

Waste Policy Priorities for Government 2020

Background

Ireland's waste management sector is delivering for households and businesses, both in terms of environmental performance and value for money.

- Ireland is currently highly compliant with EU Waste Directives
- 42% of municipal waste is now recycled
- Landfill reliance is reduced to less than 15%.
- Household waste collection costs in Ireland are very competitive when compared with other western European countries.
- The average price for kerbside household waste collection in Ireland is currently about €100 per year *less* than in 2004/2005 when the market was dominated by local authority waste collection services.

A concerted effort by all stakeholders will be required to ensure we achieve future EU targets, particularly in relation to the recycling of municipal waste. The key aims for the waste sector over the next 5 years will be to:

- Increase municipal waste recycling rates from 42% to the EU target of 55% by 2025.
- Develop more indigenous recycling and recovery infrastructure to process and treat all wastes collected from households and businesses.



Recommended Actions

During its lifetime the next government should prioritise the following actions:

1 Increase public awareness.

The Government should invest between €5m and €10m per annum in a national media campaign to encourage citizens to do more to reduce and recycle waste. This should include making it easier to recycle by having both recycling and waste bins on public streets.

The waste industry will play its part by encouraging the correct use of each bin by informing customers about their recycling performance (based on the weight of waste they put into each bin) and by rewarding them financially for improved recycling performance.

2 Labelling.

The Government should introduce a mandatory system of labelling that will allow for the easy identification of recyclable and non-recyclable packaging. Financial penalties should also be introduced to discourage the production of non-recyclable materials.

3 Incentivised Charging.

The local authority enforcement teams should review existing kerbside collection service charges to ensure that all charging structures maximise the prevention, re-use and recycling of household waste.

4 Brown Bin Roll-Out.

IWMA members are open to part-financing actions that will lead to better use of brown bins in areas where they have been delivered.

5 Apartment and Commercial Wastes.

The new Government should introduce mandatory charging by weight for waste collected from apartment and commercial premises. Consideration should also be given to the introduction of a Recycling Performance Rating Scheme - like the BER energy rating scheme.

6 Support the Development of Indigenous Recycling & Recovery Infrastructure.

The new Government should provide more financial support for investment in recycling infrastructure including more bring banks, civic amenity sites and reprocessing facilities for sorted materials, where appropriate. For example, the Climate Action Fund could support the creation of a domestic centre for the reprocessing of sorted plastics, as well as the development of a paper pulper or paper mill.

Government waste management policy must support private sector development of indigenous waste treatment facilities including materials recovery facilities, transfer stations, biogas plants, composting plants and Waste to Energy plants to reduce our reliance on foreign infrastructure.

