

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

EPA Annual Report 2014

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The layout of this report has been structured and aligned to reflect our Strategic Plan 2013 – 2015 – Working with Others for a Better Environment.

Environmental Protection AgencyKey Statistics 2014

LICENSING

194

licences issued

3₇500

licensee returns and notifications assessed

227/0

technical amendments completed

ENFORCEMENT

347

urban wastewater site visits made **62**

drinking water site audits carried out

1,350+

industrial and waste site visits (i.e. inspections and audits) carried out

LEGAL

29

Directions on Water Issued

14

prosecution cases heard in the District Court 3

civil cases heard in higher courts

2m+ visits

to the EPA website

www.epa.ie

360 tonnes of hazardous farm waste

brought by **3,000 farmers** to **16 collection** centres (2013 & 2014 data)

2,650
environmental
queries
from the public answered

EPG Office of Radiological Protection

> New Office of Radiological Protection established

1,034

public

EPA Climate Change

Lectures held

homes measured for **Radon**

37% decrease

in household waste disposed of **to landfill**, latest data showed



€1.4m

of repeatable savings identified in 38 businesses for a once-off investment of €260k by EPA



17 local authorities

ran the Stop Food Waste Challenge with local community groups involving 350 households

Environmental Indicators Dashboard

A selection of key environmental indicators for Ireland is presented below, with the environmental status/trend of each. Visit www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment/environmentalindicatorsdashboard to explore in more detail and view the relevant up-to-date data.

to explore in more detail	and view the relevant up-to-date data.	
	Climate change Indicators Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Kyoto Protocal Limit Greenhouse Gas Projections to 2020 Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide Levels	Status/Trend
	Air Indicators Air Quality – Nitrogen Dioxide Air Quality – Particulate Matter Air Quality – Ground Level Ozone Air Emissions – Nitrogen Oxides	Status/Trend :: :: :::::::::::::::::::::::::::::
	Water Indicators Groundwater Quality River Water Quality High Quality River Sites Lake Water Quality Estuarine and Coastal Water Quality Urban Wastewater Treatment	Status/Trend :
	Waste Indicators Recovery and Disposal of Municipal Waste Recovery of Packaging Waste Biodegradable Waste Diversion from Landfill Predicted Growth in Municipal Waste	Status/Trend :- :- :- :- :-
	Nature Indicators Countryside Bird Populations Conservation Status of Listed Habitats Conservation Status of Listed Species Threatened Species	Status/Trend



Environment and Health Indicators

Drinking Water Quality
Bathing Water Quality

Status/Trend







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It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Annual Report for the Environmental Protection Agency for the year 2014. The EPA performs effectively a wide range of statutory functions in fulfilment of its mission "to protect and improve the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland and to protect people and the environment from harmful effects of radiation and pollution".



Key actions for the EPA during 2014 included the following:

Merger of the EPA and Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII): The merger of the EPA and the RPII, part of the Government's Public Sector Reform Plan, was completed successfully, on time and within budget. The EPA's newly established Office of Radiological Protection commenced operation on 1st August 2014.

EPA Licensing: In 2014, the EPA issued 194 licences and 270 technical amendments. The EPA has a key role in licensing facilities with the potential for significant environmental pollution, to ensure that their emissions do not endanger human health or harm the environment.

Licence Enforcement: As part of our ongoing enforcement activity, the EPA carried out more than 1,350 industrial and waste site visits (i.e. inspections and audits) and assessed more than 8,500 licensee returns and notifications. The EPA believes that rigorous implementation of environmental policy and legislation is good economic policy.

Prosecutions: As part of the EPA's ongoing enforcement regime, 14 prosecutions were heard in the District Court in 2014. Three civil cases initiated by the EPA were heard in the higher courts. Company directors who flout environmental law are increasingly the subject of legal action by the EPA, a point emphasised in the *Focus on Environmental Enforcement* report, released in June.

Wastewater and Drinking Water: In 2014, the EPA carried out 347 urban wastewater site visits and 62 drinking water site audits. The EPA continues to be the drinking water quality regulator and is responsible for the on-going enforcement of urban wastewater licences now assigned to Irish Water.

Drinking Water: The EPA continues to maintain a strong emphasis on the quality of drinking water in Ireland. Public water supplies have improved year-on-year since the EPA created a Remedial Action List (RAL) in 2008; 121 "at risk" supplies were on the RAL at the end of 2014. Supplies on the Remedial Action List are prioritised for improvement works.

Issuing Directions on Water: The EPA issued 29 directions in 2014 and six of these related to drinking water supplies in Roscommon. The EPA also reiterated the need for Irish Water to develop a National Strategy for Lead Pipes which would have regard to advice previously published by the EPA on lead.

Wastewater: The EPA *Urban Waste Water Report*, published in December, showed that 38 urban centres across Ireland failed to meet the required standards and placed the health of people and the environment at risk. The reasons for the failures ranged from a complete absence of infrastructure to treat sewage to inadequate infrastructure or poor management and operation of infrastructure.

Bathing Water: Local authorities reported to the EPA the results of 1,581 samples from identified bathing waters taken during the 2013 bathing season. With 97 per cent of bathing areas (i.e. 131 of 135) meeting the minimum EU qualifying standard, Ireland's bathing waters continue to be of a very high standard, the *Bathing Water Report* confirmed.

Septic Tanks: Local authorities carried out 987 septic tank inspections in the first year of the EPA's National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. The national compliance rate for year-one inspections was 52 per cent. Following the inspections, homeowners started to implement necessary measures to address failures identified and by December 2014, the proportion of systems passing had increased to 76 per cent. The most common reason for failure related to a lack of de-sludging.

Water Framework Directive: During 2014, the EPA took on an expanded role in coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. A new Catchment Management Network was established, involving all local authorities and a range of national agencies, to help improve Ireland's performance in protecting and improving our water resources.

Waste Prevention: 2013 waste figures, published in 2014, showed a welcome shift away from landfilling towards energy recovery. Deficits in the national waste infrastructure remain, resulting in an unsustainable overreliance on the export of waste.

Smart Farming: National implementation of the Smart Farming initiative began in 2014 following an earlier pilot phase. The programme looks at ways to improve farm returns through better resource management. Thirty on-farm resource efficiency assessments were carried out with an average cost saving of €6,600 per farm identified and more than 600 farmers participated in on-farm discussion groups where the assessment findings were shared. Led by the IFA in conjunction with the EPA, the initiative brings together the knowledge and expertise of other partners, including Teagasc, UCD and SEAI.

Sustainable Use of Resources: In 2014, the National Waste Prevention Programme, led by the EPA, continued to deliver substantive results in preventing and minimising waste though its BeGreen resource efficiency programmes. In addition to those savings made through the new Smart Farming programme, 2014 results from BeGreen programmes such as Green Business, Green Hospitality and Green Healthcare identified economic savings in excess of €7m, with further potential savings of €7m, from an investment by the EPA of approximately €1.2m.

Climate Change: The EPA's greenhouse gas projections, released in May, indicated that Ireland faces considerable challenges in moving to a low carbon economy. Under the best case scenario, greenhouse gas emissions would remain relatively static up to 2020. EPA projections indicate that 2020 emissions would be 5 – 12 per cent below 2005 levels. This compares to the 2020 target of 20 per cent below 2005 levels. Provisional emissions figures for 2013, released in December, showed increases in emissions from some sectors, particularly agriculture and transport, already among the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

EPA's Climate Change Lecture Series: In 2014, three Working Group Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) visited Ireland to give public lectures about current scientific understanding of climate change, possible solutions to the challenges it poses and options for adaptation. Two lectures were webcast and videos, slides and transcripts of all three were made available on the EPA's website and YouTube channel.

Clean Air: The EPA's report on air quality in 2013 found that air quality in Ireland continued to be good and compared favourably with other EU Member States. A report on air emissions from EPA licensed sites showed high compliance rates with air pollutant emission limits specified in industrial and waste management licences.

EPA Research: The EPA research programme provides an essential support to identifying pressures, informing policy and developing solutions to environmental issues. A new EPA research programme for 2014–2020 is funding research in the areas of Climate, Water and Sustainability. It will involve as many as 600 researchers and industrial innovators over its lifetime.

Research on Fracking: A 24-month research programme on fracking got underway in 2014, following public consultation in 2013. The research programme has been designed to produce the scientific basis to assist regulators, both North and South, in making an informed decision about whether it is environmentally safe to allow fracking. No fracking will take place as part of the research.

Radiological Protection: Following the merger of the EPA with the RPII on 1st August 2014, the EPA became the national competent authority for matters to do with ionising radiation. Responsibilities include regulating the use of sources of ionising radiation, monitoring radiation levels and assessing the exposure of people in Ireland to ionising radiation.

Radon: In November, the EPA ran a dedicated regional communications campaign to generate awareness of the dangerously high levels of radon in Co Mayo. Mayo has one of the highest incidences of radon in homes in the country.

Accessible Information: The EPA launched a range of web-based information initiatives in 2014. The "My Local Environment" mapping service is particularly noteworthy and provides easy access to information about the environment close to where people live, work or play.

Conclusion

Three EPA staff retired in 2014. I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation, and those of the Board and staff, to Marian Lambert, Jim Ryan and Jim Hurley who served the EPA and our stakeholders assiduously and with great heart, over many years.

The EPA plays a key role in environmental regulation, in the provision of knowledge, and in advocacy for the environment. I am pleased to report that during 2014 we continued to deliver the valuable societal outcomes for which we are recognised. I would like to thank all of the staff for their hard work and dedication, and particularly the EPA Advisory Committee and my fellow Directors for their commitment and support.

Laura Burke

EPA Director General

In felle



OUR MISSION:

To protect and improve the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. To protect our people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

OUR VISION:

A clean, healthy and well protected environment supporting a sustainable society and economy.

OUR VALUES:

Our Stewardship

- ✓ We are a trusted, independent and authoritative advocate for the environment.
- We make objective decisions based on the best available scientific evidence and information.
- We manage our resources effectively and efficiently to deliver value to the public.

Our Work

- We regulate in a fair, proportionate and transparent manner and target those who don't comply.
- We make a difference by working with others to build trust, networks and partnerships to deliver effective outcomes.
- We strive continuously for improvement and excellence through learning and development.

Our Service

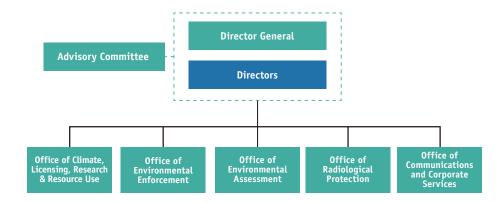
- We are innovative, adaptive and open to new and flexible ways of working.
- We design and deliver services from the citizen's point of view.
- We provide our services in a manner that is competent, courteous and responsive.

Our Colleagues

- We work together to deliver effective outcomes.
- We support, trust and value our colleagues and empower each other to make decisions.
- We are open and honest with each other.
- We constructively challenge and encourage each other to do better.

MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE EPA

EPA ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



The work of the EPA is carried out by its five main Offices:

- ▲ The Office of Climate, Licensing, Research and Resource Use
- ▲ The Office of Environmental Enforcement
- ▲ The Office of Environmental Assessment
- ▲ The Office of Communications and Corporate Services
- The Office of Radiological Protection *
 - * On 1 August 2014 the EPA and the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) merged. Further information on the merger is available in Chapter 4.4.

More information on EPA activities, licences, publications and newsletters can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.ie.



EPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(L to R): Gerard O'Leary (Director Office of Environmental Enforcement). Ann McGarry (Director, Office of Radiological Protection). Matthew Crowe (Director, Office of Environmental Assessment). Laura Burke (Director General). Micheál O Cinnéide (Director, Office of Communications and Corporate Services). Dara Lynott (Deputy Director General; Director, Office of Climate, Licensing, Research and Resource Use).



EPA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of 12 members who meet to discuss issues of concern and offer advice to the Board. The Director General of the EPA is *ex officio* a member and Chairperson of the Committee. The term of office of the Committee is three years. The 6th EPA Advisory Committee was appointed by Mr Phil Hogan, TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government on 13 February 2013.

Back Row (L to R):

Clir. John Sheahan (Fine Gael, Kerry County Council, nominated by the Association of County and City Councils); Dr. John Cuddihy (HSE, nominated by Directors of Public Health of HSE); Prof Colin O'Dowd (NUI Galway, nominated by the Royal Irish Academy); Mr. Pat Farrell (IFA, nominated by the Irish Farmers Association); Mr. Martin Hogan (Cliste Consulting, Ministerial appointee); Mr. Tom O'Reilly (Committee Secretary)

Front Row (L to R):

Dr. Sharon McGuinness (HSA, nominated by the Health and Safety Authority of Ireland); Mr. David Ball (Consultant, nominated by the Irish Environmental Network); Ms. Laura Burke (Chairperson); Mr Dara Lynott (EPA Deputy Director General); Ms. Elaine Nevin (CEO Eco Unesco, Ministerial appointee)

Missing from photo:

Ms. Deirdre Lyons (IDA, nominated by the Industrial Development Agency); Elizabeth Delahunty (ClearStream Technologies Ltd, Ministerial appointee); Dr. Aine Ryall (UCC, Ministerial appointee)



REGULATION

Implement effective regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver positive outcomes for people and the environment and target those who don't comply.

1.1 Licensing

1.2 Enforcement

1.3 Guidance

The EPA licences activities to ensure that their emissions do not endanger human health or harm the environment



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS DIRECTIVE

The Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), transposed into national legislation in April 2013, brought in new activities which will require existing IPC and waste licences to be amended or new installations licensed by July 2015, and work continued on identifying these installations and notifying them of their new obligations.

The web service, developed to implement the new Industrial Emissions Directive, was extended to allow for two further processes for Licensees: Applications to Transfer a Licence and Alterations to Licence Requests and Technical Amendments.

The EPA submitted the first IED Implementation Report to the European Commission on behalf of the State in the Autumn.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS)

At the end of 2014 there were 421 active entries on the register of GMO users in Ireland. A total of 34 decisions were granted in 2014 for the contained use of GMOs and one consent for deliberate release activities. An EPA synthesis report on issues arising out of the 2013 EPA GMO conference was published and disseminated.

EMISSIONS TRADING

Permits

There were 95 industrial (stationary installations) with reportable emissions for 2013 and Ireland achieved 100% compliance under the 2013 reporting cycle of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for all stationary operators. EPA completed the online Article 21 Report (Annual questionnaire on the implementation of the ETS Directive) for the 30 June deadline.

Legislation was passed in April 2014 changing the scope of EU ETS with regards to international aviation emissions and introduced a threshold of 1,000 tCO $_2$ per annum for noncommercial operators. Of the 316 Aircraft Operators on the Irish list, 296 were re-classed as "Exempt" for the reporting period 2013 and 2014 (i.e. emissions less than 1,000 tCO $_2$ per annum) under the new legislation. Some of these could potentially re-enter the scheme if their emissions increase in the future.

A European Commission in-country review of Ireland's implementation of the Emissions Trading Directive with respect to Permitting, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification was completed in June, the results of which were presented by the Commission in the November Compliance forum in Brussels. The review identified six good practices in the EPA.

Union Registry for Emissions Trading

The Union Registry for Emissions Trading is the compliance tool for regulated installations and operators under the EU ETS which, in Ireland, covers around 100 installations in the energy and industrial sectors. In addition 16 aircraft operators remain within the nationally administered part of the EU ETS. These operators, both stationary and aviation, are legally obliged to open an account on the Union Registry to fulfil their compliance obligations in relation to carbon emissions.

The EPA maintains Ireland's Registry under the EU ETS. The value of private sector traded allowance on the registry in 2014 is estimated at €86 million. The Registry tracks the holdings and transactions under the Kyoto Protocol.

The EPA must assure the robust management of a system which holds €1.5 billion of financial assets (mainly State). In 2014 consultants affirmed the high standard to which the Registry is managed by the EPA following an audit of Ireland's domain on the Union Registry.

RADIATION PROTECTION LICENSING

Prior to any individual or organisation acquiring either a radioactive source or an irradiating apparatus, they must obtain a licence from the EPA. At the end of 2014, 1,734 licences were held across a range of sectors, including dental, medical, industrial, educational and veterinary. Thirty two new licences were issued after 1 August 2014 and these were for dental practices. Between 1 August and 31 December 2014 there were seven licences closed, where the licensee had to ensure that all licensed products were either properly disposed of or returned to the manufacturer or supplier.

Licence Type	Total Applications Received 2014	Total PDs issued 2014	Total Objections Received	Total Decisions issued
IED/IPC Licences (includes IE Waste)	36	22	9	15
Waste Licences	0	5	2	12
Wastewater Licences	0		N/A	85
Wastewater Certs of Authorisation	0		N/A	14
GMO Permits (Contained use)	33		N/A	34
GMO Permits (Deliberate release)	1		N/A	1
Historic Landfill Certificates	5		N/A	0
Dumping at Sea Permits	4		N/A	4
Certificates of Registration (Waste)	16		N/A	16
VOC Permits	1	13	0	13
Radiation Licences (from 1 Aug to 31 Dec 2014)	26	N/A	N/A	32
TOTALS	122	40	11	226

Table 1: Licensing Programme Licensing Tasks 2014

Tasks	Total Tasks Assessed 2014
Article 11 Requests	120
IE/IPC Technical Amendments	36
Initiated IE Amendments	53
Waste Technical Amendments	2
Wastewater Technical Amendments	30
Initiated Wastewater Technical Amendments	164
Dumping at Sea Technical Amendments	1
Article 27 requests (by-product)	17
EMA (GMO)	1
Directive 2001/18/EC	1
EIA Assessments on Applications	18
Planning Correspondences Examined	483
TOTAL	926

Table 2: Environmental Licensing Programme Other Regulatory Tasks 2014

The EPA implements and enforces environmental and radiological protection legislation in Ireland. We seek to improve overall compliance with environmental legislation and prevent environmental pollution before it has a chance to occur.



CLEAN WATER

Irish Water became Ireland's new national water utility in January 2014. The company will bring the water and urban wastewater services of the 31 local authorities together under one national service provider. The EPA will continue to be the environmental regulator for drinking water and urban wastewater.

Municipal Wastewater Discharges

In 2014, the protection and restoration of water quality, and the prevention of environmental pollution from the impacts of wastewater discharges, was evidenced as follows:

- ✓ There was a 33% decrease in the number of seriously polluted river sites linked with urban wastewater discharges since 2009.
- 11 formerly polluted river sites where pollution was linked with wastewater discharges were classified as unpolluted during the 2010–2013 EPA monitoring period.
- ✓ Compliance with EU Directive standards continued to improve at 162 larger plants. (This was a 2% increase on 2012, but a 21% increase on 2009 and constituted a key finding of the 2013 Urban Waste Water Report.)
- Approximately 50% of the specified improvement programmes due by the end of 2013 were completed.

The EPA identified 10 priorities illustrated in figure 1 below where infrastructural works or operational improvements are required to improve water quality, protect sensitive areas and vulnerable receptors, reduce public health risks from effluent discharges and ensure compliance with the requirements of the Directive. Targeted investment in infrastructure and improvements in operational practices are required by Irish Water to address the identified priorities. The EPA's enforcement is focused on these priorities being addressed.



Figure 1: Wastewater Priorities

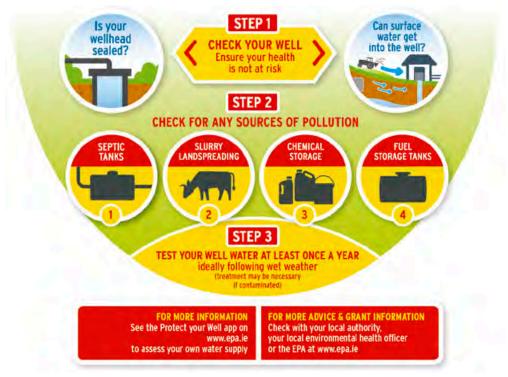


Figure 2: EPA Private Well App

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (Septic Tanks)

A report covering the first eight months of the Septic Tanks National Inspection Plan was published early in 2014. (A subsequent report covering the first full year, and proposals for consultation on the next plan covering 2015–2017 is now also available). Almost half of those inspected were non-compliant, with the failure to regularly de-sludge being the most common reason for failure.

The EPA and the HSE launched an information campaign on private wells and protecting health using various engagement strategies. These included:

- A new section on the EPA website giving comprehensive information on protecting your well – http://www.epa.ie/ water/dw/hhinfo/
- A new EPA web app "Protecting Your Well" which will allow users to self-assess whether their well is at risk of contamination;
- ▲ A short animation explaining what well owners can do to make sure their well water is safe and secure;
- An infographic illustrating the risks associated with private wells.

Drinking Water

During 2014 the EPA remained focused on the removal of lead pipes, the provision of treatment for Trihalomethanes (THMs) and *Cryptosporidium* compliance. This effort encompassed the use of 62 audits, the closure of 263 investigation files, and the issuing of 29 Directions to Irish Water, the most significant being to Donegal (9), Roscommon (6) and Galway (5).

The continued deployment of the Remedial Action List (RAL) as an enforcement tool precipitated Irish Water's revision of completion dates for remedial works in 65% of listed cases. 27 drinking water supplies serving 40,884 persons were removed from the RAL. In particular, significant progress was made to remove supplies that were on boil water notices in Roscommon. However, the population on long-term boil water notices and water restrictions remains too high. (At the end of 2014 23,138 people were on a boil water notice and 4,076 people were on a water restriction).

The presence of lead pipes is a significant issue and is highlighted by tightening limits in drinking water. A National Lead Strategy, recently published by Irish Water, is viewed by the EPA as key to tackling this problem.(see Figure 2 above)

PREVENTING ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

Environmental Liabilities Risk Assessment and Financial Provision

It is a priority for the EPA to ensure that environmental liabilities associated with accidents or closure of potentially polluting activities are managed by licensees and to promote this by ensuring the necessary investments in remediation and financial provision. The EPA continues to increase the number of financial provisions covering environmental liabilities, thus reducing the risk to the State from incidents and site closures. At the end of 2014:

- 87 closure plans were agreed, covering liabilities of €293 million.
- 4 62 assessments of potential incident costs were agreed, covering liabilities of €150 million.
- 47 sites had financial provisions secured, covering liabilities of €77 million.



MARKET SURVEILLANCE AND CHEMICALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Chemicals (Including Solid Fuel Regulations):

Inspection reports from the RoHS market surveillance programme 2013–2014 were transmitted to the relevant lead market surveillance authorities for the RoHS Enforcement Special Projects – National Measurements Office (UK) (Toys Surveillance Programme) and KEMI (SE) (Small Domestic Appliances Surveillance Programme).

15 RAPEX notifications were issued through the ECHA in relation to POPs (14) and REACh (1) between July and December. Follow up actions completed in November and December included visiting importers/distributors (11) and key retail outlets (14) in Cork (6), Dublin (13) and Limerick /Clare (6). None of the operators were reported to have stocked the products concerned.

A total of 32 coal bagging operators and 53 wholesalers and obligated specified fuel suppliers were registered under the Solid Fuel Regulations (S.I. 326 of 2012) at the end of 2014.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Batteries Regulations

In 2014 the EPA carried out a total of 192 announced and unannounced inspections of producers and retailers of electrical and electronic equipment and batteries, and a further 80 inspections of distance sellers (e.g. websites).

Ozone Depleting Substances and Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases

- ✓ International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer was marked on 16th September by communications highlighting the forthcoming ban on the common refrigerant gas known as R22.
- A series of sectoral-focused R22 guidance/awareness e-leaflets was prepared and widely disseminated via email and social media (Twitter and LinkedIn).

- Reports under the ODS Regulation (ODS Illegal Trade and Halon Critical Use) were submitted to DECLG/EU Commission by the 30 June deadline.
- Targeted inspections of 372 contractors to determine applicability of the ODS and F-gas regulations led to 17% increase in F-gas company certification, and 17% increase in Prior Annual Notification submissions.

Persistent Organic Pollutants

The annual report on the placing on the market of POPs was also completed for submission to the Commission. The unit monitored progress towards the phase out of POPs by Irish companies and reports if they are no longer being placed on the market (imported) for use.

BETTER REGULATION

In its ongoing commitment to regulate in a way that embraces principles of Better Regulation (i.e. reducing the administrative burden of regulation on business, while maintaining the effectiveness of regulation and improving its outcomes) the EPA introduced the following programmes:

- ▲ The LEMA enforcement tool was enhanced with a "Site Visits" module to enable further efficiency and intelligence.
- An innovative local authority performance indicator was developed, which will be published in 2015, to complement the EPA's supervision of local authority performance.
- The See it? Say it! smart phone Apps were made publicly available with full integration into the local authority complaint website (www.fixyourstreet.ie) to improve the accuracy and transparency around environmental complaint investigation on a national level.

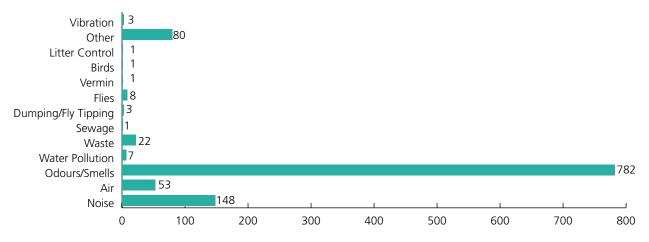


Figure 3: Complaints in 2014 by Issue/Theme

AIR ENFORCEMENT

An air enforcement report was published in October 2014 alongside the annual ambient air quality monitoring report, and indicated:

- A reduction in the percentage of non-compliant results from the EPA's Air Emissions Monitoring Programme (AEMP);
- ▲ That a significant number of odour complaints were received in relation to EPA licensed sites;
- A need to address odour issues at a relatively small number of licensed sites, even though there is a downward trend in odour complaint numbers overall.

Provisional data for 2014 indicates a further reduction in the number of complaints in relation to licensed sites compared to 2013.

Air emissions monitoring carried out at 109 industrial and waste licensed sites indicated a relatively high level of compliance with the licence limits, with 23 breaches of specified emission limit values. This compares to 24 Emission Limit Value breaches at 114 visited sites in the 2013 AEMP.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS

The management and control of risk at industrial and waste sites was achieved in 2014 by the following enforcement activities:

- ▲ The completion of 1,349 planned inspections.
- The hearing of 14 prosecutions of which nine resulted in convictions, two were given the benefit of the Probation Act, two were struck out on payment of costs, and the final case was adjourned for sentencing in 2015.
- Tackling identified problems at priority sites.
- Resolving 204 Compliance Investigations concerning site specific issues, mainly around Inadequate Operational Procedures/Training (38%), Inadequate Infrastructure (14%) and Overdue Assessments/Reports (9%).

2014 INSPECTIONS & AUDITS – IPPC & WASTE

Activity		Number in 2014
Industrial & Waste Enforcement Audits & Inspections		1,357
Wastewater Discharge Licence Enforcement Audits		324
Drinking Water Audits		62
Complaints Received Industrial & Waste and Wastewater Discharges	Total	1,224
	Industry & Wa	ste 1,127
	WWD	97
Industrial & Waste licence non-compliances recorded		2,051
	Total	3,043
Incidents notified to the EPA	Industry & Wa	ste 1,831
	WWD	1,212

Table 3: Inpections and Audits - IPPC & Waste

The EPA received 1,100 complaints in relation to industrial and waste licensed facilities in 2014. Figure 3 shows the number of complaints received by issue/theme. The vast majority (70%) of complaints received relate to odours and smells. Noise is the second most complained of issue (13% of complaints). Securing compliance at licensed facilities which receive complaints is a priority for the OEE. Actions include opening compliance investigations, conducting additional inspections, monitoring or odour surveys and escalating enforcement action where necessary.

Figure 4 shows the Top 5 most complained of licensed facilities in 2014. Legal action was either initiated or concluded in 2014 in relation to Oxigen Environmental (Coes Road) and Country Clean Recycling. The majority of complaints in relation to Blackhall Soil Recovery Facility relate to a traffic issue offsite. These complaints have been referred to the planning

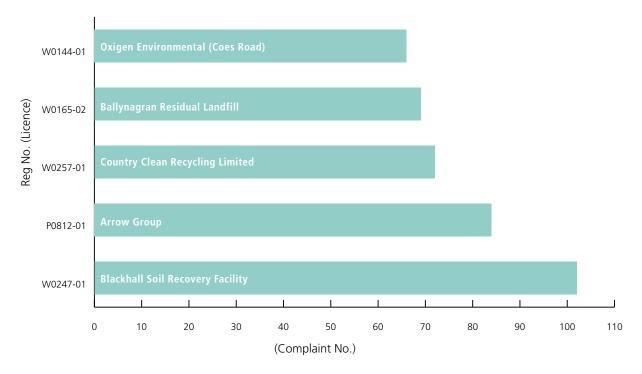


Figure 4: The Top 5 Most Complained of Licensed Facilities

authority. Further odour minimisation works were completed at the Arrow and Ballynagran sites in 2014. There was a reduction in the number of odour complaints received for both sites compared to 2013.

RADIATION PROTECTION INSPECTIONS

The EPA carries out radiation protection inspections to assess both the standards of radiation protection across the various sectors and the level of compliance by licensees with national legislation and licence conditions. The selection of licensees to be inspected each year is based on a number of criteria, including the radiological risk associated with the licensees' activities, the time elapsed since their last inspection and any incidents reported within their sector of operation. Fifty eight radiation protection inspections were completed between 1 August and 31 December 2014 and good levels of compliance were generally found (Table 4).

Following a surveillance visit by the Irish National Accreditation Board in June, the EPA was successful in achieving accreditation against the new standard (ISO 17020:2012).

Radiation Protection Licence Category	No. in Category	Number of completed inspections
Industrial	281	27
Medical	140	23
Distributors (sources & X-ray)	40	0
Dentists	959	2
Education/research	15	2
Vets	297	4
Total	1732	58

Table 4: Radiation Protection Licensee Categories and Inspections since 1 August 2014

CONTROL OF AIRCREW EXPOSURE

Under S.I. No. 125 of 2000 the holder of an air operator's certificate is required to evaluate doses received by aircrew to determine if measures to control exposure to cosmic radiation are warranted and to report the results to the EPA. For 2014, the information received from six licensed air operators showed that 190 individuals received doses over 4 mSv, but no doses exceeded the 6 mSv threshold above which air operators must organise the working schedules of aircrew with a view to reducing their exposures. Since monitoring of aircrew began in 2003 there has been a consistent yearly increase in the number of aircrew receiving doses in excess of 1 mSv. This can be attributed to an increase in the number of aircrew required for the operation of new and existing routes as the demand for air travel increases.



LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Prosecutions

In 2014 there was an increase both in the number of prosecutions initiated by the EPA and in those heard by the courts. Of the 14 prosecutions heard, nine resulted in convictions, two defendants were given the benefit of the Probation Act, two were struck out on payment of costs and the final case has been adjourned for sentencing.

Total Fines & Costs	€98,374.94
Costs awarded in DPP cases	€0
Costs awarded in District Court	€75,274.94
Fines awarded in DPP cases	€0
Fines awarded in District Court	€23,100
No. of DPP cases heard	0
No. of District Court prosecutions heard	13

Table 5: Legal Enforcement Activities in 2014

The EPA produces advice and guidance to industry and the public covering a wide range of environmental activities to ensure compliance with best practice.



GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

The Green Public Procurement (GPP) Guidance for the Public Sector was published in July and reported under the National Action Plan for Jobs. Minister for the Environment, Mr Alan Kelly TD, formally launched the Guidance at the *Environment Ireland* conference in September.

INDUSTRIAL REGULATION

Guidance for licensees was issued on:

- bund testing and
- effluent sampling.

Training webinars were presented on:

- air emissions monitoring and
- Operator and Verifier Compliance requirements for annual greenhouse gas emissions reporting and capacity/activity level change reporting.

Waste Transfer Station Sector (Waste): Two draft EPA viewpoints on the use of European Waste Catalogue (EWC) 17 and 19 codes were issued for public consultation during 2014. Feedback is being assessed with a view to finalisation and publishing guidance in 2015.

Landfill Sector (Waste): The EPA Guidance Note on Daily and Intermediate Cover at Landfills was published in 2014.

E-leaflets were widely disseminated via email and social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) on the ban on the common refrigerant gas known as R22.

ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITIES RISK ASSESSMENT

Guidance on Assessing and Costing Environmental Liabilities was published in early 2014, and was supported by a webinar and a dedicated FAQ section on the EPA website.

The EPA also facilitated a training event on the Environmental Liability Regulations. This was part of an EU Commission funded programme providing training for individual Member States across Europe. The event was attended by over 30 people from various stakeholder groups including NGOs, the Insurance Federation, IBEC, Engineers Ireland, NPWS, HSE, UCD, Inland Fisheries Ireland and local authorities.

DRAFT GUIDANCE ON FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Draft guidance on Financial Provisions was put out for consultation in October. Twenty one submissions were received from various stakeholders and representative groups. This guidance will be published in 2015.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)

Guidance and best practice notes for the following areas were put out for consultation:

- ▲ SEA & Climate Change;
- ✓ SEA & Energy;
- Cumulative Effects Assessment and
- SEA & Alternative.

These guidance notes will be published in 2015.

GROUNDWATER

The EPA published guidance to support licensing decisions on direct discharges to groundwater; and published separate guidance for licensees with groundwater contamination to assist licensees in meeting the requirements of the 2010 Groundwater Regulations by 22nd December 2015.

RADIATION EMERGENCY EXERCISES

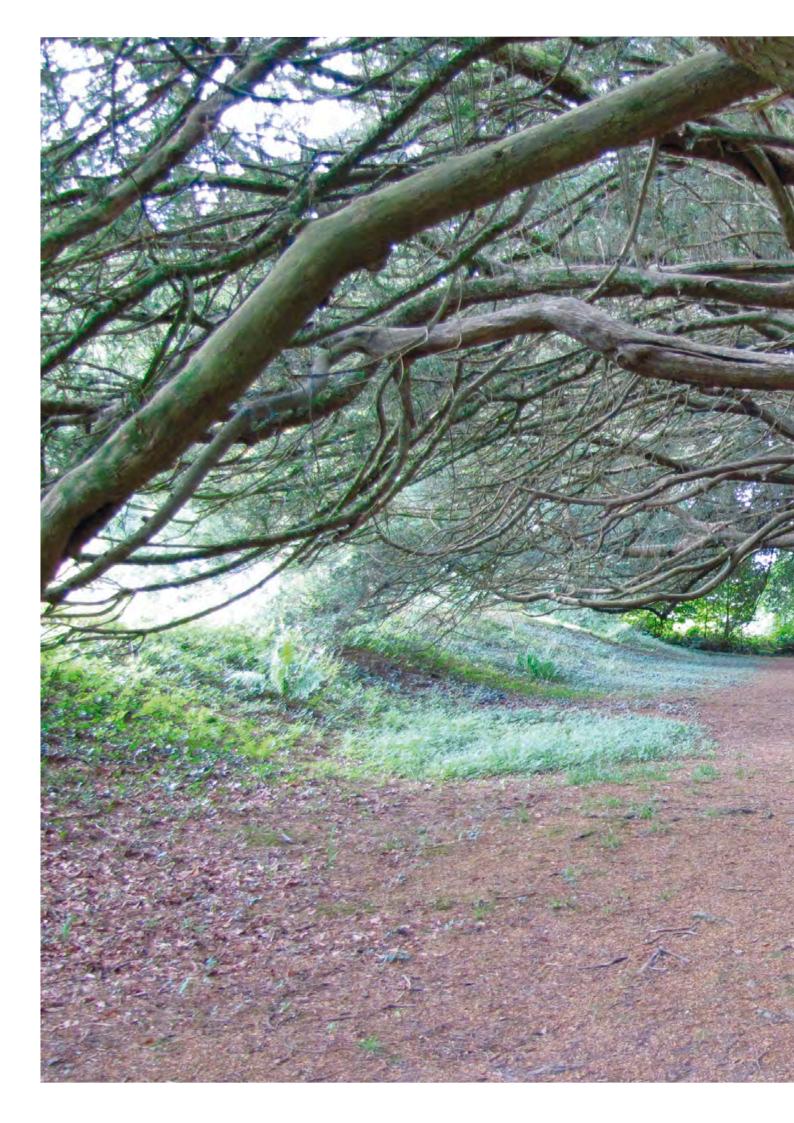
The EPA runs an annual programme of radiation emergency exercises to maintain and develop staff expertise. Since 1 August 2014, the EPA participated in four international radiation emergency exercises organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and two communication tests organised by the European Commission (EC).

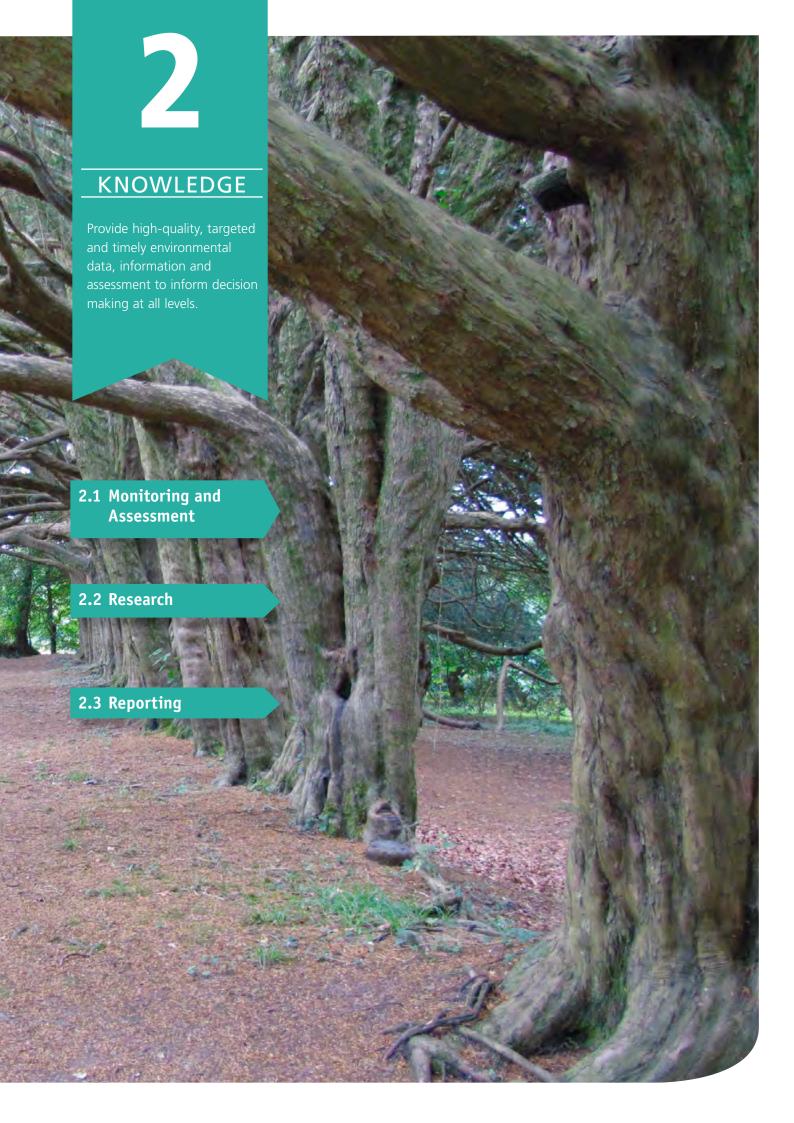


Laura Burke, Alan Kelly and Jane Kenneally pictured at the launch of the Green Public Procurement guidance.

RADIATION PROTECTION ADVICE

S.I. No. 125 of 2000 requires the EPA to establish and maintain a register of approved Radiation Protection Advisers who play an important role in radiation safety. At the end of 2014, there were 36 individuals on the EPA's RPA register in addition to nine corporate body RPAs.





The EPA provides evidence based assessment and timely information to all our stakeholders, to support action to protect and manage the environment.



AIR QUALITY

The EPA is the designated Competent Authority for the implementation of the EU Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Directive and related EU and national air quality legislation. In this role, the EPA manages the national air quality monitoring network, with the input and support of local authorities and also operates the National Reference Laboratory for air quality for Ireland. The annual national air quality monitoring programme, required to meet the EU CAFÉ requirements, was completed in full for 2014. The following changes to the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network were made in 2014:

Monitoring stations at Balbriggan and Mullingar were moved to Portlaoise and Enniscorthy. (Figure 5) shows the current ambient air quality monitoring network.

The report Air Quality in Ireland 2013 – Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality showed that air quality in Ireland compares favourably with other EU member states and all parameters measured were below limit and target values set out in EU and Irish legislation. However, values of particulate matter, ozone, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons were higher than the tighter WHO Air Quality Guideline values.

During 2014, the EPA continued to upgrade its air quality IT infrastructure and maintain the Air Quality Index

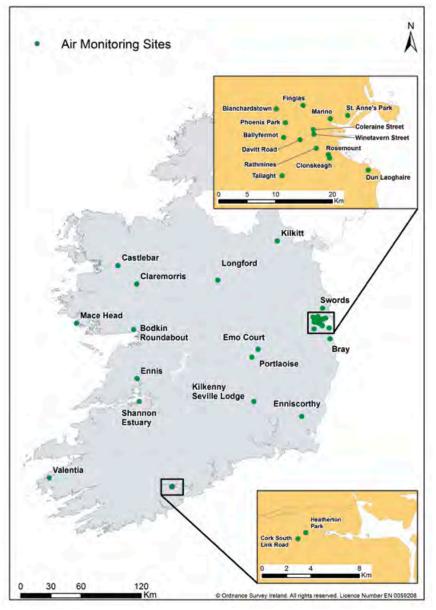


Figure 5: Air Monitoring Sites

for Health (AQIH) online system, to ensure that up-to-date information is made available to the public. The air quality network detected higher than normal concentrations of SO₂ across Ireland on the weekend of 6th and 7th September, the source of which was the ongoing lava eruption from the Bárðarbunga volcano in Iceland. In response, the EPA deployed additional monitors and deposition gauges. An emergency response protocol was prepared to address the management actions to be taken in the event of any further incidents. The EPA also liaised with stakeholders including the HSE, Met Éireann, DECLG and the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning. The air quality network was also invaluable in informing and reassuring the public in relation to air quality issues during and in the aftermath of the fire in Ballymount, Dublin in January 2014.

WATER QUALITY

Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) are to protect all high status waters, prevent further deterioration of all waters and restore degraded surface and ground waters to good status by 2015. The EPA has been assigned a large number of tasks under the **European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003** (S.I. No. 722 of 2003), which come under the category of "coordination and oversight" of the Irish WFD programme.

During 2014, the EPA took on an expanded role in coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the WFD under the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2014.

To support the delivery of this role, a new WFD Integration and Coordination Unit was established in the EPA, which commenced the work of WFD characterisation. Characterisation is the process by which the physical attributes of water bodies and the impacts of pressures from human activities are assessed to assign the level of risk of not meeting WFD objectives to waterbodies. This information will be used to target actions to address water quality issues in the development of new river basin management plans that are to be finalised in 2017.

The EPA also established a new Catchment Management Network involving all local authorities and a range of national agencies, to help improve technical coordination and implementation of the Water Framework Directive. Working Groups under the network will be set up in 2015.

Work undertaken in 2014 included the following:

- Twelve rounds of surface water physico-chemical sampling gave rise to analyses involving 8,198 samples from rivers and lakes, and 2,746 from estuaries.
- Three rounds of groundwater samples were taken from 270 wells and springs.
- Water sampling details are provided in Table 6.
- Ecological assessments are used to assign WFD status to surface waters for reporting to Europe and inclusion in River Basin Management Plans. They also support the development of Programmes of Measures to improve or protect the ecological status of waters. In 2014 EPA scientists undertook ecological surveys at:

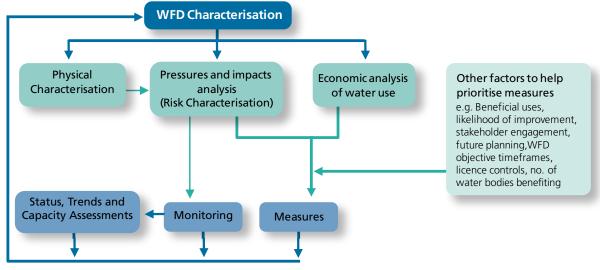
Tier 1: National Management & Oversight

Led by DECLG Policy, regulations and resources Sign-off of River Basin Management Plans

Tier 2: National Technical Implementation & Reporting Led by EPA
Monitoring, assessment and reporting
Evaluation and Implementation of measures
Template for River Basin Management Plans
Monitoring of enforcement tasks and environmental outcomes

Tier 3: Regional Implementation via Water Networks Led by the lead Coordinating Authority Local authority monitoring, licensing and enforcement actions Detailed River Basin Management Plans Implementation of Programme of Measures by relevant public bodies, tracking and reporting, in consultation with EPA

Figure 6: Proposed New Governance Arrangements



Have the measures worked?

Figure 7: Characterisation in the WFD Framework

- 956 river sites on 398 rivers and streams,
- 72 lakes at over 3900 sampling stations,
- 80 transitional and coastal water bodies at 500 sampling stations.

Of the 956 river sites surveyed, 895 were operational/investigative and 61 were long term surveillance sites. Macroinvertebrate Q value assessments were carried out at the 956 sites, while seasonal phytobenthos sampling was carried out at 67 river sites in 2014. A total of 115 River Hydromorphological Assessment Technique (RHAT) surveys were also carried out in 2014 (Table 7).

	Number of samples
WFD SURVEILLANCE	
WFD Surveillance Lakes	1,390
WFD Surveillance Rivers	2,028
WFD Surveillance Priority substances	510
WFD OPERATIONAL	4,270
WFD GROUNDWATER	810
WFD ESTUARINE	2,602
OSPAR	144
Total number of samples	11,754

Table 6: Total Number of Water Samples Analysed in 2014

	Operational/ Investigative	Surveillance	Total
Macroinvertebrate Q Value Assessments (No. Sites)	895	61	956
Phytobenthos Processing & Assessments (Samples)		67	67
River Hydromorphological Assessment Surveys (RHAT)	67	48	115

Table 7: Biological Monitoring of Rivers in 2014

Hydrometric Programme

The EPA continues to monitor the impact of surface water abstractions on river flows and to provide hydrometric data to support national and international reporting obligations, water resource planning and management, flood risk management, infrastructure design and a variety of other activities.

In 2014 the EPA carried out 4,306 assessments of surface water level/flow and groundwater levels around the country. These assessments primarily focused on the existing EPA-local authority network of sites, but also included targeted flow measurements, for example to support the establishment of 95 percentile flows for inclusion in wastewater treatment plant licences. The frequency of site visits is tailored to the site requirements and natural variability in the river channel, e.g. a stable channel with a long time series of data will typically require fewer site visits than a recently activated station with a highly dynamic channel bed.

The data are incorporated and processed in a central software system, and these data are available for download via the EPA's HydroNet webpages (http://hydronet.epa.ie/introduction.htm) or by directly contacting the Hydrometric

& Groundwater Section in the EPA. In 2014 the EPA provided updated estimates of 95% percentile flow statistics, to facilitate assimilative flow calculations for 74 Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) licences. The EPA has also made the national hydrometric dataset for EPA–local authority sites available to the OPW, to support the Flood Study assessments carried out under the various regional CFRAMS programmes.

In 2014 the EPA provided data to support Floods Directive requirements being led by the OPW (CFRAMS). The EPA also provided updated estimates of flow statistics to facilitate assimilative flow calculations to inform licensing decisions.

Groundwater

The EPA completed reports on the hydrogeological aspects of groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems and groundwater body characterisation to inform characterisation risk assessments being carried out by the EPA. The EPA also completed an update of groundwater WFD status to support WFD characterisation.

Groundwater quality monitoring was undertaken for three sampling rounds at the WFD groundwater network (275 sites) in 2014. The generation and processing of data from the groundwater level and spring flow network was undertaken. The groundwater quality and quantitative data are used in the WFD status and trends assessments, and for the Nitrates Derogation and other reports.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) DIRECTIVE

In 2014, the Agency received 49 Screening submissions and 46 Scoping submissions. In addition, 33 submissions were made on Environmental Reports/Draft Plans and 17 submissions on Amendments to Draft Plans.

The EPA prepared submissions on key national and regional plan/programmes including the National Forest Programme; Rural Development Programme; Ireland's Forestry Programme; Shannon Integrated Framework Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy.

It also provided submissions at the SEA scoping stage of the following Plans: the National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture; Seafood Development Programme; Northern Ireland Marine Plan and the three Regional Waste Management Plans.

The EPA also participates in a number of Steering Groups to promote the integration of environmental considerations into national plans and programmes. These include the SEA groups on the Renewable Electricity Policy; Offshore Renewable Energy; Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration and the Sectoral Climate Adaptation Steering Group.

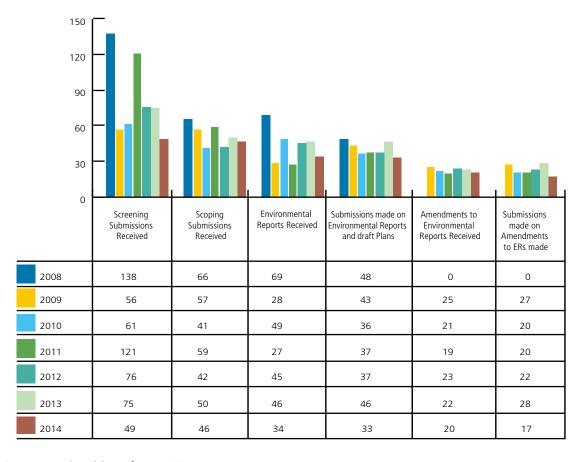


Figure 8: Annual Breakdown of SEA Activity



Environment Laboratory Services

The EPA laboratory services provide the analytical capability to support the implementation of national monitoring programmes and to support the EPA's core roles on licensing and enforcement. The laboratories, located in Kilkenny, Monaghan, Castlebar and Dublin, undertake the analysis of the physico-chemical parameters for rivers, lakes, groundwaters and transitional waters for the WFD surveillance and other monitoring programmes. Each of the laboratories also provides monitoring and analytical services at licensed facilities and undertakes the auditing of wastewater discharge licences. The laboratories in Castlebar, Monaghan and Kilkenny also provided services to the local authorities in these regions.

A major milestone for the EPA laboratories in 2014 was the awarding of the single multi-site accreditation under ISO17025.

In addition, during 2014:

- ▲ The water laboratories analysed a total of 23,566 samples for a range of chemical and, where appropriate, microbiological parameters.
- The first inventory of priority substances emissions to the environment was prepared.
- The laboratories in Kilkenny, Castlebar and Monaghan produced Regional Integrated Water Quality Reports with up to date information on water quality. These reports cover rivers, lakes, groundwaters, transitional and coastal waters and bathing waters and address both chemistry and biology aspects.

These reports were accompanied by county reports for those counties for which regional EPA laboratories provide a service. A key focus of the reports has been to assess the water quality data in the context of the WFD and to identify specific areas that need to be tackled to help meet WFD objectives.

INTERCALIBRATION PROGRAMME

Intercalibration Services

The total number of laboratories participating in the EPA's intercalibration programme increased by three to 144 in 2014. These include local authorities, Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) and contract laboratories, other laboratories supplying data to the EPA and also the EPA's regional laboratories. The sample preparation and distribution elements of the programme continue to be outsourced to an external laboratory.

The register of laboratories, provided for under Section 66 of the EPA Act, 1992, and based on performance of the individual laboratories in the previous year, is available for inspection at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/other/

Instrument Calibration Service

The EPA's Calibration Service provides an accredited calibration service for a range of radiation protection instruments, including survey meters, contamination meters and electronic personal dosimeters.

Since 1 August 2014, 266 radiation monitors were tested by the EPA's Calibration Service of which 12 failed to meet the required standards. This service supports the safe use of ionising radiation by ensuring that monitors used for essential safety checks by users of radiation are compliant with manufacturer's specifications.

In 2014, the EPA commenced a programme of calibrating radiation monitoring instruments for the Civil Defence. These instruments are located in all counties and would be used by the Civil Defence, on behalf of EPA, to make measurements of radiation levels in the aftermath of a radiation emergency.

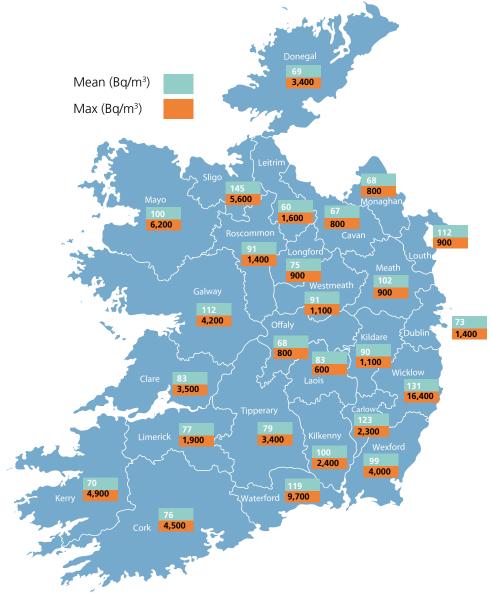


Figure 9: Radon Measurement in Ireland in 2014

Radiation Monitoring

In addition to the radioactivity present in the environment from natural sources, artificial radioactivity has been added due to the testing of nuclear weapons, past nuclear accidents such as those at Chernobyl and Fukushima and routine discharges from nuclear installations. Liquid discharges from the Sellafield nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in the northwest of England are the dominant source of artificial radioactivity in the Irish Sea. Once present in the environment, radionuclides are available for uptake by fish, shellfish, crops and animals and so make their way into the food chain. The EPA's 2014 radiation monitoring programme involved sampling and testing for radioactivity in air, drinking water, seawater, seaweed, sediments, fish, shellfish and other foodstuffs as well as the continuous measurement of ambient gamma dose rate at fixed monitoring stations around the country.

The findings of this monitoring programme showed that while the levels of artificial radioactivity in the Irish environment remain detectable, they are low and do not pose a significant risk to human health.

Radon Measurement

Between 1 August and end December 2014, the EPA radon laboratory measured radon in 1,034 homes. Of these 114 had radon levels above the level at which remedial action is recommended (National Reference Level of 200 Bq/m³). The maximum value measured was 1,260 Bq/m³ in a private house in Galway. Subsequent remedial work in this house substantially reduced the radon levels to close to the National Reference Level (see Figure 9). Summary statistics of the radon measurements made in each county are published on the EPA's website www.epa.ie/radiation.

Verification of Ireland's radiation monitoring obligations under the Euratom Treaty

One of the aims of the EPA's radiation monitoring programme is to fulfil Ireland's obligations under Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty. This requires Member States, including Ireland, to establish the facilities necessary to carry out continuous monitoring of the levels of radioactivity in the air, water and soil. It also stipulates that the European Commission has the right to visit such facilities to verify their operation

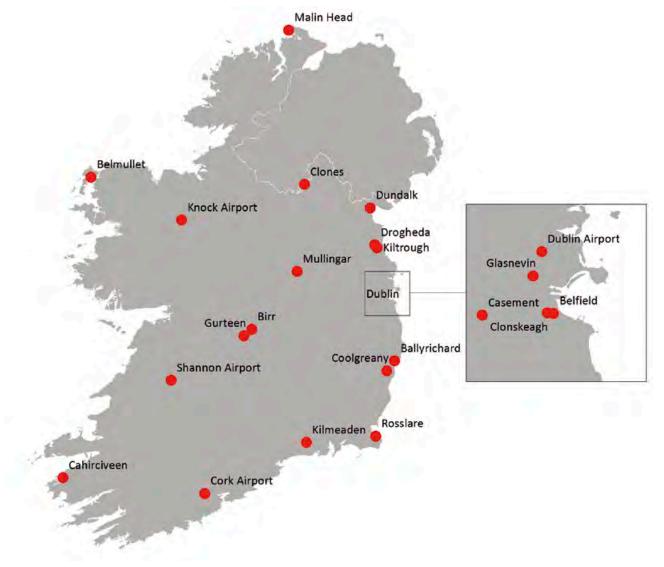


Figure 10: National Radiation Monitoring Network Locations

and efficiency. The main purpose of such visits is to provide an independent assessment of the adequacy of monitoring facilities for environmental radioactivity.

In 2014 a European Commission team of three people carried out a verification visit in Ireland. The verification visit focused on the national environmental monitoring programme, the EPA's radio-analytical laboratory, the national radiation monitoring network and arrangements for maintaining these functions following the merger of the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) and the EPA. The four-day visit included presentations to the verification team on the national programmes, a review of to the radio-analytical laboratory and verification of the radiation monitoring network stations in Clonskeagh, Belfield, Casement, Mullingar, Dundalk, Drogheda, Clones and Knock Airport. The Verification team found that, overall, the national monitoring programme was in compliance with requirements laid out in Article 35. A full report of their findings is expected to be published in 2015.

Radio-analytical Services

The EPA's radio-analytical laboratory is the national laboratory for the measurement of radioactivity and each year analyses a wide range of foodstuffs and environmental samples. This work is undertaken both in support of the EPA's environmental radioactivity monitoring programme and on a contract basis on behalf of external clients. The contract analytical services provided during 2014 included the testing of Irish produce for compliance with the requirements of importing countries, testing of drinking water for compliance with EU regulations and testing of leakage from radioactive sources used in medicine, education and industry. In total, 596 samples were tested between 1 August and the year end. The EPA provides a certification service to exporters of Irish foodstuffs and other produce. The number of product certificates issued between 1 August and 31 December 2014 was 1,273. All certificates indicated levels of radioactivity below required limits.

The EPA also analyses radon in drinking water samples for commercial and domestic customers. The analytical method used is accredited via the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) to ISO 17025. As part of the accreditation process the laboratory participates in proficiency tests and inter-laboratory comparisons. As no such suitable tests have been available in recent years, in 2014 the EPA organised an inter-laboratory comparison for radon in drinking water measurements for interested laboratories in Europe. Laboratories in Portugal, Spain, Finland, Norway and Estonia participated. The results of the comparison will be available in 2015.

NATIONAL RADIATION MONITORING NETWORK

The EPA, with the assistance of Met Éireann, a number of local authorities and the Defence Forces, operates the National Radiation Monitoring Network. This network measures ambient gamma dose rate, radioactivity in air and provides for the collection of rainwater samples. During 2014, ambient gamma dose rate was measured at 15 stations and radioactivity in air was measured at 12 stations. No abnormal levels of radioactivity were observed in 2014. Ambient gamma dose rate data for all stations is published live to the EPA website.

NUCLEAR FACILITIES ABROAD

Monitoring Developments in Nuclear Safety

The EPA represents Ireland on European and international forums on issues relating to nuclear safety. In particular, the EPA is actively involved in the work of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) (including legislation in this area) and initiatives to improve transparency arrangements. During 2014, the EPA advised the Government on developments at nuclear sites in the UK, including Sellafield, and their implications for Ireland, as well as on progress of the UK's plans to build new nuclear power plants. As part of this work, the EPA maintains regular contact with the UK nuclear regulatory authorities.

In 2014, the EPA initiated a project to assess the potential impacts on Ireland of a hypothetical accident at Sellafield. This work is using postulated accident scenarios derived from the Probabilistic Risk Assessment of Sellafield, prepared by a group of international experts for the Irish Government, together with computer models to simulate the transfer of radioactivity to Ireland and to estimate resulting radiation doses to the Irish public.

RADIATION EMERGENCIES AND PREPAREDNESS

In the event of a nuclear accident abroad, the EPA's responsibilities under the National Emergency Plan for Nuclear Accidents (NEPNA) include measuring radioactivity levels in the environment and the food chain, assessing the

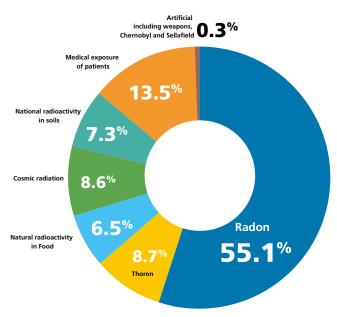


Figure 11: Contribution of Different Radiation Pathways to the Average Radiation Dose to a Person in Ireland

potential impacts on the Irish population and environment and providing advice on protective actions to reduce radiation exposure.

EXPOSURE OF THE IRISH POPULATION TO IONISING RADIATION

Radioactivity from both natural and artificial origins exists throughout the environment. People in Ireland are exposed to this radioactivity through being bombarded by gamma rays from space (cosmic radiation) and from the soil beneath their feet; by radon and thoron in the air they breathe; natural and artificial radioactivity in the food and water they drink and through certain medical tests and procedures. One of the EPA's roles is to assess the level of this exposure and provide advice to stakeholders on ways to protect the public from unnecessary exposure to ionising radiation.

2014 saw the publication of a report that quantifies people's exposure from all sources of radiation in the Irish environment. On average a person in Ireland receives an annual dose of 4,037 microsieverts (µSv) from all sources of radiation. Natural sources of radioactivity, in particular radon in homes, account for 86% of all exposure, while man-made sources contribute approximately 14%, dominated by the beneficial use of radiation in medicine. Doses from other sources such as Sellafield, Chernobyl and occupational exposures account for less than 1%. Figure 11 shows the estimated contribution to the average radiation dose for the different pathways considered in the report. The EPA's website has a Radiation Dose Calculator where people can estimate their own radiation dose.



Effective management of the environment is increasingly science-driven. Through our research and development programme, the EPA is generating the knowledge and expertise to identify pressures, inform policy and develop solutions to environmental challenges.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES HIGHLIGHTS

In 2014, the EPA finalised and published the research strategy for the period 2014–2020. This involved extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including government departments and agencies, the research community, national research funders, and non-governmental organisations. The stated ambition of the strategy is to use knowledge to protect and improve our natural environment and human health.

The objectives of the research strategy are to *Identify Pressures – Inform Policy – Develop Solutions*. Communicating the results of research to relevant public, private and non-governmental bodies is a key part of the programme's contribution to progressing sustainable competitiveness in Ireland.



21 research reports were published in 2014 and these are available at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/

The annual research call in late June 2014 resulted in 171 applications being received in the areas of Climate, Water, Sustainability and Green Enterprise. Following peer review 59 research awards were made – which represented a budget commitment from the EPA of approximately €8 million.

Analysis of the turnaround time indicated that this was a very efficient process in that 95% of the grant awards were made within 18 weeks of the closing date of the research call.

EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

The EPA is supporting Ireland's engagement with the European Commission's Horizon 2020 (H2020) as a National Delegate and National Contact Point for the Climate Action programme and the EPA Director General (Laura Burke) is the Chairperson of the Advisory Group of Experts under the Climate Action programme.

The EPA is a member of the H2020 National Support Network led by Enterprise Ireland and provides significant support to the research community to participate in H2020 via a number of means. The EPA:

- established a H2020 SC5 National Working Group that meet quarterly to discuss and provide feedback on the work programme.
- facilitates partner search requests and
- established a web-based catalogue of Irish experts
- promotes H2020 on EPA webpages, social media and newsletters, etc.

In addition, the EPA reviews proposals, facilitates queries, meets with researchers (academics, SMEs and industries) presents at regional roadshows and hosts an annual event with invited national and international speakers.

The EPA also plays a lead role in both the Climate and Water Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) which are collaborations between European countries to coordinate jointly their research, and fund new transnational research initiatives. The Climate and Water JPI contribute to the overall European response to climate change and to achieving sustainable water systems, respectively. EPA staff act as task force members on two European Innovation Partnerships (Water and Raw Materials), which could offer potential opportunities for increased engagement with H2020.

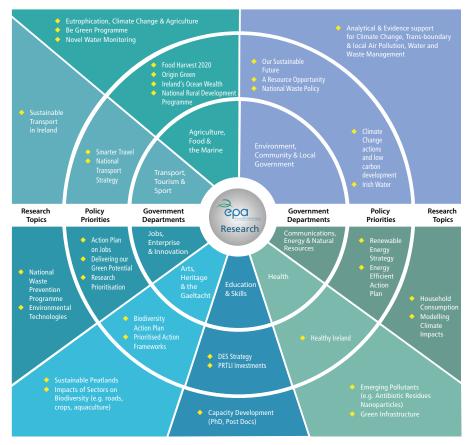


Figure 12: EPA research supporting policy and strategy across Irish governmental departments

PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH ON UNCONVENTIONAL GAS EXPLORATION AND EXTRACTION (UGEE)

UGEE is an emerging issue in Ireland and involves high-volume hydraulic fracturing (fracking) of low-permeability rock to permit the extraction of natural gas on a commercial scale from unconventional sources such as shale gas deposits, coal seams and tight sandstones. The EPA coordinated the advertisement and award of a programme of research on UGEE that will run for a 24-month period. The research will look at the potential impacts on the environment and human health from UGEE projects and operations (including construction, operation and aftercare). The programme is managed by a steering committee comprising the EPA; the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government; the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources; the Geological Survey of Ireland; the Commission for Energy Regulation; An Bord Pleanála; the Northern Ireland Environment Agency; the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland; and the Health Services Executive.

The research is being carried out by a consortium, led by the global environmental and infrastructure management firm CDM Smith Ireland Limited. The consortium includes Queen's University Belfast, British Geological Survey, University College Dublin, University of Ulster, AMEC, and Philip Lee Solicitors.

RADON RESEARCH

The findings of research are an essential foundation for the advice given by EPA to householders and other stakeholders dealing with the problem of indoor radon. The National Radon Control Strategy (NRCS) identified certain knowledge gaps, described below, that are being addressed through research over the course of the strategy.

- A study to update the national assessment of indoor radon levels began in 2014. The results of this study will provide the up-to-date average indoor radon concentration for Irish homes. This figure is an important baseline against which work to reduce the exposure of the population to radon will be measured.
- A study of the effectiveness of the building regulation requirements to install a radon barrier in high radon areas was presented at the 2014 Radon Forum. This work showed that while this requirement does result in a reduction in indoor radon concentrations of about one third, there is room to improve the effectiveness of this measure through improved installation techniques.
- Developing national expertise on remediation of houses with high radon levels is a key strand of the NRCS. Access to the latest research in this area and strengthened links to a network of specialists across the EU is a valuable route to addressing knowledge gaps.

Independent reporting on environmental quality helps to inform decision making by national and local government.



EMISSIONS TRADING

National Emissions Inventories

Ireland's greenhouse gas inventory for the period 1990–2012 was submitted to the EU in 2014. This was reviewed by a UN expert review team in 2014. There were no significant findings and the national inventory was affirmed as being of high quality.

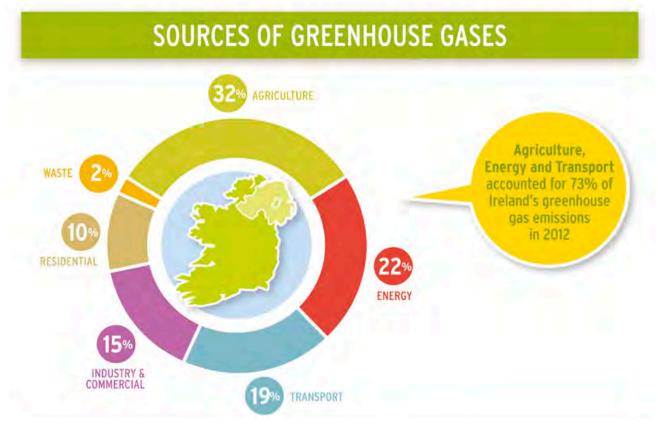


Figure 13: Sources of Greenhouse Gases

Emissions Projections

Greenhouse gas emission projections to 2030 were published in May. The figures show that Ireland faces considerable challenges in moving to a low carbon economy. In particular, there is a significant risk that, even under the best-case scenario, Ireland will not meet its EU 2020 targets.

The online Article 21 Report (on the implementation of the ETS Directive) was completed by the 30 June deadline.

NATIONAL EMISSIONS CEILINGS DIRECTIVE REPORTING

- The air pollutant inventory (NO_x, SO₂, NMVOCs and NH₃)
 for 1990–2013 was submitted to the EU Commission
 under the National Emissions Ceiling Directive (NECD) in
 December 2014.
- The extended air pollutant inventory (NO_x, SO₂, NMVOCs and NH₃ plus CO, PMs, heavy metals and POPs) for 1990—2012 was submitted to the UNECE as required under the Convention for Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) in February 2014.

Under the EU National Emission Ceilings Directive (NECD) and international Gothenburg Protocol under the UNECE Convention for Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) Convention, Ireland is required to limit emissions of four transboundary air pollutants by 2010 and each year thereafter. These four pollutants are responsible for long-range transboundary air pollution such as acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution.

Ireland's latest inventory submission estimates emissions of NO_x and NMVOC which exceed the NECD national emissions ceilings for all years since 2010, but considers that this has arisen due to several factors, including:

- New sources that have been added to the inventory, which either were not known when the NECD ceilings were set or for which there was no available methodology at the time.
- Emission factors and methodologies which have been improved in accordance with best practice, resulting in an increase to the estimated emissions. These revisions could not have been foreseen when the NECD ceilings were set.

The original 1999 Protocol was amended in 2012 to include national emission reduction commitments to be achieved by 2020 and beyond. In parallel with the revised Gothenburg Protocol the NEC Directive is currently being reviewed as part of the EU Clean Air Policy Package. The inclusion of emission reduction commitments for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and thereby also black carbon as a component of PM2.5 was amongst other amendments to both legislations.

Another novelty of the revised Protocol is a flexibility mechanism that allows Parties – under clearly defined circumstances – to propose adjustments to their emission inventories or emission reduction commitments, thus recognising both the uncertainties inherent in estimating and projecting emission levels and the need for continuous scientific and methodological improvements under the Convention.

Ireland participated in an adjustment process established for the revised Gothenburg Protocol to provide adjusted national emission estimates for NO₂ and NMVOCs, which differ from the best science inventory (i.e. the national totals submitted to the Commission by December 31st 2014), for the purpose of compliance with the Directive's ceilings.

The justification and quantification of each adjustment application was provided in detail and was included in the second data submission in January 2015. Ireland's proposed adjustment application is currently pending the decision of the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP) Steering Body supported by technical bodies of the Convention who assess whether the adjustment is consistent with the circumstances described in the adjustment procedure guidance.

Ireland participated in an adjustment process established for the Gothenburg Protocol of the CLRTAP Convention, to provide an adjusted national emission for NO_x and NMVOCs, which differ from the best science inventory (i.e. the national totals submitted to the Commission by December 31st 2014), for the purpose of compliance with the Directive's ceilings.

The justification and quantification of each adjustment application was provided in detail and was included in the second data submission in January 2015.

AIR QUALITY

The EPA successfully delivered on new EU reporting requirements that came into force on 1 January 2014. The requirements include hourly reporting to the EEA/EU of data on specific air pollutants such as ozone, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide. Monthly bulletins for stakeholders on particulate matter, ozone and nitrogen dioxide are now also produced.

LAND COVER

The European Environment Agency (EEA) coordinates a land monitoring programme on landcover called CORINE. CORINE is an acronym for "Co-ORdinated INformation on the Environment" and is a mapping programme devised to provide standardised and comparable spatial data on landcover across the European continent. In Ireland, the EPA has been coordinating the development of the CORINE project since 2000. To date CORINE has been developed for 1990, 2000 and 2006. It is the only national landcover dataset available in Ireland and provides a time series of landcover and landcover change since 1990. In 2014 the EPA developed a new CORINE data series for 2012.

CORINE 2012 was developed using a new and innovative approach to remote sensing and mapping. This allowed the dataset to be developed using a semi-automated methodology and also resulted in improved data accuracy. Ireland was one of the first countries to deliver CORINE 2012 to the EEA, who approved and accepted the data. CORINE 2012 is available to the public to view or to download on the EPA website at http://gis.epa.ie/.

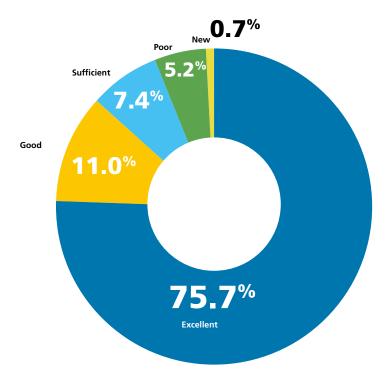


Figure 14: Bathing Water Quality

BATHING WATER QUALITY

The results of the 2013 bathing season were published by the EPA in May in the annual bathing water report. Throughout the 2014 bathing season results of the latest bathing water quality – provided by local authorities – were made available to the public on the EPA's online bathing water system "SPLASH". SPLASH and the EPA bathing water systems were also updated to facilitate notifications of potential incidents at bathing sites. And the EPA worked with the HSE on setting action levels for public health risk warnings.

Where the EPA assessed that a bathing water may not meet the required "sufficient" standard, meetings were held with the relevant local authorities to advise them of the need for development of suitable management plans.

The bathing water team also successfully delivered all required information and bathing water assessments to the European Environment Agency on time.

NATIONAL WASTE REPORTING

In March the EPA published preliminary municipal solid waste data for 2012; and in August the National Waste Report for 2012 was published. This showed that all EU waste reduction targets are on-track albeit with risks around achievement of future targets such as 2015 End-of-Life-Vehicle recycling and recovery targets and 2016 targets for collection of portable batteries.

- 2012 Waste Statistics Regulation datasets were submitted to the CSO (waste treatment dataset and waste capacity and location dataset)/Eurostat's web portal.
- ✓ Final IPPC (2012–2013) and WID (Waste Incineration Directive, 2012–2013) and First IED (2014) Implementation Reports were submitted to EU Commission in September.
- Key national waste statistics for 2013 were published for household waste statistics, residual waste treatment trends and compost & anaerobic digestion statistics.
- Business analysis commenced to understand how the EPA obtains and uses waste data with the aim of streamlining and harmonising data reporting from third parties.

EUROPEAN POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTER (E-PRTR)

- The three-yearly E-PRTR Implementation Report for the period 2010–2012 was submitted to the European Commission in September.
- ▲ The PRTR published a report discussing the 2012 data compiled under this Regulation.

PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS) REPORTING

The Annual Report on regulation of persistent organic pollutants was submitted to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and the European Commission under Article 12 (EC) No 850/2004 in October.

REGISTRATION, EVALUATION, AUTHORISATION AND RESTRICTION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES (REACH)

The EPA continues to work with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) and relevant government departments to ensure implementation of the REACH Regulation. Work in 2014 included reporting under the Chemicals Act 2008 and follow up investigations regarding 7 RAPEX notifications relating to contraventions of the REACH Regulation, deemed to pose a serious environmental risk.

NATIONAL DOSE REGISTER

Each year Approved Dosimetry Services supplying dosimeters to people working with radiation in Ireland must submit all radiation dose measurements to the National Dose Register (NDR) which is maintained by the EPA. In 2014 data on the radiation doses received by 10,000 workers in Ireland were submitted to the NDR. The NDR has been in existence since 2012 and helps support radiological protection by being a source of statistical information on distributions and trends of doses incurred by occupationally exposed workers. Such data were used in assessing the radiation doses received by the Irish population for the 2014 publication on this topic. The NDR also provides a mechanism for compilation of national reports to international organisations such as the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and the European Commission.

INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW SERVICE MISSION

There are binding legal requirements in both the Euratom Nuclear Safety and Radioactive Waste Directives that the national regulatory framework for radiation safety, including the regulatory body, is subject to periodic international peer review. In practice these peer reviews are organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) through an agreement with the EU and comprise a detailed examination of national provisions against the IAEA's Safety Standards. Such a mission will take place in Ireland in 2015 and considerable effort was devoted during 2014 to the preparation for this mission including a national self-assessment led by EPA.

THE JOINT CONVENTION ON THE SAFETY OF SPENT FUEL MANAGEMENT AND ON THE SAFETY OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT (THE JOINT CONVENTION)

Adopted on 5th September 1997, Ireland is a Contracting Party to the Joint Convention. The Convention applies to spent fuel and radioactive waste resulting from a wide range of practices. It aims to ensure a high level of safety worldwide in spent fuel and radioactive waste management; that there are effective defences against potential hazards including the prevention of accidents with radiological consequences. Implementation of the provisions of the Convention is monitored through a review process. Every three years Contracting Parties submit annual reports which detail national arrangements with respect to waste management to demonstrate compliance with the Convention. During 2014, the EPA played a very significant role in developing Ireland's 5th National Report which was submitted for the Convention review meeting which will take place in May 2015.

EUROPEAN NUCLEAR SAFETY DIRECTIVE

During 2014, the EPA assisted the DECLG in preparing Ireland's first report on national implementation of the 2009 Nuclear Safety Directive. This Directive made international nuclear safety principles legally binding in all EU Member States for the first time. The EPA also contributed to the finalisation of a new nuclear safety European Directive in 2014. The lessons identified from the 2011 nuclear accident in Fukushima prompted the new Directive so as to provide a stronger framework for EU nuclear safety.







The EPA continually strives to improve our communications and educational resources to better inform decision makers about the environment and to influence business, the public and the organisations that we work with.

EPA WEBSITE

The EPA's website is our main communication tool for disseminating information to the public, with over 1.9 million visits in 2014.

In 2014 one of the key actions for the EPA and RPII merger was to deliver a website that represented a unified interface for external stakeholders and the new functions of the merged organisation. A number of issues including content branding, information architecture and hosting of the website were considered and the optimal solution of incorporating the RPII content into the existing EPA website was implemented. A review of the functionality was also carried out and a number of enhancements and improvements were made, including for example incorporating the Radon Maps into the EPA Mapping System and a new charting system to display readings from live radon monitoring stations.

We will continue to implement a programme of on-going development and improvement of the website to ensure that timely and accessible information is made available to all our stakeholders.

COMMUNICATING OUR KEY MESSAGES

The EPA Media Relations Office provides a 24 hour service to the media. In 2014 the Office handled 571 media queries and issued 39 press releases, which resulted in over 10,000 newspaper articles in which the EPA was mentioned.

The Director General's end of year statement was published, capturing the highlights of the EPA's main activities and achievements in 2013. Three editions of *EPANews*, the corporate electronic newsletter, were disseminated to over 5,000 subscribers during the year.

The EPA continued to use social media as a way to communicate its messages, and added two more accounts – @EPARadiation and @EPACatchments. By the end of the year the EPA had over 8,600 followers on Twitter, across six accounts, and had issued 8,171 tweets.



The EPA sponsored a lesson on the uses and dangers of X-rays in *Science and Technology in Action*, a multimedia resource for second level schools.

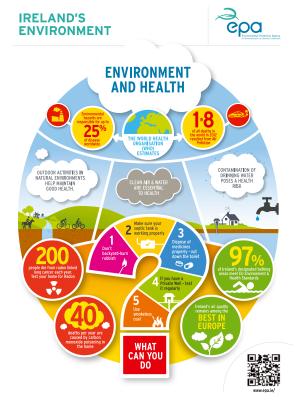
In 2014 the EPA continued to promote its education materials and other online resources via targeted placements of articles in environmental and educational magazines.

The EPA again provided support funding for the twelfth series of the *Eco Eye* TV programme, which was broadcast on RTE1 early in the year. Viewing figures averaged almost 600,000 viewers per programme. The EPA agreed to support a further series and pre-production was largely completed in 2014. This series continues to raise environmental awareness and provide the public with comprehensive information about environmental issues.

Infographics and Factsheets

A series of factsheets and infographics providing summary information and assessment on a range of environmental topics was added to during 2014. Graphic visual representations were used to summarise the main information on topics such as

- environment and health,
- bathing water and
- environment and the economy.



These have been used to disseminate scientific information in an easy to understand format.

In addition, key messages from these products were disseminated via the EPA Twitter accounts throughout 2014.

The EPA, as part of its expanded role in the Water Framework Directive, developed a six day catchment science course during 2014. This course is to help build national capacity to understand and take action on water quality issues. The first four days of the pilot run of the course took place during December.

CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS

EPA staff engaged with stakeholders at a range of national and local events during 2014 including the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (where the EPA also presented a Special Environmental Award); the Native Species Weekend in Dublin Zoo and the National Ploughing Championships in Laois. These events provide an ideal opportunity to engage with our stakeholders and to help raise awareness of the environment and what people can do to improve it. Materials and support were also provided to 40 other events throughout the year.

The 10th Environment Ireland conference took place on 11 September 2014. This is Ireland's major annual conference on environmental policy and management and is organised in association with the EPA and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Key themes for the 2014 event included:

- ▲ Environmental Policy
- ▲ Flood Risk Management

- ▲ Climate Change
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Natural Capital

Some other key conferences and events held during the year included:

■ The National Water Event 2014: "Protecting and Improving Water Quality". This event is a key forum for local authorities, regulators, and water professionals to learn about current changes in Ireland's water policy and practices.

▲ Three Climate Change public lectures:

- Professor Thomas Stocker (IPCC Working Group 1 Co-chair and lead author of its report on the Physical Science Basis of Climate Change) presented his lecture – Climate change now: The facts in May.
- ✓ In October, Professor Edenhofer, Co-Chair IPCC Working Group III, delivered a lecture entitled Climate Change Now – Emissions, Limits and Possibilities.
- And in November Dr Chris Field spoke about Climate Change Now – Impacts, Risks and Management Options. Chris Field is one of the key authors of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report on climate change.

These lectures attracted audiences of over 300 and, for the first time, the lectures were webcast – allowing people who could not attend the venue to participate and ask questions of the speakers. Over 150 people joined by live webcast and an additional 100 joined from a simultaneous broadcast to a lecture theatre in University College Cork.

Recordings of the lecture series are now available on the EPA website at www.epa-pictaural.com and the EPA YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/epaireland.

- ▲ National Radon Forum: The 2014 National Radon Forum was held in Kilkenny in February. The Forum brings together people who have a role to play in reducing the risk from radon in Ireland. The Forum was opened by then Minister for the Environment, Mr Phil Hogan TD, who took the opportunity to launch the Government's National Radon Control Strategy for Ireland.
- MacGill Summer School: The EPA's Director General presented at the 34th Annual MacGill Summer School in Glenties, County Donegal. She discussed issues under the theme "Climate change is for real – what can and should we do?"
- The EPA and the Irish Centre for European Law co-hosted a conference on the theme of *Redress for Environmental Damage*. The conference was attended by over 100 delegates including lawyers from the public, private and NGO sectors and regulators from other jurisdictions.

Providing timely and easily accessible information to all our stakeholders contributes to public participation in environmental decision-making and gives people the information they need to make environmentally friendly choices.





Fiona McCoole, Matt Crowe and Laura Burke pictured at the launch of My Local Environment.

MY LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

The EPA's new web-based information initiative *My Local Environment* was formally launched in February 2014 by the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government. My Local Environment is an interactive web mapping tool that provides easy access to information about the environment close to where people live, work and play. It is accessible via the EPA website and sits with other map tools, such as the bathing water information tool (SPLASH) and EPA Maps.

IRELAND'S ENVIRONMENT

The EPA's Ireland's Environment web resource provides the public and decision makers with regularly updated information on key environmental indicators. Information is available in a variety of formats including videos, dashboards, graphs, infographics, environmental assessments and links to further information.

The resource was enhanced in 2014 with the inclusion of additional factsheets and infographics on Nature and Biodiversity, Bathing Water and Environment & Health.



Figure 15: Environmental Indicators Dashboard

There were in excess of 182,000 hits to this section of our website in 2014 – an increase of 25% on the previous year.

CLIMATE SCIENCE COMMUNICATIONS

2014 was a very successful year for communications, with the co-chairs of the International Panel on Climate Change working groups presenting the findings in the 5th Assessment Report at the EPA's Climate Change lecture series.

The EPA also published a series of opinion pieces on climate change in the national newspapers. These were linked to the publication of the International Panel on Climate Change reports. There was also significant media coverage of statements and comments by the EPA on the issue of climate change including editorial commentary. EPA speakers also featured in the climate change features of *Science Squad* on RTE.

The EPA supported the *Strange Weather* exhibition in the Science Gallery, Trinity College Dublin. Visualisations of climate change issues were launched including visualising carbon emissions in the context of geographical locations (below: Pigeon House, Dublin).

RADON AWARENESS

During 2014 two new animation videos were developed to provide information to the public on testing for radon, and on reducing high concentrations of radon in a home. These videos are available on the EPA's website (epa.ie) and YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/EPAIreland).

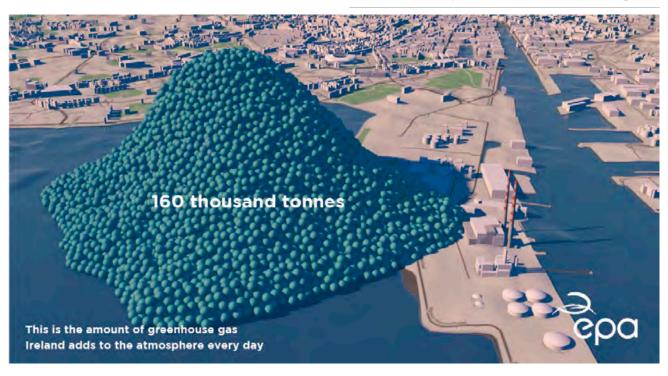
In November, a radon awareness campaign was run in County Mayo. The objectives of this campaign were to raise awareness of the risks from radon in Mayo and to encourage homeowners to test their homes. Elements of this campaign included:

- ▲ Two public meetings in Ballina;
- Briefing of Mayo TDs and Senators;
- Dissemination of radon information packs to all homes;
- Online and social media advertising and
- ▲ Advertisements in local papers and on local radio stations

The campaign resulted in a five-fold increase in the number of requests for advice and testing kits and an increase in the number of radon tests carried out (the equivalent of 2.5 years' worth of testing for County Mayo).

Summary information on radon awareness and action

Awareness of radon among Irish Adults	76% 🙂
Number of Irish homes tested for radon to date.	58,482 😀
Number of Irish homes <u>predicted</u> to have high indoor radon concentrations	91,000
Percentage of high radon homes identified by testing	9% 😕



We strive to influence positive behavioural change by supporting businesses, communities and householders to be more resource efficient.



NATIONAL WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

The National Waste Prevention Programme promotes a resource efficient Ireland by tackling inefficient consumption and production. The programme has three main strands:

- Supporting resource efficiency and waste prevention by providing expertise and financial backing for projects/ initiatives;
- Measuring progress through waste reporting and statistics;
 and
- Implementing statutory obligations in relation to hazardous waste management.

GREEN ECONOMY & GREENING SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

2014 saw the publication of the EPA resource efficiency strategy *Towards a Resource Efficient Ireland*. This document provides a strategy around the vision: "Living Better, Using Less" and the overarching objective is to implement EU and national policy on resource efficiency and to break the link between economic growth and environmental impact. Incorporating Ireland's National Waste Prevention Programme, it sets out priorities for preventing wastage and unnecessary consumption of materials, energy and water. Ireland's early adoption of waste prevention and resource efficiency has been recognised by the European Environment Agency in its 2014 publication on waste prevention in Europe.



In 2014, the EPA resource efficiency programme continued to deliver substantive results in preventing and minimising waste of natural resources and energy though its *BeGreen* resource efficiency programmes. 2014 results from *BeGreen* programmes such as *Green Business*, *Green Hospitality* and *Green Healthcare* identified economic savings in excess of €7 million, with further potential savings of another €7 million, stemming from an investment by the EPA of approximately €1.2 million.

More details on all activities can be found on the website at: http://www.epa.ie/begreen/. This site was entirely revamped in 2014 to provide a more contemporary and attractive portal into the extensive materials produced by the National Waste Prevention Programme in recent years.

SMART FARMING

Following an earlier pilot phase, national implementation of the Smart Farming initiative began in 2014. The programme looks at ways to improve farm returns through better resource management. Thirty on-farm resource efficiency assessments were carried out with an average cost saving of €6,600 per farm identified; and more than 600 farmers participated in on-farm discussion groups where the assessment findings were shared. Led by the IFA in conjunction with the EPA, the initiative brings together the knowledge and expertise of other partners including Teagasc, UCD and SEAI.



LOCAL AUTHORITY PREVENTION NETWORK

Coordinated by the EPA, the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) draws together most local authority personnel undertaking activities on waste prevention and resource efficiency in their local areas. In 2014, 16 projects, representing 26 local authorities and two Regional Waste Management Offices, received a total grant aid of ¶92,000, and the remaining local authorities also participated in the Network at some level. In 2014, members of the LAPN continued to engage and collaborate with individuals, communities, businesses and other organisations around the country:

Monaghan County Council ran an "ECOtourism" initiative working with local hotels to reduce resource use, produced waste prevention packs for business, and also carried out work with youth groups, Tidy Towns, and the Taste of Monaghan.

Clare County Council gave training to Burren Eco-tourism Network businesses and Clean Technology Centre gave feedback on the business environmental plans.

Galway County Council worked on the Stop Food Waste challenge and also on the Household Hazardous Waste Initiative as well general resource efficiency work with businesses and the community.

Sligo County Council greened the Fleadh Cheoil for its first year in the town, working with the festival committee and local businesses.

The Eastern Midlands Waste Management Region is running a series of repair cafes within the region in conjunction with the local authorities during 2014 and 2015.

Cork County Council continued its work on resource efficiency with communities and festivals

Kilkenny County Council joined up with Savour Kilkenny Food Festival to promote food waste prevention. Over the 2 day festival, nine cookery demonstrations were given on how to use leftovers creatively.

Wexford County Council ran the Household Hazardous Waste Initiative as well as the "Use Less at the Seaside" project in conjunction with Clare and Kerry.

Dublin City Council worked on greening the Bloom Festival in the Phoenix Park and sponsored a garden highlighting food waste and promoting food waste prevention. Clean Technology Centre also sponsored this garden.

Mayo County Council worked with the local Connaught Creative Resource Centre which facilitates reuse of materials from industry in the region in creative applications in schools and other activities.

Roscommon County Council worked to green some local festivals and were also involved in work with local hospitals and care homes in conjunction with the Green Healthcare programme.

Waterford City and County Council worked with the local festival and stallholders, as well as businesses and local schools on waste prevention initiatives.

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is running an ongoing Greensave mentoring programme for SMEs, public bodies and the voluntary sector to help save costs through reducing resource use.

Limerick City and County Council worked on food waste with communities.

Carlow County Council worked closely with local groups to promote waste prevention, including with the Taste of Carlow festival; with local publicans and water conservation work with Tidy Towns groups.

Clare, Kerry and **Wexford County Councils** worked together on "Using Less at the Seaside", a programme examining waste and practices from holiday campsites.



STOP FOOD WASTE

During 2014 the Stop Food Waste programme continued to inform and engage with consumers and businesses on food waste, and to promote composting unavoidable food waste at home.

In 2014 Stop Food Waste had information stands at numerous events around the country including Electric Picnic, the Ploughing Championships, Savour Kilkenny and other food festivals. Presence at these events was facilitated by local authorities and sharing stand space with other organisations, and by involving Master Composter volunteers.

The following local authorities worked through LAPN and the Stop Food Waste programme to run food waste challenges during 2014 with community groups in their areas:

Clare; Cork City; Cork County; Donegal; Fingal; Galway County; Laois; Louth; Mayo; Meath; Roscommon; South County Dublin; Waterford; Westmeath; Wexford and Wicklow.

COMMUNITY REUSE NETWORK

Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI) is an all-Ireland umbrella body that represents community-based organisations involved in reuse. CRNI is funded by the EPA and is the national body for reuse with a broad stakeholder base including grassroots reuse organisations, the wider environmental and social enterprise sectors, policy makers, government officials and the general public. CRNI sits on a number of bodies including the National Waste Prevention Committee (NWPC), the Social Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Task Force (SEETF), Eco-tourism Ireland and the European-wide reuse network (RREUSE).

The majority of CRNI's members are social enterprises and the network members provide substantial benefits in both environmental and socio-economic terms.

Environmental benefits Socio-economic benefits ✓ Waste prevention ✓ Job creation for

- Diversion of valuable materials from landfill
- ▲ Resource efficiency
- Educational value of promoting reuse to a wider public
- Job creation for disadvantaged areas and marginalised people
- Employment training and skills training
- The provision of quality essentials at affordable prices
- Boosting local economies

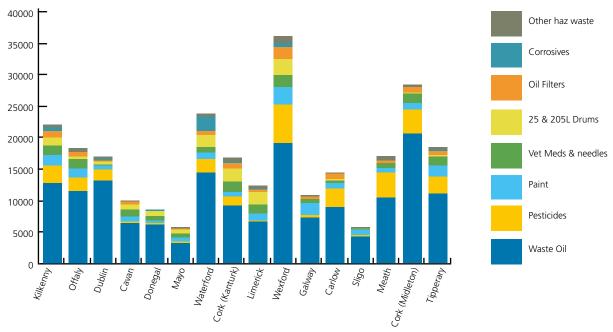


Figure 17: Type and quantity (kg) of farm hazardous waste collected during 2013 and 2014

HAZARDOUS WASTE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

The revised National Hazardous Waste Management Plan for the period 2014–2020 was published. The plan was developed in accordance with Section 26 of the Waste Management Acts 1996, and covers a period of six years to 2019.

Farm Hazardous Waste Bring Centres

The EPA teamed up with Teagasc, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, local authorities in Galway, Carlow, Sligo, Meath, Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Offaly, Dublin, Cavan, Donegal, Mayo, Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Wexford, WEEE Ireland, European Recycling Platform and RILTA Environmental Ltd (a hazardous waste contractor) to facilitate the collection, recovery and disposal of hazardous waste from farms. The farm hazardous campaign was also promoted and supported by Bord Bia, IFA, ICMSA, IFFPG, livestock mart owners and some agricultural cooperatives and merchants.

Between 2013 and 2014 over 3000 farmers used the hazardous waste collection centres in 16 centres. Over 350 tonnes of farm hazardous waste has been removed out of the Irish environment during a four week period in 2013 and a six week period in 2014 (see Figure 17).

NATIONAL RADON CONTROL STRATEGY 2014-2018



Radon gas is linked with 260 lung cancer cases in Ireland each year. While public awareness of radon is relatively high at 76% nationally, the proportion of homes that have been tested for radon remains very low. Responding to these facts, the Government published the National Radon Control Strategy (NRCS) in 2014.

This strategy sets out the broad range of measures needed to comprehensively tackle the radon problem in Ireland and ultimately, to reduce the number of radon-related lung cancers. The NRCS Action Plan includes 30 specific actions to implement these measures over a four year period. These actions are grouped under six thematic areas:

- Radon prevention in new buildings
- Use of property transactions to drive action on radon
- ▲ Raising awareness and encouraging action on radon
- ▲ Advice and guidance for individuals with high radon levels
- Promoting confidence in radon services and
- ▲ Addressing radon in workplaces and public buildings

The EPA is working in partnership with a number of Government Departments and Agencies to progress these actions. Priorities for Year 1 of the NRCS include training for building site staff and professionals to ensure that radon protection measures are correctly implemented in new houses; planning for a dedicated radon website to provide a one-stop-shop for radon information for the public and professionals alike; and working towards a national communications strategy to drive action on radon in Ireland.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE AND RADON

The EPA works closely with international partners to share experience and to develop best practice. The Radon National Action Plan Workshop organised by the Autorité de Sûreté Nucléaire (the French Nuclear Safety Authority) in September brought together those with responsibility for implementing national radon plans from a wide range of countries. International organisations such as the World Health Organisation, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the EU Commission also shared their experience and advice at this workshop. The key finding for Ireland is that while Ireland's radon problem is severe by international standards, the approach being taken as set out in the NRCS is consistent with best practice available in other countries.





In order to deliver on our environmental obligations and strategic objectives we will continue to work with and through others to effect positive outcomes for the environment.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITY

Climate Change

The EPA represented Ireland at three meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2014. These finalised the two major volumes of its 5th Assessment Report on impacts of and adaptation to climate change, which was published in March, and mitigation of climate change, which was published in May. The Synthesis Report for the 5th Assessment Report was published in November. These reports, which represented the state of scientific knowledge on climate change, form the basis for policy development at global, regional and national levels. The reports are also of value for key sectors in advancing mitigation and adaptation actions as well as being tools for education and training.

The EPA continued to support the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government's work on international climate change including representing Ireland at Expert Meetings under the Greek and Italian Presidencies. The EPA provided scientific support at national and EU levels during meetings of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, including at its ministerial meeting in Lima. This included leading and advising on negotiations and working closely with experts from other member states and the Commission.

The EPA also supported various government departments for national engagement with EU Climate Change Committee Working Groups including on land-use, land-use change and adaptation.

Radiological Protection

The EPA meets regularly with its counterparts in the UK to discuss radiological and nuclear issues. In 2014, these discussions centred around Sellafield, new nuclear build in the UK, post-Fukushima nuclear safety actions, the UK's plans for developing a Geological Disposal Facility for nuclear waste,

nuclear environmental discharges, Irish radioactive waste strategy and nuclear emergency planning and international developments in the area.

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

The EPA, in its role as National Focal Point for Ireland, continued to coordinate environmental information exchange with the EEA and to maintain and develop the national network and facilitate and coordinate contacts, requests and deliveries between national and EU levels. As part of this the EPA coordinates the submission of national priority data reporting to the EEA for a range of topics ranging from air quality and biodiversity to water quality. In 2014 Ireland achieved 100% compliance with the reporting requirements, one of only two countries to do so.

The EPA actively worked with the EEA in supporting the development of the next pan-European State of Environment Report. This included preparing a national assessment and input to various environmental thematic assessments.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Network for Ireland's Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (NIECE) provides the framework for an integrated national approach to the enforcement of environmental legislation by the following agencies:

- 34 local authorities who play a key role alongside the EPA in environmental enforcement;
- the National Parks and Wildlife Service;
- An Garda Síochána;
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- ▲ the Environmental Protection Agency



Local authorities and the EPA had combined responsibility for regulating over 8,600 permits across Ireland, and enforcing more than 500 environmental protection requirements contained in more than 100 pieces of legislation.

An average of 152,000 site inspections are conducted each year. Of these, 134,000 were planned and the remaining 18,000 were in response to complaints, incidents or investigations.

Public complaints are dealt with by implementing systematic complaint response systems, national complaints lines, a smartphone App and online complaint forms. The National Environmental Complaints Line (NECL) continues to complement local authority environmental complaint phonelines.

A core part of the network is the working groups of experienced practitioners from relevant agencies to tackle particular implementation issues. These are small focus groups with specific tasks as defined in their terms of reference.

The working groups cover a variety of topics including RMCEI Inspections, complaint investigation, national waste collections permits, packaging waste, waste and waste tyres, historic landfills, solvent & deco paints, air & noise, septic tanks, water quality, drinking water safety plans, pesticides, and weee and battery regulations.

The outputs of the working groups (e.g. enforcement actions, enforcement planning, guidance documents, protocols, training) are disseminated to relevant public authority enforcement staff through national Enforcement Networks or via national conferences.

The third Environmental Law Conference was hosted by the EPA and the Irish Centre for European Law. The EPA is represented on the Board of the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment and the Irish Environmental Prosecutors' Network. The latter co-hosted a seminar with the Irish Environmental Law Association.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreements

The EPA now has in place 14 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreements with various organisations that have an involvement in, or contribute to, matters relating to the environment. Eight of these MOUs are currently published on

the EPA website, while the other six are being reviewed and updated and will be published once finalised – where agreed with the other party.

National Consultations

In 2014 the EPA made a number of formal submissions on national policy development.

EPA Submission on Draft National Forestry Programme

This is the submission made by the Agency on the Draft National Forestry Programme and associated SEA

EPA Submission on Draft Rural Development Programme

Submission made by the EPA on the Draft Rural Development Programme and associated SEA

EPA Submission on Draft National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2014

The Agency's submission on the Draft National Landscape Strategy 2014 and associated SEA Environmental Report

EPA Submission on Draft National Peatlands Strategy

The Agency's position on the Draft Strategy and associated SEA

EPA Submission to the DECLG in relation to WEEE & Batteries aspects of the Producer Responsibility Initiative review report

EPA Comments and Observations on PRI Review Final Report – WEEE and Batteries Chapters

EPA response DCENR Public ConsultationEPA response to Green Paper on Energy Policy in Ireland

The Regulation of Household Waste Collection

Consultation on the report on Tyres and Waste Tyres in the PRI Sector in Ireland

Consultation Document

EPA Submission on the consultation on the report on Tyres and Waste Tyres in the Producer Responsibility Initiative Sector

Re: Consultation on the report on End of Life Vehicles in the Producer Responsibility Initiative sector in Ireland

National Committee Activities

The EPA provided expert support and advice to a number of government departments including Environment, Agriculture, Energy, Defence, Finance, Health, Public Expenditure and Foreign Affairs on low carbon development, sectoral adaptation strategy development, issues of land use and land use change, health risks from radon gas, emergency planning, medical uses of ionising radiation and climate finance.

The EPA participated in the following committees and steering groups:

- ▲ High Level Implementation Group for "Our Sustainable Future" Government Framework
- Healthy Ireland Cross Sectoral group
- ▲ Food Harvest 2020 Implementation Committee
- ▲ National Radon Control Strategy Steering Group.
- Inter-departmental/Agency Group on ADR (carriage of dangerous goods by road)
- ▲ National Radiation Safety Committee (patient protection)
- ▲ National Implementation Committee on Radioactive Waste
- Radiographers Registration Board
- National Energy Research Strategy Group
- National Water Policy Advisory Committee
- National Laboratories Strategy Group
- ▲ National Enforcement Network Steering Committee
- New Regional Waste Management Planning Steering Committee
- ▲ National Waste Prevention Committee
- ✓ Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee
- Irish Forum on Natural Capital
- 2025 Agri-Food Strategy Committee

In its role as one of the statutory environmental authorities for Strategic Environment Assessment, the EPA also participated in:

- ▲ National SEA (Environmental Authorities) Technical Forum
- National Peatlands Strategy Implementation Group
- Offshore Renewable Energy Plan Steering Group & ORESG Environment Working Group
- National Renewable Electricity Development Framework Planning/SEA Steering Group
- Ireland's Offshore Oil and Gas Strategic Environmental Assessment (IOSEA5) Steering Group
- National Coordination Committee for Regional Waste Management Plans
- Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies CFRAMS
- National Technical Coordination Group & Individual CFRAMS
- Shannon Integrated Framework Plan Steering Group & Environment Working Group

As a member of the Government Taskforce on Emergency Planning, the EPA contributed to developments on national emergency planning for radiation and environmental emergencies. In 2014 such developments included national arrangements for malign radiological events, a national risk assessment and emergency communications

Support of the National Emergency Plan for Nuclear Accidents (NEPNA)

In 2014, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government initiated a review of Ireland's National Emergency Plan for Nuclear Accidents (NEPNA). The review will update the Plan, based on lessons identified from key developments in emergency preparedness and response in recent years including:

- the experience of responding to the Fukushima accident and other (non-radiation) emergencies,
- ▲ the conclusions of an EU review of nuclear emergency preparedness in European countries and
- the findings of two key hazard assessments that studied potential accidents at the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing site and at the eight proposed new nuclear power plants in the UK.

The EPA delivered the risk assessment and mitigation components of the review.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN RADIATION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The EPA is participating in an EU-funded project called PREPARE that is addressing issues in nuclear and radiological preparedness that were identified following the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011. In particular, the EPA is contributing to the development of strategies, guidance and tools for the management of contaminated goods, taking into account the views of producers, processors, retail industries and consumers. To do this the EPA set up a multi-disciplinary panel to investigate the issues involved in placing Irish produced foodstuffs on the market (in and outside Ireland) following a nuclear accident abroad.

The panel includes members from government departments and agencies, and representatives from the farming, dairy, meat, crops, seafood, food retail and consumer sectors. The issues considered by the panel in 2014 were management of food production and sale following a nuclear accident and the feasibility of a range of protective actions that could be used to reduce the levels of radioactivity in food to internationally acceptable levels. The outputs from these discussions will be used in the review of the National Emergency Plan for Nuclear Accidents.







HUMAN RESOURCES

The EPA's continuing goal is to ensure that we have a committed workforce that performs to maximum ability.

Arising from the Public Service Agreement and the merger of the EPA and the RPII, the EPA staff complement at the end of 2014 was 365. One hundred and forty-one staff were located at EPA Headquarters in Wexford with the remaining staff strategically located in five Regional Inspectorates and three Offices throughout the country.

The EPA has continually implemented adaptive changes and has implemented more efficient ways of working as the most effective means of delivering on its statutory functions with reduced staffing and financial resources. The organisational structure has been changed to reflect new staff resources following the merger with the RPII and to reflect emerging priorities and challenges.

The EPA has a very positive attitude to work placements and continued to participate in the National Internship Scheme in 2014. Many of the Interns who participated in the scheme were successful in gaining fulltime employment as a result of their placement with the EPA. At the end of December 2014 a total of eight Interns were in place.

Implementation of the new integrated Human Resource Management Information System commenced during 2014. A phased approach was set out to implement the system with the main business modules being implemented in Phase 1 during 2014. As a result of a system upgrade, the implementation of remaining modules will take place in 2015.

NEW WAYS OF WORKING

In 2014, a Progress Report for the period from July to December 2013 on the EPA Integrated Reform Delivery Plan (IRDP) and a revised IRDP for 2014 were developed.

This plan gives effect to the measures set out in the Public Service Reform Plan and the Haddington Road Agreement and outlines the specific actions to be taken by the EPA to achieve efficiencies and savings.

Significant progress was made on the implementation of the plan and continuing emphasis was placed on internal cross-office collaboration for the EPA in delivering its 2014 Annual Work Programme.

The EPA continued to work in collaboration with other agencies and stakeholders to identify opportunities for efficiencies and shared services. Some examples included:

- An EPA project managed initiative which led to the delivery of national guidance for the public service in relation to Green Public Procurement, which was a deliverable under the Government's 2014 Action Plan for Jobs (Action 301).
- During 2014 the EPA progressed options for shared services between EPA and local authority laboratory services with a view to having a more integrated approach to service delivery of statutory requirements.
- ✓ Further enhancements were made to the functionality of the Environmental Data Exchange Network (EDEN). This shared service allows local and public authorities, the EPA and other government bodies to share environmental data and to access services and applications provided on a centralised infrastructure.
- Online service provision to service users has been improved through the development of web portals such as My Local Environment, SPLASH and the Air Quality Index for Health.



PARTNERSHIP

The EPA has had a Partnership Committee (Meitheal) in place since 1999. The work of Meitheal is mainly conducted through Cross-Office groups. During 2014 Meitheal continued to play a role in the ongoing development of Green Team activities, staff climate, staff consultation in relation to the merger

of the EPA and the RPII and input into the Public Service Agreement 2010–2014 Integrated Reform Delivery Plan and Progress Reports. A new partnership structure for the merged organisation was agreed and a new Committee appointed at the end of 2014 which retained the name Meitheal.

SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES

The EPA offers an extensive range of supports to all staff that assist them to perform and develop in their current role, prepare for future roles and improve the depth of skills and knowledge across the organisation. This commitment is reflected in a budget allocation to Learning & Development which represents approximately 2.5% of payroll spend. During 2014 staff participated in over 360 learning events including training courses, workshops, conferences and seminars. Included in these events are informal learning opportunities which the EPA sees as a significant forum for learning. This amounted to a total of 2,309 training days – an average of 6.31 days' training per person.

The Learning & Development Plan sets out how L&D will support the achievement of EPA goals, whilst also supporting team and individual development needs.

STRONG LEADERSHIP

A number of initiatives are available to leaders in the EPA, including the continued roll-out of an Essential Skills of Management & Leadership programme. In 2014 we commenced a pilot "Stepping up to Leadership – beyond Technical Excellence" programme which focused on:

- Consolidating the leadership knowledge and skills already invested in;
- Building and embedding a leadership framework of behaviours and standards that are positive, proactive and mindful and
- Supporting the delivery of EPA strategic goals.

EPA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The EPA is committed to reducing the environmental impacts of its own operations. The EPA's Environmental Management System (EMS) is audited twice a year by an external accredited body to ensure that the requirements of the internationally recognised ISO 14001 Standard are met.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK

The EPA is committed to ensuring the safety, health and welfare of its staff through the provision of appropriate training, audit, risk assessment and safety awareness programmes. The EPA's good safety record was maintained, with no serious accidents or injuries occurring at work during 2014.

OVERVIEW OF ENERGY USAGE IN 2014

The main energy consumption at EPA offices and laboratories is related to space heating, lighting, power, hot water and transport fuel. In 2014 the EPA's total energy consumption amounted to 2723MWh, representing a 5% reduction on last year's energy consumption. The breakdown of our energy usage is shown below at Figure 18.

The EPA has achieved significant success in relation to meeting the public sector energy efficiency savings target of 33% by 2020, as set out in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan to 2020. The EPA has demonstrated a year on year reduction in energy consumption and is already 11% below its 2020 target.

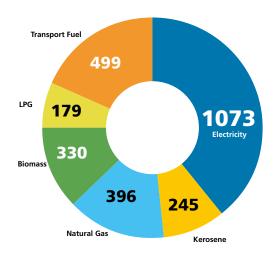


Figure 18 EPA energy usage, 2014 (MWh)

BOARD OF THE EPA

The EPA Board comprises six full-time Executive Directors. A total of 51 Board meetings were held in 2014; this included 14 general meetings, at which corporate policy, strategy, finance and planning issues were dealt with, and 37 technical meetings, at which licence applications, prosecutions and operational issues were dealt with.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The 6th EPA Advisory Committee was appointed by Mr Phil Hogan, TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government on 13 February 2013. The Committee held four meetings during 2014 and continued to provide useful and timely advice to the EPA on a range of issues.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ENABLED CHANGE AND REFORM

Information technology has always been used in the EPA as an enabler of change and reform by:

- simplifying, standardising and where possible, automating key processes and regulatory tasks;
- maximising the number of online and shared services, thereby providing a better customer service, improving data accessibility and reducing costs for the taxpayer and our service users;
- the adoption and development of leading edge information, communication and spatial assessment technologies to deliver effective outcomes and our strategic priorities;
- providing improved access to data and providing key decision support tools that allow stakeholders to carry out their tasks more efficiently.

During 2014 the EPA continued to make significant improvements in its environmental and corporate business processes through ongoing review of business practices to ensure efficiencies and effectiveness of how we work, including the adoption of new technology. The website is a key communications channel, with 1.9 million visits per annum, and the EPA continues to develop an active social media profile.

As part of the merger of the EPA and the RPII a single computer network was put in place that delivered a consolidated information technology service and infrastructure for all staff in the merged organisation.

VOICE AND DATA COMMUNICATIONS

The EPA's internal voice and data communication system has been made more effective by the introduction of a unified electronic communication system that provides smartphone and desktop telephone facilities, in addition to video conferencing and webinar facilities. The communication

system is used by EPA staff in all EPA locations and during onsite inspections/visits. In order to support the on-going and increasing demands for data communications between EPA locations the capacity of electronic data links between each site was also greatly increased.



Figure 19: Unified Communications System

LEMA



Figure 20: LEMA

The EPA's integrated regulatory system, LEMA, grew significantly in 2014. The LEMA system provides a consolidated view of licensing activities alongside compliance status and enforcement activities. The LEMA platform provides electronic access for members of the public via the EPA website and provides over 2,000 licensees with electronic access via the

EDEN Portal. This integration improves communications and reduces the administrative burden for both licensees and EPA staff.

Improvements in 2014:

- Online services were rolled out for licensees, to comply with new legislative requirements under the Industrial Emissions Directive.
- Licensees can apply online for Licence Changes and Transfers of Licences.
- Internal processes for assessing Urban Wastewater licences were automated, including a map-based GIS interface for inspectors to visually confirm the location of emissions points.
- ▲ A single system for site visits is bringing efficiencies to the risk based enforcement plans across a large range of enforcement regimes. In excess of 1,300 sites were visited by enforcement inspectors and reports were issued from LEMA via the online portal.
- Over 10,000 lines of 2013 Urban Wastewater emission monitoring data were automatically assessed, presenting the data back to inspectors in an accessible summary form.

FINANCE

A new budgeting system that provides greater transparency and control of budget management was used to prepare the 2014 budget.

LABORATORIES

The EPA continued to evolve towards an integrated laboratories structure with shared quality assurance/quality control with the selection of a new integrated laboratory information management system. The new system will facilitate the integration of EPA's laboratory activities and provide key information into EPA's monitoring, assessment and statutory reporting systems.

EDEN

The EPA provides a shared service with local authorities and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government called the Environmental Data Exchange Network (EDEN). EDEN enables sharing of web applications and environmental data between public bodies. A major upgrade of infrastructure and the portal by which public bodies interact was completed during 2014. The upgrade has delivered improvements to the user experience and established a robust platform to enable future expansion of services. EDEN won the category of "Most innovative use of technical infrastructure in a Geographic Information solution" at the IRLOGI (Irish Organisation for Geographic Information) Space and Place awards in 2014.



Accepting the award for *Best Geographic Information Application* in the *Public Sector* were Gavin Smith, Deirdre Kirwan, Fiona O' Rourke and Ann Marie Donlon.

MAPS

Additional data were made available via the EPA GeoPortal Maps site during 2014, including new maps for radon and radiation monitoring locations. In December, the data relating to water quality (WFD status) for 2010–2012 were published to the Geoportal for use by the public and other organisations. The GeoPortal also won the "Best Geographic Information Application in the Public Sector" category at the IRLOGI Space and Place 2014 awards.

WFD

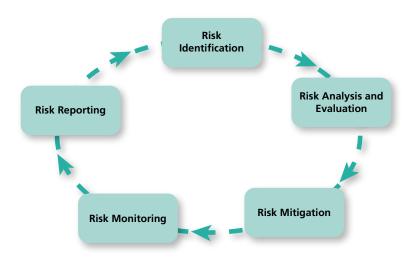
Development of a new application to support implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) was progressed in 2014 and will continue. The WFD Application is a new information system intended to support the delivery of River Basin Management Plans, and work in 2014 was focused on supporting risk-characterisation of Ireland's waters.

Development of mobile applications for field surveys by river and lake biologists was progressed. This work delivers efficiencies in collection of water quality data required for WFD implementation and enhances the management of and access to these data.

GAMIS

During 2014 the EPA commenced work on a new radiation protection information support system (GAMIS) which will allow radiation protection licensees to play a greater role in the management of their licensing details online. It will also provide for the introduction of a graded approach to authorisation in the coming years and, when implemented, will enhance the efficiency of the authorisation process for both licensees and the EPA.





CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The EPA continues to comply with the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2009. The EPA has a full-time Corporate Governance Unit in place with responsibility for overseeing and reporting on the implementation of and compliance with the Code of Practice.

INTERNAL AUDIT

The EPA's Internal Audit Committee (IAC) comprises an external Chairperson and other external expertise in lieu of non-executive Director input, together with a senior representative from the EPA. In light of the merger with the RPII, membership of the IAC was increased from six to seven members in 2014 with the addition of a further member with knowledge of risks specific to radiological protection.

Three Internal Audits were carried out in 2014 in the following areas:

- Governance and management of the Kerdiffstown remediation project;
- ▲ A review of Licensing Activities; and
- Governance procedures for EPA operation of the Emissions Trading Registry.

Other reviews were completed in the following areas:

- ▲ A positive Compliance Review Project presented by the Commission to the ETU in December. Review identified six good practices in the EPA.
- A two day Commission in-country review of Ireland's implementation of the Emissions Trading Directive with respect to Permitting, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification was completed in June.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Risk Management process in the EPA includes the identification, classification, evaluation, monitoring and control of events and activities as illustrated above.

The system in place in the EPA provides a cycle of risk management procedures as well as a framework for managing risks as they arise.

The EPA's Risk Committee met on three occasions in 2014. A review of Office level risks was completed in 2014 and Office Risk Registers updated.

The Corporate Risk Register was updated to reflect changes that had occurred in relation to principal risks and mitigations. The Corporate Risk Register sets out key risks under the following nine headings:

- ▲ Reputation,
- ▲ Operational & Business Controls,
- Personnel,
- Legal and Regulatory,
- ▲ Information Management and Technology,
- Fraud and Corruption,
- Budgetary/Financial,
- ✓ Inter-Agency.

Both the Office and Corporate Risk Registers are subject to regular monitoring.

Through the Risk Management process, the following key risks facing the EPA were identified:

■ The closure/liquidation of large licensed facilities with associated environmental liability legacies and costs;

- ▲ The loss of specialist knowledge and skills, through retirements and public sector staff constraints and the reliance on external resources;
- Potential changes to income including reduction in earned income and continued reliance on the Environment Fund;
- Compliance with increasingly complex and challenging legal and regulatory issues.

STRATEGIC PLAN

During 2014 the EPA continued to implement the key priority actions identified in the EPA Strategic Plan 2013–2015 – Working with Others for a Better Environment. Progress on the implementation of these actions is outlined throughout this Annual Report under the key chapter headings of Regulation, Knowledge and Advocacy. The EPA's Mission, Vision and Values were also updated during 2014 to reflect the enlarged organisation following the successful merger with the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland in August.

EPA REVIEW

Following the independent Review of the EPA which was undertaken in 2011 a Progress Report on the implementation of the recommendations was published in August 2014. Overall, substantial progress has been made in implementing the recommendations, with the majority of the 58 recommendations either having been fully completed or being addressed as on-going activities. Details of the progress report were published jointly on the websites of the EPA and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUERIES

Through our Environmental Queries Unit the EPA continues to provide a coordinated approach to the provision of specific environmental information on queries received from the public via telephone, email and internet. In 2014 approximately 2,650 queries were processed by the Environmental Queries Officer, providing customers with a high level of service in accordance with our Customer Charter. Areas of particular interest to the public were domestic wastewater treatment systems (septic tanks), illegal dumping, drinking water quality, noise pollution and general environmental pollution. In addition, a series of Frequently Asked Questions were developed for the website on a number of topics of interest to the public.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The EPA is committed to being an open and accessible organisation. The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and the Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Regulations are two methods of accessing information for members of the public that have not been able to access the information they require by alternative routes.

During 2014 the EPA received 12 FOI requests. Of these, nine requests were granted or part-granted and three were refused. Under the AIE Regulations, the EPA received 35 requests and three were carried over from 2013. Of these, 26 were granted in full or in part, 11 were refused and one was withdrawn. Of the requests that were refused, half were technical refusals, i.e. the EPA did not hold the information, the information was already available on the public file or on our website, or the information requested was not deemed to be environmental information under the Regulations. The remaining refusals were based on the exemption provisions in the FOI Act and the mandatory and discretionary grounds for refusal as outlined in the AIE Regulations.

The EPA processed two Internal Reviews and the original decision was affirmed in both cases. Three appeals, from the same appellant, to the Commissioner for Environmental Information remained live at the year-end.





MERGER OF EPA AND RPII

The Government's Public Sector Reform Plan published in November 2012 included a commitment to merge the EPA and the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII). Preparatory work to give effect to the merger commenced in early 2013.

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government decided that the bodies should be merged by creating an additional Office within the EPA structure, bringing the total number of Offices to five, each headed by a Director. In addition, an Advisory Committee for radiation issues would be established to provide expert input to the merged organisation.

Following ministerial approval, the Action Plan for the EPA/ RPII Merger was published in July 2013, detailing 43 high-level actions across the following seven thematic areas:

- ▲ Governance/Board
- Human Resources
- Legislative Measures
- ▲ Financial Matters
- ▲ Accommodation
- ✓ ICT

COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER CORPORATE ISSUES

The structures that had been used to develop the Action Plan remained in place during the implementation process as follows:

- ▲ The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) provided oversight and guidance.
- The Director General of the EPA and the CEO of the RPII
 were on the Merger Working Group, which was chaired
 by the Assistant Secretary, Environment Division, DECLG.
- ✓ The EPA, RPII and DECLG were represented on the Merger Project Group, which was chaired by the Director, Office of Communications and Corporate Services (OCCS), EPA.
- ✓ The Project Secretariat was provided by the DECLG.

A Communications Strategy was developed early in this process to ensure that stakeholders (both internal and external) were kept informed of progress on the merger.

Consultation took place with the staff of both organisations, the Partnership Committees and the Unions during the development of the Action Plan and during the implementation phase.

The high level actions identified in the Action Plan formed the basis for the development of a detailed Implementation Plan, with specific timeframes, deliverables and task managers. Implementation began in September 2013, with all actions required to give effect to the merger implemented by 1st August 2014. From the outset, it was acknowledged by all parties to the merger that the process would be complex and would involve the enactment of legislation, and the review and revision of procedures and practices in the two organisations



Ann McGarry and Laura Burke pictured on the merger of the EPA and RPII

that would have implications at both a technical and a human level. It was also acknowledged that there would be further actions to be implemented post-merger.

While the timeframe to deliver the merger by mid-2014 was very tight, the EPA and the RPII formally merged on time and within budget on 1 August 2014.

The Radiological Protection (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 underpins the merger of the two organisations including the dissolution of the RPII and its non-executive Board, and the transfer of its staff and functions to the EPA. A new fifth office has been established which is headed by a Director. The EPA's

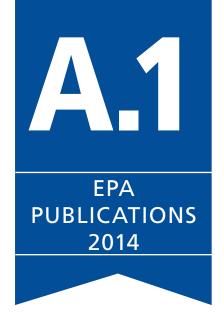
Office of Radiological Protection (ORP) is now responsible for ensuring that people and the environment in Ireland are protected from the harmful effects of ionising radiation.

The vision for the merger was that it would bring together the committed and dedicated staff of both organisations to create a strong scientific organisation that combines the expert resources and the excellent reputations of the EPA and the RPII and continues to place the same high value on environmental and radiological protection.

Regular updates of the merger process were published on the EPA website.







The majority of EPA publications are available to download from the EPA website http://www.epa.ie/downloads/. Publications can also be purchased either online or from EPA Publications Sales at +353 916 0642.

AIR

The following air reports can be found on the EPA website at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/air/

- Air Quality in Ireland 2013: Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality
- ▲ EPA Licensed Sites: 2013 Report on Air Emissions
- Dioxin Levels in the Irish Environment 2012

CORPORATE

The following corporate reports can be found on the EPA website at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/other/

- ▲ EPA Annual Report and Accounts 2013
- 2013 End of Year Statement
- ▲ Focus on Environmental Enforcement 2009–2012

WASTE

The following waste reports can be found on the EPA website at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/

- ▲ National Waste Report 2012
- National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP) Annual Report 2013
- Municipal Waste Bulletin 2013
- Towards a Resource Efficient Ireland: A National Strategy to 2020
- ▲ National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2014–2020
- ✓ Pilot Farm Hazardous Waste Bring Centres in 2013

WATER

The following water reports can be found on the EPA website at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/

- ▲ The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland 2013
- ✓ Integrated Water Quality Report for the North Western and Neagh Bann River Basin Districts 2013
- ✓ Integrated Water Quality Report for the South Eastern River Basin District 2013
- ✓ Integrated Water Quality Report for the Western River Basin District 2013
- ▲ Focus on Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2013
- ✓ National Inspection Plan: Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems 2013: An Interim Review

GUIDANCE NOTES

The following guidance notes can be found on the EPA website at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/

- Guidance on the Authorisation of Direct Discharges to Groundwater
- ▲ Retailer leaflet on new WEEE regulations
- Guidance note on Daily and Intermediate Cover at Landfills
- ▲ Air Emissions Monitoring Guidance Note No. 2

Environmental Research Reports

Climate Change

The following climate change research report can be found on the EPA website at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/climate/

 Carbon sequestration by hedgerows in the Irish landscape (CCRP 32)

Biodiversity

The following biodiversity research report can be found on the EPA website at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/biodiversity/

Ireland's invasive and non-native species: trends in introductions

Water

The following water research reports can be found on the EPA website at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/water/

- ▲ Are we willing to pay for good river water quality? (EPA Research 129)
- Biological effects and chemical measurements in irish marine waters
- What's our water worth? Estimating the value to Irish society of benefits derived from water-related ecosystem services (EPA Research 127)
- Management options for the collection, treatment and disposal of sludge derived from domestic wastewater treatment systems (STRIVE 123)
- Supporting the concept of early warning analysis (STRIVE 125)
- Mapping the spatio-temporal distribution of underwater noise in Irish waters (STRIVE 121)

Radon

The following radon research reports can be found on the EPA website at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/radiation/

- ▲ An outdoor radon survey and minimizing the uncertainties in low level measurements using CR-39 detectors. G. A. Gunning, D. Pollard and E. C. Finch. Journal of Radiological Protection 34 (2014) 457–467.
- ✓ Use of health economics in the development of a national radon control strategy in Ireland. D. Pollard and D. Fenton. Radiation Protection Dosimetry 160 (1–3) (2014) 30–34.

LANDUSE, SOILS AND TRANSPORT

The following landuse, soils and transport research reports can be found on the EPA website at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/land/

- Interactions of soil hydrology, land use and climate change and their impact on soil quality (SoilH) (STRIVE 118)
- ▲ The application of geophysics to a number of threats to Irish soil (STRIVE 126)
- ▲ Irish Soils Information System (STRIVE 130)

WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The following resource management research reports can be found on the EPA website at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/waste/

- Roadmap for a National Resource Efficiency Plan for Ireland (EPA Research 128)
- State-of-the-art recycling technologies for liquid crystal displays (STRIVE 122)

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

The following environmental technology research reports can be found on the EPA website at http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/tech/

■ Web based monitoring of gas emissions from landfill sites using autonomous sensor platforms (STRIVE 124)



Achilles Procurement Services	Clean Technology Centre	LHM Casey McGrath
Adaptive HVM	Compass Informatics Ltd	Mason, Hayes & Curran
Aether Ltd	Cue Vision	Mentoring Services
Antaris Consulting	Deloitte	Mott McDonald Pettit Ltd
Amec Earth & Environmental UK Ltd	EnviroGuide	Penna Plc
Barry Doyle & Company	Fehily Timoney & Company	Noonan
CDM Smith (Ireland) Ltd	Geosyntec Consultants	Environmental River Crossing Business Solutions Ltd
CAAS Ltd.	IP Forensics Ireland Ltd	RPS Group
Capita Business Solutions Ltd	Institute of Public Administration	Sinclair Knight Merz (Ireland) Ltd
Carr Communications Ltd	Kefron Consulting	Tobin Environmental Services
		URS Ireland Ltd



The Environmental Protection Agency comes under the remit of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997, which came into effect on 2nd January 1998 and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions)
Regulations 2002 which came into effect on 7th August 2002.

It is the policy of the EPA to ensure that all invoices are paid promptly. Specific systems and procedures have been put in place to enable invoices to be tracked and to ensure that payments are made before their due date. Purchase invoices are logged on a daily basis in Accounts Section, and are followed up systematically to ensure that they are certified and returned for payment without delay. Payments are issued as required to ensure prompt payment.

These controls are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material non-compliance with the Act and Regulations.

There were three late payments with values in excess of €317 during 2014 and these exceeded the due payment date by an average of 1 day. The value of these late payments was €13,819.05. Overall, late payments represented 0.04% of the total value of payments covered by the Act, with total associated penalty interest of €3.22.

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Laura Burke

Director General EPA



STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AGENCY

Section 50(1) of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, requires the EPA to prepare financial statements in such form as may be approved by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in consultation with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

In preparing those financial statements, the EPA is required to:

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- ▲ Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the EPA will continue in operation;
- ▲ Disclose and explain any material departures from applicable accounting standards.

The EPA is responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the EPA and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 50 of the EPA Act. The EPA is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Laura Burke

Director General 31/07/2015

Micheál O Cinnéide

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Director

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL 2014

- On behalf of the Directors of the EPA, I acknowledge our collective responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial controls is maintained and operated, for preparing the accounts of the EPA and for complying with all statutory obligations applicable to the EPA.
- 2. The Directors of the EPA acknowledge also that the system of internal financial controls can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised, properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected and rectified in a timely period. While the effectiveness of an internal control system can change over time, the EPA reviews and updates such systems as required.

3. Key Procedures to Provide Effective Internal Financial Control

- i) The Directors of the EPA have taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment within the EPA by:
- Publishing the EPA Strategic Plan 2013–2015 Working with Others for a Better Environment. This Strategy sets out the EPA's Vision, Goals and nine Strategic Priorities. Implementation of the Strategy is monitored and reported to the Board of the EPA on a periodic basis.
- Agreeing a detailed work programme each year and monitoring and evaluating progress against that work programme on a monthly basis.
- Holding regular Board meetings, including monthly management meetings where the Agenda includes strategic issues such as Corporate Governance, Financial Management, Corporate Strategy and staffing matters.
- Adopting a set of financial procedures to control the significant financial elements of the EPA's business and publishing these in the staff Finance Manual.
- Maintaining a comprehensive schedule of insurances to protect the EPA's interests.
- Establishing an Internal Audit Committee, as part of the on-going systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures within the EPA, to oversee the Internal Audit function and advise the Board in relation to the operation and development of that function.
- Establishing and operating a Risk Management Policy and Framework, appointing a Risk Committee and a Chief Risk Officer.

- Adopting a Policy for monitoring and assessing compliance with corporate legislation.
- Clearly defining management responsibilities, delegating appropriate functions, and reviewing and approving all EPA policies and procedures.
- Adopting a Code of Business Conduct for Directors and Staff in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.
- Ensuring compliance with the Ethics in Public Office Acts requirements and Sections 37 & 38 of the EPA Act 1992, relating to the Declaration and Disclosure of Interests.
- ii) The EPA's Risk Management Policy and Structures are in compliance with the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. A Chief Risk Officer was appointed and a Risk Committee established in the EPA in 2011.
 - The Risk Committee met on three occasions in 2014. A review of Office level risks was completed in 2014 and the All-Office Risk Register was updated. The Corporate Risk Register was updated to reflect changes that had occurred in relation to principal risks and mitigations and sets out the key risks for the Agency.
 - Both the Office and Corporate Risk Registers are subject to regular monitoring and are reviewed by the Risk Committee. The Internal Audit Committee and the EPA Board review the Corporate Risk Register on an annual basis. Each Director provides quarterly assurance statements to the Board acknowledging responsibility for the on-going update, monitoring and review of the Risk Register for their Office and for ensuring the implementation of the Risk Management Policy.
- **iii)** The system of internal financial controls is based on a framework of regular management information, a system of delegation and accountability, a set of financial and administrative procedures including segregation of duties. In particular it includes:
- A comprehensive budgeting system with an annual budget, which is reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.
- The assignment of budgets and budgetary authority and responsibility for specific functions to selected managers. A Finance Manual is in place and sets out policies and procedures in relation to budgetary and financial issues.
- Restricting authority for final approval of all payments of EPA monies, payment of salaries, pensions, creditors, and expenses etc. (whether by cheque or electronic fund transfer) to Directors and three named Programme Managers.

- Segregation of payment transaction processing duties into two steps: (a) confirmation that goods/services were received and salaries, pensions and expenses were due, by staff responsible for these transactions and (b) calculation of the total monies due by the Finance Unit, prior to seeking authorisation for payment.
- Arrangements for all purchasing to be conducted and controlled through the EPA's financial management system and procedures.
- Regular and on-going review of payments by senior management.
- Regular reviews by the Board of periodic and annual financial information and reports (including key financial management information and purchasing commitments), which indicate financial performance against budgets.
- The application of project management disciplines in respect of building programmes and other major projects.
- A system of control on the overall approval of capital contracts.
- Development of an Asset Management Process and Procedures.
- ▲ Adoption and periodic updating of a Corporate Procurement Plan.
- iv) The financial implications of business risks have been considered through the formal business risk assessment process and in the preparation of the EPA Internal Audit Plans. These are further assessed and evaluated through the phased implementation of the EPA's Internal Audit Plan. A comprehensive set of Financial Procedures have been put in place to control the significant financial elements of the EPA's business including authorisation limits for purchasing/ expenditure.
- v) The EPA's Internal Audit Committee comprises an external Chairperson and other external expertise in lieu of non-executive Director input, together with a senior representative from the EPA. In light of the merger with the RPII, membership of the IAC was increased to seven in 2014 with the addition of a further external member with knowledge of Radiological Protection risks.

The EPA Internal Audit Plan 2014–2015 was progressively implemented during the year with audits completed in the areas of:

- Management & Governance of Kerdiffstown Landfill Remediation Project; and
- ▲ Licensing Activities.

A Value for Money (VFM) Review on the outsourced Air Monitoring Programme was completed and the report presented to the Board. The Report will be presented to the Internal Audit Committee in 2015. The VFM Review was carried out in line with the guidance set out in the Department of Finance VFM Manual.

Implementation Plans to address audit recommendations are approved by the Audit Committee and the Board of the EPA. Progress on the implementation of the actions in each of the Internal Audit Implementation Plans is regularly reviewed and reported to the Audit Committee and the EPA Board.

The Internal Audit Plan for the period 2015–2016 was developed during 2014 and approved in November 2014 and reflects the risks identified in the EPA's Corporate Risk Register, the requirements of the Comptroller and Auditor General, and developments and issues in relation to Corporate Governance that have arisen in the Public Sector in general. This Internal Audit Plan was approved by the Internal Audit Committee and by the EPA Board.

4. Annual Review of Controls

I confirm that, in addition to the internal audits carried out and referred to in paragraph 3 (v) above, the EPA arranged for a formal independent review, in March 2013, of its compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and of the internal control systems in place in the EPA. This review was carried out using external expertise and was based on a detailed examination of governance, financial management and control documentation.

The review found that it was evident that the EPA invests in Corporate Governance and Internal Control processes. It was noted that the EPA has a full-time Corporate Governance Unit with responsibility for overseeing and reporting on the implementation of and compliance with

the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The review also stated that the EPA has a multitude of policies and procedures covering the key areas of governance and internal control. The policies were reviewed and it was noted that they were adequate and generally in line with good practice.

The report noted also that regular management meetings and workshops are held in the areas of governance and internal control and there is a high level of awareness of the need for a strong system of control throughout the organisation.

The overall conclusion of the review was that:

- there is a strong system of Corporate Governance in operation within the EPA and the EPA is substantially compliant with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies,
- Corporate Governance is at a well-developed stage in the EPA when benchmarked against other state agencies,
- the control environment in the EPA is generally adequate, with a small number of areas for improvement noted.

An Implementation Plan to address the recommendations of the above review to further enhance the system of internal financial controls was approved by the Board and significantly progressed by the end of 2014 with remaining items to be addressed in 2015 as part of a new Finance System and a new T&S Module in CORE.

I confirm also that the Directors of the Agency conducted a review of the system of internal controls in the EPA in respect of the period ending 2014.

Signed on behalf of the Board.

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Laura Burke Director General

31 July 2015

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL FOR PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

Environmental Protection Agency

I have audited the financial statements of the Environmental Protection Agency for the year ended 31 December 2014 under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992. The financial statements, which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein, comprise the accounting policies, the income and expenditure account, the statement of total recognised gains and losses, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and the related notes. The financial statements have been prepared in the form prescribed under Section 50 of the Act, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in Ireland.

Responsibilities of the Members of the Agency

The Agency is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, for ensuring that they give a true and fair view of the state of the Agency's affairs and of its income and expenditure, and for ensuring the regularity of transactions.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements and report on them in accordance with applicable law.

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation.

My audit is carried out in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and in compliance with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of Audit of the Financial Statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of:

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Agency's circumstances, and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made in the preparation of the financial statements, and
- ▲ the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I also seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit.

In addition, I read the Agency's annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, I consider the implications for my report.

Opinion on the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the financial statements, which have been properly prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in Ireland, give a true and fair view of the state of the Agency's affairs at 31 December 2014 and of its income and expenditure for 2014.

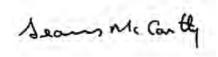
In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Agency. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

Matters on which I report by exception

I report by exception if:

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- my audit noted any material instance where money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them, or
- the information given in the Agency's annual report is not consistent with the related financial statements, or
- the statement on internal financial control does not reflect the Agency's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, or
- I find there are other material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I have nothing to report in regard to those matters upon which reporting is by exception.



Seamus McCarthy

Comptroller and Auditor General 15 August 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Accounting Policies

1 General

In October 2012, following the completion of the critical review, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform announced that the EPA and the RPII would be merged. The Radiological Protection (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 provided for the dissolution of the RPII and the transfer of its functions, staff, land and other property, rights and liabilities to the EPA. The EPA and RPII formally merged on 1 August 2014.

These financial statements reflect the operations of the EPA for all of 2014 and the operations of the former RPII from 1 August 2014 to 31 December 2014.

The Assets and Liabilities of the RPII transferred to EPA on 1 August 2014 are set out below:

Net Assets	€′000
Fixed Assets	478
Cash on Hand and at Bank	891
Debtors and Prepayments	298
Creditors and Accruals	(143)
Income in Advance	(465)
Capital Grant in Advance	(258)
Deferred Pension Funding Assets	26,778
Pension Liabilities	(26,778)
Net Assets Transferred to EPA	801
Capital and Reserves	
Capital Account	478
Income and Expenditure	323
Capital and Reserves transferred to EPA	801

2 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in the form approved by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in accordance with Section 50 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992.

The financial statements are prepared on an accruals basis, except as stated at 3 below, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice. Financial reporting standards recommended by the recognised accountancy bodies are adopted as they become applicable. The unit of currency in which the financial statements are denominated is the Euro.

3 State Grants

The income figures shown in the Financial Statements under State Grants are the actual grants received in the accounting period.

4 Licence Fees

Applicants for environmental licences are required to pay the full licence application fee at the time of making the application. The amounts received are apportioned to the Income and Expenditure Account on completion of the following stages of the licensing process:

Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control and Waste Management Licences:

Application	30%
Proposed Determination	50%
Licence Issue	20%
Wastewater Discharge Licences:	
Application	10%
Acknowledgement of complete application	40%
Licence Decision Issue	50%

Radiological Protection Licence fees are recognised as income in line with the licence terms. Fees received in advance are shown as income in advance.

5 Funding of Emissions Trading Unit

The Emissions Trading Unit (ETU) was established within the Environmental Protection Agency in 2003. The costs of administering the emissions trading scheme are reimbursed to the EPA by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government from the proceeds of the sale of allowances, which are paid directly to the Department.

6 Research Grant Payments

The EPA enters into commitments in respect of research projects awarded for funding. Expenditure on these research projects is charged in the financial statements on the basis of the initial payments which are made on signing of the grant award, interim payments which may be made subject to satisfactory performance and further payments which are issued on receipt and verification of claims in respect of work completed. Costs incurred by the EPA in the implementation of the research programmes are charged to the financial statements as they are incurred.

7 Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Cost includes the estimated cost of disposal of radioactive sources. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at the rates stated below which are estimated to reduce the assets to their realisable values at the end of their expected working lives:

Buildings	2%
Furniture and Fittings	10%
Laboratory and Field Equipment	15%
Equipment	20%
IT and Computer Equipment	25%
Motor Vehicles	20%

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the life of the lease.

8 Capitalisation of Internally Developed Software

The external costs of software developed for internal use are capitalised where it can be separately identified as software for use by the Agency and where it is expected to convey business benefits for a number of future years. The internal staff costs of software development for internal use are not capitalised.

9 Capital Funding

The fixed assets of the EPA and advances to fund work in progress and asset purchases are met from a combination of capital grants, approved borrowing and allocations from current revenue. Funding sourced from grants (including that used to repay borrowings) is transferred to a capital account which is amortised in line with the depreciation of the related assets.

10 Stocks

All stocks, including consumables are written off in the year of purchase.

11 Debtors

Provision for doubtful debts is made, where warranted, in the accounts. Bad debts, as they arise, are written off against that provision.

12 Superannuation

The Environmental Protection Agency operates defined benefit pension schemes, which are funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies available to it, including monies provided by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and from pension contributions deducted from staff salaries.

With effect from 1 January 2013, new entrants become members of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme. This provides career-average revalued earnings related benefits revalued in line with increases in the Consumer Price Index. Staff pension contributions deducted in relation to the Single Public Service Pension Scheme are remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure Reform monthly.

Members who joined prior to this date are members of a defined benefit final salary pension scheme, with benefits and contributions defined with reference to current "model" public sector scheme regulations with some members having higher accrual rates.

Pension Scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions for employees where contributions are retained by the Agency. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising from changes in Actuarial assumptions and from experience surpluses and deficits are recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the year in which they occur and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

13 Provision for Disposal of Radioactive Sources

The EPA holds a number of radioactive sources, some of which will be held for several years. It made a provision for the cost of disposal of the material in the year in which it acquired new sources.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	2014	2013
Income Note	€′000	€′000
State Grants 1	44,478	41,496
Emissions Trading Costs Recovered 2(a)	1,265	947
Other Services	38	35
Income from Regional Laboratories	1,045	1,104
Income from Radiological Activities 3	472	0
Licensing Activities 4	1,915	1,547
Enforcement Activities 5	7,695	7,486
Sundry Receipts 6	185	53
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions 24(c)	7,232	6,836
	64,325	59,504
Expenditure		
Salaries and PRSI 7	20,663	19,020
Pension Costs 24(a)	9,104	8,464
Travelling Expenses 8	1,459	1,284
Laboratory and Field Costs 9	1,798	1,432
Accommodation Costs 10	1,908	1,465
Other Administration Costs 11	7,363	6,463
Consultants 12	126	53
Contractors, Grants and External Service Providers 13	9,602	8,160
Environmental Research 14	8,220	8,794
Depreciation 19	3,764	3,310
	64,007	58,445
Transfer to/(from) Capital Account 15	376	(408)
_	64,383	58,037
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus	(58)	1,467
Surplus/ (Deficit) on Disposals of Assets	11	(42)
(Deficit)/Surplus before Interest	(47)	1,425
Interest Received 16	9	52
Interest Payable and Similar Charges 17	(18)	(39)
(Deficit)/Surplus for Year	(56)	1,438
Surplus at 1 January	1,738	300
Surplus Transferred from RPII	323	0
Surplus at 31 December	2,005	1,738

The results for the year relate to continuing operations. The statement of accounting policies and cash flow statement, together with notes 1 to 29, form part of these financial statements.

Laura Burke

Director General

Date signed: 31/07/2015

Micheál Ó Cinnéide

Director

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2014</u> €′000	<u>2013</u> €′000
(Deficit)/Surplus for the Year		(56)	1,438
Experience gains on pension scheme liabilities	24(b)	427	6,487)
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of pension scheme liabilities	24(b)	(19,466)	0
Transfers into Scheme – RPII Liability assumed	24(b)	(26,778)	0
Actuarial Gain/(Loss) on Pension Liabilities		(45,817)	6,487
Adjustment to Deferred Pension Funding		45,817	(6,487)
Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the Year		(56)	1,438

The results for the year relate to continuing operations.

The statement of accounting policies and cash flow statement, together with notes 1 to 29, form part of these Financial Statements.

Laura Burke

Director General

Date signed: 31/07/2015

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Micheál Ó Cinnéide

Michae o Binneck

Director

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

		2014	2013
<u>No</u>	te	€′000	€′000
Fixed Assets	19	36,964	35,973
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	20	928	741
Cash on Hand and at Bank	21	12,318	10,712
		13,246	11,453
Less Current Liabilities			
Creditors (Amounts falling due within one year) 22((a)	(11,509)	(9,796)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		1,737	1,657
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year) 22((b)	(626)	(934)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities before Pensions		38,075	36,696
Pension Liabilities 24((b)	176,246	123,197
Deferred Pension Funding 24	(c)	(176,246)	(123,197)
		0	0
Total Net Assets		38,075	36,696
Represented by:	_		
Capital Account	15	36,070	34,958
Income and Expenditure Account	_	2,005	1,738
		38,075	36,696

The statement of accounting policies and cash flow statement, together with notes 1 to 29, form part of these financial statements.

Laura Burke

Director General

Date signed: 31/07/2015

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Micheál Ó Cinnéide

Michae o Binneck

Director

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

		2014	2013
	Note	€′000	€′000
Reconciliation of Surplus to Net Cash			
Inflow from Operating Activities			
(Surplus)/Deficit for year		(56)	1,438
Interest Received	16	(9)	(52)
Interest Paid	17	18	39
(Surplus)/Deficit on Disposal of Assets		(11)	42
Transfer to/(from) Capital Account	15	376	(408)
Depreciation charge for year	19	3,764	3,310
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors and Prepayments		(76)	480
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors (other than Loan Creditors)		1,105	(1,796)
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities		5,111	3,053
Cash Flow Statement			
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities		5,111	3,053
Returns on investments and servicing of finance			
Bank Interest Received	16	9	52
Bank Interest Paid	17	(18)	(39)
Bank Balances transferred from RPII		891	0
Investing activities			
Proceeds on disposal of fixed assets		11	26
Payments to acquire fixed assets		(4,090)	(2,674)
Net Cash Inflow Before Financing		1,914	418
Financing			
Fixed Asset Loan Repayments		(308)	(296)
Increase in Cash		1,606	122
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in cash balances			
Increase in cash in year		1,606	122
Funds at 1 January		10,712	10,590
Funds at 31 December		12,318	10,712

The statement of accounting policies together with notes 1 to 29, form part of these financial statements.

Laura Burke

Micheál Ó Cinnéide

Wielol o Binneyt

Director General

Director

Date signed: 31/07/2015

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 State Grants			<u>2014</u> €′000	2013 €′000
Grants from the Department of the En	vironment, Community	and Local Government:		
Grants from the Department's Vote	Current	Subheads C3 and C4.	15,203	13,758
	Capital	Subheads C3, C4 and C7.	4,723	3,708
	Other Programmes	Subhead B3.	6,634	4,811
			26,560	22,277
Grants from the Environment Fund	Non-Pay		4,918	5,096
	Research		8,480	8,800
	Other Programmes		4,520	5,323
			17,918	19,219
Total State Grants			44,478	41,496
The Research Funding is a specific allocation was expended on these research activities				
2 Emissions Trading Unit (ETU) Activit	ies		€′000	€′000
(a) Cost of Emissions Trading Unit				
Emissions Trading Operator Registration Fe			4	
Costs to be recovered from Auction Funds	, etc.			33
Total Funding of ETU Costs			1,261	914
			1,261 1,265	
(b) Summary of Emissions Trading Uni	t Funds:			914
(b) Summary of Emissions Trading Unit ETU Operator Fees Received	t Funds:		1,265	914 947
•	t Funds:		1,265 €′000	914 947 €'000
ETU Operator Fees Received	t Funds:		1,265 €′000 4	914 947 €'000 28
ETU Operator Fees Received Bank Interest Received	t Funds:		1,265 €′000 4 0	914 947 €′000 28 11
ETU Operator Fees Received Bank Interest Received Aviation Fees Received	t Funds:		1,265 €′000 4 0 0	914 947 €'000 28 11 5
ETU Operator Fees Received Bank Interest Received Aviation Fees Received Total Funds Generated		& Local Government	1,265 €'000 4 0 0	914 947 €'000 28 11 5 44
ETU Operator Fees Received Bank Interest Received Aviation Fees Received Total Funds Generated Funds Carried Forward	Environment, Community		1,265 €′000 4 0 4 325	914 947 €'000 28 11 5 44 2,987
ETU Operator Fees Received Bank Interest Received Aviation Fees Received Total Funds Generated Funds Carried Forward Funds Returned to the Department of the	Environment, Community		1,265 €'000 4 0 4 325 0	914 947 €'000 28 11 5 44 2,987 (2,987)

In previous years, the EPA sold emissions trading allowances in the market. With effect from 1 January 2013, the sale of such allowances is a matter for the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, with auctions being conducted at EU Level and the sale proceeds being paid directly to the Department. From 2013 onwards, ETU operating costs are being reimbursed to the EPA by the Department from the proceeds of the ongoing sales of allowances.

3 Income from Radiological Activities	€′000
Calibration Service	16
Radon Measurement Service	48
Radon Monitoring Service	89
Licence Fees	316
Miscellaneous/Contract Income	3
Total Income from Radiological Activities	472

	2014	2013
4 Licensing Activities – IPPC, Waste and WWD	€′000	€′000
Licence Fees prepaid at 1 January	4,326	5,283
Fees Received	387	590
Licence Fees prepaid at 31 December (see Note 22(a))	(2,798)	(4,326)
Amount credited to Income and Expenditure Account	1,915	1,547

Licensing: Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) and Waste

Under Section 83 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 the EPA is responsible for the licensing of large/complex industrial and other processes with significant polluting potential. Under Section 40 of the Waste Management Act, 1996 the EPA is responsible for the licensing of all significant waste recovery & disposal activities operated by local authorities and private enterprise.

Licensing: Wastewater Discharges (WWD)

The Wastewater Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 provide for the licensing of local authority wastewater discharges. Discharges from areas that serve over 500 population equivalent require a licence from the EPA. Areas that serve less than 500 population equivalent are required to be certified by the EPA.

The EPA's licensing income arises from fees charged in respect of processing such licensing applications.

	2014	2013
5 Enforcement Activities - IPPC, Waste and WWD	€′000	€′000
Enforcement Charges Invoiced	7,576	7,317
Enforcement Income from Prosecutions	119	169
Total Income from Enforcement Activities	7,695	7,486

Under Section 96 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 the EPA is responsible for the regulation of large/complex industrial and other processes with significant polluting potential.

Under Section 15 of the Waste Management Act, 1996 the EPA is responsible for the regulation of all significant waste recovery and disposal activities operated by local authorities and private enterprise.

Under the Wastewater Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 the EPA is responsible for the regulation of wastewater discharges.

The EPA's enforcement income arises from fees charged in respect of this enforcement work.

		2014	2013
6 Sundry Receipts		€′000	€′000
Sales of publications		0	1
Sundry		185	52
		185	53
7 Salaries and PRSI of Staff		€′000	€′000
Salaries		19,011	17,509
Employers' PRSI		1,652	1,511
Total Salary Costs		20,663	19,020
The total Salary cost of €20,663K shown above inclu Employers' PRSI €64K) in respect of accumulated sta			
The numbers of employees on 31 December were :			
	Headquarters	141	137
Regional Inspectorates:	Castlebar	27	28
	Cork	41	43
	Dublin	121	73
	Kilkenny	20	19
	Monaghan	12	12
	Regional Offices	4	4
		366	316

On 1 August 2014, the 46 RPII staff members transferred from RPII to EPA. The Salary costs of these staff for the period 1 August 2014 to 31 December 2014 amount to €1,126K (Salaries €1,067K, Employers' PRSI €59K).

Director General's Remuneration Package and Directors' Fees

The Director General received a salary of €153,162 in 2014 (2013 - €158,813) and is also entitled to pension benefits in line with the standard entitlements of the Environmental Protection Agency (Director General and Director) Staff Superannuation Scheme, 1996. This scheme has been approved by the Minister and is in line with standard entitlements of similar defined benefit schemes in the Public Sector.

The Directors of the Environmental Protection Agency are full time executive Directors.

They are paid an inclusive salary and consequently no Directors' fees are paid.

There is no performance related payment scheme in place for the posts of Director General or Director of the Environmental Protection Agency and thus no performance related payments have been paid.

Pension Levy

In 2014 €1.208M (2013: €1.197M) of pension levy was deducted and paid over to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

	2014	2013
8 Travelling Expenses	€′000	€′000
Travel and Subsistence	1,311	1,119
Motor Vehicle Expenses	162	178
Travel Refunds	(14)	(13)
	1,459	1,284

Board Members' Expenses

Travel and Subsistence expenses incurred in attending Board meetings are reimbursed at the rates applicable for the Civil Service. Expenses paid to Directors in relation to attendance at Board meetings in 2014 amounted to €2,759, broken down €1,866 mileage, €543 subsistence and €350 other costs. The 2013 total was €2,574 (€1,564 mileage, €910 subsistence and €100 other expenses).

Staff Development & Training Costs

A sum of €108,127 (2013: €102,418) in respect of travelling expenses is included under staff development and training costs at Note 11.

	2014	2013
9 Laboratory and Field Costs	€′000	€′000
Laboratory and Field Expenses	1,373	1,145
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	412	276
Protective Clothing	13	11
	1,798	1,432
10 Accommodation Costs	€′000	€′000

10 Accommodation Costs	€′000	€′000
Rent and Rates	623	260
Power, Light and Heat, Cleaning	654	569
Repairs, Maintenance, Security	631	636
	1,908	1,465

11 Other Administration Costs	2014 €′000	2013 €′000
Telephone and Postage	313	289
Printing of Publications and Stationery Supplies	291	235
Insurance	157	150
Computer and Data Processing Charges	3,758	3,666
Audit Fees	16	15
Corporate Governance and Internal Audit Costs	40	49
Legal Fees	1,594	983
Staff Appointment and other related costs	42	49
Bank Interest and Charges	8	6
Books, Periodicals, and Library	30	43
Staff Development and Training Costs	598	486
Advertising	81	136
Communications	306	276
Sundries	129	80
	7,363	6,463
12 Consultancy Costs	€′000	€′000
Consultants	126	53
	126	53
The work programme activities which made use of these consultancies were:	€′000	€′000
Environmental Enforcement	0	38
Emissions Trading Unit	67	0
Communications and Corporate Services	59	14
Climate, Licensing and Resource Use	0	1
	126	53
13 Contractors, Grants and External Service Providers	€′000	€′000
Contractors	3,360	4,007
Grants	4,148	2,973
External Service Providers	2,094	1,180
	9,602	8,160
The main work areas which incurred costs under this heading were:	<u>€′000</u>	€′000
Communications and Corporate Services	687	322
Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment (WFD) Programme	2,386	1,691
Environmental Enforcement	3,326	2,626
National Waste Prevention Programme	2,265	2,996
Environmental Assessment	419	334
Emissions Trading Unit	126	46
Climate, Licensing and Resource Use	303	145
Radiological Protection	90	0
	9,602	8,160

Since 2013, the EPA in conjunction with Galway County Council has managed the East Galway Landfill site, following the liquidation of the Greenstar operating company. Grant payments of €1,618K (2013: €838K) made to Galway County Council to fund this activity are included in the Environmental Enforcement figures above.

	2014	2013
14 Environmental Research	€′000	€′000
EPA Research Programme	8,263	8,901
Co-funding Research Income	(43)	(107)
Research Programme Payments	8,220	8,794

The current EPA environmental research programme was launched in 2014. It is being funded through the Environment Fund. The research programme aims to fund research that will address key environmental management issues, which will ultimately protect and improve the natural environment.

In 2014 the EPA Research Programme expenditure of €8.263M includes Grant Payments of €7.533M and implementation and activity costs of €730K.

At 31 December 2014 commitments entered into but not yet charged to the financial statements in respect of Research projects amounted to €17.445M (2013: €16.063M) with the following breakdown:

		2014	2013
		€′000	€′000
Outstanding Grant Commitments at 1 January		16,063	19,491
Grants Approved during the year		10,963	5,583
Grants Decommitted during the year		(1,851)	(830)
Grant Payments made in the year		(7,730)	(8,181)
Outstanding Commitments at 31 December		17,445	16,063
These figures exclude EPA implementation costs in respec	t of Research programmes.		
15 Capital Account		€′000	€′000
At 1 January 2014			34,958
Add: Capital Account Transferred from RPII			478
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account:			
Income Allocated for Capital purposes	- Fixed Asset Additions	3,792	
	- To Fund Future Additions	40	
	- Repayment of Loans	308	
		4,140	
<u>Less:</u>			
Disposals		183	
Less prior depreciation on disposals		(183)	
		0	
Depreciation charge for year		3,764	
Net Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account			376
Transfer from Capital Grant in Advance (Note 23).			258
At 31 December 2014			36,070
At 31 December 2014 the Capital Account balance include respect of prepayments for fixed assets (see Note 20 – December 2014).	. , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
		2014	2013
16 Interest Received		€′000	€′000
Total Bank Deposit Interest Received		9	63
Less Deposit Interest Earned on ETU Funds incl. in ETU To	otal Funds Generated at	_	/4.4
Note 2(b) above		0	(11)
Bank Deposit Interest Earned on EPA Funds		9	52

	2014	2013
17 Interest Payable and Similar Charges	<u>€′000</u>	€′000
Bank Loans repayable by Instalments-Mortgage on Headquarters building	18	39

18 Taxation

The EPA is specifically exempted under the provisions of Section 32, and Schedule 2, of Finance Act, 1994. Accordingly no taxation charges have been included in the accounts.

19 Fixed Assets

	Total	Buildings	Furniture & Fittings	IT & IS Equipment	Lab & Field Equipment	Motor Vehicles
Cost	€′000	€′000	€′000	€′000	€′000	€′000
At 1 January 2014	58,875	38,540	3,010	8,392	7,821	1,112
Assets transferred from RPII	6,184	2,114	788	1,181	2,101	0
Transfers	227	0	40	187	0	0
Additions	4,050	146	65	2,841	832	166
Disposals	(183)	0	(8)	(42)	(56)	(77)
At 31 December 2014	69,153	40,800	3,895	12,559	10,698	1,201
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2014	22,902	7,633	2,431	5,153	6,795	890
On Assets transferred from RPII	5,706	1,881	751	1,095	1,979	0
Charge for Year	3,764	775	200	2,119	554	116
On Disposals	(183)	0	(8)	(42)	(56)	(77)
At 31 December 2014	32,189	10,289	3,374	8,325	9,272	929
Net Book Value						
At 31 December 2014	36,964	30,511	521	4,234	1,426	272
At 31 December 2013	35,973	30,907	579	3,239	1,026	222

Headquarters for the Environmental Protection Agency were built on the grounds of Johnstown Castle Estate, County Wexford, on a site whose title is vested in Teagasc. In 2013 the EPA finalised a long-term lease of this site from Teagasc. The headquarters building was constructed by the Office of Public Works (OPW) who financed the construction by means of a commercial loan. The EPA funds the annual repayments made by the OPW. The interest element of the repayments met by the EPA is accounted for in the year it arises.

Both the asset and the associated funding arrangements have been recorded in the books of the EPA to reflect the substance of the underlying transactions.

The EPA regional inspectorate building at Seville Lodge, Kilkenny was constructed by the Office of Public Works on a site acquired for EPA. The legal transfer of the site to the EPA is being processed by the OPW through the Chief State Solicitor's Office

In 2014 the EPA capitalised €1.377M (2013: €1.285M) in respect of the external cost of software development for internal use. This is in line with our Accounting Policy for *Capitalisation of Internally Developed Software*.

	2014	2013
20 Debtors and Prepayments	€′000	€′000
Debtors	 871	497
Prepayments for Fixed Assets	57	244
	928	741

Prepayments for Fixed Assets:

At 31 December 2014 prepayments totalling €57,000 (2013: €244,000) had been made as set out hereunder. These prepayments have been included in the amounts transferred from the Income and Expenditure Account to the Capital Account.

Advances to the Office of Public Works (OPW)

At the end of 2012 the OPW held advance payments of €21,130 in respect of minor capital works and furniture. In 2013 €4,170 of this was paid to a number of small suppliers for furniture and transferred to Fixed Assets.

In December 2013 an advance payment of €40,000 was made to the OPW for furniture. This was paid to suppliers in 2014 and has been transferred to Fixed Assets. In December 2014 an advance payment of €40,000 was made to the OPW for window blinds.

Advance payments for other Fixed Assets

In 2013 €86,727 was paid by the EPA to the Local Government Management Agency as a contribution toward licence & implementation costs of the Core HR Payroll & Superannuation System. This was in addition to €100,000 paid in 2012.

Significant elements of the CORE HR system were implemented in 2014 and the €186,727 has been transferred to Fixed Assets in 2014.

All debtors fall due within one year.

21 Cash on Hand and at Bank	€′000	€′000
Cash and Bank Balances	12,318	10,712
Prepaid Licensing income (see Note 4) accounts for €2.798M (2013: €4.326M) of the Bank balances at the Balance Sheet date.		
22 Creditors and Accruals	€′000	€′000
(a) Amounts falling due within one year:		
Licence Fees (see Note 4)	2,798	4,326
Radiological Protection Licence Fees Prepaid	533	0
ETU Funds on Hands (see Note 2(b))	195	325
Trade and Other Expenses	7,657	4,819
Instalments due on purchase of Fixed Assets	326	326
	11,509	9,796
Included in Trade and Other Expenses above are the following amounts due to revenue		
Professional Service Witholding Tax	460	404
PAYE/PRSI/USC	597	530
VAT	146	122
Relevant Contract Tax	0	0
	1,203	1,056
(b) Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Instalments due on purchase of Fixed Assets	626	934
23 Capital Grant in Advance	€′000	€′000
This represents Capital Grants received in respect of projects which were not completed during the year:		
Opening Balance at 1 August transferred from RPII	258	
Transfer (to)/from Capital Account (Note 15)	(258)	
Closing Balance at 31 December	0	

2014

2013

24 Pension Costs

	2014	2013
(a) Analysis of total pension costs charged to Expenditure	€′000	€′000
Current Service Cost	4,933	4,636
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	5,113	4,729
Employee Contributions Received	(942)	(901)
	9,104	8,464
(b) Movement in Net Pension Liability during the financial year	€′000	€′000
Net Pension Liability at 1 January	123,197	122,848
Liability assumed in respect of RPII pension scheme at 1 August 2014	26,778	0
Current Service Cost	4,933	4,636
Interest Costs	5,113	4,729
Actuarial (Gain)/Loss	19,039	(6,487)
Pensions paid in the year	(2,814)	(2,529)
Net Pension Liability at 31 December	176,246	123,197

(c) Deferred Funding for Pensions

The EPA recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of the set of assumptions described below and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the superannuation schemes, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. The EPA has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The Net Deferred Funding for Pensions recognised in the Income and Expenditure Accounts was as follows:

	2014	2013
	€′000	€′000
Funding Recoverable in respect of current year pension costs	10,046	9,365
State Grants applied to pay pensioners	(2,814)	(2,529)
	7,232	6,836

The deferred funding asset for pensions at 31 December 2014 amounted to €176.246M (2013 €123.197M).

(d) History of defined benefit obligations

		2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
		€M	€M	€M	€M	€M
Defined benefit obligations		176	123	123	104	95
Experience Gains/(Losses) on Scheme Liabil	ities:					
	Amount (€'000)	0.4	6.5	-0.1	-1	10
	Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	0.2%	5.3%	-0.1%	-1.4%	11.0%

The cumulative actuarial loss recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses amounts to €57.976M.

(e) General Description of the Schemes

The schemes are defined benefit final salary pension arrangements with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current "model" public sector scheme regulations. The schemes provide staff members with a pension (1/80 per year of service), a gratuity of lump sum (3/80 per year of service) and spouse's and children's pensions. Normal Retirement Age is a member's sixty fifth birthday, and pre 2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. The schemes provide Board members with a pension (1/48 per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (1/32 per year of service) and spouse's and children's pensions.

Board members are entitled to retire when their contract ends. Pensions in payment (and deferment) increase on a discretionary basis in line with salary inflation.

The valuation used for FRS 17 (Revised) disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation at 26 March 2015 by a qualified independent actuary taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2014.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:	2014	2013
Rate of increase in salaries	2.25%	3.00%
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	1.75%	2.50%
Discount rate	2.20%	3.75%
Inflation rate	1.25%	2.00%

The mortality basis adopted explicitly allows for improvements in life expectancy over time, so that life expectancy at retirement will depend on the year in which a member attains retirement age (age 65). The table below shows the life expectancy for members attaining age 65 in 2014 and 2034.

Year of attaining age 65	2014	2034
Life expectancy – male	85.8	88.3
Life expectancy – female	88.4	90.5

25 Kerdiffstown Emergency Response

In 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency took the lead in coordinating the emergency response to an underground landfill fire at Kerdiffstown, Naas and took charge of the subsequent management of the site. The total cost of this work in 2014 was €1,583,000 (2013: €1,302,000) and this cost is reflected under the following cost headings in these financial statements:

		2014	2013
		€′000	€′000
Note 9	Laboratory and Field Costs – Site Operations, Waste Disposal, etc.	716	392
Note 10	Accommodation Costs – Mainly Security costs of the site.	392	400
Note 11	Other Administration Costs – Mainly Communications, Health and Safety and Insurance costs.	36	58
Note 12	Contractors and External Service Provider Costs – Mainly personnel for site operational work, etc.	424	436
Note 18	Capital Expenditure – Mainly portable landfill gas management equipment and site offices.	0	3
Note 8	Travelling Expenses – Travel and Subsistence costs of EPA staff.	15	13
Total Cos	sts Incurred	1,583	1,302

The ongoing management of the Kerdiffstown site by the Environmental Protection Agency is continuing in 2014. The EPA is involved in legal proceedings on this matter and is seeking to recover the costs of remediation.

26 RPII Operations Transferred to Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA and RPII formally merged on 1 August 2014 and the RPII's functions, staff, land and other property, rights and liabilities transferred to the EPA. The costs of the former RPII for the period 1 August 2014 to 31 December 2014 are reflected in these financial statements, under the following headings:

		2014
		€′000
Note 7	Salaries and PRSI of Staff	1,126
Note 8	Travelling Expenses	85
Note 9	Laboratory and Field Costs	51
Note 10	Accommodation Costs	240
Note 11	Other Administration Costs	111
Note 13	Contractors, Grants and External Service Providers	90
Note 19	Purchase of Assets	251
Note 24	Pensions Paid	175
Total Costs Incurred		2,129

27 Commitments and Lease Obligations – Operating Leases

3 Clonskeagh Square

Lease commitments payable in the next 12 months amount to €300,000 on the basis of current rental rates and comprise rental payments on a leasehold interest, the term of which expires on 1 October 2018.

1 Clonskeagh Square

Lease commitments payable in the next 12 months amount to €140,000 on the basis of current rental rates and comprise rental payments on a 20 year leasehold interest. The rent is subject to review at five—yearly intervals. The next review is in 2018.

McCumiskey House, Richview, Clonskeagh Road

Licence commitments payable in the next 12 months amount to €31,743 on the basis of a 50 year licence agreement, the term of which expires in 2053. Negotiations have commenced between EPA and UCD in relation to reviewing the licence payments, as provided for in the agreement.

John Moore Road, Castlebar.

Rents payable in the next 12 months amount to €164,232 on the basis of an agreement between EPA and Mayo County Council. Negotiations are progressing between EPA and Mayo County Council to put a formal agreement in place.

Civic Centre, Church Street, Athlone

Rents payable in the next 12 months amount to €7,725 on the basis of an agreement between EPA and Westmeath County Council.

Raheen Conference Centre, Pearse Road, Limerick

Rents payable in the next twelve months amount to €6,075 on the basis of an agreement between EPA and a private landlord

28 Board Members' Interests

The EPA has adopted procedures to govern its decision making in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 and the Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 and regulations made thereunder. These procedures have been adhered to by the EPA during the year.

29 Approval of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 21st of July 2015.

AN GHNÍOMHAIREACHT UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

Tá an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC) freagrach as an gcomhshaol a chaomhnú agus a fheabhsú mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaol 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 maithe comhshaoil a sholáthar agus chun díriú orthu siúd nach gcloíonn leis na córais sin.

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

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

Ár bhFreagrachtaí

Ceadúnú

- Déanaimid na gníomhaíochtaí seo a leanas a rialú ionas nach ndéanann siad dochar do shláinte an phobail ná don chomhshaol:
- 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 peitril;
- 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 dhíriú 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 ózóin.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaol.

Bainistíocht Uisce

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

Monatóireacht, Anailís agus Tuairisciú ar an qComhshaol

- 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 Chomhshaol 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 shainaithint, 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 gcomhshaol in Éirinn (m.sh. mórphleananna forbartha).

Cosaint Raideolaíoch

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéil 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 gcomhshaol ar a bhfuil fáil éasca a chur ar fáil chun rannpháirtíocht an phobail a spreagadh sa chinnteoireacht i ndáil leis an gcomhshaol (*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 imní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.



Headquarters

PO Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate County Wexford, Ireland

T: +353 53 916 0600 F: +353 53 916 0699 E: info@epa.ie W:www.epa.ie LoCall: 1890 33 55 99

Regional Inspectorate

McCumiskey House, Richview, Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14, Ireland

T: +353 1 268 0100 F: +353 1 268 0199

Regional Inspectorate

Inniscarra, County Cork, Ireland

T: +353 21 487 5540 F: +353 21 487 5545

Regional Inspectorate

Seville Lodge, Callan Road, Kilkenny, Ireland

T: +353 56 779 6700 F: +353 56 779 6798

Regional Inspectorate

John Moore Road, Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland

T: +353 94 904 8400 F: +353 94 902 1934

Regional Inspectorate

The Glen, Monaghan, Ireland

T: +353 47 77600 F: +353 47 84987

Regional Offices

The Civic Centre Church St., Athlone, Co. Westmeath, Ireland T: +353 906 475722

Room 3, Raheen Conference Centre, Pearse House, Pearse Road, Raheen Business Park, Limerick, Ireland T: +353 61 224764

