



EPA Licensed Sites
Report on Waste Enforcement

2014



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 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.

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EPA Licensed Waste Sites

- ▲ 169 waste sites licensed by the EPA were active in 2014
- ▲ Activities include waste transfer stations, landfill, waste incineration, composting, civic amenity sites and dumping at sea
- ▲ EPA carried out 270 inspections at these sites in 2014

Key Trends

- ▲ Reduction in number of open municipal waste landfills from 20 in 2011 to 6 at the end of 2014
- ▲ Less waste being landfilled - more than halved from 1.34 million tonnes in 2011 to 615,000 tonnes in 2014
- ▲ 230,000 tonnes of waste handled at a single municipal waste incinerator
- ▲ 50% Increase from 2013 in waste being exported for use as fuel to more than 560,000 tonnes in 2014

Inspection Findings & Enforcement

- ▲ 16 landfills had gas and/or leachate management issues highlighted during EPA inspections in 2014
- ▲ Deficiencies in waste classification were identified
- ▲ 7 facilities had fire safety issues highlighted during EPA inspections
- ▲ 64 compliance investigations were opened by the EPA during 2014 to tackle areas of non-compliance

Complaints & Incidents

- ▲ 539 complaints received about waste licensed sites
- ▲ 92% of complaints related to odour
- ▲ Over 630* incidents reported to EPA for the waste sector
- ▲ 6 fires in 2014; 3 at waste transfer stations, 3 at landfill sites

Strategic Priorities

- ▲ Minimising risk of fire at waste facilities
- ▲ Minimising odour at waste facilities
- ▲ Implementing re-organisation of local authority enforcement
- ▲ Securing Financial Provision for environmental liabilities at waste facilities
- ▲ Ensuring waste exported from Ireland complies with the Waste Shipment Regulation

* Over 400 of these relate to a trigger level being breached at landfill sites. Such trigger levels serve as important indicators for management of landfill gas and leachate but the majority are not considered environmentally significant in broader terms.

Section 1. Introduction

The waste sector in Ireland encompasses activities relating to waste collection, waste processing and transfer, waste recycling and recovery, waste incineration, export of waste for recovery/disposal and waste disposal by landfilling.

Enforcement of the waste sector in Ireland in 2014 was carried out by a combination of the Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the local authorities, the National Transfrontier Shipment Office (NTFSO) and the National Waste Collection Permit Office [NWCPO].

The purpose of this report is to provide summary information on compliance with key requirements in the waste facilities licensed by the EPA for 2014.

SECTION 2. THE WASTE SECTOR

There are a number of different categories of waste activity regulated by the EPA. These total 169 separate activities/facilities, distributed as set out in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1 Nature & Number of Waste Facilities Operational in 2014 Licensed by EPA

* There were a number of other facilities that accepted waste for incineration in 2014 but their primary purpose was cement manufacture.

In addition to these facilities, there are over 600 waste facilities permitted by local authorities in Ireland and over 1,000 waste collection permits in force. There are also 2,750 waste authorisations, issued by both local authorities and the EPA, in place for smaller scale activities such as “bring banks” and other recycling collection points. Collectively, this represents over 4,500 waste authorisations.

There are in the region of 130 Local Authority staff working in the area of waste regulation and enforcement. Collectively, in 2014, they performed some 64,000 inspections and initiated over 450 prosecutions. The Government’s Waste Management Policy, A Resource Opportunity [DoECLG, 2012], contained a commitment to complete a review of the respective regulatory and enforcement roles of the EPA (OEE) and local authorities by the end of 2013. This review was completed and proposed that waste enforcement functions would be co-ordinated by a “lead authority” in each of the three new waste regions. Measures to put this system in place have begun and this new approach to waste enforcement, when implemented will ensure consistent and targeted enforcement nationally.

Waste management in Ireland has changed in recent years. This is perhaps best demonstrated by the dramatic reduction in the number of open landfills for disposal of municipal solid waste down to six at the end of 2014 (**Figure 2**). The waste sector is now almost exclusively operated by the private sector.

Coincident with a reduction in waste being disposed of to landfill, there has been a corresponding rise in the quantity of waste being sent to WtE (waste to energy) facilities both in Ireland and abroad. The shift from disposal to energy recovery is linked to the availability of WtE outlets and the increase in the landfill levy.



Figure 2 Number of Open MSW Landfills 2011 – 2014

Data supplied by the National Transfrontier Shipment Office (**Figure 3**) shows the nearly ten-fold increase in waste exported for use as a fuel in the 5 year period between 2010 and 2014, with 560,000 tonnes exported in 2014.

Although better to recover energy from waste than dispose of it to landfill, this export trend presents challenges, in the management, handling, processing and storage of baled refuse-derived fuel (RDF) and solid recovered fuel (SRF) at waste facilities and at ports en route to WtE outlets abroad. These challenges are manifested in increased odour complaints and increased incidence of fires.

Eight shipments (almost 400 tonnes) of waste were returned from abroad to Ireland during 2014. While this represents a small percentage of overall waste exports, the trend needs to be reversed.

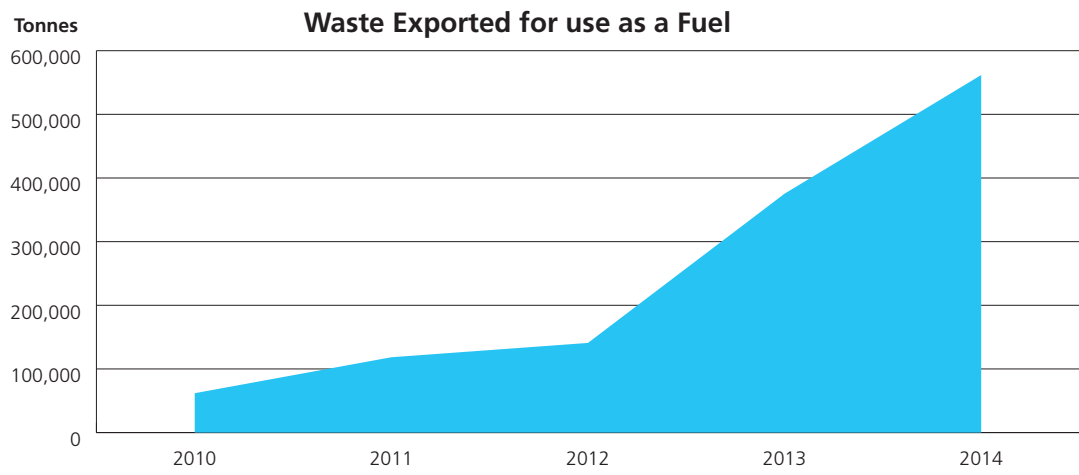


Figure 3 Rise in Export of Waste for Use as Fuel 2010 – 2014

SECTION 3. SUMMARY OF ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES IN 2014

Section 3.1 Introduction

The EPA implements a strategy of sectoral enforcement for the waste sector whereby compliance priorities are identified and communicated to the operators of waste facilities. This approach is intelligence-led in that the findings of EPA inspections are used to inform future work. The EPA considers that the identification of a limited number of key priorities for the sector facilitates a focus on the most important issues.

Section 3.2 EPA Priorities

At the beginning of 2014, the EPA informed all waste licence holders and the Irish Waste Management Association (IWMA) of priority issues that the EPA considered were challenges for the sector. **Tables 1 & 2** list the priority areas identified respectively for the landfill and waste transfer station [WTS] sectors in 2014. The facilities were requested to give these priority areas particular attention when managing their activities and implementing their Environmental Management Plans for 2014.

Table 1 Priority Areas for Landfills in 2014

1. Odour complaints & incidents management (complaints and incidents records)
2. Landfill Gas Management
3. Leachate Management
4. Other operational Issues - Monitoring, Cover, Capping, Waste Handling & Records
5. Landfill Gate Fees
6. Biodegradable Municipal Waste [BMW] Diversion
7. Groundwater and surface water impact from landfill

Table 2 Priority Areas for Waste Transfer Stations [WTS] in 2014

1. Odour Impacts
2. Waste storage practices (including fire prevention measures)
3. Hardstanding & drainage
4. Integrity of bunds, tanks & pipelines
5. Waste classification and records
6. Waste movements and suitability of waste destinations

SECTION 4. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES IN 2014 AND FINDINGS

Table 3 below lists key statistics in relation to EPA enforcement of the waste sector in 2014. A total of 270 inspections were carried out, with 539 complaints received and 638 incidents notified. There were 458 notifications of non-compliance (NONC) issued by the EPA in 2014. Some of these NONCs warranted further investigation. As such, 64 Compliance Investigations [CIs] were opened by the EPA. CIs result in a series of interactions with the facility, until the issue is resolved to the satisfaction of the Agency. Further escalation of enforcement action may also be initiated, including legal proceedings. Figure 4 illustrates the trend between 2013 and 2014 for the key statistics.

Table 3 Key Statistics for 2014							
Sector	Sites active in Sector	Inspections	Incidents Reported	Complaints Received	NONCs Issued	Compliance investigations	No. of Prosecutions Completed
Non-Hazardous waste	57	114	64	381	193	24	1
Civic amenity sites	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
Landfill	70	81	532	96	186	31	0
Incinerator	1	3	17	1	3	0	0
Hazardous waste	15	56	19	19	50	6	0
Compost	9	8	4	21	26	3	0
Dumping at Sea	12	5	2	21	0	0	0
Total	169	270	638	539	458	64	1

Key Statistics Trend 2013 vs. 2014

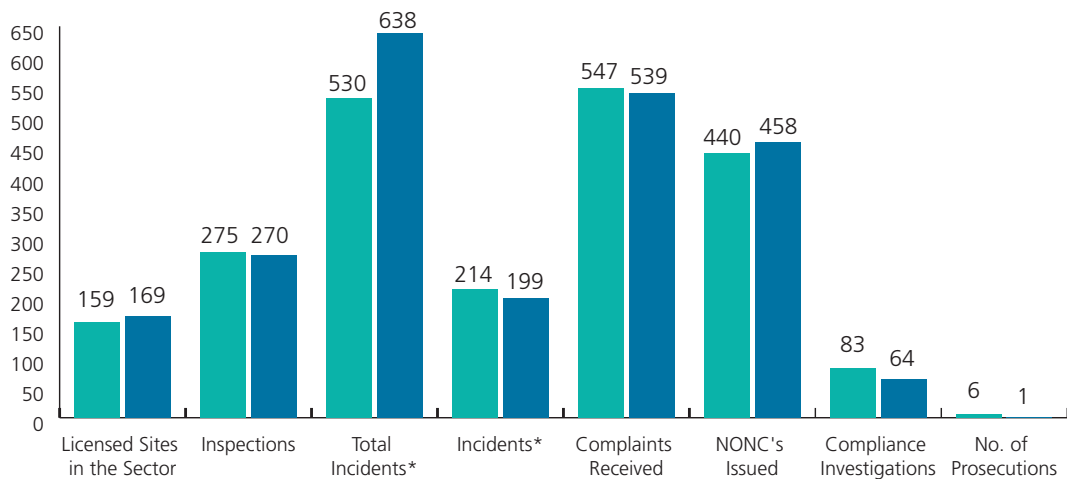


Figure 4 Trend in Key Statistics between 2013 and 2014

* Over 400 of the 638 'total incidents' relate to a trigger level being breached at landfill sites. Such trigger levels serve as important indicators for management of landfill gas and leachate but the majority are not considered environmentally significant in broader terms. As such, the graph also shows the no. of 'incidents' when such trigger level incidents are excluded.

Section 4.1 Performance in Priority Areas

Performance in respect of priority areas identified in Section 3 above during 2014 is set out in **Tables 4 and 5**. The majority of compliance investigations initiated by the EPA were in relation to non-compliances in these areas.

Table 4 Performance on Priority Areas in Landfill Sector in 2014	% Compliance
Were complaints being investigated/addressed by the licensee in accordance with the licence?	93.8
Did relevant staff get training on landfill gas management [LFG]?	81.8
Were waste records onsite satisfactory?	76.5
Were practices on site such that potential to give rise to nuisance [including odour] or impairment of the environment adequately managed?	76.3
Has licensee undertaken a recent surface VOC emissions survey?	70.6
Were LFG management practices onsite satisfactory?	65.7
Were leachate management practices onsite satisfactory?	62.9

While management of complaints by landfill operators was good with a 94% compliance rate, odour remained a significant source of complaints at a number of landfills. Key issues in the sector include landfill gas and leachate management practices - 16 landfills were found to be unsatisfactory in this regard; these areas need constant supervision and ongoing attention. Poor gas management has the potential to lead to nuisance odours, and leachate, if not managed properly, can contaminate surface and groundwaters.

Table 5 Performance on Priority Areas in Waste Transfer Stations [WTS] in 2014	% Compliance
Were destination & haulage contractors used appropriately authorised?	96.4
Was licensee undertaking odour nuisance assessments as required by licence?	83.3
Were housekeeping measures onsite adequate to mitigate fire risk?	77.4
Was drainage infrastructure [serving waste storage & handling areas] adequate to collect & divert run-off as required?	71.4
Were all bunds, tanks & pipelines and containment structures integrity assessed as required by licence?	71.4
Out of 3 selected waste streams accepted onsite, did the outgoing waste code reflect any changes that may (or may not) have occurred to the nature & composition of the waste from onsite activities?	68.0
Was hard standing [serving both external & internal waste storage & handling areas] free from defects?	59.4
Has integrity of bunds, tanks & pipelines and containment structures been demonstrated to the EPA as fit for purpose?	53.6
Was hard standing visually inspected by Licensee for integrity in a scheduled and documented manner?	31.3

The use of properly authorised outlets and hauliers was good with a 96% compliance rate reported. However, a number of key priority areas exhibited poor compliance levels:

- The quality of hardstand areas used for waste storage
- Integrity of bunds and containment structures
- Waste classification

Storage areas need to be suitable in order to prevent run-off and spillages contaminating surface and groundwaters. Although not explicitly captured above, odour remains a significant source of complaints for the sector. In addition, fire safety issues were highlighted at seven waste transfer facilities (**Table 6**). This remains a key area for the sector and needs constant supervision and ongoing attention.

Table 6 Fire Safety Issues Highlighted During EPA Inspections of WTSs In 2014		
Licence	Facility	Comment
W0003	Ballymount Baling Station	Waste storage/segregation issues, both segregation from other waste and from processing equipment.
W0106	Bruscar Bhearna Teoranta	Excessive quantity of baled MSW. Bales not adequately separated to allow for inspection.
W0257	Country Clean Recycling Limited	Excessive quantities of unprocessed waste in temporary storage.
W0169	Mulleady's Limited (Drumlish)	Storage of excessive stockpiles of recyclables internally and of baled plastics and unbaled tyres stored externally. Licensee required to ensure excessive stockpiles do not accumulate onsite.
W0258	Murray Waste Recycling Limited	Stockpiles of bulky waste were in close proximity to heat generating and processing equipment. Licensee required to ensure that stockpiles are well separated, segregated and relocated away from heat generating and processing equipment.
W0039	Nurendale (Ballymount Cross)	No fire detection system was in place as required by the licence. Licensee was required to provide, install and maintain a fire detection system.
W0053	Starrus Eco Holdings Limited (Fassaroe)	Excessive storage of timber waste.

Section 4.2 Incidents

As shown in **Figure 4**, 638 incidents were reported in 2014 with the landfill sector accounting for 85% of these (**Figure 5**). 439 of the reported incidents related to a breach of a trigger level. Such trigger levels serve as important indicators for management of landfill gas and leachate but the majority are not considered environmentally significant in broader terms. When trigger level incidents are excluded, **Figure 4** indicates that the number of reported incidents was relatively constant at around 200 per annum, when compared to 2013.

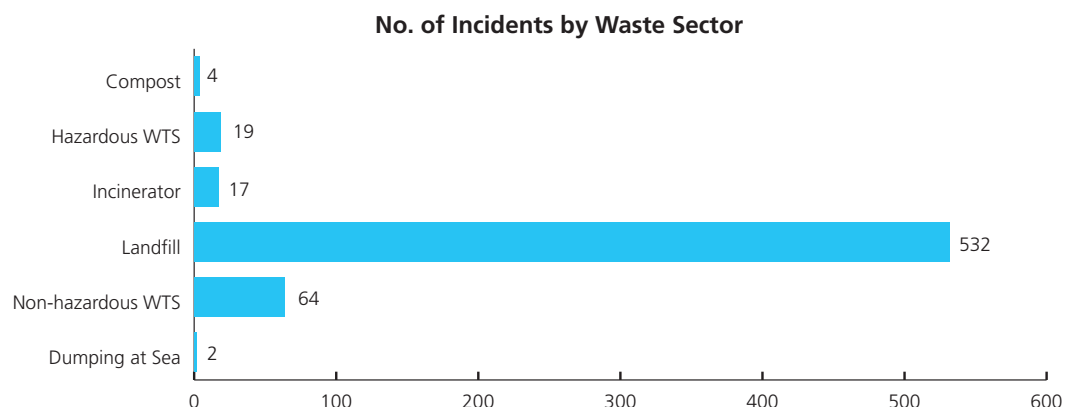


Figure 5 Breakdown of Incidents notified to the EPA by Sector in 2014

There were six fires (**Table 7**) at EPA licensed waste facilities in 2014. The extensive fire at Oxigen Environmental waste transfer station [W0208] in Ballymount, represented the most significant whilst the remainder were relatively minor in nature. The EPA is working with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management to clarify and improve requirements for fire prevention at waste facilities. In the meantime, the EPA is attaching more stringent conditions in licences relating to waste storage and fire risk assessment at some facilities.

Table 7 Fires at EPA Licensed Waste Facilities in 2014		
Licence	Facility	Details
W0208	Oxigen Environmental (Merrywell), Waste Transfer Station, Ballymount, Dublin 22	Extensive fire at waste processing facility. Localised air quality impact and uncontrolled release to surface water. See Page 11 of The EPA Licensed Sites – Report on Air Emissions 2014 [http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/enforcement/].
W0165	Ballynagran Landfill, Co. Wicklow	A small fire at a steel vent constructed well. No immediate threat to the landfill or the environment.
W0034	Dundalk Landfill and Civic Waste Facility, Co. Louth	Minor fire on the eastern end of the capped landfill, limited to dry grass and gorse.
W0086	Kenmare Waste Transfer Station, Co. Kerry	Small fire in transfer station compactor, hot ashes thought to be the cause.
W0026	Kyletalesha Landfill, Co. Laois	Fire outbreak in compactor at Domestic Waste Tipping area. No impact. Hot ashes likely cause.
W00140	Nurendale (Rathdrinagh), Co. Meath – Waste Transfer Station	During the repair of a loading shovel, a spark from welding ignited the loading shovel. Very localised. Smoke emission.

Section 4.3 Complaints

Practically unchanged from 2013, 539 complaints were recorded during 2014 in relation to the 169 EPA licensed waste facilities. **Figure 7** shows that the vast majority of complaints received (92%) relate to odour. **Figure 6** shows that the dominant sectors are non-hazardous waste transfer stations and landfills which together account for almost 90% of complaints. Despite comprising 1/3rd of licences in the sector, the non-hazardous waste transfer station sector accounts for a disproportionately high (70%) amount of complaints.

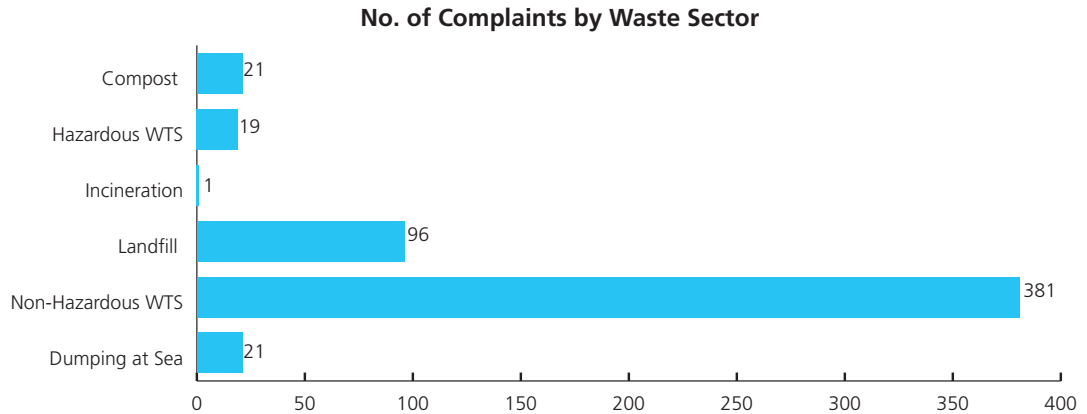


Figure 6 Breakdown of Complaints by Sector in 2014

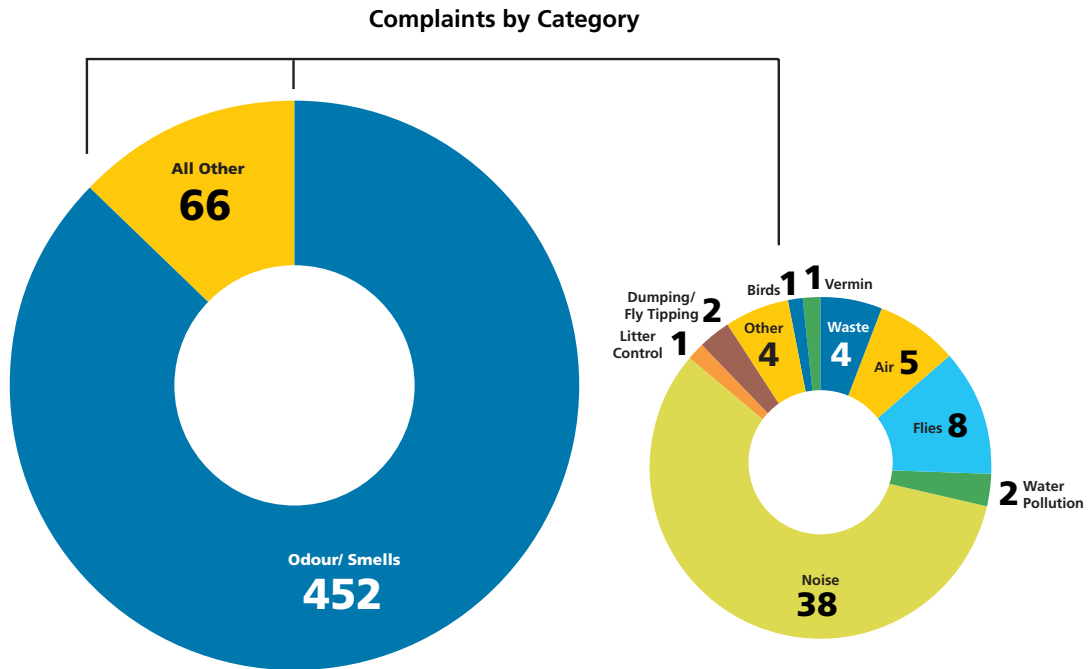


Figure 7 Breakdown of Complaints by Category in 2014

On receipt of an odour complaint in relation to an EPA facility, the OEE investigates and frequently conducts inspections. While these inspections are ordinarily carried out by EPA inspectors, they can also be done by site agents, on behalf of the EPA. The employment of site agents can provide prolonged, focused odour assessments at facilities with a history of complaints. Where

the odour is verified as emanating from a facility licensed by the EPA, further enforcement action is taken. This can range from notifications of non-compliance and associated compliance investigations through to legal action where warranted.

Section 4.4 Notifications of Non-Compliance

458 Notifications of non-compliance (NONC) were issued by the EPA to facilities in the waste sector in 2014. This is slightly higher than in 2013. **Figure 8** shows that, as with complaints, the dominant sub-sectors are the non-hazardous waste transfer station and landfill sectors which together account for 85% of NONCs in the sector.

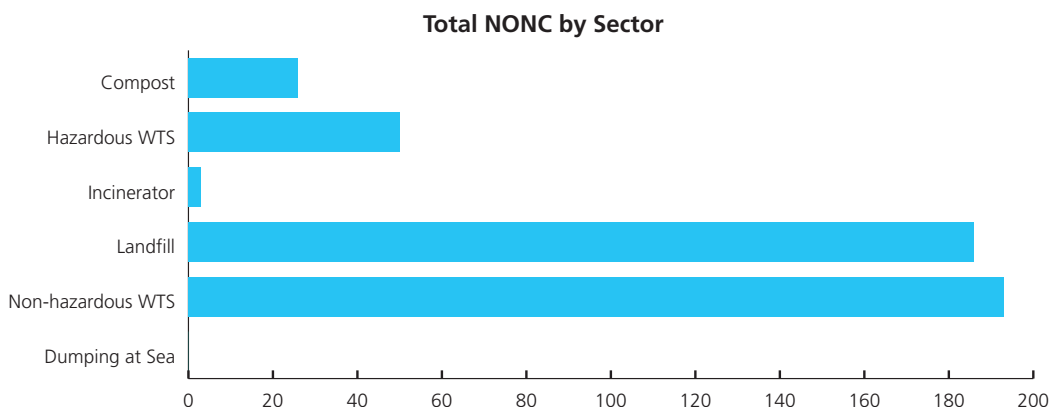


Figure 8 Breakdown of NONC by Sector in 2014

Section 4.5 Compliance Investigations

64 compliance investigations (CIs) were instigated for companies in the waste sector during 2014 (**Figure 9**). The majority related to the landfill and waste transfer station sectors. These were instigated on foot of complaints received, non-compliances issued, notified incidents, licensee returns assessment and EPA site visits carried out. This represents an almost 25% reduction on CIs in 2013. **Figure 10** shows the most common causes for opening a CI.

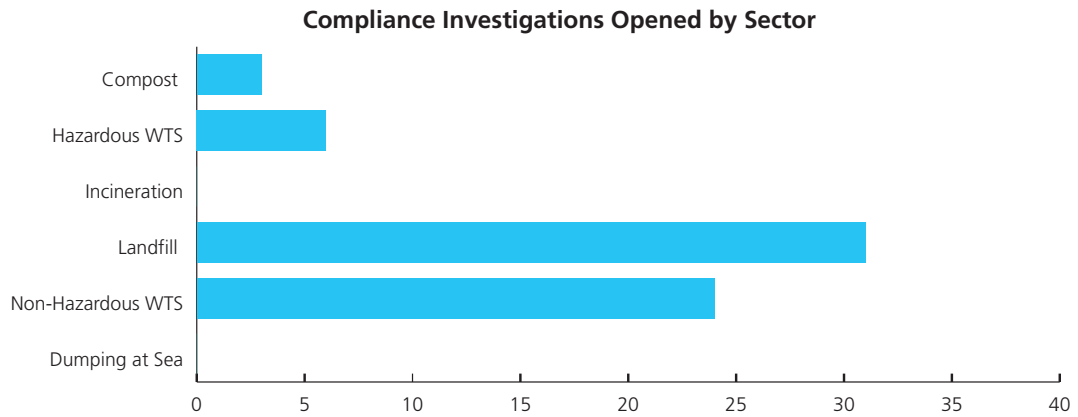


Figure 9 Breakdown of Compliance Investigation by Sector in 2014

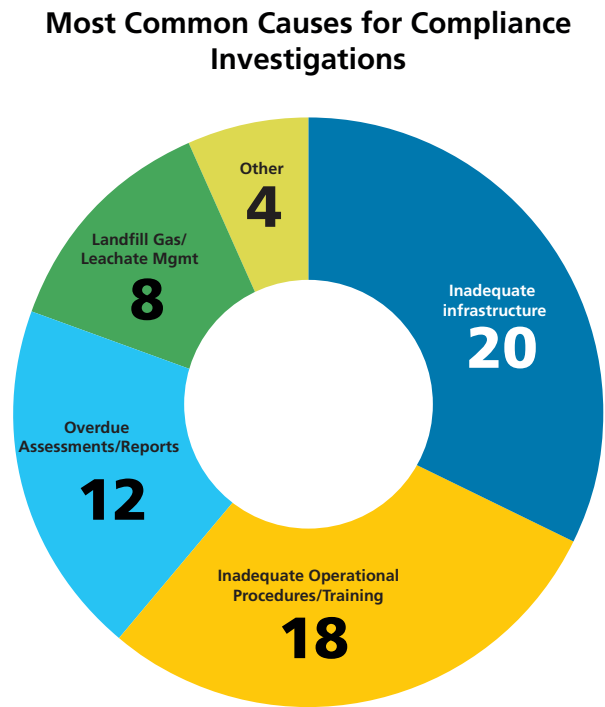


Figure 10 Most Common Causes for Opening Compliance Investigations

Section 4.6 Legal Enforcement in 2014

There were eleven cases taken before the courts in 2014 with three of these being in the waste sector. One conviction was secured against a waste company (**Table 8**). In addition, two waste operators were given the Probation Act in 2014 with donations and EPA costs totalling €29,407 being awarded.

Licence	Facility	Directors(s) Prosecuted	Issue	Fines, Costs, Donations (€)
W0144-01	Oxigen Environmental, Coes Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth	No	- Activities resulted in significant impairment of the environment beyond the facility boundary - Failed to ensure that vermin, birds, flies, mud, dust or odours do not cause nuisance at the facility or its immediate area	10,000

In the six year period between the beginning of 2009 and the end of 2014, waste companies account for 37% (32 of 87) cases taken (**Figure 11**). This is despite the sector accounting for approximately 15% of licences issued.

Prosecutions by Sector 2009 to 2014

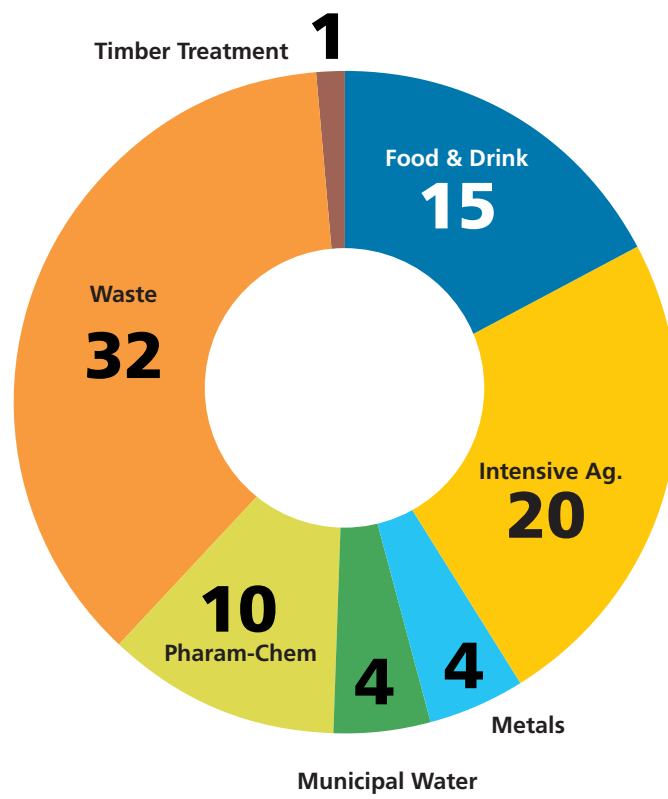


Figure 11 Breakdown of Prosecutions by Sector 2009 - 2014

The Office of Environmental Enforcement will continue to target those who do not comply and hold them responsible for their actions in line with its enforcement policy.

SECTION 5. ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITIES & FINANCIAL PROVISION

The EPA has a strategic priority to ensure that adequate financial provision is in place to manage environmental liabilities which may arise from closure or abandonment of licensed facilities

The EPA has recently updated its guidance in the area {*Guidance on Assessing and Costing Environmental Liabilities* [EPA, 2014] and *Guidance on Financial Provision for Environmental Liabilities* [EPA, 2015]}.

The EPA has continued to focus on the regulation of environmental liabilities and securing financial provision. There is an improvement in the determination of liability costings with costings agreed under the new guidance for 95 licensed facilities at the end of 2014. 32 of these are in the waste sector.

At the end of 2014, €77M in financial provision was secured by the EPA from 47 licensees for known and potential environmental liabilities. Twenty two of these, accounting for €32M, were in the waste sector.

This work will continue to be a focus for the EPA.

SECTION 6. EMERGING ISSUES & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In the last decade, Ireland has moved from a position of almost total reliance on landfill for managing waste, to a high level of recovery of certain materials, with waste moving to and between different waste recycling and recovery activities. Ireland's waste infrastructure is now changing rapidly with more sophisticated infrastructure for the pre-treatment and end-treatment of waste. The amount of municipal waste sent to landfill for disposal continues to decrease with increasing quantities of municipal waste being exported for energy recovery and/or recycling.

Regulation of the sector in Ireland involves a number of competent authorities.

An assessment of information gathered during enforcement of the waste sector in 2014 has identified the following strategic priorities;

- Dealing with, and minimising, the risk of fire is a major priority for the waste sector.
- Odour continues to be a key issue at waste facilities and effective measures and practices need to be implemented to deal with the potential for nuisance.
- The increased production and storage of refuse derived fuels offers significant challenges in terms of potential odour nuisance.
- The securing of financial provision for environmental liabilities at waste facilities will continue to be of critical importance.
- A number of shipments of waste were returned from abroad to Ireland during 2014. The shipments were returned following inspection at ports, as the material was found to be in breach of the Waste Shipment Regulation. It is imperative that the increasing amount of waste being exported for recovery/disposal abroad is managed in full compliance with the Waste Shipment Regulation.
- The effective implementation of lead authorities for waste enforcement in the three new waste regions.

AN GHNÍOMHAIREACHT 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, spriocdhíríthe 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 shrianta agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe (*OGM*);
- foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin (*m.sh. trealamh x-gha agus radaiteiripe, foinsí tionsclaíocha*);
- 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 screamhuiscí; 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 shainaithe, 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 taimí 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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