

IWMA Supports Introduction of New Waste Regulations

18th May 2016: The Irish Waste Management Association (IWMA) welcomes the introduction of the new pay by weight waste regulations that will take effect in July 2016.

The regulations are in line with national and EU policy and will help Ireland achieve greater levels of waste prevention and recycling in a revenue neutral way. Meeting future EU waste targets is also very important for Ireland's economy and our international reputation. Large fines can be expected if we fail.

The new regulations will see the introduction of pay by weight (per kilogramme) for household collections across the country. For a majority of householders who currently pay a flat charge for waste collection, pay by weight will be a new way of calculating their waste charges.

The advantage of weight based charges is that it gives households more control over their waste bills. The less their bin weighs, the less the householder pays, so there is a clear financial incentive to prevent and recycle waste. This will benefit the householder and the environment. When pay by weight was introduced in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown for example, there was a 25% reduction in waste collected, as householders segregated their waste more efficiently.

IWMA member companies will be supporting a Department of the Environment led information campaign to inform householders of the new regulations as well as contacting their customers directly with hints and tips on how to reduce their waste by recycling more and ultimately paying less for waste collection.

IWMA members already adhere to many of the requirements of the new regulatory regime, including operating a customer charter which can be downloaded at <http://iwma.ie/household-waste/customers-charter/>

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About the IWMA:

The Irish Waste Management Association (IWMA) is a trade association for waste management companies in Ireland. Our 40 member companies operate to the highest industry standards and have signed up to the Rules of the Association, that ensure that they provide waste management services to the public and to businesses in a professional and ethical manner. Our member companies employ 4,300 people directly and have a combined annual financial turnover of €650 million.

IWMA members collect 75% of the household waste currently managed in Ireland and the vast bulk of the commercial, industrial and hazardous wastes. Our members processed approximately 3.5 million tonnes of waste at our 65 non-hazardous and 10 hazardous waste facilities in 2013. The bulk of this waste was recycled or otherwise recovered. All our member's facilities are either licensed by the EPA or operated under a local authority permit.

See www.iwma.ie for more information and for a full list of our member companies.

Tips for Waste Prevention:

Here are a number of ways that householders can reduce their waste collection costs under the new pay by weight system:

1. Bring your glass bottles and jars to your local bring bank. Check your local county council website for locations or use the search facility on REPAK's website here: <https://www.repak.ie/for-consumers/facilities-search/> .
2. Bring electrical or electronic waste to your local electrical store or your local civic amenity site, where it will be taken free of charge. Check out WEEE Ireland's website <http://www.weeeireland.ie/consumers/> for further details.
3. Try to minimise your food waste by buying the right quantities for your household. Beware of 'two for one' offers if you know or suspect that you won't consume all of it before it degrades. Make smoothies or juice drinks from over-ripe fruit before it goes off. See www.stopfoodwaste.ie for more advice on preventing food waste.
4. Keep your garden waste in your garden. Grass clippings and leaves can be piled in a corner or under a hedge where they will degrade naturally. Home composting is a great way to manage garden waste and also food waste such as peelings from fruit and vegetables (do not put meat or fish in composting bins). There is an excellent guide on home composting available at www.stopfoodwaste.ie .
5. Keep the ashes from your fire in your garden. This is very important as hot ashes can cause fires at waste transfer stations.
6. Try to buy products with less packaging, when possible.
7. Bring your old clothes to textile banks where they will be collected for recycling. These are often provided at Bring Centres and at Civic Amenity sites.
8. Consider getting value out of old household goods or clothes by selling them on-line for re-use (www.donedeal.ie , www.ebay.ie , www.adverts.ie , etc.) or by offering them free on www.freetrade.ie if they have low value.