

Small Wastewater Discharges

Registration Criteria



Environmental Protection Agency

The 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:** Implementing regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.
- **Knowledge:** Providing high-quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making.
- **Advocacy:** Working with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well-protected environment and for sustainable environmental practices.

Our responsibilities include:

LICENSING

- Large-scale industrial waste and petrol storage activities;
- Urban wastewater discharges;
- The contained use and controlled release of genetically modified organisms;
- Sources of ionising radiation;
- Greenhouse gas emissions from industry and aviation through the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

- Audit and inspection of EPA-licensed facilities;
- Drive the implementation of best practice in regulated activities and facilities;
- Oversee local authority responsibilities for environmental protection;
- Regulate the quality of public drinking water and enforce urban wastewater discharge authorisations;
- Assess and report on public and private drinking water quality;
- Coordinate a network of public service organisations to support action against environmental crime;
- Prosecute those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CHEMICALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

- Implement and enforce waste regulations including national enforcement issues;
- Prepare and publish national waste statistics and the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan;
- Develop and implement the National Waste Prevention Programme;
- Implement and report on legislation on the control of chemicals in the environment.

WATER MANAGEMENT

- Engage with national and regional governance and operational structures to implement the Water Framework Directive;
- Monitor, assess and report on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters, bathing waters and groundwaters, and measurement of water levels and river flows.

CLIMATE SCIENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Publish Ireland's greenhouse gas emission inventories and projections;
- Provide the Secretariat to the Climate Change Advisory Council and support to the National Dialogue on Climate Action;
- Support National, EU and UN climate science and policy development activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & ASSESSMENT

- Design and implement national environmental monitoring systems: technology, data management, analysis and forecasting;
- Produce the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports;
- Monitor air quality and implement the EU Clean Air for Europe Directive, the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution and the National Emissions Ceiling Directive;
- Oversee the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive;
- Assess the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Coordinate and fund national environmental research activity to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions;
- Collaborate with national and EU environmental research activity.

RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

- Monitoring radiation levels and assess public exposure to ionising radiation and electromagnetic fields;
- Assist in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents;
- Monitor developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety;
- Provide, or oversee the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

GUIDANCE, AWARENESS RAISING, AND ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

- Provide independent evidence-based reporting, advice and guidance to government, industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics;
- Promote the link between health and wellbeing, the economy and a clean environment;
- Promote environmental awareness including supporting behaviours for resource efficiency and climate transition;
- Promote radon testing in homes and workplaces and encourage remediation where necessary.

PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING

- Work with international and national agencies, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, representative bodies and government departments to deliver environmental and radiological protection, research coordination and science-based decision making.

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 Environmental Sustainability
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Evidence and Assessment
- Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by advisory committees who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.



Registration Criteria for Small Wastewater Discharges

2026

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Introduction

In November 2025, the Irish Government approved the introduction of a new regulatory approach for wastewater discharges from small-scale housing developments. The system will see wastewater from developments of up to 40 homes regulated through a registration system and compliance with General Binding Rules (GBRs).

The GBRs establish binding requirements relating to housing development size and discharge volume as well as setting treatment performance standards to be met. Operational and maintenance requirements are set out as well as incident reporting and environmental monitoring obligations.

The importance of regulation

Domestic wastewater generated in our homes and communities must be treated before it is discharged into the environment to protect the quality of both groundwater and surface water. Without adequate treatment, domestic wastewater causes pollution and poses a health risk.



Regulating wastewater discharges is essential for protection of our water environment and public health.

The legislative framework

The environmental requirement to regulate wastewater discharges has been mapped out in EU and national policy and legislation for some time. Article 11(3)(g) of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) requires Member States to ensure that, for point source discharges liable to cause pollution, statutory requirements exist for prior regulation - either via prohibition, authorisation, or registration based on GBRs, laying down emission controls for the pollutants concerned. The European Union (Water Policy) (Small Wastewater Discharge Register) Regulations 2026 (S.I. 65 of 2026) give effect to the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) by introducing a registration regime for certain wastewater discharges to surface water and specifying GBRs to be complied with.

These regulations apply to discharges to surface waterbodies from small wastewater treatment systems serving housing developments with a population equivalent (p.e.) of less than or equal to 150 p.e. The methodology for calculating the p.e. for a housing development is outlined in Box 1 below. While the wastewater treatment infrastructure is to be provided by housing developers in accordance with technical standards prescribed by Uisce Éireann, Uisce Éireann will apply to register the discharges with the EPA and assume responsibility for operation and maintenance of the infrastructure and compliance with regulatory standards after completion of process proving and takeover.

The registration system obviates the requirement for an EPA authorisation for these smaller wastewater discharges, instead basing the risk controls on registration criteria published by the EPA and a set of GBRs contained in the regulations. The system of registration is to be administered and enforced by the EPA. This document sets out the registration criteria that will need to be satisfied when registering a discharge under the regulations.

These criteria may be revised following a period of operation. The EPA will keep the criteria under review and will consider amendments to the criteria if relevant additional information becomes available, including, in particular, on the dilutions necessary where Nature Based Solutions (NBS) are used to treat wastewater.

Box 1. Determining the population equivalent (p.e.) for a housing development

The regulations apply to wastewater discharges to surface waters from wastewater works serving housing developments with a population equivalent of less than or equal to 150. It is therefore necessary to be able to express a housing development in terms of its population equivalence. This will dictate whether a particular development falls within the scope of the regulations or not. For the purposes of these regulations, the p.e. associated with different house sizes is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Population equivalent (p.e.) associated with different house sizes

House Type	Population Equivalent (p.e.)
1-2 bedroomed	4
3 bedroomed	5
4 bedroomed	6
5 bedroomed	7
6 bedroomed	8

The population equivalent for a given housing development is calculated by totalling the p.e. for each house type in the development and then applying a scaled factor, as set out below:

- 0.9 for housing developments with a p.e. of between 10 and 25
- 0.8 for housing developments with a p.e. of between 26 and 50
- 0.7 for housing developments with a p.e. in excess of 50.

The scaled factor is applied to allow for the balancing effects on the daily flow of multiple houses connected to the treatment system.

Worked example

What is the p.e. for a development of 30 x 3-bedroomed semi-detached houses and 10 x 4-bedroomed detached houses?

Each 3-bedroomed house is equivalent to 5 p.e., thus the 30 houses of this type corresponds to 150 p.e.

Each 4-bedroomed house is equivalent to 6 p.e., thus the 10 houses of this type corresponds to 60 p.e.

The combined p.e. is $150 + 60 = 210$ p.e.

The p.e. is greater than 50, so a scaling factor of 0.7 is applied to 210, yielding a p.e. for the development of **147 p.e.**

This notional development, having determined its p.e. to be 147, therefore falls within the scope of the regulations.

Roles and Responsibilities

The implementation of the regulatory approach for small wastewater discharges requires input from a number of different stakeholders. The key stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities are set out here.

EPA (the Agency)

- Publish registration criteria
- Establish and maintain a small wastewater discharges register and make it available for public viewing
- Ensure Uisce Éireann comply with the GBRs

Uisce Éireann

- Register small wastewater discharges with the EPA in advance of commencement of discharge
- Manage and operate infrastructure to ensure compliance with the GBRs following successful establishment of the new wastewater infrastructure in line with the connection agreement in place between Uisce Éireann and the developer

Planning Authority

- Consider planning applications for housing developments
- Apply the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as it relates to their roles, functions and responsibilities in undertaking Appropriate Assessment of projects for which planning authorities receive an application for consent

Developer

- Consult with Uisce Éireann on the potential of connecting the proposed housing development to the public wastewater network
- Undertake the necessary investigative and preparatory work to demonstrate the compliance of the proposed infrastructural solution with these EPA registration criteria, national, regional and local planning policy and the relevant European directives
- Apply for planning permission for the proposed housing development
- Construct the necessary infrastructure in accordance with Uisce Éireann technical standards and contractual requirements

Registration Criteria

Three criteria must be satisfied prior to a discharge being registered by the EPA (as illustrated in Figure 1):

1. Sewer proximity assessment

If it is possible to connect the housing development to a public sewer this should be done. Only where it is documented that sewer connection is not feasible due to proximity will registration be possible.

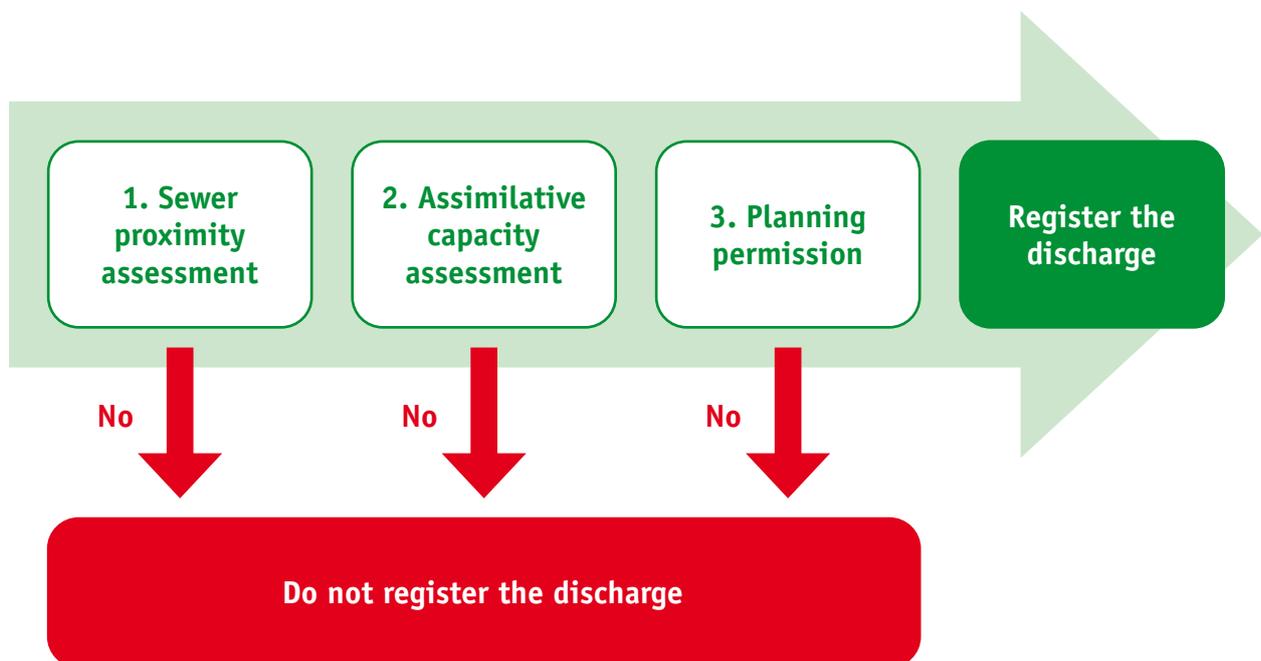
2. Assimilative capacity assessment

The receiving waterbody must be a river with sufficient capacity (at least 10 dilutions) to assimilate the discharge from the housing development.

3. Planning permission

Planning permission must have been granted by the relevant planning authority for the proposed housing development.

Figure 1. Overview of the criteria that must be satisfied prior to a discharge being registered with the EPA.



1. Sewer Proximity Assessment

The preferred option for wastewater is that a connection would be made to the public sewer if there is capacity in the wastewater works to convey the wastewater in the network and treat it effectively before discharge.

A developer should submit a Pre-Connection Enquiry (PCE) to Uisce Éireann who will, considering the local circumstances, carry out a formal assessment on the feasibility of the proposed development connecting to the existing wastewater network.

Having completed their assessment, Uisce Éireann will provide a PCE response letter confirming if it is feasible to connect to the network or not. Only discharges from housing developments where it is not feasible, as documented in a PCE response letter, to connect to the Uisce Éireann network due to proximity only will be accepted for registration by the EPA.



Photo 1. Overhead view of an Integrated Constructed Wetland system at Coolatee, Co. Donegal

2. Assimilative Capacity Assessment

In the context of small wastewater discharges, assimilative capacity refers to the ability of the surface waterbody (river or stream) to absorb or process pollutants (e.g. nutrients, organic matter) in the wastewater discharge without suffering harmful long-term effects.

Regulation 5 requires that the EPA address ... *the minimum flow required in the receiving surface waterbody to assimilate a discharge, along with the estimation methodology to be used in its determination.*

There are three steps required in completing an assimilative capacity assessment; the determination of wastewater arisings and river flows and finally the calculation of available dilutions.

Step 1. Calculation of wastewater arisings

The wastewater generated by a housing development is a function of the number and types of housing units in the development and the type of drainage network. General Binding Rule No. 4 stipulates that rainwater, surface water and runoff from paved areas must not enter the wastewater works. A drainage system separately collecting foul water means that per capita wastewater flow can be estimated at 150 litres per day. This per capita figure with the p.e. of the development yields estimated wastewater arisings from housing developments of different sizes, as shown in Table 2 below for a number of selected p.e scenarios. When developing a particular proposal, the actual p.e. for the proposed development should be determined in line with the methodology outlined in this document and used to generate the associated estimated wastewater arisings.

Table 2. Wastewater arisings associated with a number of selected housing development p.e. scenarios

Population equivalent (p.e.) of the housing development	Associated wastewater arisings based on 150 litres/person/day	
	m ³ /day	Litres/sec
50	7.5	0.087
75	11.25	0.13
100	15	0.174
125	18.75	0.217
150	22.5	0.26

Step 2. Estimation of river flow

The flow in rivers can vary significantly from one time of year to another. Any proposed discharge should not cause an exceedance of water quality standards in the receiving river.

To protect water quality, environmental assessments are conducted for average flow conditions and for low flow conditions. The Q₃₀ flow represents typical or average river flow conditions and is used when evaluating the chronic long-term impact on river water quality. The Q₉₅ flow represents low flow conditions, when there is the least dilution in the river and therefore this is the time when the discharge can have the greatest acute impact on river water quality.

Flow monitoring data for the waterbody in question should ideally be used when assessing assimilative capacity. For rivers that do not have a hydrometric gauge or measured flow data, the flow estimation method set out in Appendix 1 should be used in arriving at an estimate for Q₉₅.

Step 3. Required dilutions

The ability of a river to assimilate a discharge is influenced by its own flow and the volume of the discharge. It is required that a minimum of **10 dilutions** be available in the receiving waterbody to assimilate the discharge. Table 3 below details the outcome of the assimilative capacity assessments conducted for a 150 p.e. development discharging into the waterbodies presented in the three example scenarios set out in Appendix 2. In the examples shown, the discharge from the development would satisfy the assimilative capacity criteria when discharging to the first two waterbodies and fail the criteria for the third waterbody.

Table 3. Outcome of the assimilative capacity assessment, based on three example scenarios set out in Appendix 2

Q95 flows from example scenarios set out in Appendix 2		Calculation of dilutions for wastewater arising from a development with a p.e of 150		Outcome of the assimilative capacity assessment
Example	Litres/sec	Litres/sec	Dilutions	Result
1	4	0.26	15.4	Pass
2	37	0.26	142	Pass
3	1	0.26	3.84	Fail

3. Planning Permission

It is a requirement for planning permission for housing developments to have been granted prior to a discharge being registered with the EPA under the 2026 Regulations.

Before lodging a planning application for new housing developments where small wastewater discharges under the 2026 regulations are proposed, the developer must have completed substantive prior engagement with Uisce Éireann and undertaken the necessary technical investigatory and preparatory work. The developer should then submit all documentation in their planning application sufficient to demonstrate the compliance of their proposal with the relevant EU directives and confirming that the proposed discharge will not cause deterioration of water status.

Only discharges from housing developments where evidence is provided of the grant of full planning permission will be accepted for registration by the EPA.



Photo 2. Willow Bed Treatment System

Compliance and Enforcement

The EPA ensures compliance with the regulations, including the GBRs, by conducting environmental inspections. This includes monitoring activities to prevent or limit failures in meeting environmental objectives, issuing compliance notices when necessary, and maintaining records of inspections and compliance actions. The EPA may impose penalties for violations of the regulations, thereby ensuring that water resources are managed sustainably and in accordance with environmental standards.



Photo 3. Inspecting a wastewater treatment system

Where to Find Additional Information

The EPA has material relating to registration of small wastewater discharges on its website: www.epa.ie

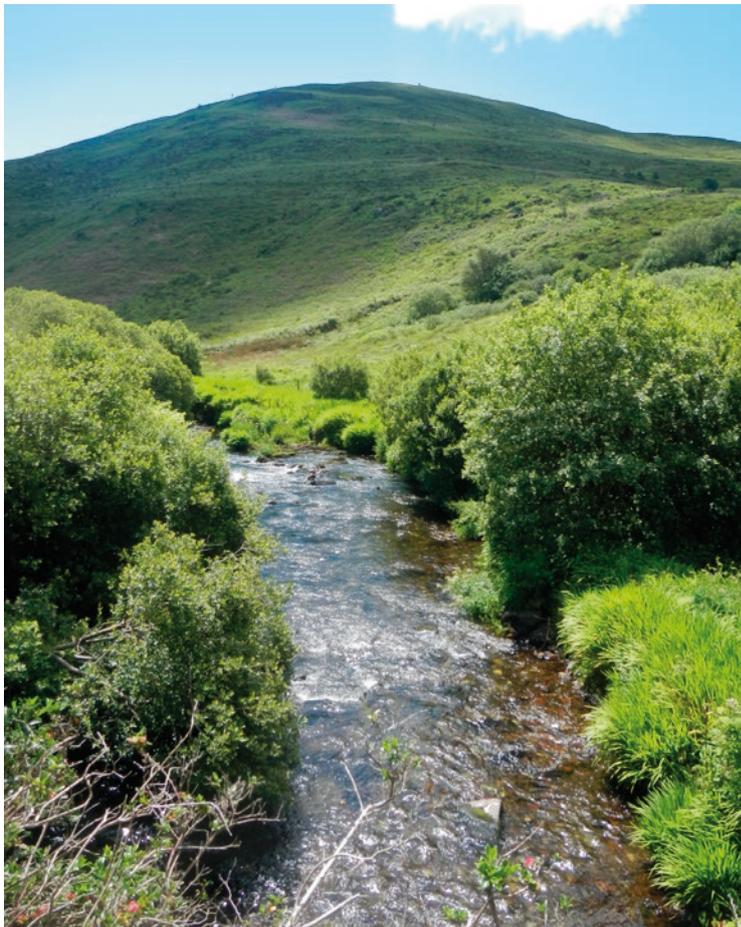


Photo 4. Mountain stream in Co. Kerry

Appendix 1: Estimation of River Flows

This appendix explains how to estimate river flows for locations where small wastewater discharges (<150 p.e.) are proposed. The river flow values needed to assess the environmental impact on the receiving river are the Q_{30} flow (indicative of mean flow) and the Q_{95} flow (the flow in the river that is equal to or exceeded 95% of the time). The Q_{30} flow represents typical or average river flow conditions and is used when evaluating the chronic long-term impact on river water quality. The Q_{95} flow represents low-flow conditions, when there is the least dilution in the river and therefore this is the time when the discharge can have the greatest acute impact on river water quality.

Where possible, river flow estimation should be carried out using long-term continuous gauged hydrometric flow data. Hydrometric data are collected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Public Works (OPW) and the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) and are publicly available. A national register of active and historic hydrometric gauges is updated annually and is displayed on the EPA HydroNet website and is available for download from the EPA website (2025 register) and the Water Quality and Monitoring section of the EPA Geoportal. Where publicly available hydrometric gauge data are available, or where hydrometric monitoring data have been independently gathered to inform assessments relating to an activity or development, these data should be considered when estimating river flows.

For rivers that do not have a hydrometric gauge or measured flow data, the following flow estimation method should be used.

Estimating river flows using HydroTool

The EPA has generated a river flow estimates dataset that contains estimates of the naturalised river flow duration percentiles for Irish rivers. Naturalised river flow duration percentile estimates were generated using the EPA HydroTool model and can be viewed on the River Flow Estimates – Hydrotool layer on EPA Water Maps.

Further information on the development of naturalised flow duration percentiles is contained in the 'Flow Duration Curves for Ungauged Catchments in Ireland' report.

Using the Hydrotool layer to derive river flow estimates

To estimate river flows using the HydroTool layer, follow these steps:

1. Open the EPA Water Maps viewer.

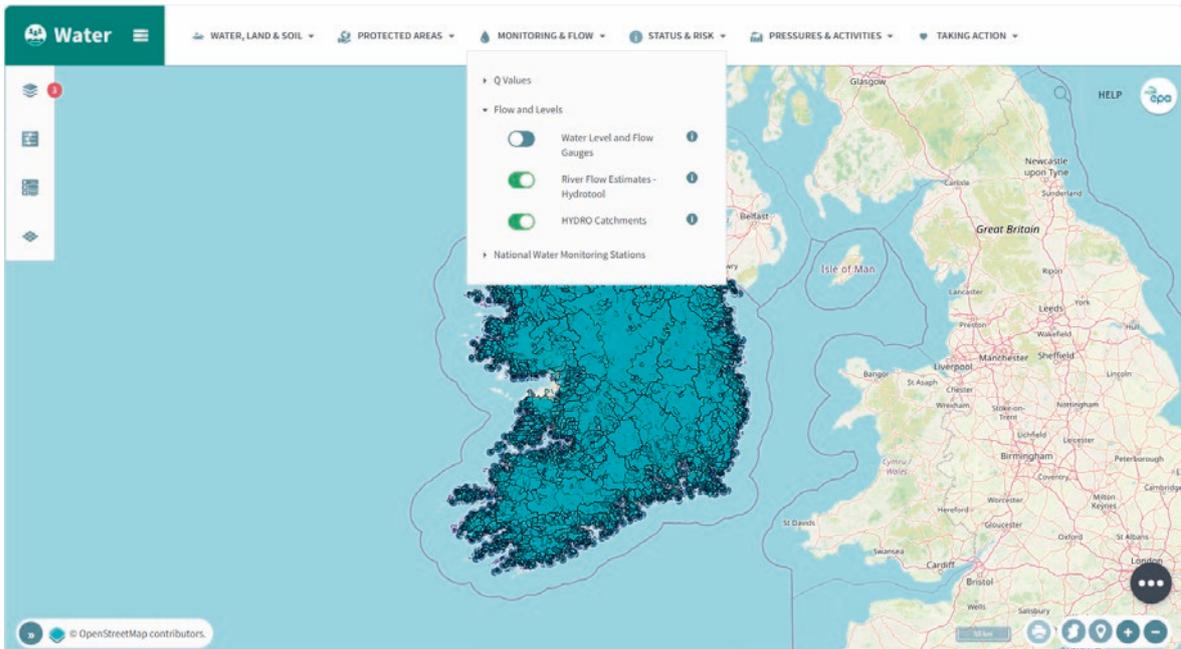


2. Go to the >Water, Land & Soil tab, open/expand the >Water Features menu, and turn on the >River Waterbodies layer.



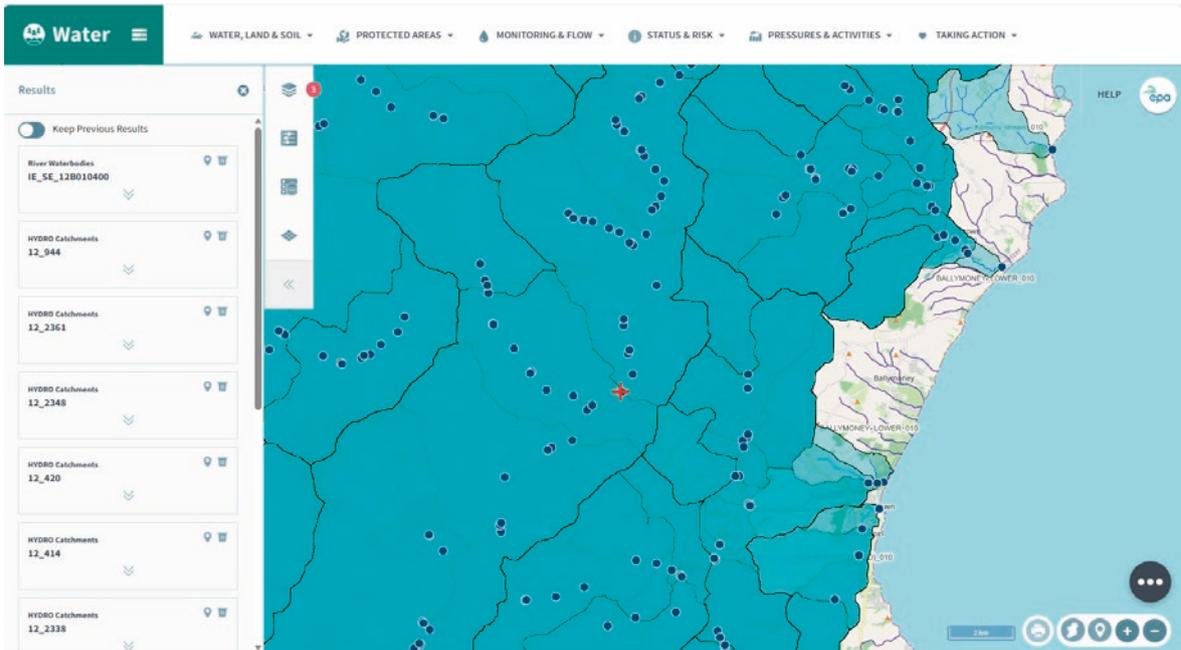
Registration Criteria for Small Wastewater Discharges

3. Go to the >Monitoring & Flow Tab and open/expand the >Flow and Levels menu. Turn on both >HYDRO Catchments and the >River Flow Estimates - HydroTool layers.

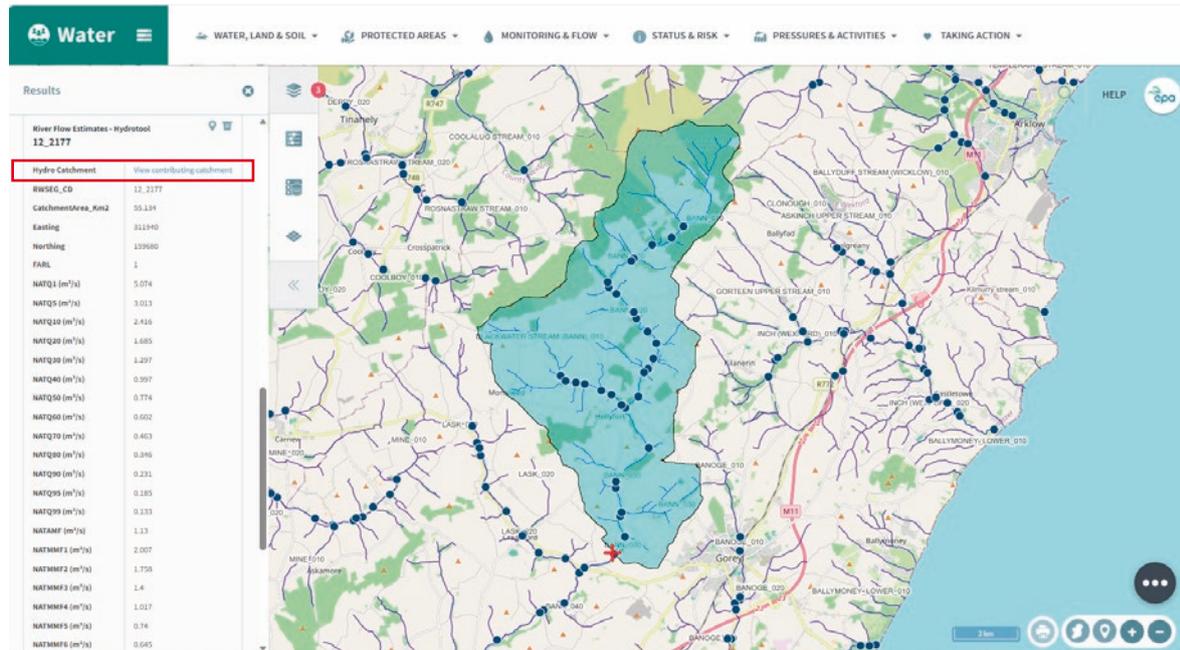


Zoom in to your area of interest. Note that if you zoom in too far some of the layers may disappear and you will need to zoom out a little for them to reappear.

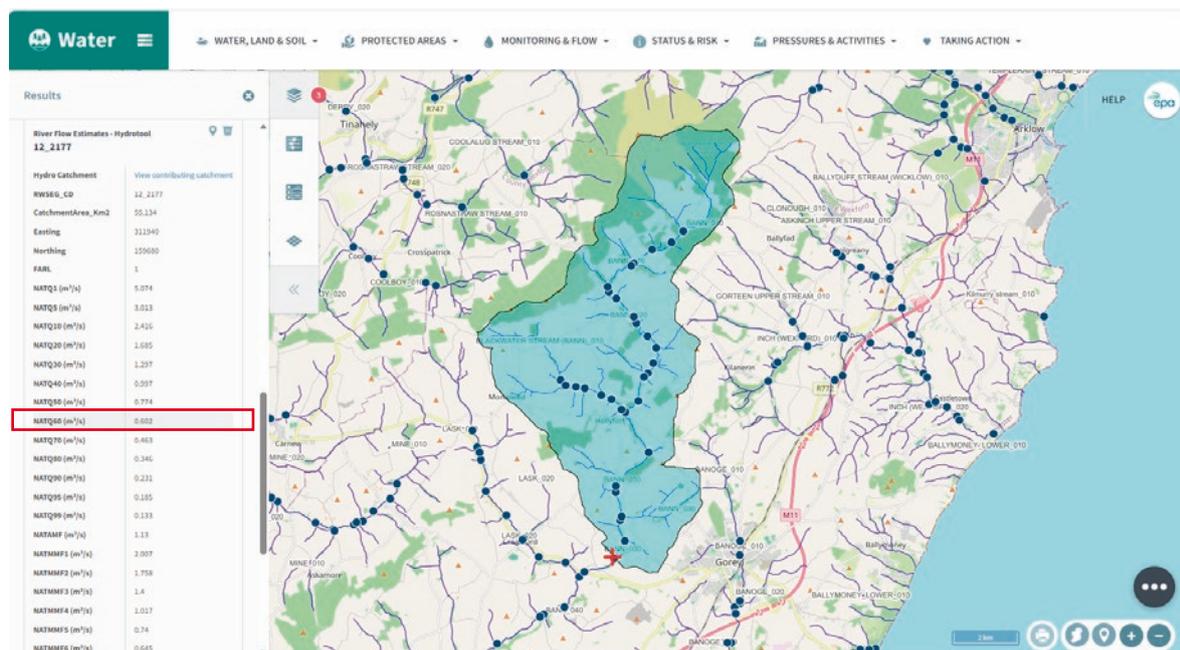
4. The navy nodes/points dots are locations along river channels where flow estimates have been made in HydroTool. When you select a node, a menu on the left-hand side appears, with results that include the river water body description, details on the hydro catchment (associated with the node) and the river flow estimate that has been generated using HydroTool.



- By selecting the “River Flow Estimate – Hydrotool” result from the menu on the left-hand side, it will display the river flow estimates and catchment descriptor data for the selected node. By clicking on the text “View contributing catchment” field for the selected node, this will visually display the contributing catchment area for that node.



- The parameters contained in the data set are described in the next part of this document. The data for each node include the node grid-reference, information on the catchment area upstream of that node, some additional catchment characteristics and estimates of naturalised river flow duration percentiles for Irish rivers. These estimates include naturalised flow percentiles (NATQ1-99%), naturalised mean monthly flows (NATMMF1-12) and the natural annual mean flow (NATAMF). Flow estimates are provided in m³/second.



Estimating river flows using gauged flow monitoring data

The HydroTool model incorporates hydrometric data from many of the gauges with over 10 years data that are monitored by the EPA and OPW. The model is updated every few years to incorporate new hydrometric data gathered by the EPA and OPW.

Where a hydrometric gauge is on the same river water body as the proposed development or where suitable river flow measurements have been taken by the developer, these can be considered to estimate the flow.

The suitability of the hydrometric gauge data depends on whether the gauge or hydrometric data gathered are located on the same river water body as the development. Suitable flow measurements are those taken in accordance with ISO standards (e.g., ISO 18320:2020 or ISO 748:2007). In relation to calculated wastewater assimilative capacity, there should be a minimum of one year of flow measurements, with sufficient measurements taken to demonstrate that the data are representative of low flows.

River water bodies are available to view on EPA Water Maps and can be downloaded as digital data layers from the Water/Water Framework Directive section of the EPA Geoportal.

Where the hydrometric gauge or flow measurements are on the same river water body as the development, the proximity of the development to the hydrometric gauge is important to ensure that the data generated are representative of the flow at a development. If the catchment area to the hydrometric gauge is substantially different to the catchment area to the development, then there is greater potential for changes in catchment characteristics¹, and it is not possible to confidently infer a direct relationship in river flow between the two locations.

The catchment area to each hydrometric gauge is documented on the national register of active and historic hydrometric gauges and in the hydrometric gauge "Information" tab on the EPA HydroNet website.

¹ Such as changes in slope, topography, aquifer type and soil type, or the occurrence of alterations to the flow from abstractions, wastewater discharges, or drainage.

Areal scaling flow estimation method

When assessing the assimilative capacity for surface water discharges, the key data requirements to estimate the Q_{95} flow at a proposed discharge location are the catchment area upstream of the discharge location, a Q_{95} flow estimate at a reference location on the river and the associated catchment area to that reference location.

Once this information exists, the Q_{95} flow can be estimated at the proposed discharge location by using the proportionate catchment areas to scale the Q_{95} flow from the reference location.

$$Q_{95} \text{ at proposed discharge} = \left(\frac{\text{Catchment area at discharge}}{\text{Catchment area at } Q_{95} \text{ reference point}} \right) \times Q_{95} \text{ at reference point}$$

Three examples are presented to show how the Q_{95} flow at a discharge location can be estimated.

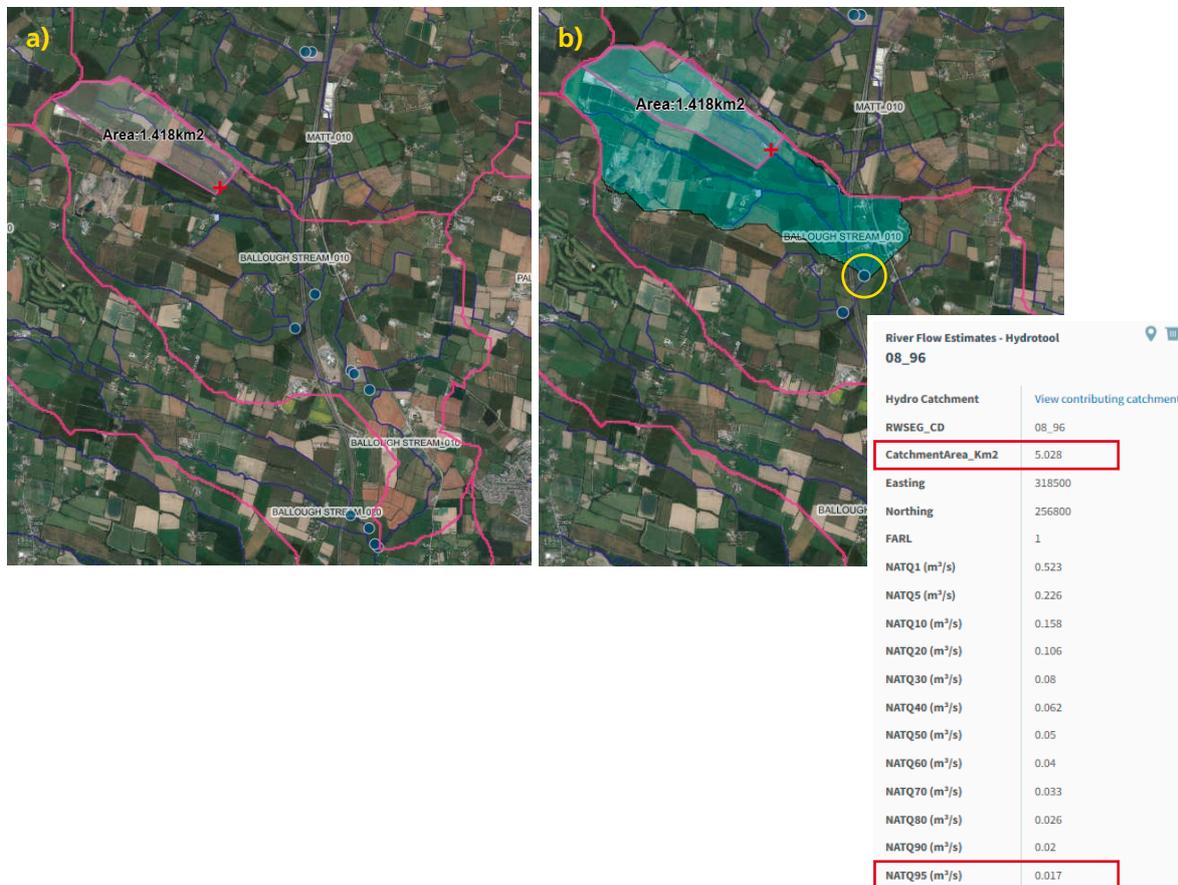
Appendix 2: Worked Examples

Example 1 – scaling the development catchment area to the nearest HydroTool node

Step 1: At the location of the proposed development (e.g., red cross), estimate the upstream catchment area using the area measurement tools on EPA Water Maps.



- Estimate of the upstream catchment area to the development i.e., 1.104 km².
- Select the nearest HydroTool node (e.g., circled yellow), and click on “view contributing catchment” to only display the catchment upstream of that node. Note the catchment area to the node i.e., 5.028 km².



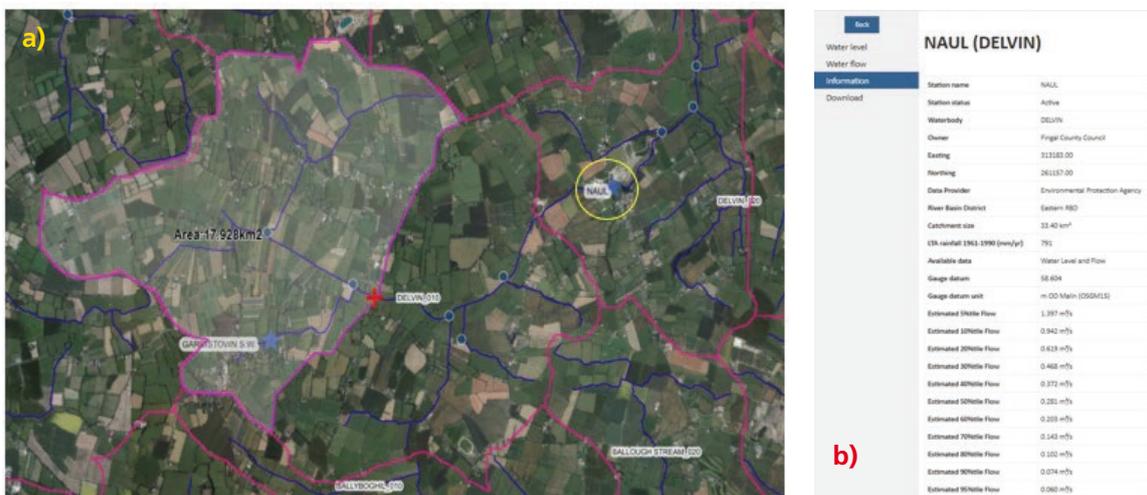
Step 2: At the HydroTool node select the relevant flow percentile e.g., NATQ₉₅ percentile that is relevant for the assessment i.e., Q₉₅ = 0.017 m³/second.

Step 3: Use catchment area scaling to estimate the NATQ₉₅ flow at the proposed development i.e., (1.104/5.028) * 0.017 = 0.004 m³/second.

Step 4: Use the estimated Q₉₅ flow (e.g., 0.004 m³/second; 4 litres/s) at the proposed development in subsequent assimilative capacity assessments.

Example 2 – scaling the development catchment area to a hydrometric gauge and comparing against the nearest HydroTool node

Step 1: At the location of the proposed development (e.g., red cross), estimate the upstream catchment area using the area measurement tools on EPA Water Maps.



- a) Estimate of the upstream catchment area to the development i.e., 17.928 km².
- b) There is an active hydrometric gauge (Naul - circled yellow) in this catchment and information on the Naul gauge is available on the EPA HydroNet website. The catchment area to the Naul hydrometric gauge is 33.4 km² and the “estimated 95%ile flow” (i.e., Q₉₅ flow) is 0.060 m³/second.

The catchment area to the development is 53% of the area to the Naul hydrometric gauge (17.928/33.4 = 0.53). This exceeds the 25% threshold for area scaling using the Naul hydrometric gauge and therefore the nearest HydroTool node should be used.

- c) Select the nearest HydroTool node (e.g., circled yellow), and click on “view contributing catchment” to only display the catchment upstream of that node. Note the catchment area to the node i.e., 22.024 km².



Step 2: At the HydroTool node select the relevant flow percentile e.g., NATQ₉₅ percentile that is relevant for the assessment i.e., Q₉₅ = 0.045 m³/second.

Step 3: Use catchment area scaling to estimate the NATQ₉₅ flow at the development i.e., (17.928/22.024) * 0.045 = 0.037 m³/second.

Step 4: Use the estimated Q₉₅ flow (e.g., 0.037 m³/second; 37 litres/sec) at the proposed development in subsequent assimilative capacity assessments².

Example 3 – estimating the flow in a river catchment without a HydroTool node

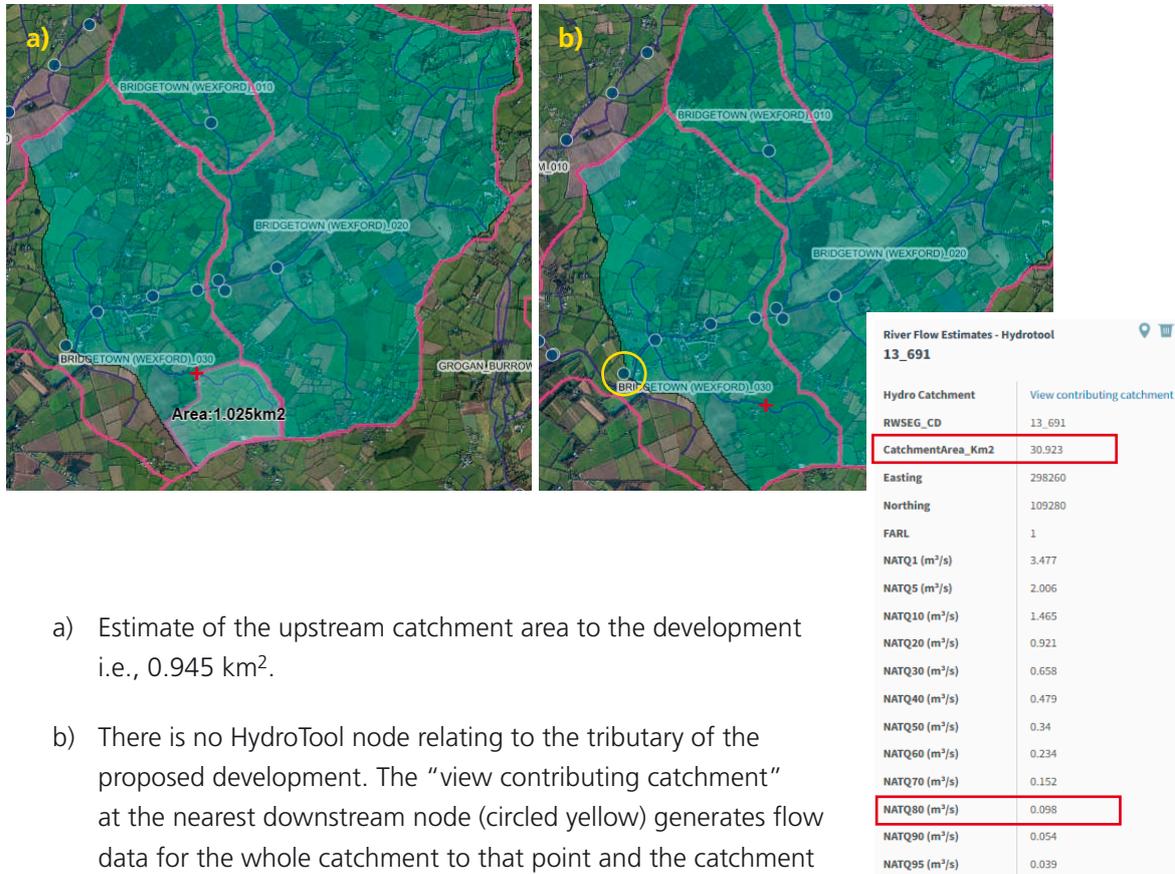
Please note that HydroTool cannot provide reliable river flow estimates in river catchments where a large proportion of the water in the catchment flows underground, as groundwater, through conduits in the karstified limestone aquifers. These aquifers are designated by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) as Regionally Important Karstified Bedrock Aquifers that are dominated by conduit flow (Rkc)³. Estimation of river flow in these river catchments require detailed hydrogeological assessments.

HydroTool cannot reliably generate a flow estimate in some very small catchments, such as coastal catchments. In these scenarios, it may be possible to estimate a flow from a HydroTool node elsewhere in the catchment or from an adjacent catchment.

2 Although the Naul hydrometric gauge has not been used to estimate the flow, the data can still be used to further check the estimate the Q₉₅ flow, i.e., (17.928/33.4) * 0.060 = 0.032 m³/second.

3 The location of the Rkc aquifers can be viewed on EPA Water Maps by going to the >Water, Land & Soil tab, opening/expand the >Hydrogeology menu, and turn on the >GSI Bedrock Aquifer layer

Step 1: At the location of the proposed development (e.g., red cross), estimate the upstream catchment area using the area measurement tools on EPA Water Maps.



- a) Estimate of the upstream catchment area to the development i.e., 0.945 km².
- b) There is no HydroTool node relating to the tributary of the proposed development. The “view contributing catchment” at the nearest downstream node (circled yellow) generates flow data for the whole catchment to that point and the catchment area to that node is 30.923 km².

Step 2: At the HydroTool node select the relevant flow percentile e.g., NATQ₉₅ percentile that is relevant for the assessment i.e., Q₉₅ = 0.039 m³/second.

Step 3: Use catchment area scaling to estimate the NATQ₉₅ flow at the development i.e., (0.945/30.923) * 0.039 = 0.001 m³/second.

Step 4: Use the estimated Q₉₅ flow (e.g., 0.001 m³/second; 1 litre/sec) at the proposed development in subsequent assimilative capacity assessments.

An Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Tá an GCC freagrach as an gcomhshaoil a chosaint agus a fheabhsú, mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaoil a chosaint ar thionchar díobhálach na radaíochta agus an truaillithe.

Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

- Rialáil:** Rialáil agus córais chomhlíonta comhshaoil éifeachtacha a chur i bhfeidhm, chun dea-thorthaí comhshaoil a bhaint amach agus díriú orthu siúd nach mbíonn ag cloí leo.
- Eolas:** Sonraí, eolas agus measúnú ardchaighdeán, spriocdhíríte agus tráthúil a chur ar fáil i leith an chomhshaoil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht.
- Abhcóideacht:** Ag obair le daoine eile ar son timpeallachta glaine, táirgiúla agus dea-chosanta agus ar son cleachtas inbhuanaithe i dtaobh an chomhshaoil.

I measc ár gcuid freagrachtaí tá:

CEADÚNÚ

- Gníomhaíochtaí tionscail, dramhaíola agus stórála peitрил ar scála mór;
- Sceitheadh fuíolluisce uirbigh;
- Úsáid shrianta agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe;
- Foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin;
- Astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa ó thionscal agus ón eitlíocht trí Scéim an AE um Thrádáil Astaíochtaí.

FORFHEIDHMÍÚ NÁISIÚNTA I LEITH CÚRSAÍ COMHSHAOIL

- Iniúchadh agus cigireacht ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas acu ón GCC;
- Cur i bhfeidhm an dea-chleachtais a stiúradh i ngníomhaíochtaí agus i saoráidí rialáilte;
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí an údaráis áitiúil as cosaint an chomhshaoil;
- Caighdeán an uisce óil phoiblí a rialáil agus údaruithe um sceitheadh fuíolluisce uirbigh a fhorfheidhmiú
- Caighdeán an uisce óil phoiblí agus phríobháidigh a mheasúnú agus tuairiscíú air;
- Comhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra d'eagraíochtaí seirbhíse poiblí chun tacú le gníomhú i gcoinne coireachta comhshaoil;
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

BAINISTÍOCHT DRAMHAÍOLA AGUS CEIMICEÁIN SA CHOMHSHAOIL

- Rialacháin dramhaíola a chur i bhfeidhm agus a fhorfheidhmiú lena n-áirítear saincheisteanna forfheidhmithe náisiúnta;
- Staitisticí dramhaíola náisiúnta a ullmhú agus a fhoilsiú chomh maith leis an bPlean Náisiúnta um Bainistíocht Dramhaíola Guaisí;
- An Clár Náisiúnta um Chosc Dramhaíola a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm;
- Reachtaíocht ar rialú ceimiceán sa timpeallacht a chur i bhfeidhm agus tuairiscíú ar an reachtaíocht sin.

BAINISTÍOCHT UISCE

- Plé le struchtúir náisiúnta agus réigiúnacha rialachais agus oibriúcháin chun an Chreat-treoir Uisce a chur i bhfeidhm;
- Monatóireacht, measúnú agus tuairiscíú a dhéanamh ar chaighdeán aibhneacha, lochanna, uiscí idirchreasa agus cósta, uiscí snámha agus screamhuisce chomh maith le tomhas ar leibhéil uisce agus sreabhadh abhann.

EOLAÍOCHT AERÁIDE & ATHRÚ AERÁIDE

- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin a fhoilsiú um astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa na hÉireann;
- Rúnaíocht a chur ar fáil don Chomhairle Chomhairleach ar Athrú Aeráide agus tacaíocht a thabhairt don Idirphlé Náisiúnta ar Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide;

- Tacú le gníomhaíochtaí forbartha Náisiúnta, AE agus NA um Eolaíocht agus Beartas Aeráide.

MONATÓIREACHT AGUS MEASÚNÚ AR AN GCOMHSHAOIL

- Córais náisiúnta um monatóireacht an chomhshaoil a cheapadh agus a chur i bhfeidhm: teicneolaíocht, bainistíocht sonraí, anailís agus réamhaisnéisiú;
- Tuairiscí ar Staid Timpeallacht na hÉireann agus ar Tháscairí a chur ar fáil;
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chaighdeán an aeir agus Treoir an AE i leith Aeir Ghlain don Eoraip a chur i bhfeidhm chomh maith leis an gCoinbhinsiún ar Aerthruailliú Fadraoin Trasteorann, agus an Treoir i leith na Teorann Náisiúnta Astaíochtaí;
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm na Treorach i leith Torainn Timpeallachta;
- Measúnú a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar chomhshaoil na hÉireann.

TAIGHDE AGUS FORBAIRT COMHSHAOIL

- Comhordú a dhéanamh ar ghníomhaíochtaí taighde comhshaoil agus iad a mhaoiniú chun brú a aithint, bonn eolais a chur faoin mbeartas agus réitigh a chur ar fáil;
- Comhoibriú le gníomhaíocht náisiúnta agus AE um thaighde comhshaoil.

COSAINN RAIDEOLAÍOCH

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéil radaíochta agus nochtadh an phobail do radaíocht ianúcháin agus do réimsí leictreamaighnéadacha a mheas;
- 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 um chosaint ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

TREOIR, ARDÚ FEASACHTA AGUS FAISNÉIS INROCHTANA

- Tuairiscíú, comhairle agus treoir neamhspleách, fianaise-bhunaithe a chur ar fáil don Rialtas, don tionscal agus don phobal ar ábhair maidir le cosaint comhshaoil agus raideolaíoch;
- An nasc idir sláinte agus folláine, an geilleagar agus timpeallacht ghlan a chur chun cinn;
- Feasacht comhshaoil a chur chun cinn lena n-áirítear tacú le hiompraíocht um éifeachtúlacht acmhainní agus aistriú aeráide;
- Tástáil radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre agus feabhsúchán a mholadh áit is gá.

COMHPHÁIRTÍOCHT AGUS LÍONRÚ

Oibriú le gníomhaireachtaí idirnáisiúnta agus náisiúnta, údaráis réigiúnacha agus áitiúla, eagraíochtaí neamhrialtais, comhlachtaí ionadaíochta agus ranna rialtais chun cosaint comhshaoil agus raideolaíoch a chur ar fáil, chomh maith le taighde, comhordú agus cinnteoireacht bunaithe ar an eolaíocht.

BAINISTÍOCHT AGUS STRUCHTÚR NA GNÍOMHAIREACHTA UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

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

- An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Fhianaise agus Measúnú
- An Oifig um Chosaint ar Radaíocht agus Monatóireacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tugann coistí comhairleacha cabhair don Gníomhaireacht agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair imní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.



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