

Managing Waste in business

Bainistiú Dramhaíola

Limerick / Clare / Kerry
Regional Waste Management Plan



Limerick / Clare / Kerry Region The latest waste management statistics

The 3rd Annual Report on the Limerick /Clare / Kerry Regional Waste Management Plan 2006-2011, shows positive trends in many aspects. While the overall reduction in commercial waste can be explained by the current economic downturn, some specific key performance indicators show that, as distinct from the economic downturn, there are signs of improved waste reduction at source. Statistics supporting this trend are as follows:

- Decrease in waste generation per employee in the region going from the 2007 figure which was 1165kgs/employee to the 2008 figure of 1010kgs/employee.
- Commercial Segregated Organic waste collections commenced in January 2009
- Domestic Organic waste Collections commenced roll-out in autumn of 2009.
- Although overall municipal recycling rate has reduced from 50% to 48%, household recycling has once again risen in the region and now stands at 30% for 2008 – an increase on our 2007 figure of 28%. This is above the EPA national indicator of 26% for 2007.
- WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) collected per head is 9.6kgs - above the National average of 9kgs per head
- There are now 21 Facilities processing End of Life Vehicles (ELVs) in the region
- Battery collections have commenced

You can read the full report on the regional website www.managewaste.ie



3rd Annual Report

June 2008 – June 2009

Replacement Waste Management Plan

Limerick/Clare/Kerry 2006 - 2011



Limerick Clare Kerry Region's eGuide to Waste Prevention

http://www.managewaste.ie/e_guides/

On this website you can find out more about an exciting and innovative waste prevention programme that has been running in the Limerick Clare Kerry Region. This New Integrated Prevention Programme (NIPP) which commenced in July 2006 was granted 75% funding from the Environmental Protection Agency.

These were the initiatives we undertook:

- Academia & the public sector: reducing paper consumption.
- Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste reuse and reduction in a city centre mixed use development.
- Household waste reduction for residents of urban apartments.
- Minimising waste arisings from retailers in a managed shopping centre.
- Better management of waste, energy & water at a Regional Airport.

The eGuide website http://www.managewaste.ie/e_guides/ is divided into three sections:

Section one called **eGuide** sets the scene, giving you all the background you need to effectively plan a programme of change for your organisation.

Section two **Initiatives** introduces you to waste prevention in the sectors we worked with during our programme.

Section three **Resources** will give you further information on designing a waste prevention programme of your own.

The aim of the eGuide is to inspire you to take action, so as well as reading about our programme you can learn more about the seven steps to conducting a successful environmental programme regardless of the size and nature of your organisation.

We hope you find it useful and whatever your environmental action programme is, we wish you success. Enjoy our Guide.



Attendees at the launch of eGuide

Please Note:

If you wish to be on the Regional Waste Management Office's email circulation list, please let us know at: rwmo@limerickcoco.ie

The Regional Office is funded by Limerick, Clare and Kerry County Councils and Limerick City Council. Tel: 061 496596
Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle, Limerick
Web: www.managewaste.ie

Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009 S.I. No. 508 of 2009

In December 2009, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government signed these new Food Waste Regulations. The Regulations came into force on 1 January 2010. The Regulations will in particular facilitate the achievement of targets set out in the Landfill Directive 99/31/EC for the diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill.

- The regulations place an obligation on specified producers of food waste to segregate food waste at source and provide it segregated for collection so that the waste can be taken to an authorized facility for recovery. The food waste may also be treated on the premises under specified conditions.
- From 1 January 2010, producers must avail of source segregated food waste collection where it is available to them. The requirements will apply in general from 1st July 2010.
- Producers generating less are not permitted to put food waste in the residual bin or use sink macerators – the latter unless in accordance with conditions of a discharge licence.

- Producers producing less than 50kg waste per week are exempt until 1 July 2011 but must seek this exemption from their local authority prior to July 2010. In any event, they must comply from 1 January 2010 if a segregated food waste collection service is available.
- Producers / Premises covered by the regulations include:
 - *Class 1: Premises used for the supply of hot food for consumption both on and off the premises, including premises where the supply of such food is subsidiary to any commercial or retail activity...*
 - *Class 3: Premises where food is supplied to employees or prepared on the premises for the purposes of supply to employees, including premises which are used for carrying on any industrial, commercial or trade activities as well as office buildings and mixed-use premises.*

Note: The above summary is a limited and not definitive guide on the relevant legislation. Please consult original legal documents for a full and legal interpretation of requirements.



Turning Waste into Irish Jobs Rethink Recycle Remake www.rx3.ie



The rx3 team, previously known as the Market Development Group, was set up by the Government to encourage indigenous recycling activities within Ireland. Members comprise various stakeholders from across the waste industry and business sectors.

Currently most recyclables end up going abroad for reprocessing into new product. There is potential for recycling activities to be established here in Ireland, thus reducing negative environmental impact and at the same time with the potential for creating Irish jobs.

"The establishment of the Market Development Group and its sub-committees has provided a driving mechanism and a means of stakeholder involvement in the process.

The thematic areas for market development initiatives are now clear, but the detail of implementation needs to be set out.

The rx3 team is tasked with project managing the Market Development Programme for Waste Resources 2007 - 2011 key objectives and deliverables. The appointed team will liaise with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Market Development Group and stakeholders.

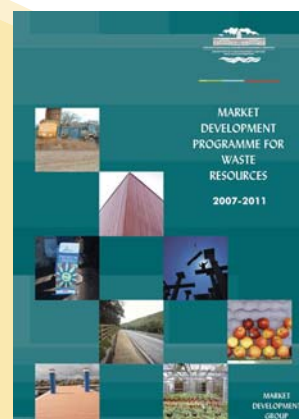
The implementation of this Programme officially started on the 1st October 2008. It will run for 5 years.

In late 2009 rx3 was created to more accurately reflect what the programme is trying to achieve."

(excerpt from the website www.rx3.ie)

The rx3 Sustainable Innovation Forum will take place on 27th April 2010 at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham Dublin.

For further information, check the website www.rx3.ie



New Regulations on 'Backyard' Burning of Waste



In September 2009, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (John Gormley T.D.) announced that he had signed new regulations strengthening the law against waste disposal by uncontrolled burning, so-called backyard burning.

The Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009 make more explicit the offence of disposal of waste by uncontrolled burning and various actions are prohibited by the Regulations, including such disposal within the curtilage of a dwelling.

Failure to comply with the new regulations is an offence and fines of up to €3,000 are applicable for summary offences brought to court.

The regulations provide exemptions for certain agricultural practices but only as a last resort and after specified steps are taken to, inter alia, reduce, and recycle waste arisings. This exemption applies until 1 January 2014 when such activities will require registration with local authorities and be subject to the controls set out in the facility permit legislation. Local authorities may also exempt certain local cultural events if they so wish.

(www.environ.ie)

More explicit provisions detailing what is prohibited in terms of burning waste are contained in the new regulations. In essence all forms of burning, other than that covered by, for example, a waste licence, are prohibited and this includes burning waste in a domestic fireplace.

For further information, please check the website www.environ.ie Please consult the regulations for a full and legal interpretation of requirements.

The EPA and Climate Change



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a new booklet on Climate Change. The booklet describes the responsibilities and work programme that the EPA has in this area as well as the challenges that face the country as a whole.

The booklet addresses the goal of 'Limiting and adapting to climate change' - one of the six goals outlined in the EPA's 2020 Vision Strategy. Topics addressed in the booklet include the following:

- EPA climate change programme
- Greenhouse gas inventories and emission limits, e.g. Kyoto Protocol
- Climate change – indicators and impacts for Ireland
- EPA's role in a low carbon economy
- How to communicate climate change issues
- Future challenges

To view further information and to access this booklet on climate change, please check the EPA website at

<http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/climate/>

Green Hospitality Awards

The latest annual presentation of Green Hospitality Awards took place on 23rd February at Dromoland Castle for Limerick and Clare recipients and on 10th March at Hotel Europe Killarney for Kerry recipients.

Ms. Philippa King, Regional Co-ordinator with the Regional Waste Management Office, spoke on the benefits of membership of the Green Hospitality Award scheme. Members stand to gain in many different areas – increased efficiency in materials, energy and water usage and reduction in waste generation. There are associated cost savings to be gained in each of these areas as well as the good publicity that surrounds such positive environmental performance – clients now look for such credentials in a hospitality business.

Award recipients for the Limerick Clare Kerry Region include several new members who had joined the scheme in 2009. The Awards generally progress from Bronze through Silver and Gold. In all there were 2 Gold Award recipients, 10 Silver and 3 Bronze.

As well as hotels, the Green Hospitality Award is now extended to the wider hospitality sector such as restaurants, pubs, guesthouses, contract &

institutional caterers, nursing homes and tourist activity providers and attractions, leisure centres, clubs and golf clubs.

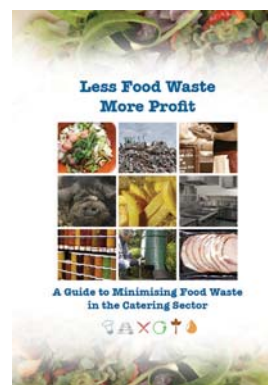
The Regional Waste Management Office has been glad to support the Green Hospitality Award for the past three years. The support of Shannon Development has also been appreciated. On a national basis, including this region, the Environmental Protection Agency provides funding to the programme. The Green Hospitality Award currently has 165 members. Cumulative cost savings for all members have been in the region of €5m for 2009.

"We believe our success is based on the fact that as our membership grows the word is spreading that the Green Hospitality Award is not just a programme about reducing environmental impact but is time and time again proving that there are real and substantial cost savings to be made by taking responsibility for this area of management" said Maurice Bergin, Director of GHA.

For a list of members and Awards granted, please check the website www.ghaward.ie

Also on the website www.ghaward.ie, you can view the new publication '**Less Food Waste – More Profit**' – A Guide to Minimising Food Waste in the Catering Sector. This new Guide was recently published by the Clean Technology Centre in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Green Hospitality Award.

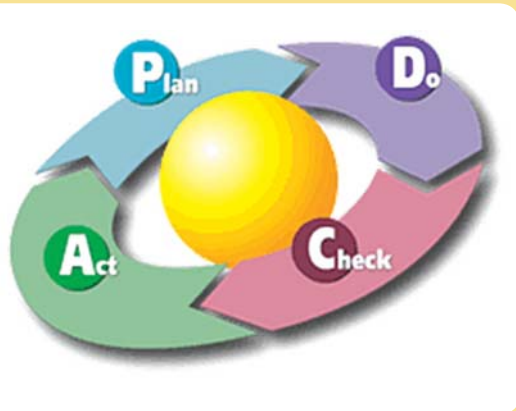
For further information, you can contact the Green Hospitality Award at Tel. **021 4354688** Email: info@ghaward.ie



green
hospitality
award



'Plan-Do-Check-Act' Cycle



PDCA ("Plan-Do-Check-Act") is an iterative four-step problem-solving process typically used in business process improvement and perfect to apply to a waste prevention project. Why? Because it is a continuous wheel of ongoing activity and preventing waste is never finished. The business may undergo change or new technology might be developed or staff will have new ideas. Activities should always be reviewed in order to seek new improvements.

Step 1 Plan: Identify what you need to do, how to do it & when to do it.

Step 2 Do: Carry out your plans or procedures.

Step 3 Check: Have you consistently achieved what you set out to do? Have you identified any shortcomings, corrected them and taken measures to prevent their recurrence?

Step 4 Act: Do your ambitions, plans & procedures still satisfy your goals? Do they need to be revised?

Source: http://www.managewaste.ie/e_guides/e_what_is_pdca.asp

Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme (ECAP)

An information workshop was held in Fitzgeralds Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Limerick on the 15th October 2009. Co-ordinated by Almir Business Ltd, the event was part of a European-wide series of workshops on the Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme (ECAP) for Businesses. ECAP is funded by the European Commission / DG Environment.



The Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme provides targeted information for SMEs on the environment in clear and simple language. The ECAP website includes information on EU legislation, funding opportunities, case studies, tool kits and guides for SMEs.

The presentations from the ECAP workshop are uploaded on the Almir Business website at <http://www.almir.biz/index.php/Green-Business/Information/ecap.html>

Minister Gormley Publishes International Review of Waste Management Policy

In November 2009, a report on an International Review of Waste Management Policy was published. This report was commissioned by Mr John Gormley T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The report examines all aspects of waste policy, such as prevention, minimisation and management of residual waste. It was prepared by a group of experts, headed by Eunomia Research and Consulting. The report sets out a series of recommendations in relation to waste management, surrounding the following aspects:

- The EU Landfill Directive
- Waste Management Planning

- Regulation of the Waste Management Sector
- The Market for Collection
- Direction of Waste
- Producer Responsibility
- Financing
- Levies
- Planning for Strategic Facilities
- Green Procurement
- Markets for Recyclables
- Hazardous Residues

The recommendations will be taken into account as part of a new policy statement on waste, expected to be published in early 2011.

The report can be accessed on the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, www.environ.ie.

New Environment Standards for the Press Industry (ESPI)

Remarkable progress has recently been made in the recycling of newsprint, going from 28% in 2002 to 75% in 2008. To continue this progress, a defined approach has been established to ensure sound environmental practices. This approach involves publishers, wholesalers, distributors and retailers.

A Joint Industry Committee has produced a *Code of Practice for the Press Industry (CoPPI)*, including *Environment Standards for the Press Industry (ESPI)*. The CoPPI and ESPI will address efficiency of supply chain, environmental performance as well as customer service. For example, in business transactions, Ebilling and Ecommunication will be encouraged, which will in turn lead to minimisation of office paper usage.

Environmental factors will be taken into account when optimising supplies through the distribution chain. Procedures are defined for the return of unsold copies from the retailer back to the wholesaler, covering aspects such as the need to use permitted waste collectors and facilities for handling the newsprint waste.

Until quite recently, retailers cut out the bar code section of an unsold newspaper and just this section was returned, with the bulk of the publication going for recycling in some cases but often in mixed waste to landfill.