



EPA Licensed Sites Report on Waste Enforcement

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 co-ordinating 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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Key Statistics for 2013 and Future Priorities

EPA Licensed Waste Sites

- 159 Waste sites with licences from the EPA active in 2013
- Activities include waste transfer stations, landfill, waste incineration and composting
- EPA carried out 275 independent inspections at these sites in 2013
- Sector very sensitive to economic factors

Key Trends

- Reduction in number of open landfills to 9 at end of 2013
- Less waste being landfilled than ever before - down from 1 million tonnes in 2012 to 714,000t in 2013
- 220,000 tonnes of waste handled at a single municipal waste incinerator
- Doubling of waste being exported for use as fuel
- Private sector now accounts for almost all the waste market.

Compliance Investigations & Enforcement

- 83 compliance investigations instigated by EPA during 2013 to tackle areas of non-compliance and underperformance
- Waste sector accounts for disproportionate amount of EPA legal actions
- Half of legal cases taken in 2013 were in waste sector; Company Directors prosecuted at two waste companies

Complaints & Incidents

- 547 complaints received about waste licensed sites
- 92% complaints related to odour; 5 sites account for 2/3rd of odour complaints
- Complaints are reducing but area will remain an EPA priority
- Over 500 incidents reported to EPA for the sector; 3 fires in 2013.

Strategic Priorities

- Re-organise local authority enforcement into three regional structures
- Eliminate odour nuisance at waste facilities
- Minimise risk of fire at waste facilities
- Obtain Financial Provision for environmental liabilities at waste facilities
- Ensure waste is managed in a way that protects health & the environment and maximises recovery

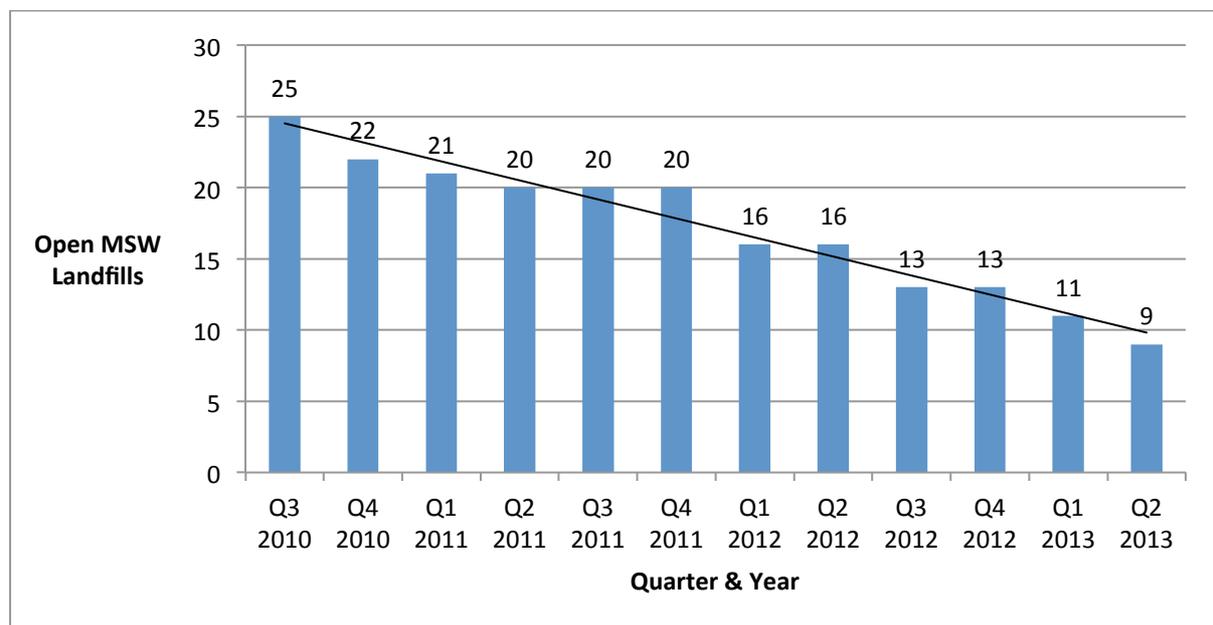
Section 1: Introduction

Waste has the potential to cause significant environmental pollution if not managed properly. It can contaminate surface and groundwater and indiscriminate dumping of waste can be a blight on our landscape. Waste, particularly of municipal origin, can lead to odour nuisances.

Activities covered by the waste sector include waste collection, waste processing and transfer, waste recycling and recovery, waste incineration, export of waste for recovery/disposal and waste disposal by landfilling. The waste sector has undergone massive change in the last decade. This is evidenced by the dramatic reduction in the number of open landfills for municipal waste (MSW) – see Figure 1 – down to 9 at the end of 2013. In addition, the waste sector is now almost exclusively operated by the private sector with only 4 local authorities involved in any household waste collection in 2013. Co-incident with reduction in landfills is a doubling in the amount of waste being exported for use as fuel between 2012 and 2013. The increased handling and storage of bales of waste does increase the potential for odour nuisance, contamination of surface and groundwaters as well as increase the risk of fire.

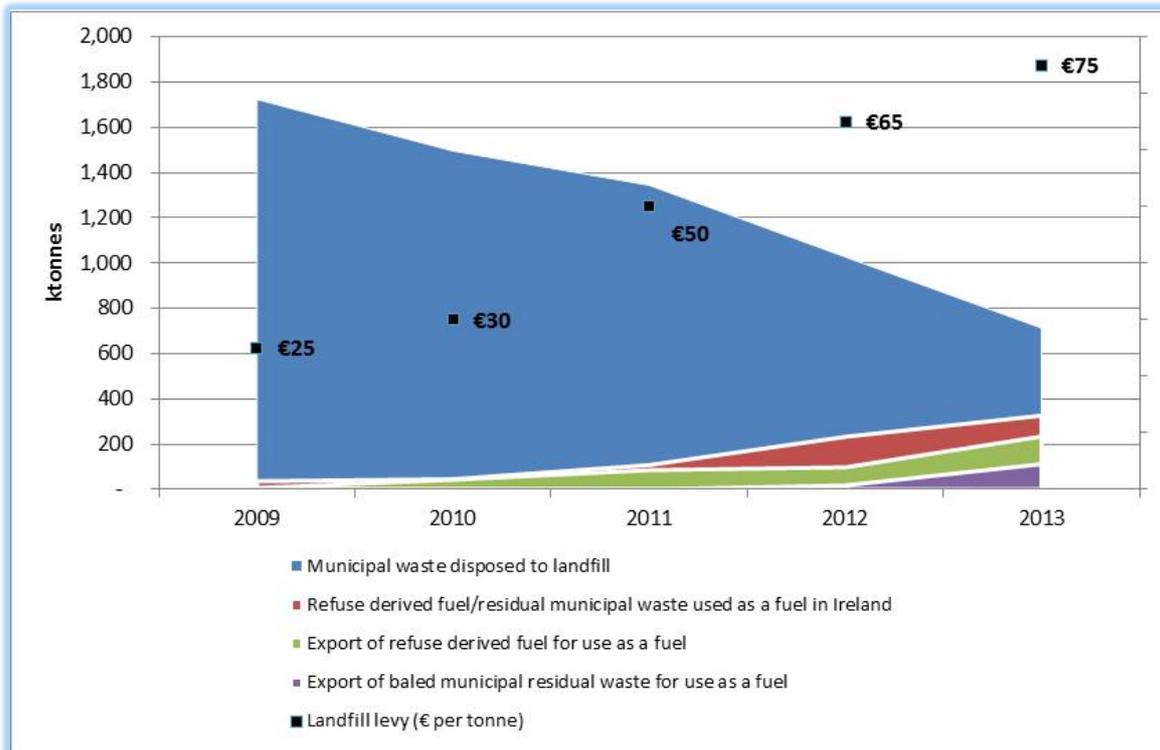
Enforcement of the waste sector in Ireland in 2013 was carried out by a combination of the Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the local authorities and the National Transfrontier Shipment of Waste (TFS) office.

Figure 1. Number of Open Landfills 2010 – 2013



The waste sector is a high-volume, low-margin industry and very sensitive to pricing and economic factors. Figure 2 below shows the link, for example, between the increase in landfill levy (now at €75 per tonne) and the reduction in quantity of waste landfilled. This demonstrates the rapid response between implementing a measure (landfill levy) and effecting a desired change (less waste being disposed of to landfill).

Figure 2. Link between landfill levy changes and residual waste management in Ireland



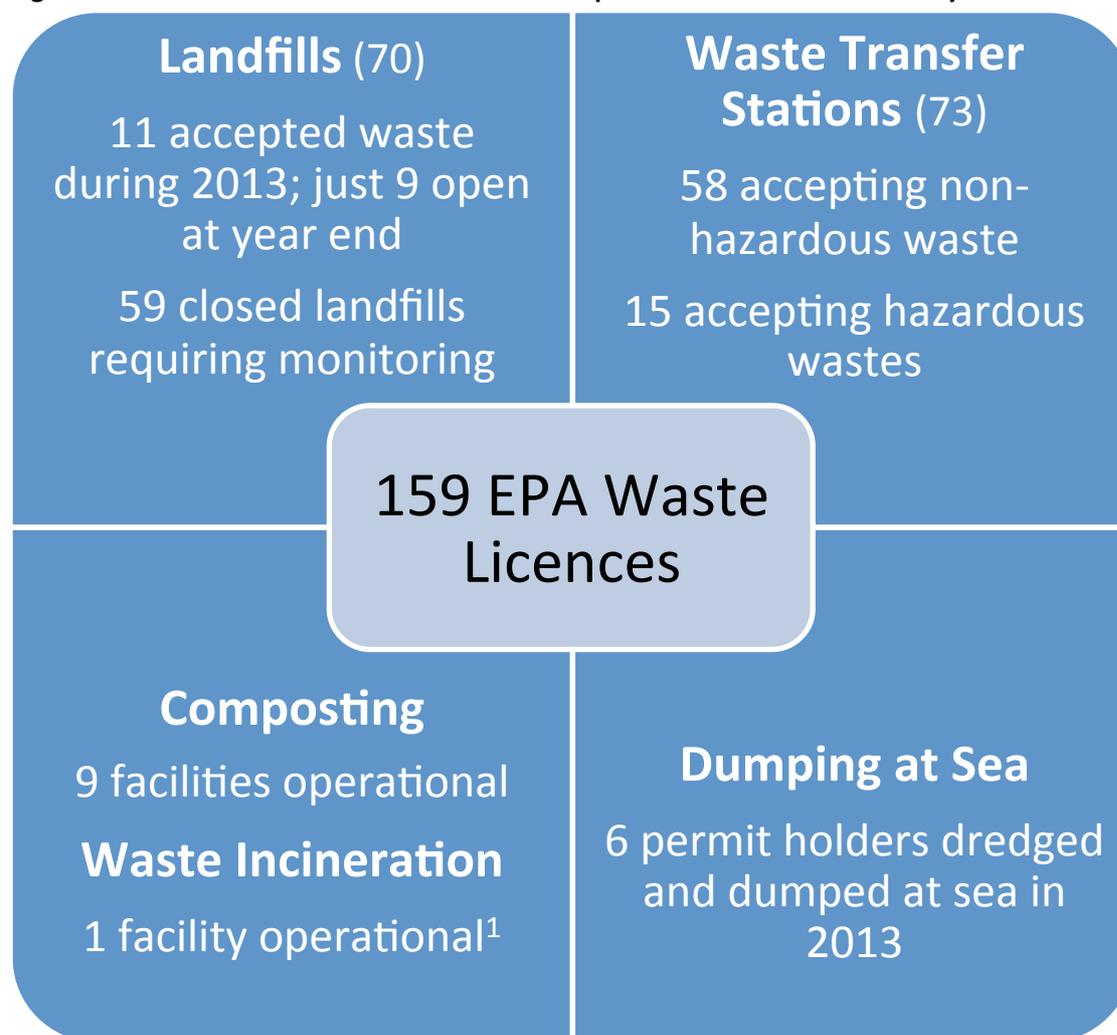
Coincident with the reduction in waste being disposed of to landfill, Figure 2 charts a corresponding rise in the quantity of waste used as a fuel to almost 400,000tonnes in 2013. This trend is set to continue and, although better to recover energy from waste than dispose of it to landfill, presents challenges in the management, handling, processing and storage of baled refuse-derived fuel (RDF) and Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) at waste facilities and ports en route to energy recovery facilities abroad. These challenges are manifested in increased odour complaints and increased incidence of fires.

This report provides summary information on compliance with key requirements in the waste sector licensed by the EPA.

Section 2: The Waste Sector

There were a number of different categories of waste activity regulated by the EPA and operational in 2013. These totalled 159 separate activities¹/facilities and these were distributed as set out in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3. Nature & Number of Waste Facilities operational in 2013 licensed by EPA



In addition to these, 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 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 authorisations and it is critically important that these authorisations are enforced by the relevant competent authorities to ensure the required standards are met and complied with.

¹ There were a number of other facilities accepted waste for incineration in 2013 but their primary purpose was cement manufacture.

Section 3: Summary of Enforcement Priorities in 2013

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 in one year are used to inform the next years work. The EPA considers that the identification of a limited number of key priorities for the sector facilitates a focus on what is important.

The EPA enforcement approach in general is underpinned by the principles of proportionality in the application of environmental law and in securing compliance; consistency of approach; transparency about how the EPA operates; targeting of enforcement action and implementation of the polluter pays principle. EPA Enforcement activities are divided into three main activity areas and these are illustrated in Figure 4: compliance monitoring, enforcement sanctions and compliance promotion.

As part of a fully integrated, sector-based enforcement regime the EPA regularly inspects and audits activities with the potential to cause environmental harm. Regional based EPA Inspectors carry out site inspections, audits and emission monitoring.

Figure 4. Main EPA enforcement activities



Section 3.2: EPA priorities

At the beginning of 2013, the EPA informed the Irish Waste Management Association (IWMA) of the need to comply with all licence conditions and of priority issues that the EPA considered were challenges for the sector. Tables 1 & 2, for example, lists the priority areas identified respectively for the landfill and waste transfer station sectors in 2013.

Table 1. Priority Areas for Landfills in 2013

Landfills – Priority Areas
1. Landfill Gas Management - collection & abstraction infrastructure, flare/engine, gas field balancing.
2. Leachate Management - collection & abstraction infrastructure, levels, storage, groundwater/surface water monitoring, leachate break outs
3. Odours, complaints and incidents management
4. Operational Issues - Monitoring, Cover, Capping, Waste Handling & Records
5. Landfill Gate Fees
6. BMW Diversion
7. Restoration Status
8. Site Management

Table 2. Priority Areas for Waste Transfer Stations in 2013

Waste Transfer Stations– Priority Areas
1. Odour Impacts
2. Dust Impacts
3. Emergency response readiness (fire risk & waste storage)
4. Surface water & groundwater impacts
5. Waste records
6. Management of Waste Wood

The relevant sectoral priorities were communicated to all EPA licence holders at the beginning of 2013 and the facilities were requested to give these priority areas, as outlined above, particular attention when managing their activities and implementing their Environmental Management Plans for 2013. A workshop for the sector was held in October 2013 where updates were provided on 2013 priorities and priority issues for 2014 were highlighted.

Section 3.3: Capacity Building & Guidance

The EPA recognises that clear guidance is beneficial to licensees in improving compliance levels and better adherence to required standards. The classification of waste is an important issue related to the keeping of accurate records and allows for proper tracking of waste materials from facility to facility. EPA published a paper in late 2012 for use during 2013 in relation to classification of waste - the *EPA viewpoint on EWC classification of mixed municipal waste exiting waste management facilities*. This paper discusses the minimum treatment necessary to justify a reclassification of waste arising from the mechanical treatment of waste.

Given the recent prevalence of fires at waste facilities (Major fire at Ballymount Industrial Estate in January 2014, 3 during 2013 and 12 in recent years) the EPA developed and published *Guidance on Fire Safety at Non Hazardous Waste Transfer Stations*. Fires (see Figure 5) at waste transfer stations have the potential to be very serious events, posing risk to life and presenting hazards to the local community and the environment. They can also be very costly.

Figure 5. Firefighter attending a fire at a Waste facility



There were 3 fires at EPA licensed waste facilities in 2013 and the EPA is working with the Fire Authorities and the Chief Fire Officers Association to clarify and improve requirements for fire prevention at waste facilities.

The EPA took over responsibility for regulating of activities covered by the Dumping at Sea Acts in 2012. This encompasses dredging operations conducted to maintain navigation at our ports. An information booklet was developed by EPA and disseminated to every harbour and local authority in

Ireland and made available online. The EPA website was updated to include a Dumping at Sea webpage.

Section 4: Enforcement Activities in 2013 and Findings

Table 3 below lists key statistics in relation to EPA enforcement of the waste sector in 2013. Over 500 complaints were received and 500 incidents notified in relation to the 159 EPA regulated facilities. There were over 400 notifications of non-compliance (NONC) issued by the EPA in 2013 resulting in 83 Compliance Investigations being instituted by the EPA. A compliance investigation is where the EPA takes an issue forward and proactively sets out measures to restore compliance. Ultimately, the EPA took legal action against waste operators on 6 separate occasions in 2013.

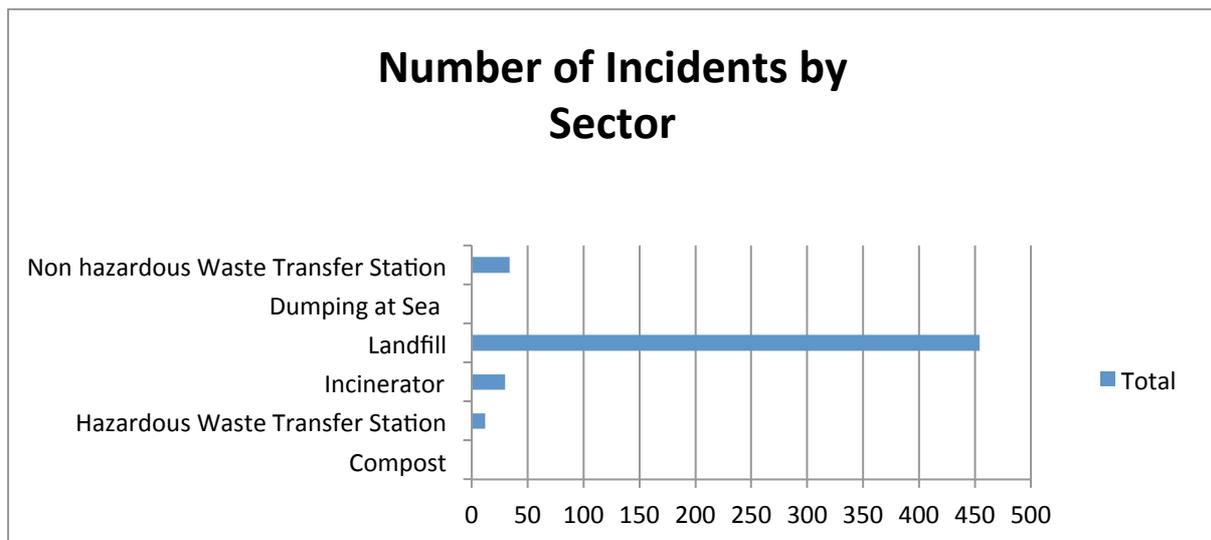
Table 3: Key Statistics for 2013

Sector	Licensed Sites active in the Sector	Inspections	Incidents Reported	Complaints Received	NONCs Issued	Compliance investigations	No. of Prosecutions Completed
Non-Hazardous waste	58	120	34	281	142	22	4
Landfill	70	111	454	228	217	44	2
Incinerator	1	3	30	1	0	0	0
Hazardous waste	15	29	12	20	61	12	0
Compost	9	8	0	14	17	5	0
Dumping at Sea	6	4	0	3	3	0	0
Total	159	275	530	547	440	83	6

Section 4.1 Incidents

An incident is defined as an emergency on site or having an emission which does not with comply with the licence or exceeding a trigger level for a pollutant as specified in the licence. Figure 6 shows that the dominant sector is landfill which accounts for 85% of reported incidents. Almost 300 of the 530 incidents related to a trigger level being breached and would not be considered environmentally significant. Many of these related to leachate levels in the base of cells exceeding a threshold where it should be pumped out and tankered off-site and also exceedances of gas levels in monitoring wells indicating the possible migration of gas off-site.

Figure 6. Breakdown of Incidents notified to the EPA by sector in 2013



Section 4.2 Complaints

547 complaints were recorded during 2013 in relation to the 159 EPA regulated waste facilities. Figure 7 shows that the dominant sectors are landfill and non-hazardous waste transfer which together account for 93% of complaints in the sector. Figure 8 shows that the vast majority of complaints received (92%) were related to odour. A relatively small number of sites account for the majority of complaints received. This is shown in Figure 9 where five sites (4 waste transfer stations and 1 landfill) together account for 66% of all complaints received.

Figure 7. Breakdown of Complaints by sector in 2013

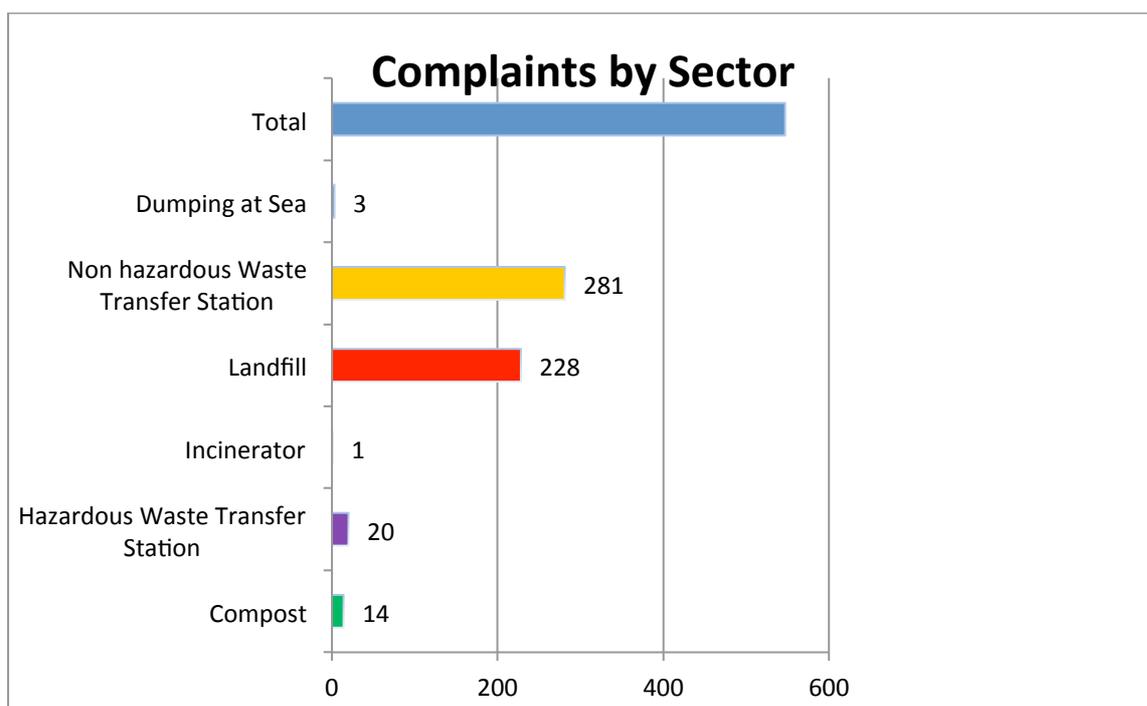


Figure 8. Breakdown of Complaints by category in 2013

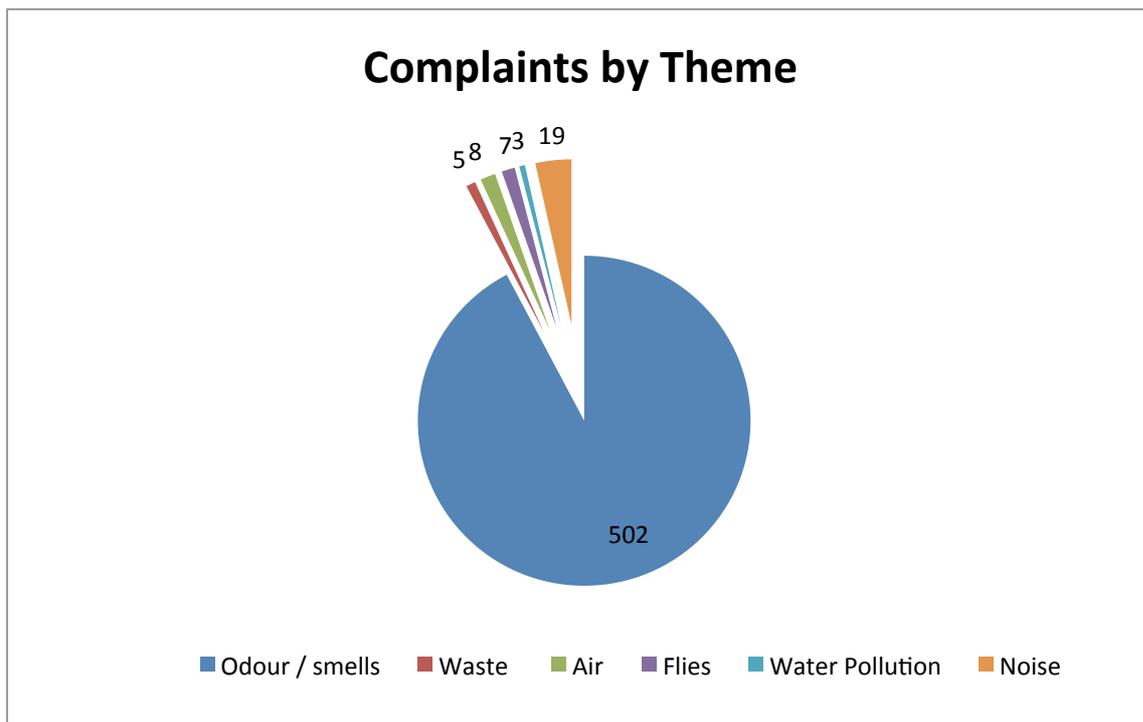
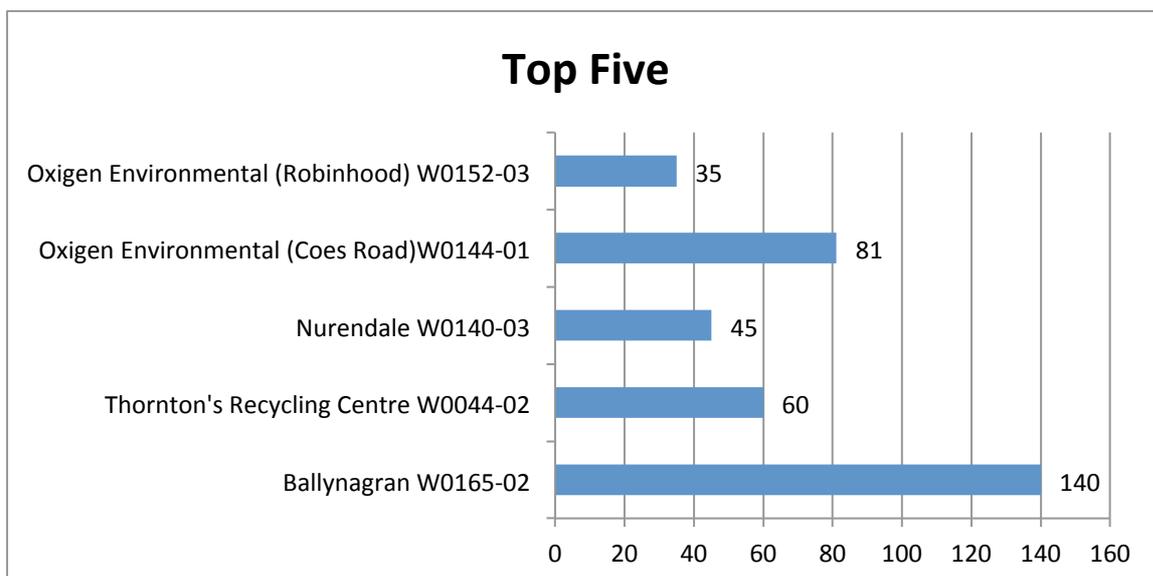


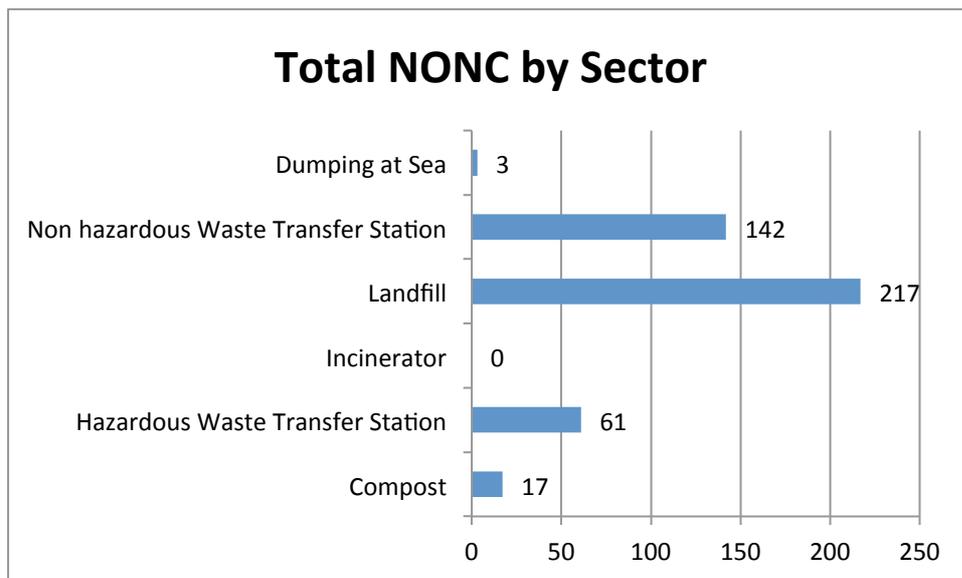
Figure 9. Top 5 Facilities complained about in the Waste Sector in 2013.



Section 4.3 Notifications of Non-Compliance

440 Notifications of non-compliance (NONC) were issued by the EPA to facilities in the waste sector in 2013. Figure 10 shows that, as with complaints, the dominant sectors are the landfill and non-hazardous waste transfer which together account for 82% of NONC in the sector.

Figure 10. Breakdown of NONC by sector in 2013



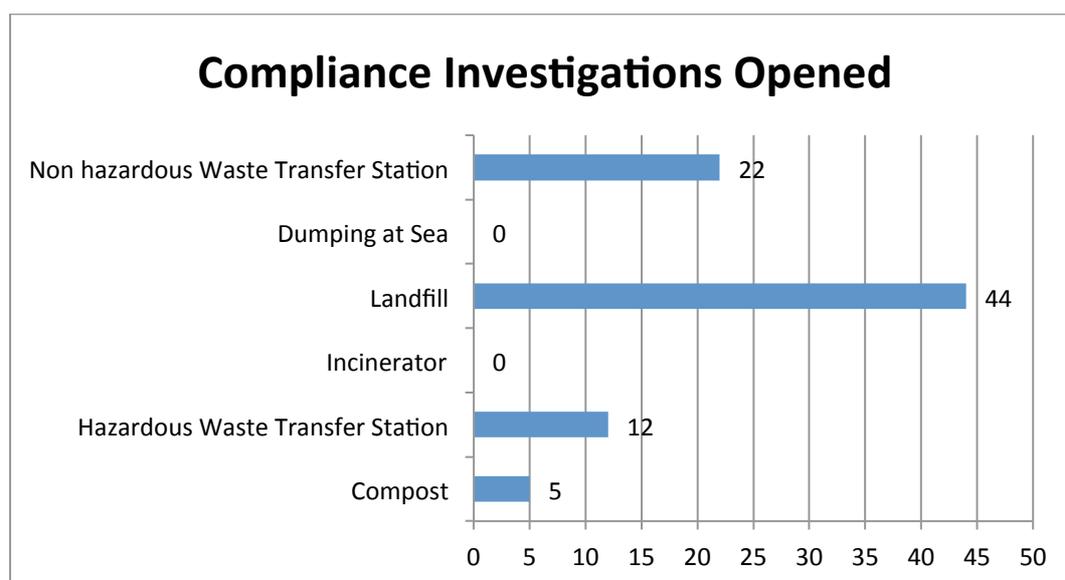
The 5 main areas resulting in non-compliance for the waste sector were;

1. Waste management
 - Stockpiling of waste/prolonged storage
 - Leachate escaping to yard drains
 - Unauthorised outdoor processing and waste storage
 - Inadequate segregation of wastes
 - Onsite infilling with waste
 - Acceptance of unauthorised waste & use of unauthorised hauliers and destinations
2. Miscellaneous
 - Damaged hardstanding
 - Drainage not colour coded
 - Scavenging permitted onsite
 - Inadequate waste characterisation and inappropriate use of EWC codes
3. Nuisance (Odours)
4. Documentation and procedures
 - Late or non-submission of Annual Environmental Report
 - Waste records not available for inspection or incomplete
 - Accident Prevention Procedure not available
 - Odour Management Plan not available
5. Failure to provide/install infrastructure
 - No dust curtains or doors on waste building
 - Failure to provide appropriate drainage
 - No quarantine area
 - Failure to maintain adequate negative air pressure on the WTS building.

Section 4.4 Compliance Investigations

On foot of the complaints received, non-compliances issued, notified incidents and EPA inspections carried out , 83 compliance investigations were instigated for companies in the waste sector during 2013.

Figure 11. Breakdown of Compliance Investigation by sector in 2013



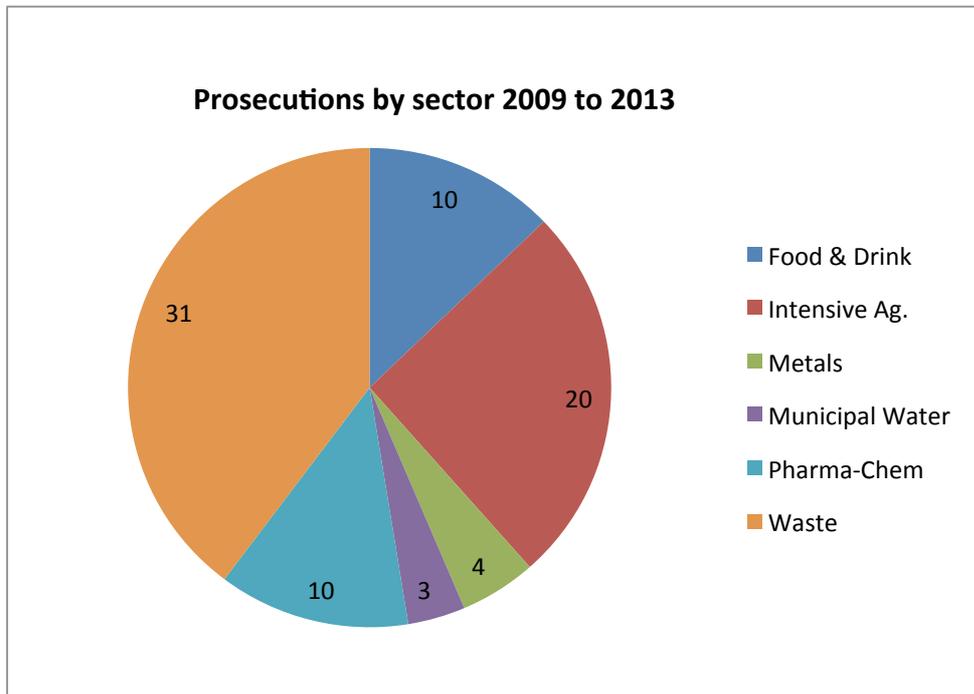
The types of issues covered by the compliance investigations are closely related to the notifications of non-compliance and included the following;

- stockpiling of waste/prolonged storage,
- poor waste classification
- incorrect EWC codes application
- poor site practices relating to:
 - o waste tracking, labelling, storage
 - o height/placement/compatibility
 - o unbanded/outdoor storage of hazardous waste
 - o release of potentially contaminated storm water to SW
 - o failure to submit duty and stand-by capacity report.

Section 4.5 Legal Enforcement in 2013

Analysing legal cases taken, it is apparent that the waste sector is disproportionately high in terms of the prosecution rate. In the five year period between the beginning of 2009 and the end of 2013, waste companies account for 40% (31 of 78) cases taken and this is depicted in Figure 12. This is despite the sector accounting for approximately 15% of licences issued. This is indicative of a less than average rate of compliance and a higher than average need to impose legal sanctions for the sector.

Figure 12 Breakdown of prosecutions by sector in period 2009 - 2013



This trend of high visibility for waste companies in legal actions continued in 2013. There were 12 legal actions in total in 2013 (10 of which were EPA District Court prosecutions and 2 of which were DPP Circuit Court prosecutions) with 6 of the prosecutions (or 50%) related to the waste category. Summary details of the prosecutions in 2013 are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Summary data on prosecutions in waste sector in 2013

Licence Number	Facility	Directors(s) Prosecuted	Issue	Fines, Costs, Donations (€)
W0205-01	Greyhound Recycling and Recovery, Dublin	Yes	Infrastructure failures (failing to keep doors closed, storing waste inappropriately) and Odour Nuisance	47,500
W0104-02	AES Environmental Solutions(Ireland) Ltd	No	Exceedance of tonnage	5,895.25
W0109-02	Inagh Landfill, Co. Clare	No	Odour Nuisance	8,700
W0017-04	Gortadroma Landfill, Co. Limerick	No	Odour Nuisance	7,960
W0208-01	Oxigen Environmental, Dublin	Yes	Sending waste off site to unauthorised lands without agreement from the Agency.	12,000
W0247-01	Behans Land Restoration Limited, Co. Kildare	No	Failure to make Financial Provision for liabilities; Infrastructure failures (e.g. failure to provide a weighbridge and a concrete hardstand area) and administrative failures	4,000
				Total: €86,055.25

Of particular note in 2013 was the inclusion of company directors in legal actions. Directors can be held personally liable for breaches of environmental standards and the EPA, especially in the case of second offences, now regularly brings company directors before the courts.

The Office of Environmental Enforcement in the EPA will continue to target those who don't 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 arising from closure or abandonment of licensed facilities. The need for this was demonstrated during 2013 in the case of the Greenstar waste company, certain assets of which were put into receivership in August 2012. Greenstar had a large share of the Irish waste market, employing over 800 people, serving over 80,000 households at the time and holding 16 EPA licences, 12 for waste transfer stations and 4 for landfill activities.

The EPA ensured that the parties interested in acquiring the Greenstar business were in a position financially to meet the environmental liability obligations associated with the 16 EPA licensed facilities. The costings for environmental liabilities (both closure and incident) were considered and agreed for 12 licensed waste transfer stations and 4 landfills. Complex proposals to address the identified liability costings were assessed. A proposal was ultimately accepted by the EPA in early 2014 and the licences were transferred to a new entity (still operating under the Greenstar name).

A particular focus was placed on the regulation of environmental liabilities & associated financial provision in 2013. Revised *Guidance on Assessing and Costing Environmental Liabilities* was issued for consultation during 2013. This increased focus led to financial provisions being in place for 22 facilities at the end of 2013 with a value of €8.3m. Eight of these 22 facilities were in the waste sector. This is double the number in place a year before and represents an increase of 64% in the value of cover provided to the State. This work continued in 2014 and there is now over €77m in financial provision secured by the EPA from licensees for known and potential environmental liabilities. This work will continue to be a focus for the EPA.

Section 6: Emerging Issues & Future Priorities

There are in the region of 130 Local Authority staff working in the area of waste regulation and enforcement. Collectively, in 2013, they performed 58,000 inspections and initiated 390 prosecutions. The Government's Waste Management Policy, *A Resource Opportunity*, contained a commitment to complete a review of the respective regulatory and enforcement roles of the Environmental Protection Agency (OEE) and local authorities by the end of 2013. This review was in the context of a need to focus on dealing with serious criminal offenders, have more intelligence-led and coordinated multi-agency enforcement. 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. This new proposed approach to waste enforcement is welcome and when implemented should result in targeted, timely and effective enforcement.

Dealing with, and minimising, the risk of fire is a major priority for the waste sector. The increased production and storage of RDF / SRF offers significant challenges in terms of potential odour nuisances as does the management of increased organic "brown bin" waste. The securing of financial provision for environmental liabilities at waste facilities will continue to be of critical importance. Finally, non-compliances of the type detected by the EPA (e.g. use of unauthorised facilities, illegal storage) have, and will not be tolerated and will result in strong enforcement action.

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 gclóíonn leis na córais sin.

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

Tacaíocht: Bímid ag saothrú i gcomhar le grúpaí eile chun tacú le comhshaoil atá glan, táirgiúil agus cosanta go maith, 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 aistriúcháin 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 peitрил;
- 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 dhírú ar chiontóirí, agus trí mhaoirsiú a dhéanamh ar leasúcháin.
- 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 ídionn 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 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 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 na n-údarás 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 shainathint, 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. mórfheananna 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 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, 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 teaghlach 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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