

# **IWMA Report**

## **for Waste Forum Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014 – Customs House**

### **- Progress on the Policy outlined in ‘A Resource Opportunity’**

#### ***Regional Planning***

IWMA made a submission to each of the 3 Waste Planning Regions in December 2013. Some highlights below.

- Rationalisation to 3 Plans is welcome, but regional boundaries should not interfere with movements of waste. Not all regions require self-sufficiency, nor should the Irish State.
- We are currently meeting EU targets under Waste Framework Directive, Packaging Directive, WEEE Directive and Landfill Directive.
- We suggest that the new RWMPs should recognise that provision of future waste infrastructure in Ireland will be predominantly market-led. Several IWMA members are planning to develop infrastructure to treat brown bin and residual waste and we encourage the co-ordinators of the Regional Plans to support the development of such infrastructure.
- The lack of certainty surrounding the Poolbeg WtE facility is interfering with development of alternative infrastructure, so this needs to be resolved sooner rather than later.

#### **Household Waste Collection**

IWMA made a submission in January 2014 on the Household Waste Collection Consultation and individual members have engaged directly with the DECLG on this. Some highlights below.

- IWMA generally supports mandatory pay-by-weight for household waste collection, but seeks a 12 month lead-in time to allow a transition from current arrangements following formal adoption of the legislation.
- IWMA working group has proposed a list of materials that should be acceptable in commingled dry recyclables bins (green or blue bins).
- IWMA is very concerned over the spread of PTUs across the country as these can undermine kerbside waste collection and are clearly designed to compete against kerbside systems rather than complement them. They are focussed on non-segregated residual waste and do not subsidise dry recyclable and organic waste collections in the same way that kerbside systems do.

- IWMA favours a single national permit that covers different materials, rather than companies having several permits covering different parts of their business or different geographical areas.
- IWMA supports greater streamlining and greater use of IT in waste permit applications and annual returns.
- IWMA has introduced a generic Customer Charter for our members to use and make available on their websites.

### **Operation of the Market**

IWMA would like to have certainty that competitive tendering will not be introduced into the household waste collection market in the foreseeable future. This threat poses difficulties for the development of infrastructure and investment in plant and equipment, etc.

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

- IWMA has engaged on new WEEE Regulations and EPR Consultations.
- IWMA whole heartedly supports greater enforcement of waste collection by unauthorised operators and greater enforcement of waste presentation by householders.
- IWMA has engaged with the EPA in relation to unauthorised waste activities and is seeking transparency for waste permit facility AERs, consistent with the transparency attached to waste licence AERs.
- IWMA has supported the development of the industry-led Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum (WISH) which is addressing topics such as homeless people sleeping in bins, overweight bins, fire risk etc.
- IWMA is jointly organising a workshop with CIWM on 'Fire Prevention at Waste Management Facilities'.

### **Prevention**

- IWMA is engaging in the current consultation for the review of the National Waste Prevention Programme.
- IWMA website is currently under development and will include information for the public on preventing waste.
- Pay-by-weight collections are expected to support waste prevention.
- The tonnage of MSW generated in Ireland has decreased by 23% from 2007 to 2012 according to EPA preliminary data for 2012.

### **Reuse**

- IWMA website will support reuse initiatives.

## Recycling

- IWMA members are rolling out brown bins in compliance with the Household Food Waste Regulations. See Figure 1 below.
- Green/Blue bins are fully rolled out across Ireland.

## Recovery

- An IWMA member developed a 220Kt/a WtE facility at Carranstown, Co. Meath and has attempted to construct a second WtE facility in Cork for treatment of both hazardous and municipal wastes.
- IWMA members are producing SRF that is used as a fuel in the kilns at Lagan Cement and Irish Cement, this replaces the import of fossil fuels and reduces carbon emissions
- IWMA members are producing RDF that is exported and used as fuel in waste to energy facilities in mainland Europe.
- IWMA members are currently developing a number of MBT plants across the country. The uncertainty over the Poolbeg WtE facility and the uncertainty over the future of household waste collection must be resolved to give greater confidence to these developments.
- An IWMA member supplies SLF (secondary liquid fuel) to Lagan Cement as a fuel replacement.
- An IWMA member supplies industrial sludges to Lagan Cement as an alternative raw material to natural rock.
- The Recovery Rate of MSW has increased from 37% in 2007 to 56% in 2012 according to EPA data.

## Disposal

- Landfill disposal in Ireland has reduced from 2 million t/a in 2007 to 1 million t/a in 2012, according to EPA published data.
- Ireland is meeting current targets for diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill and has the potential to meet future targets provided the uncertainty referred to above is resolved.
- IWMA expects further reduction in reliance on landfill disposal and fully supports the development of residual waste treatment infrastructure in Ireland to replace the current export of RDF and MSW.

**Figure 1 - Brown Bin Roll-Out in Ireland 2006 to 2014**

