



Comhshaol, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Circular No. WP 18.10

23 June 2010

Re: Food Waste Regulations Awareness

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to refer to Circular No. WP 12/09 on the making of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 508 of 2009) and also to Circular No. WP 10/10 re the holding of an information seminar on the Regulations.

The Food Waste Regulations are coming into effect on 1 July 2010. As indicated in Circular No. WP 12/09, the Regulations impose obligations on the major generators of food waste in the commercial sector to segregate food waste. Awareness of these Regulations was identified at the Information Workshop held in Portlaoise on 14 April 2010 as being a key measure that required attention. As a result, funding is being provided on a number of levels to assist in the provision of this awareness.

Funding to local authorities

The Department is aware some local authorities are already engaged in individual awareness campaigns to create awareness of the implications of the Food Waste Regulations for local businesses and organisations.

Awareness raising is a prerequisite to having successful implementation of the Regulations and achieving our national aim which is to meet the landfill targets. In this regard, funding of €100,000 is being provided as a grant contribution to local awareness campaigns launched by the local authorities themselves.

Funding under this scheme will be allocated on the basis of awareness schemes launched and completed by 30 September 2010. Local authorities are asked to indicate by 16 July 2010 if they intend to make applications for funding under the scheme, and an estimate of the level of funding they will be seeking. This information should be forwarded to Gerry Byrne at gerry_byrne@environ.ie

Grant approvals in principle for funding will issue once the level of interest and estimated costs are known, and it is expected that this will be done by the end of July 2010.

Local authorities were also advised in Circular WP 12/10 that, in addition to the funding currently being provided for enforcement staff, further funding is being considered for costs associated with staff deployment for enforcement related activities (such as travel/subsistence costs) The Department is considering the certified returns received from local authorities, and a decision on the funding to be provided to local authorities will be made on completion of this process, probably by the end of July 2010. There are a small number of outstanding certified returns outstanding and the particular authorities are asked to submit the return immediately, in order to be considered under this scheme of funding.

Funding to Cré and Dublin City Council

Following the Workshop held in Portlaoise on 14 April 2010, both the Composting & Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland (Cré) and Dublin City Council both submitted proposals to the Department seeking funding in relation to food and biodegradable waste management awareness.

Cré Proposal

Cré's action plan will involve:

1. Creation of a dedicated website www.foodwaste.ie
2. Overarching Guide for Businesses on How to Save Money by Managing Food Waste Properly
3. Tailor specific guides for each affected sector (e.g. pub, supermarket etc)
4. Case Studies of Businesses with Brown Bins
 - Restaurants
 - Hotels
 - Pubs
 - Bank/office canteen
5. Generic Article for Publication in Trade Magazines & Sunday Business Post

The aims of the Programme drafted by Cré are to :

- Work with businesses across many sectors to explain the regulations.
- Work with the regulators to ensure there is a nationally co-ordinated enforcement.
- Develop a national set of promotional tools which can be used by stakeholders to promote the regulations.
- Act as a point of contact for information on the regulations

The funding of the Cré proposal, together with the FAQ document referred to below will contribute to the national awareness of the Food Waste Regulations.

Dublin City Council Proposal

The funding being provided to Dublin City Council proposal is for a broader brown bin awareness campaign and which includes:

1. a survey-questionnaire pre & post campaign over a targeted area,
2. a new simplified leaflet (design, print & supply) , educational/course material,
3. advertisements/ articles in local press, local radio advertisement campaign,
4. compost: delivery from composting facility to the City (bagging & supply), and
5. educational tours of composting facility (transport, refreshments etc).

The generic material developed by Dublin City Council will be made available to all local authorities to assist in a wider dissemination of information on brown bin awareness. Further details on the Dublin City campaign can be obtained from Mr. Hugh Coughlan, Dublin City Council, Environment & Engineering Department, Block 1, Floor 6, Civic Offices, Dublin 8, Tel. No. 2222022, e-mail hugh.coughlan@dublincity.ie

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) & Workshop Presentations

The Department has compiled a list of the questions received to date on the Food Waste Regulations and the department's views on the issues raised. This document is attached for the information and guidance of local authorities.

If you have any queries in relation to this document, or indeed have questions which are not included on the list, please contact Gerry Byrne at gerry_byrne@environ.ie

Local authorities should note that the presentations from the Information Workshop held on 14 April 2010 together with a link to information on the Food Waste Regulations are up on the Department's website under the following link

<http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Waste/FoodWasteRegulations/>

The Department has also e-mailed a significant number of public bodies to advise them of the making of the Regulations and to ask them to examine them to check whether their particular organisation would be subject to the requirements of the Regulations.

Finally, the Department would also like to highlight a survey report published by the EPA in 2009 on waste characterization, the information from which may be useful to local authorities. The report can be viewed on the link below.

<http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/waste/plans/name,11659,en.html>

Any queries on this Circular may be addressed to the undersigned or to Gerry Byrne.



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To :County & City Managers/Directors of Service (Environment) and the Environmental Protection Agency