

PART 4 - POLICY



14 WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR THE REGION

14.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter details recommended Waste Management Policy for the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region for the proposed plan period of 2006-2011.

Policy is based on: the Limerick Waste Management Strategy Study (1999); the Clare Waste Management Strategy Study 1996 reviewed in 1999; the Kerry Waste Management Strategy and Draft Plan (1999); the North-East and Mid-West Thermal Study (1998); the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Plan (2001) a review of relevant EU and national policies, strategies and legislation in the intervening period, and the performance of the Region since 1999, and the Feasibility Study of Thermal Options for Waste Treatment in the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region (2005).

14.2 CURRENT WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The 2001 Limerick/Clare/Kerry Regional Waste Management Plan which was adopted by the four Local Authorities in 2001 had, as its basis, the Waste Management Strategy Studies carried out by each Local Authority which set out the framework for informed decision-making by each authority as to the most appropriate options for the management of non-hazardous waste within the Region over the following 15-20 years. The 2001 Plan set out very ambitious targets for the management of waste based on an integrated waste management approach including 41% recycling, 45% thermal treatment and a reduction in landfill disposal to just 14%. These targets were based on a scenario that represented the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) for the Region and which looked to maximise recycling and only thereafter to divert as much residual waste as possible away from landfill through the introduction of thermal treatment.

The Policy outlined in this Plan is based on the continued implementation of this overall strategy direction, the development of which

was largely founded on the Waste Management Hierarchy endorsed at both EU and National level. All relevant waste streams are considered, and recommendations for the management of each of these wastes are provided.

14.3 WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2006

In accordance with the Waste Management Acts, 1996-2003, and associated amendments and Regulations, a statutory review of the Waste Management Plan for the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region must be undertaken after five years, and a new Plan implemented. In 2004, the four Local Authorities in the Region commissioned a review of the 2001 Plan. The review examined:

- Past Performance, Targets and Problems
- New Legislation
- New Policies.

In addition, extensive consultation with the public, industry and regional stakeholders was undertaken to ascertain the current issues requiring consideration at the various levels.

14.4 POLICY STATEMENT

This Limerick/Clare/Kerry Waste Management Plan has its fundamental strategy grounded in the concept of an integrated waste management policy, operated on a Regional basis, with priority assigned in accordance with the EU and National Waste Management Hierarchy. Policy takes cognisance of all relevant and pending legislation, recognises priority waste streams, and new technologies, and promotes sustainable waste management practices at local, business and industrial level. In particular the policy set out in this Plan will have the following specific objectives:

- Implement EU policy on waste including waste management hierarchy
- Implement National policy on waste
- Achieve targets set out in the EU Landfill Directive
- Implement targets set out in *National Biodegradable Waste Strategy*.

14.4.1 Waste Prevention and Minimisation

Waste Management Policy will prioritise waste prevention and minimisation at source as a key strategy component focussing on delivering more tangible success in waste reduction. This will be focused at industrial, commercial and household level and will take account of new initiatives in this area such as the establishment of a National Waste Prevention Programme and assisted by the Race Against Waste awareness campaign.

The policy will focus on furthering awareness objectives on waste management, targeting schools, householders, industry, resident associations, community groups, etc.

14.4.2 Waste Collection

Waste collection policy will be centred on the expansion of collection services to maximise coverage throughout the Region. Pay by Weight/Use shall be fully implemented throughout the Region.

14.4.3 Waste Reuse and Recycling

The policy shall focus on encouraging and regulating householders and the private sector to maximise reuse and recycling in the Region.

14.4.4 Thermal Treatment

This Policy will focus on the provision of thermal treatment to recover energy from the residual waste body remaining after preferred treatment options.

14.4.5 Waste Disposal

Waste Disposal Policy shall consider the medium to long-term options for rationalisation of landfills in the Region, taking account of residual capacities and timetables for alternative treatment options.

14.4.6 Waste Statistics

Local Authorities will aim to improve data collection and reporting procedures through verification and auditing.

14.4.7 Enforcement

Local Authorities, in conjunction with the OEE, will continue to enforce EU, national and local waste regulations and initiatives at both local and regional levels.

14.4.8 Priority Waste Streams

Specific policy recommendations are directed towards priority wastes as identified through EU Directives and national objectives.

14.5 TARGETS

Due to significant progress made with increased recycling rates since the implementation of the 2001 plan, it is proposed that the recycling rate be increased to 45% in this plan, while the thermal treatment rate has been reduced to 41%. The proposed policy prioritises prevention as a key focus area for the duration of this plan, the remaining targets to be reached by 2013 for each treatment option are detailed below:

Recycling	45%
Thermal Treatment	41%
Disposal	14%

The decision to amend the waste stream targets was based on:

- The availability of improved waste data from the EPA, Local Authorities and the private waste sector
- The roll out of the dry-recyclable collection, combined with home composting and the separate collection of organic waste will allow for an improved recycling rate for household waste

- The continued success of recycling in the commercial and industrial sector, combined with the roll-out of a separate organic waste collection service, should allow for a higher rate of recycling to be achieved

With these revised targets the Region is in keeping with best performance internationally. This set of policy proposals meets the requirements of existing legislation and supports an integrated waste management system in accordance with “**Best Practicable Environmental Option**”.