

## **Continued Investment by IWMA Members supports Ireland's recycling targets.**

### **Additional 150,000 brown bins rolled out to households in past 2 years**

*Tuesday, 25 November 2014* An additional 150,000 brown bins have been rolled out to households in Ireland in the past 2 years by IWMA member firms bringing to nearly 50% the number of households with a bin service who are now able to dispose of food and organic waste in their brown bins.

The Irish Waste Management Association (IWMA) represents 32 member firms who operate nationwide, collecting 73% of household waste, 76% of commercial waste and close to 100% of hazardous wastes currently managed in Ireland.

Kieran Mullins, Chairman of the Irish Waste Management Association (IWMA) said; "Household food regulations require a phased roll-out of brown bins to all urban areas of the country within the next two years and our figures show that Ireland is well on track to meet this target. IWMA member firms continue to invest in services to help householders and businesses achieve higher recycling rates and reduce their annual waste charges. This is contributing to Ireland exceeding EU targets for waste recycling and recovery".

"Approximately 3.5 million tonnes of waste was processed by IWMA member firms in 2013, with the bulk of this waste recycled or otherwise recovered. Less than 20% of waste collected by IWMA members was diverted to landfill. This is a fantastic achievement and points to the growing environmental awareness among consumers as well as the continued investment in technology for the treatment of residual waste by the waste sector", he said.

In 2014 the EU Commission issued proposals to turn Europe into a more circular economy and boost recycling in the Member States. The plans ask Europeans to recycle 70 % of municipal waste and 80 % of packaging waste by 2030, and to reduce food waste generation by 30% by 2025.

"The increasing number of households using a brown bin service means that the EU food waste reduction target should be achievable for Ireland. With waste operators required to provide householders currently using two bins (black and green) with a three bin service (black, green and brown), this will, we hope, contribute to diverting greater levels of food and organic waste from landfill", said Mr. Mullins.

Mr. Mullins said that the industry expects more households to apply for a kerbside collection service as new regulations will see an obligation on householders to account for their waste management.

“This can only benefit the environment preventing illegal dumping and ensuring that waste is disposed of responsibly”.

IWMA member companies employ 4,287 people directly and have a combined annual financial turnover of €650 million. IWMA member companies operate 65 non-hazardous and 10 hazardous waste facilities. All members’ facilities are either licensed by the EPA or operated under a local authority permit. Principle Waste Streams collected by members are: Household (40%), Commercial (28%), Hazardous (12%), Construction & Demolition (7%), Liquid (4%) and Industrial (9%).

Ends.