7 WASTE COLLECTION

7.1 HOUSEHOLD WASTE

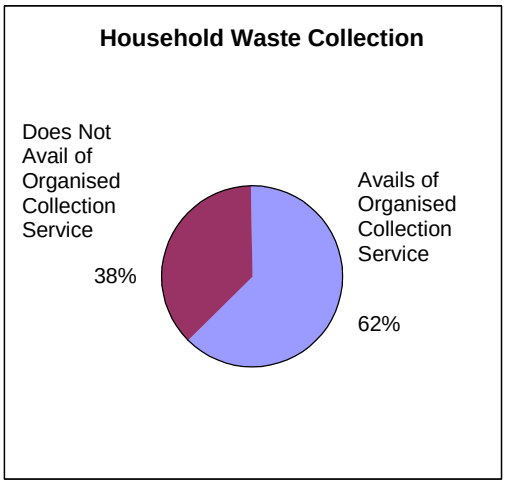
Household waste generated in the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region is collected, treated and disposed of through an increasingly integrated system, which has developed since the adoption of the 2001 Limerick/Clare/Kerry Waste Management Plan.

Householders have a separate bin or bag for mixed dry recyclables as well as the normal mixed household waste bin. In addition a comprehensive network of Recycling Centres and bring banks have been developed in the Region and recycling of household waste is increasing.

7.1.1 Household Collection Service

Household waste collection in the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region is predominantly operated by the private sector. In 2002, the Central Statistics Office reported a total of 140,472 households in the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region. Figure 7.1 shows the estimated percentage of these households who avail of the offered waste collection service in the Region and illustrates the potential scale of environmentally unfriendly household waste disposal.

Figure 7.1 Percentages of Households Availing of Collection Service



It should be noted that not all households in the Region have access to a collection service, particularly in the more peripheral areas of Kerry. Conversely, rural areas in counties Limerick and Clare have better access to collection services. In general the Regional urban centres are served with a relatively high coverage rate. Quantities for collected and uncollected waste are presented in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1 Quantity of Household Waste Collected/Uncollected in the Region (2004)

Local Authority	Collected (t/pa)	Uncollected (t/pa)
Limerick City	26,772	899
Limerick County	33,207	11,669
Kerry County	33,188	18,451
Clare County	33,174	8,599
TOTAL	**126,341**	**39,618**

Source: Local Authority National Waste Database Returns 2004

7.1.2 Local Authority Collection of Household Waste

The only remaining Town Councils offering a waste collection service in the Region are Tralee Town Council, Killarney Town Council and Listowel Town Council. In total 29% of the collected Household waste within the Region was collected by the Local Authorities.

7.1.3 Private Collection of Household Waste

In the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region 71% of the collected household waste was collected by the private sector in 2004. Households are typically provided with a wheelie bin for disposal of their residual waste. Table 7.2 lists the key waste collectors currently operating in each county in the Region.

Table 7.2 Main Private Household Waste Collectors with a Waste Collection Permit in the Region

Local Authority	Main Waste Collectors
Limerick City	Mr. Binman, Clean Ireland,
Limerick County	Mr. Binman, Country Clean, Clean Ireland, South West Bins on Wheels
Kerry County	Killarney Waste Disposal, Dillon Waste, Higgins Waste & Recycling Services, South West Bins on Wheels
Clare County	Mr. Binman, Clean Ireland, Rural Refuse & Recycling

Private waste collectors are regulated by the Local Authority through the waste collection permitting system. The system requires private operators to report household waste quantities collected on an annual basis. The collection system is further regulated by Local Authorities through waste presentation bye-laws.

7.1.4 Collection of Household Dry Recyclables

Since 2001 significant progress has been made on the roll-out of segregated household collection of dry recyclables in the Region. By the end of 2003 approximately 43,500 households in the Region had been provided with a segregated collection service. In 2004 15,172 tonnes of material was diverted from landfill and recycled. Table 7.3 summarises the household waste quantities collected in the Region in 2004 including from segregated dry recyclables collections. Since January 2004, all householders with a refuse collection service are legally entitled to a separate dry recyclable collection service.

Table 7.3 Household Waste Collected in the Region 2004

Local Authority	Total Household waste Collected (Tonnes)	Dry Recyclables from Kerbside Collection (Tonnes)
Limerick City	26,772	3,020
Limerick County	33,207	3,119
Kerry	33,188	1,949
Clare	33,174	7,084
Total	**126,341**	**15,172**

Source: Local Authority National Waste Database Returns 2004

7.1.5 Recycling Centres

There are currently 13 Recycling Centres, formerly known as Civic Amenity Sites in operation in the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region. Recycling Centres are distinct from Bring Banks in that they are generally located within purpose built sites, are manned by permanent full-time staff – either from the Local Authority or private contractor, have restricted opening hours, and accept an extensive range of materials. A list of the Recycling Centres is presented in Table 7.4. The waste quantities collected through the Recycling Centres in the Region in 2004 are reported in Table 7.5.

Table 7.4 Recycling Centres in the Region

Local Authority	Name/Location
Limerick City	Park Road Depot
Limerick County	Gortadroma CA Facility, Kilmallock Recycling Centre, Newcastle West Recycling Centre
Kerry County	North Kerry Landfill, Coolcaslagh Waste Transfer Station (WTS)*, Milltown WTS, Kenmare WTS, Caherciveen WTS
Clare County	Lisdeen Recycling Centre, Scariff Recycling Centre, Ballyduff Beg Recycling Centre Ennis Recycling Centre

Source: Local Authority National Waste Database Returns 2003 (* Waste Transfer Station) and consultation with Local Authorities.

In 2004, Recycling Centres in Kilmallock and Newcastle West, County Limerick, and Ennis in County Clare were opened.

Table 7.5 Household Waste Quantities collected at Recycling Centres (2004)

Local Authority	Tonnes
Limerick City (1)	825
Limerick County (3)	1,308
Kerry County (5)	1,041
Clare County (4)	1,409
TOTAL	**4,583**

Source: Local Authority National Waste Database Returns 2004

7.1.6 Bring Banks

In 1998 there were 103 bring banks in the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region. The 2001 Plan recommended one bring bank per 1,000 population not serviced by segregated collection. The development of bring banks has continued to grow steadily over the last 5 years. In 2004 there were 215 bring banks in operation in the Region, thus representing an increase of over 118% since 1998. The current bring bank density of one per 1,827 persons is considerably better than the national average of one bank per 2,394 people.

7.1.7 Waste Charges

Since 1st January 2005 use-related charges have been introduced to householders across the country either through a weight or volume based system. The development of direct user charges was founded in the policy document 'Preventing and Recycling Waste: Delivering Change' (2002) and aims to encourage waste reduction and recycling.

In the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region, private waste collectors are operating a variety of systems ranging from tag-a-bag/bin through to on board weighing of bins utilising microchip technology. In general waste collectors have the discretion to decide the precise form of system they use, provided that it respects the principle of use based charging. Enforcement of the particular use-related system is the responsibility of the Local Authorities who can monitor and regulate collectors through the waste collection permit system. In 2005, annual fixed costs for householders ranged from approximately €320 to €450 per annum with Pay-by-Weight being introduced in the second half of the year.

7.2 COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE

Almost 95% of Commercial and Industrial waste generated in the Limerick/Clare/Kerry Region is collected by the private sector. The largest proportion of waste collected from the sector is combined commercial and industrial waste with approximately 196,694 tonnes collected in 2004. Separate collection for packaging waste, glass, metals and other recyclable materials are also provided and waste collectors will generally encourage businesses to separate waste at the source. In 2004 approximately 119,491 tonnes of

recyclable material was collected through segregated collection of commercial waste.

Currently there are no bring banks or Recycling Centres for commercial or industrial waste in the Region but there is evidence that SMEs such as pubs and restaurants are using existing facilities.

7.3 CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE

This waste stream is very significant due to its high recycling potential. The recently announced National Waste Policy has the objective of recycling at least 50% of C&D waste within a five year period with a progressive increase to at least 85% over 15 years. The quantification of this waste stream is difficult at present as much of this waste is used as fill on marginal land or on new sites.

The majority of C&D waste arising in the Region is now disposed of in Local Authority permitted sites, as there has been a major shift from use of unofficial sites. There are still very low levels of recycling of this waste stream at present.

7.4 SPECIAL WASTE/PRIORITY WASTES

Separate collection of hazardous waste from households with initiatives such as the Chemcar, has been phased out since the adoption of the 2001 Plan. Much of the hazardous waste arising in households, such as out-of-date medicines, batteries, paint, etc., is currently disposed of via the municipal waste system. Waste Oil, which is an EU priority waste, is collected by a private waste company. Some scrapped vehicles and batteries are transferred to Waste brokers who then export them for recycling.