
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Authorisation

South Tipperary County Council is the Lead Authority and is acting on behalf of the six authorities, of the South East Region, for the preparation of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East 2006 - 2011.

The constituent local authorities participating in the plan and which form the Region are:

- Carlow County Council
- Kilkenny County Council
- South Tipperary County Council
- Waterford City Council
- Waterford County Council
- Wexford County Council

In this document, the use of the term “Region” refers to the six authorities and their functional areas (including Borough and Town Councils) or a constituent local authority acting in respect of the implementation of this Plan.

1.2. Definition of Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is:

- to promote waste prevention and minimisation through source reduction, producer responsibility and public awareness.
- a management plan for the recovery/recycling/disposal of waste arisings on a regional basis.

Waste Plan Issues:

The statutory period for which the Plan provides is 2006 – 2011, which is the “relevant period” as defined under Section 22 of the Waste Management Act. Projections of relevant criteria for waste planning purposes extend beyond 2011 i.e. population, waste generation, targets, etc, and typically cover the period 2006-2021.

The Plan will be reviewed at least once every five years in accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996.

1.3. Objective

The Primary Objective of the Plan is to secure the best environmental management of all waste including preventing and minimising the generation of waste wherever practicable.

In order of priority, waste must be prevented, minimised, re-used, recycled, recovered and disposed of safely, having regard to public health and environmental protection, occupational hazards in waste handling as well as having regard to the best value solution. There were 3 criteria, each of which receives equal weighting, used in the devising of the specific policy of this Plan. These criteria were environmental and health impacts, ability to meet the necessary targets and a financial assessment.

1.4. Methodology

The basic methodology for producing the plan is outlined below:

- public advertisement
- submissions from public and private sectors (in response to public advertisement)
- data collection
- trends
- scenarios & preliminary assessment
- options assessment
- recommendations & draft plan
- client review
- amendments
- publish draft plan
- submissions from public (statutory)
- finalise plan

1.5. Background

In September 1998, the Government issued a policy statement, 'Changing our Ways'ⁱ, detailing its objectives on waste management. The document identifies the following key considerations:

- *"...opportunity provided by comprehensive waste management planning exercises..."*
- *"...opportunity to provide a high level of performance..."*
- *"...implementation of the polluter pays principle..."*
- *"...recognition of the importance of economies of scale..."*

In 2002, the Government issued a policy document, 'Prevention and Recycling – Delivering Change'ⁱⁱ. The policy statement provides for the support and development of recovery and recycling infrastructure.

In April 2004 the Government issued a further national waste management policy document – "Waste Management: Taking Stock and Moving Forward". Taking Stock assesses progress on the implementation of a variety of aspects of the Waste Management Act 1996 over the last five years. It sets down new challenges in light of the findings of this assessment.

The document highlights the following key issues in relation to Waste Management Plans:

- Revised waste plans must better address the role and needs of private sector waste management service providers.
- Insufficient public awareness about waste plans.
- Revised waste plans must be subject to a mechanism to monitor implementation, with local authorities being obligated to prepare an annual report on waste plan progress within three months of the end of each year.
- All revised waste plans are required to set out a timetable for the provision of each of the elements of the infrastructure required to make up the integrated mix of options.

The policy statements expressed the Government's targets over a 15-year period as follows: (1995 is taken to be the baseline year).

- A diversion of 50% of overall household waste away from landfill.
- A minimum 65% reduction of 1995 arisings in biodegradable waste consigned to landfill.
- The development of waste recovery facilities employing environmentally beneficial technologies, as an alternative to landfill, including the development of composting and other feasible biological treatment facilities capable of treating up to 300,000 tonnes of biodegradable waste per annum.
- Recycling of 35% of municipal waste.
- Recycling at least 85% of C&D waste by 2013.
- Rationalisation of municipal landfills, with progressive and sustained reductions in numbers, leading to an integrated network of some twenty state of the art facilities incorporating energy recovery and high standards of environmental protection.
- An 80% reduction in methane emissions from landfill, which will make a useful contribution to meeting Ireland's international obligations.

The policy statement also reaffirms the waste management hierarchy, which is shown in Figure 1.1.

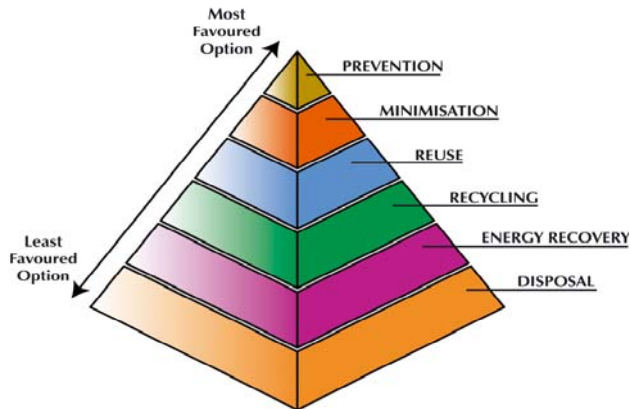
The Waste Management Act (1996) sets out the legislative framework to develop waste management policies. The statutory objectives of the Act are to:

- prevent and minimise the production of waste and its harmful effects
- encourage and support the recovery of waste
- ensure that unrecoverable waste is safely disposed of
- implement the polluter pays principle, in relation to waste disposal

Section 22 of this Act allows local authorities to act jointly to create an area waste management plan.

The Waste Management (Planning) Regulations, 1997 set out the detailed requirements for the preparation and content of waste management plans.

Figure 1.1: Waste Management Hierarchy



Other targets, which are set out by either policy documents or EU Directives, are as follows:

Packaging Directive (94/62/EC)ⁱⁱⁱ

- by 2001 25% recycling rate for packaging waste
- by 2005 50-65% recovery rate
- by 2005 25-45% recycling rate
- by 2005 15% minimum recycling rate for each material

Landfill Directive (99/31/EC)^{iv}

Reduce amount of biodegradable material going to landfill to the percentages below of the total amount of this material produced in 1995:

- by 2006 75%
- by 2009 50%
- by 2016 35%

Other initiatives and Directives that relate to this plan are:

- A Sustainable Development Strategy for Ireland, 1997^v
- Local Agenda 21^{vi}
- Kyoto Protocol^{vii} (1997), requiring a reduction in Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions of 13% over 1990 levels by 2010
- 5th Action Programme^{viii}
- 6th Action Programme^{ix}

The National Waste Database^x (NWD), published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2001 and the interim report of 2003, provides the most recent statistics for waste management in Ireland. Some key points are:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| • household and commercial waste landfilled | 71.6% |
| • household and commercial waste recovered/recycled | 28.4% |
| • commercial waste landfilled | 52.7% |
| • commercial waste recovered | 47.4% |
| • household waste recovered | 13.1% |
| • household waste landfilled | 86.9% |

This Plan for the South East Region takes cognisance of these trends in legislative change, waste growth, and recovery/recycling rates.

In 1998, the South East Regional Authority produced a Waste Management Strategy Study^{xi}. This study compiled for the first time a detailed inventory of wastes arising in the region and created physical, social and economic profiles of the region. Much of this background information was used in the formulation of the 2002 Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East. The 2002 Plan covered the Period 2000 – 2005 with projections to 2021.

1.6. Project Team

The project team for this Plan review for the South East Region consisted of the following firms:

- Fehily Timoney & Company – Lead Consultant
- RAMBØLL (Denmark) – Technology/Waste Planning
- Duncan Laurence Environmental – Legislative Issues

1.7. Summary of Waste Statistics

- Total household waste collected by local authorities in the region amounted to 68,311 tonnes (2003).
- Total household waste collected by private collectors in the region amounted to 55,071 tonnes (2003).
- 6,449 tonnes was recovered at bring banks throughout the region.
- 5,397 tonnes was recovered at recycling centres throughout the region.
- Landfill capacity in the region **is critical** (less than 2 years remaining at existing landfills (2003)).
- Waste management facilities in the region are insufficient to meet national and European targets.
- Public awareness throughout the region has increased significantly since 2002. Further work is required in the educating the public about the proposed waste management infrastructure.

1.8. Specific Policy and Objectives

These are set out in Section 11 and cover the following 13 policy areas:

- Public Awareness and Education
- Prevention and Minimisation
- Waste Collection and Charging
- Waste Recovery and Recycling
- Waste Treatment/Final Disposal
- Unauthorised Landfilling
- Location of Waste Management Facilities
- Litter Prevention
- Sludge Management
- National Hazardous Waste Management Plan
- Priority Waste Streams
- Market Development
- Policy on Joint Management and Procurement