and online across all three social channels in support of the three-year aim to achieve a measured increase in the number of people engaging on the topic and widespread public awareness of the issue of food waste and solutions to help reduce it. Through a targeted approach, using a mix of paid promotion and organic campaigns, we reached large audiences and delivered the key messages to a growing and engaged audience.<sup>2</sup> Highlights in 2021 include:

- In July, the total campaign reach for the Stretch Out and Save national promoted campaign, was 7.5 million, including a social media advertising reach of 6.2 million and high-profile media coverage secured across 23 media outlets, including national TV, radio and print media. These activities gave rise to a significant increase in traffic to the [stopfoodwaste.ie](https://stopfoodwaste.ie) website with 14,374 new users over the course of the campaign.
- Organic traffic to the website continued to increase showing a growing awareness and interest in the programme by the public, including a continued increase in new visitors.
- In October, an awareness campaign targeting busy young males on checking and using up food in the fridge led to a 53% increase in 25–34-year-old male visitors to the website over the 3-week period.
- The proportion of male visitors to the website continues to increase, suggesting an impact on the male 'on-the-go' audience engaged during the year.
- An increase in visits to the website being driven by social media, indicating that the social content is engaging and resonates.
- Audience growth on social media signals the content is attracting new audiences.

We developed a new methodology to conduct household food waste composition studies. The methodology will be used to provide granular data on food waste from Irish homes and

support food waste prevention measurement and reporting activities.

In 2021, we also progressed our projects to support food waste prevention in businesses in the food supply chain. The programme aims to improve data quality and availability in the sector. We started development of national standard methodologies to provide the basis for a consistent approach to food waste measurement. The Food Waste Measurement Protocol for food processing and manufacturing businesses was tested in the bakery, seafood, and prepared foods sectors. For businesses in the hospitality and food services sector, an easy-to-use '*Pathway to Less Food Waste*' has been developed and tested by businesses. We also continued to work with others to identify opportunities for incorporating these tools into national training programmes targeting relevant sector employees. The EPA standardised measurement methodologies will provide the basis to establish industry commitment to improve data reporting and targeted food waste reduction across the supply chain, which has been identified as playing a key role in the implementation of the Government's Food Waste Prevention Roadmap.



Over 110 people attended a virtual **Forum on Food Waste** in November. The event had a focus on building knowledge to waste less and discussed food waste prevention at the global and European level and heard from industry speakers from across the food supply chain, highlighting practical experiences in relation to measuring and reducing food waste. [Presentations](#) and [recordings](#) are available on the EPA website.

We continued to provide leadership and expertise on food waste to support policy and decision-making. We engaged with stakeholders and provided input to the National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap. We also participated in the EU Platform on Food Losses & Waste.

<sup>2</sup> Approx. follower numbers at end 2021: Facebook – 13,060; Twitter – 7,600; Instagram – 13,000.

We also commenced the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan for the food waste prevention programme, including identifying KPIs to monitor and evaluate its effectiveness.

## Textiles

Textiles in our daily lives range from clothing, footwear, towels, bedlinen and upholstery to healthcare items, industrial fabrics and car upholstery. The production of textiles involves complex global supply chains and with their increasing rate of consumption highlights a linear economic model that is unsustainable.

### Nature & extent of post-consumers textiles report

To address a knowledge gap and inform national policy, the NWPP commissioned a study to determine the [Nature and Extent of Post-Consumer Textiles in Ireland](#), post-consumer textiles being textiles that consumers do not require anymore and have decided to discard.

The study estimated around 170,000 tonnes of post-consumer textiles are generated each year in Ireland of which:

- 64% are collected as waste from household, commercial and industrial sectors and nearly all are processed via waste-to-energy plants or landfill.
- 34% are separately collected primarily through commercial textile banks and collections, and secondly through charity shop direct donations.
- 27% are sold for reuse, of which 6% are sold for reuse within Ireland and 21% are exported overseas.
- 9% go for recycling as rag, fibre, etc.



The study shows that the existing textile systems in Ireland need to be developed to facilitate increased separate collections, reuse and recycling of post-consumer textiles and more sustainable consumption of textiles. Going forward, the findings and recommendations from this study will inform future consultations and

measures identified in Ireland's Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy to support the requirement for separate collection of textiles by 2025 and to improve circularity in textiles in Ireland.

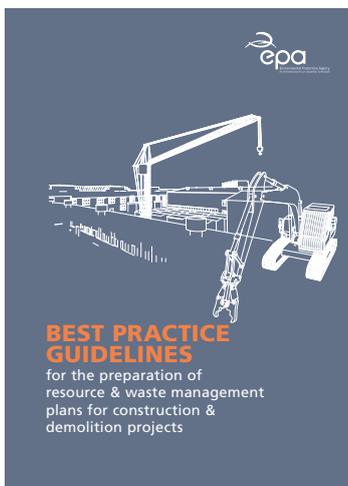
### Setting Ireland on the Path Towards a Circular Textile's Framework

Recommendations identified in nature & extent of post-consumers textiles report (EPA, 2021):

- For both textiles that are 'waste' and textiles that are not waste, as Ireland moves towards the circular economy model, it is important to obtain better data on the flows and fate of all post-consumer textiles.
- Waste prevention and sustainable consumption must be introduced in this sector. This could include measures such as green procurement; increasing reuse; facilitating repair; and at end of life, favouring reuse/ recycling over disposal.
- Targeted educational campaigns are required to raise the awareness for the public on reducing their personal consumption of textiles and providing better information on textile reuse and recycling.
- Separate collection of textiles in Ireland needs to be significantly improved, particularly at the domestic level which is the major source (around 67,000 tonnes per year in the municipal waste stream).
- In conjunction with improved collection methods, there is a need to locally develop capacity and outlets to manage post-consumer textiles e.g. explore strategies to maximise sales via existing outlets, as well as upcycling, downcycling and recycling opportunities.
- Increased reuse within Ireland will benefit Ireland's skill profile, create opportunities for training and employment, and in the longer-term foster innovation in circular economy design. Local pilot projects are required to understand how novel measures might be suited to the Irish context.
- Consider fiscal measures and supports such as reducing or removing VAT on second-hand goods, on repair, and on upcycling; and introducing tax relief for second hand purchases in charity shops.

## Construction & Demolition

The EPA led on the revision of the *Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Resource & Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects* and following a public consultation on draft guidelines, the finalised guidelines were published in December and shared widely with the construction sector, planners and policy makers. This work fulfils a commitment under the Government's Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.



## Circular Economy Conference

The Circular Economy Conference "Ireland's move to a new economy" was held online over two half days 15th & 16th September, with Minister Ossian Smyth giving the opening address. Of 757 that registered for the conference, 546 logged on (72%) and 375 were active. Three chairs and 17 speakers took part; 185 questions were asked; and in four live polls there were 732 votes. Day 1 had a focus on Opportunities for Public Sector, and Minister Smyth officially launched the EPA's Green Public Procurement: Guidance for the Public Sector. Other speakers on Day 1 included the OECD and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Day 2 had a focus on Opportunities for Business and speakers included IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and various enterprises with circular economy business models in the session "Circularity on the Hight Street".



## NWPP Annual Report for 2020

The *National Waste Prevention Programme Annual Report for 2020* was published in November and shared with key stakeholders including the National Waste Prevention Committee, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency.

## Sponsorships

The NWPP has a ring-fenced fund for sponsorships; applications received were evaluated and approved subject to their alignment with NWPP objectives and criteria. In 2021 the following activities were sponsored:

The NWPP sponsored the Environmental Education and Awareness Initiative of the Repak **Pakman Awards**, which was won by Tinahely Community Areas Project Ltd.

[Sponsorship €7,500]



The NWPP sponsored two categories in Chambers Ireland **Sustainable Business Impact Awards**: Excellence in Environment for a Multinational Company (won by Aldi Ireland – Aldi's Plastic & Packaging Pledges) and Excellence in Environment for a Large Indigenous Company (won by Hotel Doolin, Ireland's first carbon neutral hotel and for their pandemic work).

[Sponsorship €5,000]



**Sustainable Business  
Impact Awards 2022**

The NWPP sponsored the **Green Awards' Public Sector Organisation of the Year**, which was won by An Post.

[Sponsorship €5,000]



The NWPP sponsored the **Tidy Towns Special Award for Circular Economy** which was won by Rush Tidy Towns in Co. Dublin. Two highly commended awards were won by Sneem Tidy Towns Co. Kerry and Oughterard Tidy Towns Co. Galway.

[Sponsorship €2,000]



The NWPP sponsored an EPA Special Prize and the Schools Award of the 2021 **Upcycle Challenge** which is an annual competition delivered by the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices.

[Sponsorship €1,500]



TREVOR WOODS - WINNER OF EPA SPECIAL CATEGORY CATEGORY

DE LA SALLE COLLEGE CHURCHTOWN - WINNER OF SCHOOLS CATEGORY

## CDP Ireland Network

The EPA and SEAI jointly fund the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) Ireland Network, a national initiative to promote and support corporate carbon reporting via the not-for-profit CDP organisation. This network promotes Irish participation in the global disclosure movement and supports organisations to complete their reporting tasks. Eight organisations joined CDP as new responders in 2021 bringing Irish responders to 55, along with over 300 multinationals with operations in Ireland. These new participants come from a wide range of sectors and include: AerCap Holdings, BidX1 Technology Limited, Flutter Entertainment Plc, Grafton Group Plc, Irish Continental Group Plc, KBI Global Investors, O'Brien Fine Food and Watermark Coffee.

[Grant-aid support €15,000]



## Supporting & Advocating

In support of the development of national circular economy policy, the NWPP (and the wider EPA) provided a detailed submission to DECC regarding the proposed Circular Economy Strategy. Observations and recommendations in this submission informed development of this major new national policy. Implementation of this policy is core to developing Ireland's circular economy. The policy included a proposed reconfiguration of the NWPP into a national circular economy programme, which was actioned during 2021. The EPA also submitted observations and recommendations to a Pre-Draft Consultation on the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

Other advocacy work in 2021 included publishing a study on the nature and extent of textile waste and a repeat survey on plastics attitudes and behaviours in Ireland for comparison to a baseline 2019 survey.

## European activities

The NWPP participates in the European Environment Agency's EIONET<sup>3</sup> working groups and the Network of the Heads of European Environmental Protection Agencies (Interest Group on Green and Circular Economy).

The NWPP team co-authored an EEA publication *Guidance for evaluating waste prevention programmes* which was published in early 2021.<sup>4</sup> It was created to provide guidance and practical advice and highlighting case studies to help all EEA member countries evaluate their waste prevention programmes.



<sup>3</sup> The European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) is a partnership network of the EEA and its 38 member and co-operating countries.

<sup>4</sup> Guidance for evaluating waste prevention programmes by the EEA and Eionet: [www.eea.europa.eu/themes/waste/](http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/waste/)

## Case Study: National 'Stretch Out and Save' Communications Campaign

The national 'Stretch Out and Save' food waste prevention awareness campaign took place in July 2021. The aim of the campaign was to make people aware how they can make their fresh food last longer, especially fruit, veg and salads. The campaign was informed by findings from the 2020 national food waste attitudes survey and targeted a segment of the population preoccupied with how long fresh food lasts, with:

- 48% saying they waste a lot of fruit (compared to 39% total population)
- 50% saying they waste a lot of vegetables (compared to 39% total population).

The campaign involved a mix of online channels along with traditional PR activities. The total reach of the campaign was 7.5 million, which included a social media advertising reach of 6.2 million and high-profile media coverage was secured across 23 media outlets, including national TV, radio and print media. These activities gave rise to a significant increase in traffic to the [stopfoodwaste.ie](https://www.stopfoodwaste.ie) website with 14,374 new users over the course of the campaign. There was an increase in the number of followers on all social platforms over the two-week campaign period. The campaign also had a high level of support and engagement from retailers Lidl, Aldi and Tesco.

Results from a follow up national survey indicate that the campaign communications appear impactful in terms of encouraging a change in behaviour, with 65% of the people who saw it saying the campaign has led or will lead to them doing something differently as a result.



## 5. LEADING BY EXAMPLE



We support the public sector “leading by example” in its transition to the circular economy. During 2021 we supported the implementation of Green Public Procurement through publishing revised guidance and developing, delivering training and gathering data on implementation by government departments. We also facilitated local waste prevention through the Local Waste Prevention Network.

## DELIVERING IN 2021

### Green Public Procurement

In 2021, the NWPP successfully progressed several Green Public Procurement activities required under the 2019 Climate Action Plan.



In September, the EPA's revised *Green Public Procurement Guidance for the Public Sector* was published and launched by Minister Ossian Smyth at the EPA's Circular Economy Conference. This guidance and accompanying criteria support the inclusion of sustainable and green practices into public sector procurement procedures.

They are aimed primarily at public sector procurers in central and local government, state agencies and other public bodies such as universities, hospitals and schools. They are also relevant for utility sector procurers and may be of interest to private companies whether they are responding to tenders or applying green criteria in their own procurement.



The EPA has a role in developing and delivering Green Public Procurement training under the Climate Action Plan. An online training programme for public sector procurers & specifiers developed and rolled out in 2020 was extended into 2021, with 121 public sector procurers representing 60 public sector

organisations attending the training (a mix of local authorities, government departments, state agencies and educational bodies).

The Climate Action Plan 2019 assigned lead responsibility to the EPA for an action that Government Departments would measure and report on GPP on an annual basis, starting with calendar year 2020. All Government Departments returned the EPA's reporting template for 2020 by autumn 2021 and the EPA collated and analysed the data with a view to publish a report on GPP activity in Government Departments early in 2022.

We worked with other public sector bodies to progress GPP by participating in the Strategic Procurement Advisory Group (chaired by the Office of Government Procurement and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications) and the Local Authority GPP Training Steering Group (chaired by the Climate Action Regional Offices).

### Local Authority Prevention Network

The Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) supports the NWPP's priority area of local waste prevention, and its objective is to build waste prevention capacity at local and community level. The network provides strong outreach. Analysis of 2020 LAPN grants showed that 15 projects led by 14 local authorities engaged over 1.6 million citizens. This is an increase in the number of citizens engaged of 48% compared to the 2019 LAPN grant projects.

Two LAPN plenaries were held online during the year, chaired by the NWPP, and were an opportunity for the network to exchange information and knowledge on delivering local waste prevention/circular economy projects.

LAPN has a competitive funding call, and local authorities are provided grant-aid of up to €20,000 and provided with technical support for delivery of the projects by the Clean Technology Centre at Munster Technological University. The 2021 call had four themes: (i) supporting reuse activities (ii) fostering a repair culture (iii) reducing the consumption of single use items and (iv) an open innovation theme. Thirty-one project applications across 20 local authorities were received, with grant-aid requests totalling €398k. Following an evaluation process, sixteen local authorities were awarded funding of €190,698 to carry out seventeen community circular economy projects. Several projects funded in 2020 were delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions so projects funded in both 2020 and 2021 are highlighted below.

### Repair Awareness Videos

Laois County Council received funding to deliver a series of videos showcasing local repair businesses with the aim of promoting the concept of repair and encouraging people to utilise the services available to them locally.

The four videos (i) provide information on the national online repair directory [www.repairmystuff.ie](http://www.repairmystuff.ie) (ii) give top 3 tips for shopping in charity shops (iii) focus on cobbler repair shop (iv) focus on a music repair shop.

The videos were shared on social media, each had over 10k views and can be viewed [here](#).



**Repair Awareness Videos Laois County Council**

Repairmystuff.ie is a free online repair directory that can be used to find local businesses to repair anything from shoes to washing machines. The online directory, developed through a LAPN project funded by the EPA, includes repair businesses from all over Ireland. It's simple to use and involves choosing the county the user is in as well as the product to be repaired and the directory will search for repair businesses in that area. Repair businesses can register on the site free of charge.

Laois County Council, in an effort to communicate to the wider public the story of those offering repair services in Laois, decided to develop promotional videos that could be shared online and through social media channels.

The first step in developing the video content was to identify the best and most suitable ideas for this type of project. These were then explored with the production company before finalising the scripts. Four videos were produced by The Useless Project, through their [website](#).

**The four videos produced were:**

1. An introduction to repairmystuff.ie
2. Top 3 tips when shopping in charity shops
3. Reuse month cobbler shop
4. Reuse month music shop

The videos provide information on how to use the service, the benefits of reuse and also introduce local businesses who provide services in the Laois area including Jack Nolan, who owns a shoe repair service in Fortlaaise and Tom Byrne from Anthem MUSIC who repairs old instruments.



## MODOS Circular Economy Training Programme



Dublin City Council received funding to roll out the MODOS Circular Economy training programme to 40 micro-

enterprises and SMEs in Dublin City Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council functional areas. This training aims to help businesses to understand the concept of Circular Economy and to begin integrating circularity into their operations. The learning combines theoretical concepts with practical activities, relevant case studies and step-by-step processes and templates.

## Carrickmacross Toy Library



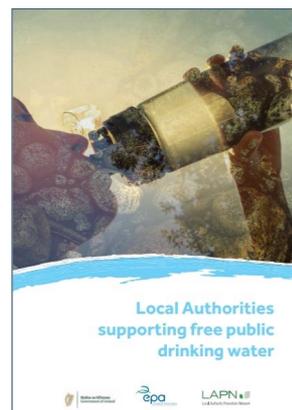
Monaghan County Council received funding to promote

Carrickmacross Toy Library (set up in 2020 through fundraising and a toy drive in the local community) and to provide additional toys due to the increase in demand. This has enabled local families to borrow quality, sustainably sourced toys. The toys are loaned to members for a two-week period and returned, sterilised and made available to other members. Through learning from and sharing the experience of the toy library in Carrickmacross, this is an initiative that could be replicated in other local communities throughout the country.

## LAPN Outputs

Case studies of the following LAPN funded projects were published and can be viewed [here](#):

- Dublin City Council-led project on Co Cup Deposit and Return Scheme;
- Longford County Council project on Longford Repair and Reuse Directory;
- Fingal County Council project on Musical Instruments Reuse;
- Partnership between Limerick City & County Council, Clare County Council, Mayo County Council and Dublin City Council on Designing out Waste & Efficient Procurement in the Construction Sector.



A booklet showcasing the work of local authorities in supporting free drinking water (and so reducing the consumption of single use plastic bottles) was also published.

## 6. NATIONAL HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The NWPP was responsible for leading on the preparation of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NWHMP) 2021 to 2027 which was published in December 2021. This is the fourth NWHMP and is made under Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996.

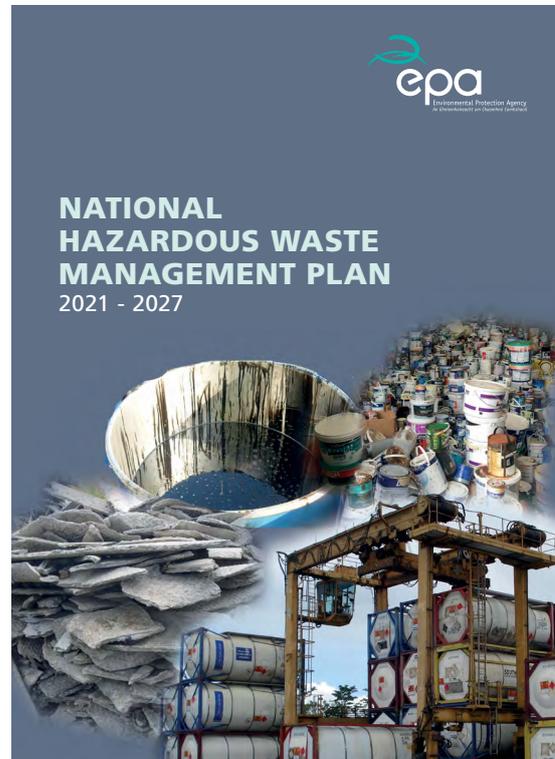
The NHWMP 2021 to 2027 sets out the priorities to be pursued to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste, considering the progress made since the previous plan, and waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published.

The purpose of the plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes through the following objectives:

1. Support and drive priority prevention actions by industry and the public to reduce the generation of hazardous waste;
2. Support the identification of adequate and appropriate collection infrastructure for all hazardous wastes with a view to mitigating environmental and health impacts;
3. Endorse the proximity principle such that hazardous wastes are treated as close to the point of production as possible – including within Ireland, taking into account the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste.
4. Support effective regulation of the movement -and management of hazardous wastes in line with national policy priorities;
5. Promotion of safe reuse and recycling pathways in support of the circular economy.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) were carried out as part of the preparation of the Plan. The findings of these assessments informed the development of the Plan, along with feedback from the statutory consultation.

The implementation of the NHWMP is being led by the EPA's Circular Economy Programme.



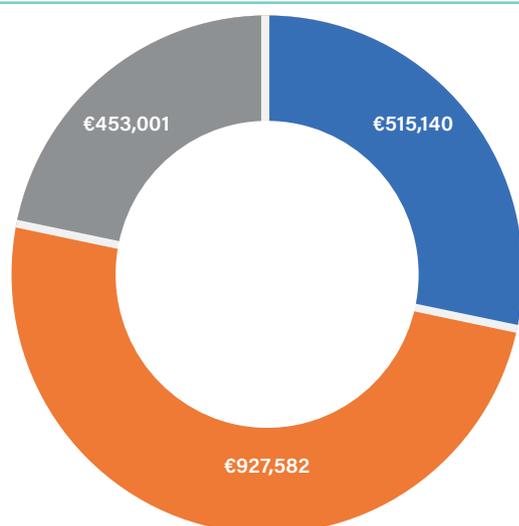
## 7. FUNDING & GOVERNANCE

The NWPP is a Government of Ireland initiative and operates through EPA actions and external activities funded by the programme. Programme expenditure in 2021 was disbursed through grant agreements, contracting arrangements and sponsorships.

## Funding

Total NWPP expenditure in 2021 was €1,895,724. The figure below shows the breakdown of expenditure by NWPP activity pillars.

- **Innovation and demonstration** expenditure (€515,140) as described in Section 2.
- **Delivering through partnerships** expenditure (€927,582) as described in Section 3.
- **Communications & Advocacy expenditure** (€453,001) as described in Section 4.



■ Innovation and Demonstration ■ Partnership  
■ Communications and Advocacy

The table below shows the breakdown by NWPP cost areas:

NWPP cost areas	2021 expenditure
Programmes & Grants (e.g. partnerships, Green Enterprise, LAPN)	€1,141,820
Consultants and Contractors (e.g. technical support to programmes, development of guidance and training, evaluation of programmes).	€552,006
Communications & Advocacy (events, campaigns and publications)	€180,898
Sponsorships	€21,000

Technical advice is provided by the National Waste Prevention Committee with membership as follows:

Environmental Protection Agency	Enterprise Ireland
Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications	Health Service Executive
Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	Ibec
Chambers Ireland	IDA Ireland
Chartered Institution of Waste Management	Irish Environmental Network
Clean Technology Centre at Munster Technological University	Irish Farmers' Association
Regional Waste Management Planning Offices	Irish Waste Management Association
Community Resources Network Ireland	Small Firms Association Ireland
Engineers Ireland	

A Memorandum of Funding Agreement between EPA and DECC defines the strategic collaboration and financial controls in place between the two organisations. The NWPP has financial controls in place for funding beneficiaries and all NWPP procurement is in line with government procedures. The NWPP is subject to audit from the EPA Internal Audit Unit; DECC Internal Audit Unit; and the Comptroller & Auditor General.

The EPA and DECC recognise a collective responsibility to ensure an effective system of internal financial controls is maintained to comply with statutory obligations applicable to the provision of funding. During 2021 the EPA tendered for a contract under an Office of Government Procurement framework to conduct audits of a sample of NWPP grant recipients from 2020 and future years.



## An Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Tá an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC) freagrach as an gcomhshaoil a chaomhnú agus a fheabhsú mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaoil a chosaint ar thionchar díobhálach na radaíochta agus an truaillithe.

### Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

*Rialú: Déanaimid córais éifeachtacha rialaithe agus comhlíonta comhshaoil a chur i bhfeidhm chun torthaí maíthe comhshaoil a sholáthar agus chun díriú orthu siúd nach gcloíonn leis na córais sin.*

*Eolas: Soláthraimid sonraí, faisnéis agus measúnú comhshaoil atá ar ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírthe agus tráthúil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht ar gach leibhéal.*

*Tacaíocht: Bímid ag saothrú i gcomhar le grúpaí eile chun tacú le comhshaoil atá glan, táirgiúil agus cosanta go maíthe, agus le hiompar a chuirfidh le comhshaoil inbhuanaithe.*

## Ár bhFreagrachtaí

### Ceadúnú

Déanaimid na gníomhaíochtaí seo a leanas a rialú ionas nach ndéanann siad dochar do shláinte an phobail ná don chomhshaoil:

- saoráidí dramhaíola (m.sh. láithreáin líonta talún, loisceoirí, stáisiúin aistrithe dramhaíola);
- gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíocha ar scála mór (m.sh. déantúsaíocht cógaisíochta, déantúsaíocht stroighne, stáisiúin chumhachta);
- an diantalmhaíocht (m.sh. muca, éanlaith);
- úsáid ghlanscartha agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe (OGanna);
- foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin (m.sh. trealamh x-gha agus radaiteiripe, foinsí tionsclaíocha);
- áiseanna móra stórála peitрил;
- sceitheadh fuíolluisce;
- gníomhaíochtaí dumpála ar farraige.

### Forfheidmiú Náisiúnta i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil

- Clár náisiúnta iniúchtaí agus cigireachtaí a dhéanamh gach bliain ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas ón nGníomhaireacht acu.
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí cosanta comhshaoil na n-údarás áitiúil.
- Caighdeán an uisce óil, arna sholáthar ag soláthraithe uisce phoiblí, a mhaoirsiú.
- Obair le húdarás áitiúla agus gníomhaireachtaí eile chun dul i ngleic le coireacht chomhshaoil trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidmiúcháin náisiúnta, díriú ar chiontóirí, agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar fheabhsúcháin.
- Cur i bhfeidhm rialachán ar nós na Rialachán um Dhramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (WEEE), um Shrian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha agus na Rialachán um rialú ar shubstaintí a ídíonn an ciseal ózóin.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

### Bainistíocht Uisce

- Monatóireacht agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht aibhneacha, lochanna, uisce idirchreasa agus cósta na hÉireann, agus screamhuiscí; leibhéal uisce agus sruthanna aibhneacha a thomhas.
- Comhordú náisiúnta agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar an gCreat-Treoir Uisce.
- Monatóireacht agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar Cháilíocht an Uisce Snámha.

## Monatóireacht, Anailís agus Tuairisciú ar an gComhshaoil

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht an aeir agus Treoir an AE maidir le hAer Glan don Eoraip (CAFÉ) a chur chun feidhme.
- Tuairisciú neamhspleách le cabhrú le cinnteoireacht an rialtais náisiúnta agus áitiúil (m.sh. tuairisciú tréimhsiúil ar Staid Chomhshaoil na hÉireann agus Tuarascálacha ar Tháscairí).
- **Rialú Astaíochtaí na nGás Ceaptha Teasa in Éirinn**
- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin na hÉireann maidir le gás ceaptha teasa a ullmhú.
- An Treoir maidir le Trádáil Astaíochtaí a chur chun feidhme i gcomhair breis agus 100 de na táirgeoirí dé-ocsaíde carbóin is mó in Éirinn.

### Taighde agus Forbairt Comhshaoil

- Taighde comhshaoil a chistiú chun brúnna a shainaithe, bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartais, agus réitigh a sholáthar i réimsí na haeráide, an uisce agus na hinbhuanaitheachta.

### Measúnú Straitéiseach Comhshaoil

- Measúnacht a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar an gcomhshaoil in Éirinn (m.sh. mórfheananna forbartha).

### Cosaint Raideolaíoch

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéal radaíochta, agus measúnacht a dhéanamh ar a oiread is atá muintir na hÉireann gan chosaint ar an radaíocht ianúcháin.
- Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as tairmí núicléacha.
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhaineann le saoráidí núicléacha agus leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíochta.
- Sainseirbhísí cosanta ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

### Treoir, Faisnéis Inrochtana agus Oideachas

- Comhairle agus treoir a chur ar fáil d'earnáil na tionsclaíochta agus don phobal maidir le hábhair a bhaineann le caomhnú an chomhshaoil agus leis an gcosaint raideolaíoch.
- Faisnéis thráthúil ar an gcomhshaoil ar a bhfuil fáil éasca a chur ar fáil chun rannpháirtíocht an phobail a spreagadh sa chinnteoireacht i ndáil leis an gcomhshaoil (m.sh. Timpeall an Tí, Mapaí Radóin).
- Comhairle a chur ar fáil don Rialtas maidir le hábhair a bhaineann leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíoch agus le cúrsaí práinnfhreagartha.
- Plean Náisiúnta Bainistíochta Dramhaíola Guaisí a fhorbairt chun dramhaíl ghuaiseach a chosc agus a bhainistiú.

### Múscailt Feasachta agus Athrú Iompraíochta

- Feasacht chomhshaoil níos fearr a ghiniúint agus dul i bhfeidhm ar athrú iompraíochta dearfach trí thacú le gnóthais, le pobail agus le teaghlaigh a bheith níos éifeachtúla ar acmhainní.
- Tástáil le haghaidh radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre, agus gníomhartha leasúcháin a spreagadh nuair is gá.

### Management and Structure of the EPA

Tá an gníomhaíocht á bainistiú ag Bord Iáinimseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóirí. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d'Oifigí:

- An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Fhianaise agus Measúnú
- An Oifig um Chosaint Radaíochta agus Monatóireacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tá Coiste Comhairleach ag an nGníomhaireacht le cabhrú léi. Tá dáréag comhaltáir air agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair imní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord



## OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK WITH US

We want to work with others to drive Ireland's Circular Economy through **national-level, strategic programmes** with high visibility and influence.

We want to engage with:



We have opportunities for innovation funding, networking and partnering through our priority areas:



Food Waste



Construction & Demolition



Plastics



Agriculture



Resources & Raw Materials



Local Waste Prevention

### TO FIND OUT MORE:

Email us: [nwpp@epa.ie](mailto:nwpp@epa.ie)

Website: <https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/circular-economy/>

Follow us on twitter: @EPAIreland