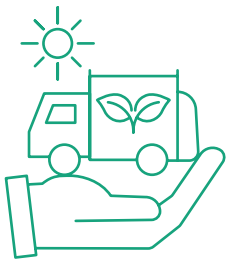
Irish Waste Management Association

Ireland's waste management sector delivers Value, Service, Choice and Innovation



Delivering Value:

- Price inflation for household waste collection in Ireland has been measured at less than half the rate of general inflation over the past 5 years, despite significant increases in the cost of energy, fuel and labour during that time period[1].
- Competition in the market means operators must compete on price and service to win market share, which benefits consumers.
- A recently published KPMG Report found that prices for household waste collection in Ireland would be between 48% and 85% higher if the local authorities took over the service.
- Customers are supported to reduce their waste collection bills. Ireland is leading the way in the use of advanced technology [camera detection systems] designed to inform and educate the public with respect to placing waste in the correct bins.

An Efficient Service:

- Private operators have expanded the service available to consumers, increasing the number of collections, providing recycling and composting bins in addition to the residual waste bin.
- There have been no significant service interruptions since privatisation. Services were maintained throughout the Covid-19 pandemic when waste collections continued as an essential service.
- Ireland suffered from regular bin strikes when local authorities controlled the service with the army called in to clean the streets of Dublin in 1986.
- Neighbouring countries are regularly subjected to interruptions in service as a result of industrial action. The UK, where services remain in local government control, has suffered from at least 14 bin-strikes in the last 18 months, including two in Northern Ireland.

1 According to the CSO Consumer Price Index, price inflation for consumer goods and services for the 5 year period from 2018 to 2023 was 20%. A survey of waste management companies in Ireland, accounting for more than 500,000 households that had no change to their service showed an average price increase of 9.2% during that same time period.

Offering Consumers a Choice:

- Most consumers have choice and can change supplier if they are not satisfied. That choice is denied in markets where local authorities appoint a single operator framework.
- A single operator framework has the potential to create a de facto monopoly where consumers lose out on choice and value.
- A B&A survey commissioned by the CCPC found that 65% of consumers wanted choice, expressing a preference for a waste collection system with multiple operators

Investing in Innovation:

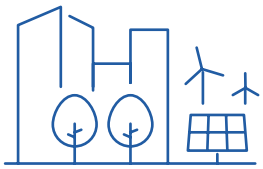
Ireland's system of collection is **the most advanced in the world** as a result of extensive investment by waste management companies. Innovation is driving up Ireland's recycling rates while also delivering value and services to consumers. An IWMA Task Force has been very active for the last two years on the issue of recycling rates and we expect to see a significant increase in those rates when the EPA next publish their figures in 2025.

- **Every bin is weighed** and the data reported to the customer and the relevant authorities. This data is essential to help customers better manage their waste and to increase recycling rates.
- **Use of Advanced Sorting Technology** – The waste industry in Ireland has developed highly automated and advanced sorting systems for recyclables. This includes the use robotics, industrial magnets, and optical separators.
- **Development of Advanced Food Waste Treatment Facilities** – The waste industry has successful developed composting and Anaerobic Digestion facilities to better manage food waste. This includes the production of biogas to generate electricity, or it is upgraded to biomethane and injected into the gas grid.
- **Non-recyclable waste** is mostly used as fuel in Ireland's two Waste-to-Energy plants as well as in cement kilns. Waste-to-energy and waste-to-heat replaces fossil fuels and decarbonises our economy.

About the Irish Waste Management Association (IWMA)

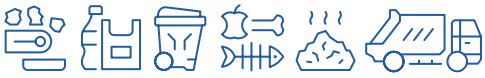
The IWMA is the Trade Association that represents waste management companies in Ireland.

Our **70 member companies** employ **8,500 people** directly and manage **11.4 million tonnes of waste** annually at their **c.200 waste management facilities.**



The waste types handled by our members includes household, commercial, industrial, construction, demolition, liquid and hazardous wastes.

IWMA member facilities include transfer stations, recycling centres, sorting facilities, biological treatment plants, landfills and waste to energy plants.



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