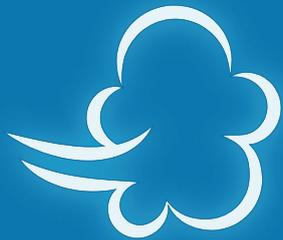




WATER



AIR



WASTE
& PRI



ENFORCEMENT
SYSTEMS

Local Authority Environmental Enforcement

Guidance Booklet A

The Performance Measurement
Framework: How it Works

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 (CAFE) 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 Climate, Licensing and Resource Use
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Environmental Assessment
- Office of Radiological Protection
- 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.



LOCAL AUTHORITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
GUIDANCE BOOKLET A

The Performance Measurement Framework
How it Works

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This document serves to explain the overall structure of the Local Authority Environmental Enforcement Performance Assessment Framework, how it works and the approach used in presenting the data for overall evaluation purposes.

1. INTRODUCTION

“Strengthening Councils and Communities”

31 local authorities and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are the principal regulators in protecting the environment even though many government departments, and other authorities and agencies have a statutory role also. Together, local authorities and the EPA regulate over 8,100 permits across Ireland and enforcing more than 500 environmental protection requirements contained in more than 100 pieces of legislation. They conduct over 132,000 site inspections on average each year, of which 115,000 are planned and the remaining 17,000 are in response to complaints, incidents or investigations. The EPA also has a statutory role in ensuring effective environmental enforcement by local authorities, in addition to assessing their performance.

For a number of years, local authorities have developed enforcement plans to improve the organisation and effectiveness of environmental inspections and enforcement. This arose from an EU Recommendation¹ (hereafter referred to as “RMCEI”) to undertake inspections of regulated installations and to review and report on those site inspections. These plans are risk based and they implement a range environmental enforcement activities based on local and national priorities.

As a result, local authorities generate and report data to the EPA voluntarily each year on these environmental enforcement activities. Using this data, the EPA is initiating a new and complimentary framework for measuring environmental enforcement performance to enhance local authority proficiency and to provide local communities with information. This EPA is doing this on the basis that the experience of co-regulation and partnership with local authorities has proven effective.

The EPA wishes to acknowledge² the contribution of each local authority with feedback on an early prototype, the input of the County & City Managers Association (CCMA) Environmental Committee, advice from their Working Group, and the significant input from a representative (Focus) group of local authority technical experts on performance standards. Additionally this work has drawn from similar efforts to define a systematic approach to performance improvement in NSW, Australia.³

1 In 2001, recognising that there was a wide disparity between inspection systems in the Member States, the European Parliament and the Council adopted [Recommendation 2001/331/EC](#) providing for minimum criteria for environmental inspections in the Member States (RMCEI). For more information, see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/law/inspections.htm>

2 The EPA also acknowledges the valuable assistance of Creative Change (Ireland) Ltd t/a The Impact Measurement Centre, and the State Government of Victoria, Australia in helping to design and build this Framework.

3 Discussion Paper “*Building a new framework for measuring performance in Local Government*”, New South Wales, Australia Nov 2013.

2. HOW IT WORKS

2.1 Aims of the Framework

The primary objective of the Local Authority Environmental Enforcement Performance Assessment Framework is to provide comprehensive performance information so that:

- ▲ Local authorities will have information to support decision making and continuous improvement in environmental enforcement
- ▲ Local communities will have information about their local authority's environmental enforcement performance
- ▲ The EPA will have information on trends relating to national environmental enforcement priorities, and help it in its supervisory role when making interventions to those areas of greatest need
- ▲ Government will be better informed to make decisions that ensure a better system of local authority environmental enforcement

The findings generated by annual assessments can also provide an incentive for local authorities to:

- ▲ Identify areas where there is scope for improving environmental enforcement by using analysis of enforcement data (linked to process) and staff capacity that the local authorities can, for the most part, control and manage.
- ▲ Promote greater transparency and debate about comparative performance.

2.2 Why Measure Performance?

International advice⁴ is to select a small set of indicators supported by adequate performance measurement and data collection reporting mechanisms in order to identify trends and steps to improve enforcement performance in a 'critical few' areas.

Since the aim is to enhance improved performance within local authorities, the use of an indicator as a measure of relative performance in a league table format⁵ has been dismissed to avoid defensiveness in low performers and complacency in high performers. Furthermore, OECD research⁶ indicates that indices often become mathematical exercises rather than "clear, actionable statements of performance".

2.3 Use of Performance Information

Performance data may be used to:

- ▲ Acknowledge significant improvements in performance year on year
- ▲ Note the achievement of important milestones
- ▲ Identify and disseminate best practice
- ▲ Adjust the weighting of indicators to influence improved performance in particular areas
- ▲ Provide direction for formal meetings with senior management of local authorities to discuss poor or consistently low performance

4 OECD, 19 Jan 2015: Measuring Environmental Compliance: Designing Analytically Sound and Policy-Relevant Indicators. ENVIRONMENT/EPOC/WPIEEP(2014)13/FINAL. Page 21.

5 This point is also borne out in OECD (Page 21) research where "local environmental regulators resent being seen in an unfavourable light based on what they usually claim to be inaccurate or poorly interpreted data."

6 OECD, 19 Jan 2015: Measuring Environmental Compliance: Designing Analytically Sound and Policy-Relevant Indicators. ENVIRONMENT/EPOC/WPIEEP(2014)13/FINAL. Page 18.

In practical terms, this allows conversations to occur with local authorities around such questions as:

- ▲ How does actual performance compare to previous performance and to performance standards?
- ▲ If there is a significant variance, and if so, is corrective action necessary?
- ▲ Are new targets or performance indicators needed?
- ▲ How has the context or existing conditions changed?

2.4 Reasons for Measuring Comparative Performance

Performance measurement can be more meaningful when appropriate comparisons are provided on a longitudinal or long-term basis. Local authority environmental enforcement is rarely subject to competitive pressures, which make the use of comparative performance indicators potentially useful by:

- ▲ Providing information on attainable levels of performance and identification of local authorities that are successful
- ▲ Enabling local authorities to learn from peers that are delivering higher quality and effective outputs and environmental results
- ▲ Generating additional incentives for local authorities to enhance their enforcement performance

Meaningful conclusions about a local authorities' environmental enforcement performance can only be drawn from comparisons with 'like' local authorities and observing the performance of individual authorities over time. As such, the Framework has been designed to facilitate reporting of individual trend data.

2.5 Reporting on Performance Data

Performance measurements based on data supplied by local authorities will be aggregated by the EPA and publicly communicated in an annual report on national performance. It is important to note that the data contained in the accompanying report is setting a performance baseline using 2014 data. As such it is merely a starting point which will allow for trends in performance areas to be identified in future years.

The EPA recognises that no two local authorities are the same, and it is important that performance results are contextualised to their functional area, for example population size and demographics, geographic information, environmental conditions and socio-economic trends.

2.6 Scope of Performance Evaluation

"Reporting on outputs and outcomes helps to shift the focus from the level of resources allocated to how efficiently and effectively those resources are used."⁷ The Framework will report on (a) a number of output indicators that rate performance of enforcement activities against defined standards, and trend the volume of those activities over time, alongside information on the context in which they are undertaken; (b) a number of outcome indicators that measure impact

⁷ "Local Government Performance Reporting Framework: Directions Paper 2012" by Department of Planning & Community Development, State Government Victoria, Australia.

or demonstrate results or measures of effectiveness. The aim of this approach is to take account of data which describes more than activities or inputs and their immediate or contingent outputs⁸, and evaluate local authority performance from a number of different perspectives.

2.7 Rating the Performance of Enforcement Activities

26 output indicators were selected based on 38 existing datasets that are relevant to environmental enforcement and that apply to all local authorities. These totalled approximately 1,400 data points. Specific performance standards were defined for each indicator. These indicators have been grouped into five enforcement areas illustrated in Table 1, resulting in a composite assessment for each enforcement area.

Enforcement Areas	
1	Enforcement Systems
2	Waste
3	Water
4	Producer Responsibility Initiatives
5	Air

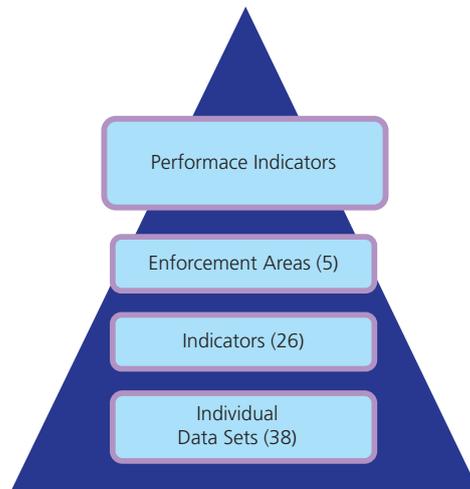


Table 1 – Enforcement Areas

⁸ The OECD research (Page 21) reveals “an important lack of sound outcome indicators” in instruments for measuring enforcement across OECD countries and cites work to focus on measuring outcomes and demonstrating their relationship with outputs in the UK and USA EPAs with approval.

Performance assessments are defined as follows:

Exceptional	This indicates exceptional performance.
Outstanding	This indicates outstanding performance.
Excellent	This indicates excellent performance, exceeding the target in all areas of performance.
Above Target	This indicates generally very good performance in all areas and exceeding the target in particular areas of strength.
Target	This indicates good performance and is considered to represent the standard that is to be reached by all local authorities.
Below Target	This indicates some room for improvement to reach 'Target'.
Minimum	This indicates a mixed performance, with significant room for improvement.
Unsatisfactory	This indicates failings in a number of the areas examined.
Unacceptable	This indicates significant failings in a number of the areas examined.

While the individual indicators used cover a wide range of environmental responsibilities, it must be noted that most areas within wastewater and drinking water are now the responsibility of Irish Water and as such are not within the scope of this framework.

All five thematic areas are detailed in an accompanying **“Performance Indicator Workbook”** with information on each specific indicator, their definition, the grading method, and their relative weighting and rationale.

Each Enforcement area is also weighted to make up an overall local authority performance assessment – see Figure 1, details of which are also included in the accompanying **“Performance Indicator Workbook”**.

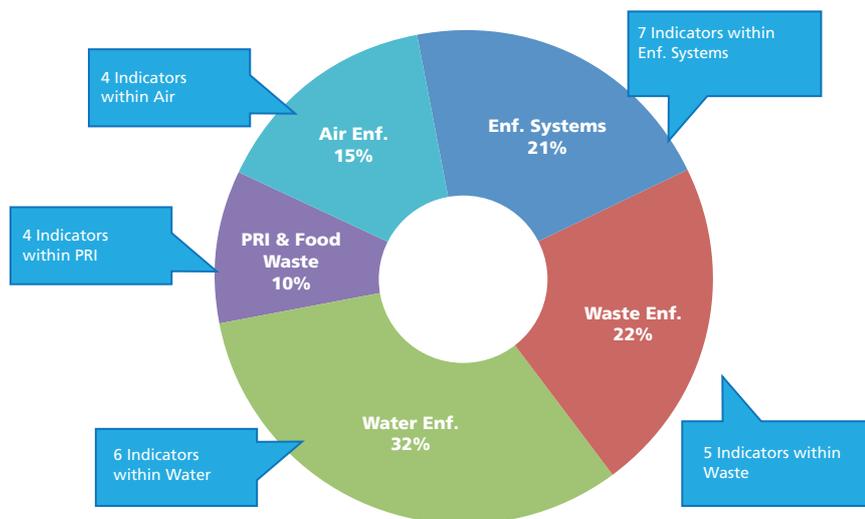


Figure 1: Weighting of Thematic Areas

The indicators for water, waste and enforcement systems constitute the bulk of the final score based on their national importance, the significant amount of data reported by local authorities and their strategic importance in the national enforcement context. The view for now is taken that less data and less environmentally significant outcomes are directly under the control of the Local Authorities in the areas of PRI and Air, hence they have a lower weighting. This does not mean they are unimportant – they are still significant factors in the overall indicator.

A robust process already exists for the collection of data and is based on the following standard practice:

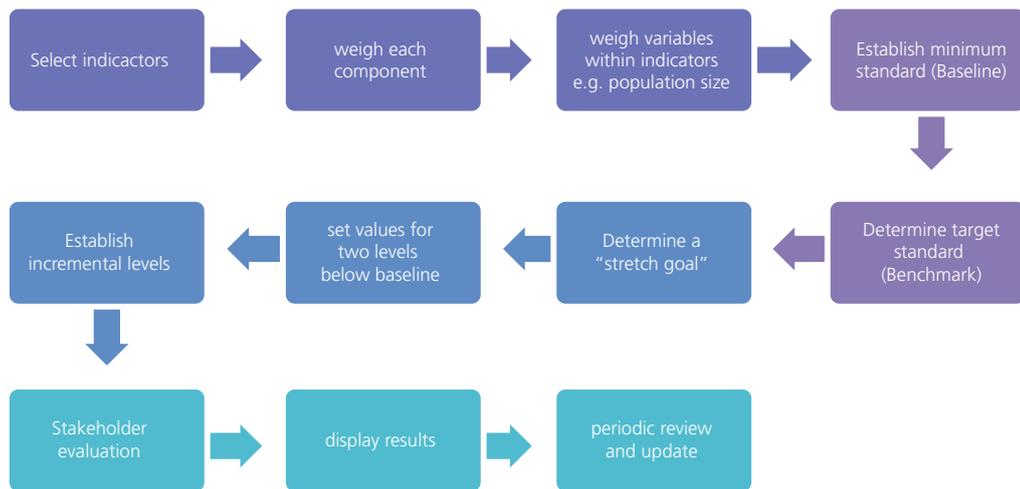


Figure 2: Data Collection and Analysis Process

2.8 Distinguishing Outcomes and Outputs

Outcome Indicators provide information on the impact of a Enforcement area. In contrast, outputs are the actual enforcement activities completed and the related products produced. Outcome indicators focus on what happens as a result of outputs that are efficiently implemented.

While the aim of the Framework is to focus on outcomes, they are often difficult to measure. Therefore, the Framework includes measures of outputs (which are often easier to measure), with an understanding that there is a relationship between those outputs and desired outcomes, and that the measures of outputs are, in part, proxies for measures of outcomes. “Output information is also critical for efficient and effective management of local authority activities, and is often the level of performance information that is of most interest to individuals at local community level”⁹.

It is acknowledged that (final) outcomes may be influenced by factors outside the control of local authorities. The approach here is to explain that local authority enforcement activities are often only one contributing factor and by providing local authorities with an opportunity to support results (from enforcement) activities with a narrative.

⁹ *Local Government Better Practice Guide 2014-2015 Performance Reporting Framework Indicator Workbook*, Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, Victoria State Government, Australia.

2.9 Intermediate & Final Outcomes

Making a Difference

Intermediate outcomes are the changes in the behaviour of the regulated community. Progress in achieving positive intermediate outcomes is necessary to achieve the desired environmental goal that has been selected as the final outcome. Intermediate outcome indicators measure the more direct and shorter-term to medium-term effects. For now, notable successes achieved, and positive or negative milestones are captured. This includes the range and scope of public awareness actions by local authorities, and projects or activities to extend or enhance their environmental protection functions. “The advantage of intermediate outcomes is that they are often directly caused by the activities and outputs of enforcement measures – there is no ambiguity about the causal link between the enforcement actions and the resultant pollutant reduction”¹⁰.

Final environmental outcomes are the measurable changes in the environment. That is cleaner air, improved water quality or less waste illegally dumped. Final outcome indicators aim to track the longer-term or ultimate goals of the enforcement activity, such as maintaining Ireland’s air or water quality. As the factors affecting these indicators are many and varied, it would be inappropriate to use these impact indicators directly to make judgements about the performance of local authorities in implementing their environmental enforcement responsibilities.

10 “Performance Measurement Guidance for Compliance & Enforcement Practitioners” 2nd Ed. April 2008 (draft) by International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement INECE.

3. THE CONCEPTUAL MODEL UNDERPINNING THE FRAMEWORK

The framework is designed on a performance-based management concept^{11,12} to act as a systematic approach to performance improvement through the use of a form of a 'Balanced Scorecard'. It will do this through an ongoing process of establishing strategic performance objectives, measuring performance, collecting, analysing, reviewing, and reporting performance data, and using that data to drive performance improvement.

The concept of the 'Balanced Scorecard' comes from the original work of Kaplan & Norton¹³ which has been refined for use in a variety of programme and policy evaluation processes. The current model had regard to work carried out in the Irish context by the IPA (Prof Richard Boyle), the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General in Value for Money (VFM) audits and most recently in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform: The Public Spending Code. The latter specifically requires the use of a Balanced Scorecard approach in reviewing and assessing programmes.¹⁴

There is no single, agreed terminology or typology of performance indicators or format for a Balanced Scorecard to describe and summarise such indicators.¹⁵ The proposed scheme aims (over a time period of 2-3 years) to develop a set of indicators than can be summarised in a Balanced Scorecard format shown in Figure 3.

-
- 11 Based on the Principles of Performance-Based Management, Office of Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation, United States Department of Energy 2001.
- 12 The design is influenced by a research and theoretical perspective provided by the OECD Environment Directorate (2014-15) and by a practice and implementation focus provided by the Office of Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation, United States Department of Energy and in particular its Principles of Performance-Based Management and associated Handbook ("The Performance-Based Management Handbook" (2001)).
- 13 It is a technique which has been used in the private sector to give top managers a comprehensive view of their business (Kaplan and Norton, 1992, 1993, 1996)... by providing answers to four basic questions (Kaplan and Norton, 1992). "Developing an Integrated Performance Measurement Framework for the Irish Civil Service" Richard Boyle (2000)
- 14 Department of Public Expenditure and Reform: The Public Spending Code, C-03, Implementation and Post-Implementation, Reviewing and Assessing Expenditure Programmes, 2015. <http://publicspendingcode.per.gov.ie/reviewing-and-assessing-expenditure-programmes/>
- 15 Prof Richard Boyle, IPA, Committee for Public Management Reform, Discussion Paper 29: Civil Service Performance Indicators. 2005.

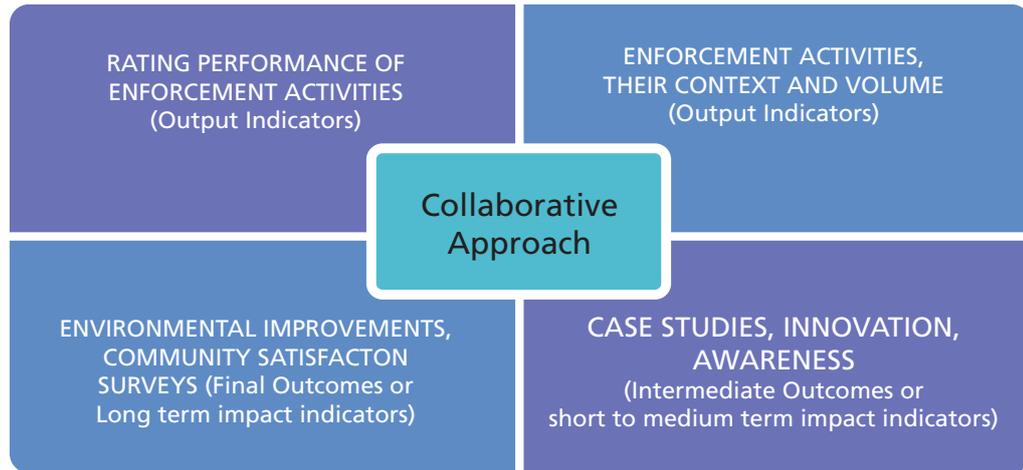


Figure 3: Environmental Enforcement Performance Scorecard

3.1 Measuring Performance of Enforcement Activities

Each local authority is measured against defined standards of performance and given an assessment. These are then grouped under five enforcement areas with a composite assessment for each enforcement area. The five enforcement assessments are subsequently combined into one overall assessment. Since data has no real meaning apart from its context and since the capability of the staff in local authorities is a determining factor in delivery of improved performance this overall assessment is adjusted to take account of the operating capacity and capability (resources) of the Environmental Enforcement team in each local authority in the year under review.

3.2 Enforcement Activities, their Context and Volume (over time)

The volume of activity results from the expenditure of resources (i.e. inputs) and is put in the context of population, resources available, number of permits to enforce, the number of complaints received, number of inspections carried out and/or regional/legacy environmental issues.

All 15 output indicators of enforcement actions taken are summarised and compared to planned, targeted or mandated actions in the year under review. In future years this will be trended against the current year's results.

3.3 Short to Medium Term Impact Indicators (Intermediate Outcomes)

This quadrant measures the range and scope of actions relating to good environmental enforcement practice, positive achievements of each LA in completing specific projects or activities to extend or enhance their environmental protection functions. In particular, these include information and Innovation activities (e.g. public awareness activity, innovative activities, and case studies).

On the negative side this quadrant will also record any prosecutions under the EPA Act where environmental protection issues have not been investigated or dealt with adequately by the local authority. Where appropriate the context or particular conditions pertaining in the local authority area such as population size or distribution, geography, topography or historical issues may be referenced here.

3.4 Long Term Impact Indicators (Final Outcomes)

This quadrant measures the long-term outcomes to which the environmental enforcement actions have contributed to, or are likely to contribute to. Final outcome indicators aim to track the longer-term or ultimate goals of the enforcement activity, such as maintaining Ireland's air or water quality. Another area where the impact of environmental enforcement can be measured is on the key clients of local authorities (e.g. businesses and the general public). This may be done by independent surveys of clients to examine their understanding of how effective local authority actions have been and also to identify immediate or local impacts that might otherwise not be noticed or recorded. In this regard the number of complaints received by local authorities will be recorded under impact (as well as under Efficiency). Trends in complaints over time can be indicative both of success (e.g. in awareness activities) and of issues with poor enforcement.

4. NEXT STEPS

4.1 Fostering a Collaborative Approach

For this Framework to be sustained a collaborative approach needs to be developed and embedded over time. Experience in the United States identifies the following conditions that must be in place to facilitate this:¹⁶

Fairness and Equity	Are the measures reasonable and are they fair and equitable?
Transparency	Is the process of collecting, analysing and rating data open and transparent?
Clarity	Do the performers who are being assessed understand the system and assessment criteria?
Balance	Is there a balance between targets, capacity and context?
Ownership	Have the stakeholders been consulted on the design?
Consequences	Is poor performance dealt with?
Consistency	Are policies and consequences applied consistently?
Reciprocation	Is the EPA open to a facilitating and supporting role as well as monitoring?

Figure 4: Conditions for Shared Responsibility in a Performance Measurement System

4.2 Implementation Timeline

The Framework will be developed over a 2-3 year period to allow for adoption and implementation.

To date, the EPA has engaged on foot of an earlier prototype in 2014 with most if not all local authorities through the County & City Managers Association (CCMA) Environmental Committee, their Working Group, and local authority technical experts.

Q2 & Q3 of 2016 will gather feedback from stakeholders, gather and analyse 2015 data from local authorities, review and amend the data collection process where necessary, and publish a 2015 annual report in the latter half of 2016.

This timeline envisages that after 3 years of data (2014-2016), the model can be reviewed and revised to take account of new 'critical areas' (e.g. WFD, waste regional enforcement, tyres PRI) for national attention.

Changes can be implemented by modifying the data collection process to account for new metrics, creating new indicators, and/or adjusting weightings in scoring computations.

There is significant scope to add depth to contextual information, enhance reporting on best practices and innovations, and developing intermediate outcomes and impact or result driven indicators.

¹⁶ This list is based mainly on the Principles of Performance-Based Management Handbook, Volume 2, Office of Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation, United States Department of Energy 2001.

AN GHNÍOMHAIREACTH 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 ó éifeachtaí díobhálacha 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, spriocdhírithé 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 tionsclaíoch ar scála mór (*m.sh. déantúsaíocht cógaisíochta, déantúsaíocht stroighne, stáisiúin chumhachta*);
- an diantalmhaíocht (*m.sh. muca, éanlaith*);
- úsáid shrianta agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe (*OGM*);
- foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin (*m.sh. trealamh x-gha agus radaiteiripe, foinsí tionsclaíochta*);
- áiseanna móra stórála peitiril;
- scardadh dramhuisce;
- gníomhaíochtaí dumpála ar farraige.

Forfheidhmiú 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 húdaráis áitiúla agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile chun dul i ngleic le coireanna comhshaoil trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmiúcháin náisiúnta, trí dhíríú ar chiontóirí, agus trí mhaoirsiú a dhéanamh ar leasúchán.
- Cur i bhfeidhm rialachán ar nós na Rialachán um Dhramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (DTLL), um Shrian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha agus na Rialachán um rialú ar shubstaintí a ídíonn an ciseal ózón.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

Bainistíocht Uisce

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

Monatóireacht, Anailís agus Tuairiscíú 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.
- Tuairiscíú neamhspleách le cabhrú le cinnteoireacht an rialtais náisiúnta agus na n-údarás áitiúil (*m.sh. tuairiscíú 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 gáis cheaptha 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 shainaitheint, bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartais, agus réitigh a sholáthar i réimsí na haeráide, an uisce agus na hinbhuanaitheachta.

Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta

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

Cosaint Raideolaíoch

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéal radaíochta, measúnacht a dhéanamh ar nochtadh mhuintir na hÉireann don radaíocht ianúcháin.
- Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as taismí 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 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, léarscáileanna 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.

Bainistíocht agus struchtúr na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

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

- An Oifig Aeráide, Ceadúnaithe agus Úsáide Acmhainní
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Measúnú Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Cosaint Raideolaíoch
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

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



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