



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland

NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY 2024-2030

VOLUME II
POLICY RESPONSES AND ACTIONS

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Note that a Glossary and a full list of Abbreviations for terms used in this Plan are included in Appendix 1 of Volume IV Supporting Documentation.

PREAMBLE

THIS PLAN

This Plan commits to the transition to a circular economy through increased capture of high-quality materials maximising circular potential and using secondary materials from, reuse repair and recycling activities.

This volume sets out the ambition of this Plan, which commits to 0% waste growth and establishes consumption related targets for the reduction of residual municipal solid waste and construction and demolition wastes with supporting targets for contamination, reuse and repair/remanufacturing.

This volume seeks to address key challenges, risks and opportunities identified and sets out policy responses and actions to be implemented through **Volume III Delivery Roadmap**. The policy responses and actions identified build on the previous vision, strategy and progress made under the 2015-2021 Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMP) and provide a flexible policy framework to:

- Promote sustainable consumption patterns and prevent waste;
- Strengthen national waste collection and treatment capacity;
- Support producers, enterprises and facilities enabling transition to the circular economy; and
- Deliver measures through collaboration and shared ownership.

The policy framework in this Plan will retain and build on the national, regional and local structures established for the implementation of the previous RWMP's.

This is **Volume II Policy Responses and Actions** of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy which responds to the challenges identified in the evaluation of existing plans and highlighted in **Volume I Current Situation and Challenges**, the targets in Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the policy framework set out in the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy (WAPCE). This volume is built on the foundation of an extensive collaborative and consultative process with key partners and stakeholders which has informed the development of targets, policies, and actions for this Plan.

This volume is set out in three parts as follows:

PART A CORE POSITIONS COLLABORATION CIRCULARITY AMBITION TARGETS

Part A – Core Positions sets out the core positions that underpin the Plan as follows:

Collaboration: Collaboration has been central to the development of the Plan and to the determination of targets, policies and actions. Continued collaboration will be a feature of the implementation of the Plan and **Volume III** sets out how this will be achieved.

Circularity: This Plan commits to the transition to a circular economy and will actively contribute to this goal through the implementation of the Plan ambition, targets, policies and actions.

Ambition: The ambition of this Plan is 0% waste growth (total) over the lifetime of the Plan to be achieved through a combination of interventions by key partners and stakeholders.

Plan Targets: This Plan presents consumption related targets for the reduction of rMSW and C&D waste as mandated by the WAPCE and sets out supporting targets for waste contamination, reuse and repair/remanufacturing.

EU Targets: This Plan commits to the continued compliance with existing and pending EU Waste targets.

PART B CORE POLICIES

Part B – Core Policies sets out 13 Core Policies to guide the operation and development of the wider waste and circular economies. These Core Policies have been developed from the objectives presented in the RWMP 2015-2021 and supplemented to respond to the challenge of climate change and the transition to a circular economy.

PART C FOCUS AREAS

Part C – Focus Areas sets out the 16 Focus Areas identified for the assignment of targeted policies and priority actions to support the achievement of the Plan ambition and targets.

The focus areas chosen can be categorised as operational, material stream related and infrastructural.

Each focus area has a range of targeted policies and priority actions and principal responsibility is assigned to each priority action identified to continue the collaborative and co-ownership approach to the Plan.

Volume III Delivery Roadmap describes the arrangements for the delivery of the ambition, targets, policies and actions through organisational and engagement responses and by identifying the resources required to achieve the desired outcomes.

The implementation of the ambition, targets, policies and actions of this Plan will take account of mitigation measures proposed in the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Natura Impact Statement as summarised at the end of this volume.



PART A: CORE POSITIONS



1 CIRCULARITY

This Plan provides a waste management planning framework for the waste sector to maintain and strengthen existing services and identifies key interventions to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

A successful circular economy will improve consumption behaviours and reduce waste generation and will deliver environmental benefits through reduced greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss.

The circular economy offers a better model of production and consumption compared to the linear ('take-make-waste') approach which is resource and carbon intensive. The circular economy model fundamentally considers waste as a resource which can be recirculated into systems that focus on maintaining, repairing, reusing, refurbishing and recycling materials and products. Being resource efficient and getting more value from fewer resources is central to this model.

CIRCULARITY

Keeping materials
in use for longer

The circular economy is an inherently regenerative system, which minimises or avoids emissions and other negative environmental impacts associated with linear production and consumption systems. The State needs to move to a more sustainable production and consumption model by changing how the population consumes and by reviewing design to extend the lifespan of materials and resources.

Avoiding waste generation through circular systems forms the basis for the circular economy sector actions and targets in the Climate Action Plan.

Climate and the circular economy are inherently interlinked, and the findings are clear that there are significant greenhouse gas emission savings through maximising the efficiency of material usage.

CLIMATE

CIRCULAR
ECONOMY

While the need to transition to a circular economy was addressed in the previous RWMP, the EU and national policy and legislative base has significantly strengthened since 2015. Circular economy policy, legislation and associated targets mandate the need for Ireland to transition to a circular economy over the lifetime of this Plan.

The Plan ambition reflects the urgency for the targets, policies and actions of this Plan to contribute to the delivery of this transition and move waste management in Ireland higher up the waste hierarchy and reduce the reliance on both recovery and disposal.

The Circular Economy Act 2022 commits to the establishment of new targets and indicators to measure the State's circularity rate or the State's ability to keep materials in use and avoid continued extraction of primary raw materials.

This Plan recognises circularity as a key driver and the circularity rate as an indicator of progress in this area.

ELIMINATING WASTE AND MAXIMISING THE REUSE OF RESOURCES

Section 7(6) of the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 requires that the Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy (CES) sets out circularity targets for a number of sectors and it is anticipated that when the CES is revised, a set of circularity targets will be applied by DECC.

This Plan will actively contribute to increasing circularity and achieving these targets through reduced consumption coupled with increased recycling by:

- Increasing the national recycling rate and capturing data on other circular mechanisms such as reuse, repair and preparation for reuse to increase the recycling rate;
- Maximising the quality and quantity of secondary materials in the market to enable substitution for primary materials; and
- Reducing material consumption across all sectors of the State including the household, commercial, industrial and construction sectors.

It is anticipated that the greatest opportunity for reduced consumption in this Plan is the consumption of primary aggregates for construction, which may be substituted by secondary aggregates through the application of Regulation 27 and 28 decisions and through the implementation of best practice. Wider behavioural change through improved consumer decision making is also a key aspect of this Plan to reduce consumption.

CIRCULARITY IS A CORE POSITION OF THIS PLAN AND UNDERPINS THE AMBITION, TARGETS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS OF THE PLAN.

The delivery of the required levels of behaviour change, the necessary increase in recycling and the growth of secondary materials will only be achieved through a collaborative and coordinated response from the waste sector.

This Plan seeks to enhance the existing organisational arrangements between the key partners (DECC, EPA and the local government sector) as well as key stakeholders (private sector, compliance schemes, reuse/repair sector) to deliver the level of response required to achieve meaningful change in the waste sector's contribution to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

Further details on this enhanced collaboration model are provided in **Volume III**.



2 AMBITION

0%

TOTAL WASTE GROWTH

This Plan seeks to prevent the generation of waste while accelerating the transition to a circular economy. The growth of reuse, repair, preparation for reuse and recycling initiatives and infrastructure will drive this transition by enabling the secondary materials market, thereby reducing the need for primary materials and preventing waste generation.

The ambition of this Plan is to build on the progress of the RWMP and to drive the transition to a more circular economy and to strengthen national capacity. The ambition acknowledges the existing challenges of consumption, recycling rates, exports and climate action and seeks to establish a basis for the transition by tackling consumption, enhancing the capture of waste and improving compliance.

Over the timeframe of the previous RWMP, progress has been made on the management of waste in a safe and more sustainable manner as set out in the strategy of the RWMP. While the prevention of waste remains a challenge, the sector has been successful in regulating waste streams and capacities, complying with the majority of current EU targets and with a reduced reliance on landfills. Progress has been made on raising awareness to encourage behaviour improvement through platforms such as mywaste.ie as documented in the evaluation report (reference **Appendix 3 of**

Volume IV). However, this has not been translated into measurable outcomes in waste prevention and better segregation. There is a need to further enhance the behavioural advances gained over the lifetime of the RWMP 2015-2021 to translate improved behaviour to more circular practice.

Volume I sets out the key population and economic drivers that have historically influenced waste generation rates. Quantitative predictions (for MSW and C&D) and qualitative analysis for other waste streams in **Volume I** indicate that these drivers will continue to influence waste generation. Total waste generation is predicted to grow annually over the lifetime of this Plan without significant interventions to mitigate this growth.

The successful implementation of interventions listed in this Plan will stem the projected growth in waste in line with the circular economy targets in the Climate Action Plan. The ambition of this Plan is to achieve 0% total waste growth annually over the lifetime of the Plan primarily as a result of these planned interventions and also by influencing consumption, improving the capture of materials and enabling compliance.

0%

TOTAL WASTE GROWTH

- Maintain waste management and behavioural advances
- Accelerate the transition to a Circular Economy
- Influence sustainable consumption
- Improve the capture of all wastes optimising circularity
- Enable compliance with policy and legislation

Current Baseline
2.7 tonnes
Total waste
Per person Per year

The ambition will be monitored through the NWCPO annual returns for total waste generated within the State and reported annually. The data will be presented as total waste generated per capita which is a standard EU benchmark that allows for the waste data to be index linked to population.

The current level of total waste generated per person per year is 2.7 tonnes based on NWCPO data. This is the baseline that will be used to track the ambition over the lifetime of the Plan.

Against the backdrop of historic and predicted annual growth in waste generation, a commitment to 0% total waste growth represents a significant ambition and equates to an effective 7-10% reduction in predicted waste generation over the lifetime of the Plan.

Collaboration between the key partners will be essential to deliver the required interventions to mitigate waste growth and achieve this ambition.

The development of this Plan is grounded in a collaborative approach to the identification of challenges and solutions. This approach adopted three themes, consumption, capture and compliance to drive this process and these themes underpin the ambition of this Plan.

CONSUMPTION

Using Resources

The more we consume, the more waste is produced and the challenge is to move away from wasteful linear patterns so as to reduce waste and to move to more sustainable consumption models with more sustainable resource use. Ireland's level of consumption is one of the highest in Europe. This Plan aims to disrupt linear patterns through measures which support lasting changes to current consumption behaviours.

CAPTURE

Collecting Materials

Capturing materials to be reused, repaired, recycled, recovered or disposed of in a sustainable way is critical to protect the environment. This Plan aims to improve the current performance of collection systems including rethinking the network of collection infrastructure and evolving compliance schemes. This Plan supports new indigenous infrastructure, to build greater resilience in national capacity and the adaptation of markets & facilities to support climate and carbon targets.

COMPLIANCE

The Rules

Complying with the rules and guidance for waste management will result in achievement of the EU, National and Plan targets. Enforcement activities are central to achieving compliance and penalties, fines and prosecutions are the ultimate sanctions. This Plan will focus on enabling compliance in all its forms from participation in authorised services to the promotion of personal responsibility for circular choices and waste produced.

The Plan Ambition is a Core Position of this Plan and will be a key indicator for progress on policies and actions.





3 TARGETS

3.1 NATIONAL TARGETS

The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy¹ (WAPCE) requires this Plan to include targets for reuse, repair, resource consumption and a reduction in contamination. The development of these targets was considered as part of the collaborative process and the targets adopted reflect the detailed consideration given to the potential impact of the targets and the contribution the targets make to the achievement of the Plan ambition.

In addition, Section 24 of the Circular Economy Act 2022 amends Section 22 of the WMA to state that this Plan must include targets for 'the use of products and materials that have been re-used, re-manufactured or repaired, or any combination thereof. A target for 're-manufactured' products and materials has been considered and will be progressed in conjunction with the proposed roadmap for the development of a repair target.

The following sections set out the targets adopted in each of the mandated areas.

3.1.1 National Target 1: Resource Consumption

National Target 1A – Residual Municipal Waste

One of the key aspects of circular economy policy (and reflected in the ambition of this Plan) is promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns and decoupling economic growth from waste generation. Article 9(3) of the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC², WFD) requires Member States to 'monitor and assess the implementation of the waste prevention measures' and for that purpose 'they shall use appropriate qualitative or quantitative indicators and targets, notably on the quantity of waste that is generated'.

However, there are currently no prevention or consumption targets established within EU or national legislation or policy.



There is a direct line between consumption and waste generation and the 2015-2021 RWMPs did include a consumption related target to achieve a 1% reduction per annum in the quantity of household waste generated per capita over the period of the plans (2015 to 2021) but compliance with this target was not achieved. Household waste generation increased by 4% from 2015 to 2019.

Targeting a reduction in the totality of household waste produced has implications for the improved segregation and increased recycling required to achieve EU targets. Therefore, targeting residual waste production is considered to be a better reflection of sustainable consumption trends and practices.

Other jurisdictions within the EU use a metric based on rMSW generation to track consumption. This metric takes account of progress in delivering recycling rates and is considered to provide a more optimum indication of sustainable consumption patterns. This alternative approach will be adopted as one of the primary consumption related targets in this Plan.

This Plan will extend the target from household waste as per the 2015-2021 RWMP, to a 6% aggregate reduction in all residual municipal waste by 2030 (including commercial and household) and a series of targeted policies and priority actions to support this target are presented in Focus Areas 'Municipal Commercial' (FA1) and 'Municipal Household' (FA2) in **Chapter 5**.

The current level of total rMSW generated per person per year is 0.37 tonnes and this is the baseline that will be used to track the progress of this target over the lifetime of the Plan.

National Target 1B – Construction Materials

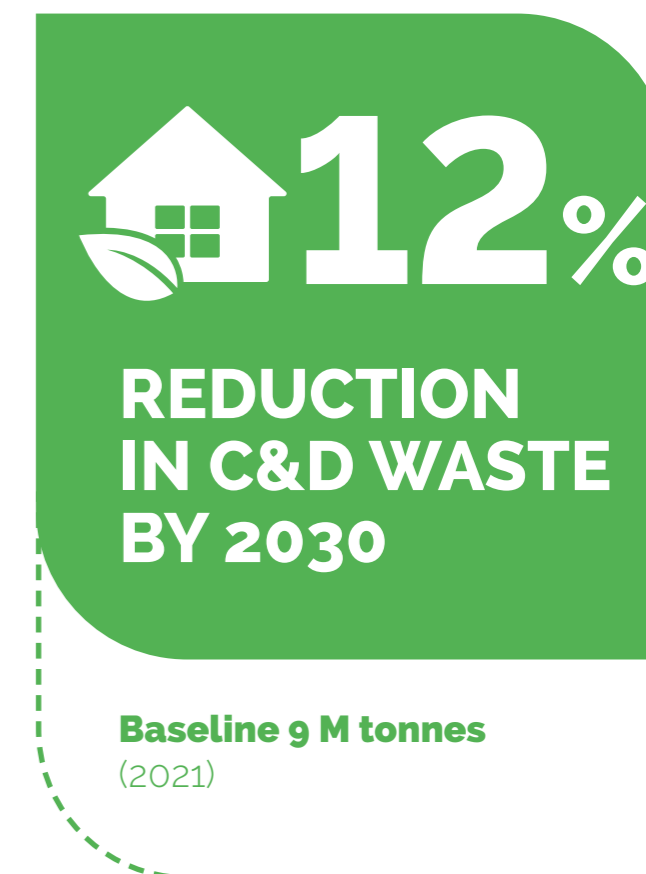
Construction waste accounted for 60%, 9 million tonnes, of all waste generated within the State in 2021. The consumption of raw materials by the construction sector can be reduced by the use of secondary materials and this Plan supports the provision of secondary materials through a range of interventions.

This Plan includes a consumption related target for construction waste and materials and Focus Area 8 'Construction and Demolition' in **Chapter 6** sets out the targeted policy base to enable a step change in the sector to facilitate waste prevention and support circular secondary materials.

Because of the potential impact of the planned interventions on the prevention of construction waste, a higher and annual based target is applied than that presented for municipal waste and a 2% reduction per annum is proposed for total construction and demolition waste to achieve a cumulative 12% reduction by 2030.

This target will be achieved through national decisions on Regulation 27 (By-product) and Regulation 28 (End of Waste) and the implementation and enforcement of best practice on construction sites.

The current level of total construction and demolition waste generation is 9 million tonnes, and this is the baseline that will be used to track the progress of this target over the lifetime of the Plan.



¹ Link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/4221c-waste-action-plan-for-a-circular-economy/>

² Link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32008L0098>

3.1.2 National Target 2: Material Compliance

Contamination of waste materials occurs where the incorrect material is placed in the incorrect bin. Contamination reduces the amount of material available for recycling and increases the amount of material that has to be recovered through thermal treatment or disposed of at landfill. Contamination leads to a loss of valuable materials and their resource and circular potential.

Like consumption, there are no EU or national limits or targets set for reducing contamination or improving the quality and compliance of materials in the residual, recyclable or food waste recycling bins. Maximising the quantity while maintaining the quality of materials placed in the recycling and food waste recycling bin is essential to ensure a clean reliable feedstock for circular treatment options such as recycling and this is reflected in the ambition of this Plan 'improving the capture of all wastes optimising circularity'.

In this Plan, contamination is measured as 'material compliance' which is the fraction of appropriate material placed in each of the residual, recyclable or food waste recycling bins.



The EPA waste characterisation survey 2022³, showed significant levels of contamination and poor material compliance in both the commercial and household recycling and residual waste bins with potentially circular material placed in the residual

bins. There is a need to improve awareness in the commercial and household sectors to increase material compliance in these bins and a series of targeted policies are assigned to promote then necessary behaviour change in Focus Area 1 'Municipal Commercial' and Focus Area 2 'Municipal Household' in **Chapter 5**.

National Target 2A – Material Compliance for the Dry Recycling Bin

This Plan commits to a material compliance target of 90% in the dry recycling bin as a minimum standard to increase segregation and reduce contamination by other materials.

This target will be tracked through mass balance analysis of inputs and outputs at Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) to confirm that a minimum of 90% of the materials collected in these bins are suitable for recycling.

The current mass balance baseline for this target has yet to be quantified and a priority for the first annual work plan will be for the EPA and the local government sector to collaborate on establishing a robust baseline to track compliance with this target.

The percentage material compliance rate varies widely depending on the facility reporting, the treatment technology used at the facility, and the quality of the incoming material. It is proposed to determine a baseline for material compliance levels in collaboration with operators in 2024.

National Target 2B – Material Compliance for the Residual Bin

The EPA reported that in 2022 the segregation practices in the commercial and household Residual Bin are poor and only 36% (household) and 26% (commercial) of materials found were appropriately placed in the residual bin. Significant behaviour change is required to modify current segregation practices as presented for Focus Area 1 'Municipal Commercial' and Focus Area 2 'Municipal Household' in **Chapter 5**.

To track progress in this behaviour change, an ambitious target is required to drive segregation and ensure materials with a circular potential are no longer placed in the residual bin.

10%
PER ANNUM INCREASE IN MATERIAL COMPLIANCE IN THE RESIDUAL BIN. (90% BY END OF 2030)

Household / Commercial Baseline 36/26% (2022)

A target of 10% per annum increase in material compliance in the residual bin is applied in this Plan. This represents a potential 90% material compliance rate by the end of 2030. This is an ambitious target relevant to the 2022 baseline of 36% in household residual bins and 26% in commercial residual bins.

⁴ Link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/GA/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021D0019>

⁵ Link: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/waste/national-waste-statistics/reuse/>

3.1.3 National Target 3: Reuse

National Target 3A – Reuse

Reuse means any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived.

Article 9(4) of the WFD requires Member States to monitor and assess the implementation of reuse measures by measuring reuse through a common methodology though a specific target for reuse is not stated. Implementing Decision (EU)2021/19⁴ presents this common methodology as well as a format for reporting reuse activities to the Commission. The product categories specified in the methodology as suitable for measuring reuse are listed as follows:

- Textiles;
- Electrical and Electronic Equipment;
- Furniture;
- Construction Material and Products; and
- Other Products for which measures were adopted.

The EPA has published the first set of national reuse statistics for Ireland as required under the revised Waste Framework Directive and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/19⁵. The EPA reports that the average annual reuse rate per person in Ireland was 10.6kg per person in 2021.

This data is largely in line with international levels and this baseline data has been used to set an ambitious per capita reuse target of 20kg/person/annum for this Plan to be achieved by 2030.

Focus Area 12 'Reuse/Repair Infrastructure' in **Chapter 7** includes a series of policies and actions to support the development of reuse and repair infrastructure and initiatives within the State.

The current baseline for 2021 is based on the EPA national dataset which was obtained via an online survey of a representative sample of the Irish population.

It is noted that the 2021 EPA data reflects individual-based reuse consumption and does not include commercial, business-to-business reuse or reuse on construction projects.

³ <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/waste/national-waste-statistics/waste-characterisation/>

In line with Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/19, the EPA will undertake quantitative annual reporting to track the effectiveness of reuse initiatives and this will be supplemented with quantitative reporting every three years (following the 2021 reference year) on the quantity (in tonnes) of reuse in five specific product categories:

- Textiles;
- Electronic Equipment;
- Furniture;
- Construction Materials; and
- Other products for which measures are introduced.

This national dataset will be employed to track compliance with National Target 3A.

20kg
PER PERSON
PER YEAR

Baseline 10.6 kg per person
(2021)



National Target 3B – Reuse Infrastructure

There is a lack of reuse infrastructure nationally and this Plan commits to the enhancement of Civic Amenity Sites (CAS)⁶ to facilitate reuse activities (refer Priority Action PA12.2) in line with the findings of the National Review of Civic Amenity Sites which was published in 2020⁸.

A CCMA working group has been established to progress the implementation of the CAS Review and this group will consider the financial and operational implications of this target including the extent of the provision with a minimum target of 10 locations.

It is recognised that the CAS network needs to adjust the current service model to assist with the transition to a circular economy.

min
10
REUSE
FACILITIES
AT CAS

3.1.4 National Target 4: Preparation for Reuse and Repair/Remanufacturing

National Target 4A – Repair

Unlike reuse, there is no legislation or supporting national dataset available to assist developing preparation for reuse and repair targets for this Plan. While 'preparation for reuse' may have some overlap with repair, there is a need to establish the clear regulatory regime that applies to repair at the outset to developing this target.

In the absence of any robust national baseline for repair activities, this Plan proposes an approach to establish a baseline to inform future target setting for repair (and potentially re-manufacturing) and the following roadmap is proposed to identify, and establish a repair target:



REPAIR TARGET ROADMAP

- Establish a collaborative working group with DECC and the EPA to encourage and facilitate the development of the repair sector to set the framework for target delivery;
- Identify and agree product categories, and establish a framework to enable quantification of tonnages for each category in order to establish a national baseline for preparation for reuse and repair activities;
- Establish a database of repair practitioners in Ireland that are engaged in the active repair of the relevant product categories;
- Compile the national scale repair baseline for the selected product categories for a given baseline year;
- Establish a suitably ambitious repair target – likely this target will be in a similar format to that for reuse to allow the comparison of both targets;
- Develop monitoring and tracking tools to facilitate the assessment of the impact of repair activities; and
- Undertake iterative target reviews to drive ambition and repair activities.

(It is proposed to consider a roadmap for the remanufacturing target in parallel with repair.)

⁶ 96 CAS⁷ in Ireland

⁸ Link: <https://www.mywaste.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/National-Review-of-Civic-Amenity-Sites.pdf>

National Target 4B – Repair Infrastructure

As with reuse, this Plan also commits to a target for the provision of infrastructure/systems, in this case the provision of collection systems to facilitate repair (refer Priority Action PA12.3).

These collection systems will be devised in collaboration with identified repair practitioners to ensure that suitable products are identified for collection. The nature and extent of the collection system will be determined by the local government sector and delivered by the sector and/or the private waste collectors.

3 
COLLECTION SERVICES

National Targets represent Core Positions in this Plan and will be achieved by the implementation of policies and actions identified.

The national targets outlined have been devised in response to the WAPCE and arising from the collaboration with key partners and stakeholders during the development of this. National targets in all cases support the transition to a circular economy and underpin the ambition of this Plan.

3.2 EUROPEAN TARGETS

3.2.1 Recycling

The WFD set a recycling rate target of 50% to be achieved by 2020 for the preparing for reuse and recycling of waste materials, including paper, metal, plastic, and glass from households and possibly other origins if the wastes are similar to households.

Ireland has not achieved this target with a recycling rate of 41% in 2020 and the State has shown little progress in increasing the recycling rate over the past decade.

The WFD was amended in 2018 by Directive (EU) 2018/851⁹ which includes for more ambitious recycling targets to be achieved by 2025, 2030 and 2035. These targets highlight the need for significant and effective intervention to make up for ground lost and to work towards the achievement of new targets.

The WFD has also set a target of 50% for the preparing for reuse and recycling of household derived paper, metal, plastic & glass and in 2020, Ireland achieved compliance with 54% of these streams prepared for reuse or recycled.

Volume III sets out the potential impact of planned policy interventions on the recycling rate over the lifetime of the Plan and it is clear that the most ambitious outcome is likely to achieve a 50% rate by 2030 illustrating the absolute need for more radical interventions as part of the review of national policy in 2024.

RECYCLING TARGETS

2020 – 50%

2025 – 55%

2030 – 60%

2035 – 65%

3.2.2 Food

While not currently listed in any legislative instrument, the Commission has adopted the United Nations Sustainable Goal (UN SDG) Target 12.3 to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses and plans to introduce legally binding targets to reduce food waste across the EU.

The EPA has collated the baseline year for food waste data for reporting to the Commission (Ireland generated an estimated 753,000 tonnes of food waste in 2021) and this will be used as the benchmark to establish a food waste target for the State.

FOOD WASTE
50% 
REDUCTION BY 2030

PACKAGING TARGETS

By 31st December 2025
65% Recycled (by weight)

Including:
50% of Plastic
25% of Wood
70% of Ferrous Metals
50% of Aluminium
70% of Glass
75% Paper / Card

3.2.3 Packaging

Directive (EU) 2018/852¹⁰ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste sets a series of recycling targets for 2025 and 2030 for all streams combined and for individual packaging streams.

As noted in **Volume I**, the State is on track to meet most of the current targets as follows:

- 55% as a minimum by weight of packaging waste will be recycled – the State achieved 62% in 2020;
- Minimum recycling target of 60% by weight for glass – the State achieved 84% in 2020;
- Minimum recycling target of 60% by weight for paper and board – the State achieved 78% in 2020;
- Minimum recycling target of 50% by weight for metals – the State achieved 71% in 2020;
- Minimum recycling target of 22.5% by weight for plastics, counting exclusively material that is recycled back into plastics – the State achieved 29% in 2020; and
- Minimum recycling target of 15% by weight for wood – the State achieved 48% in 2020.

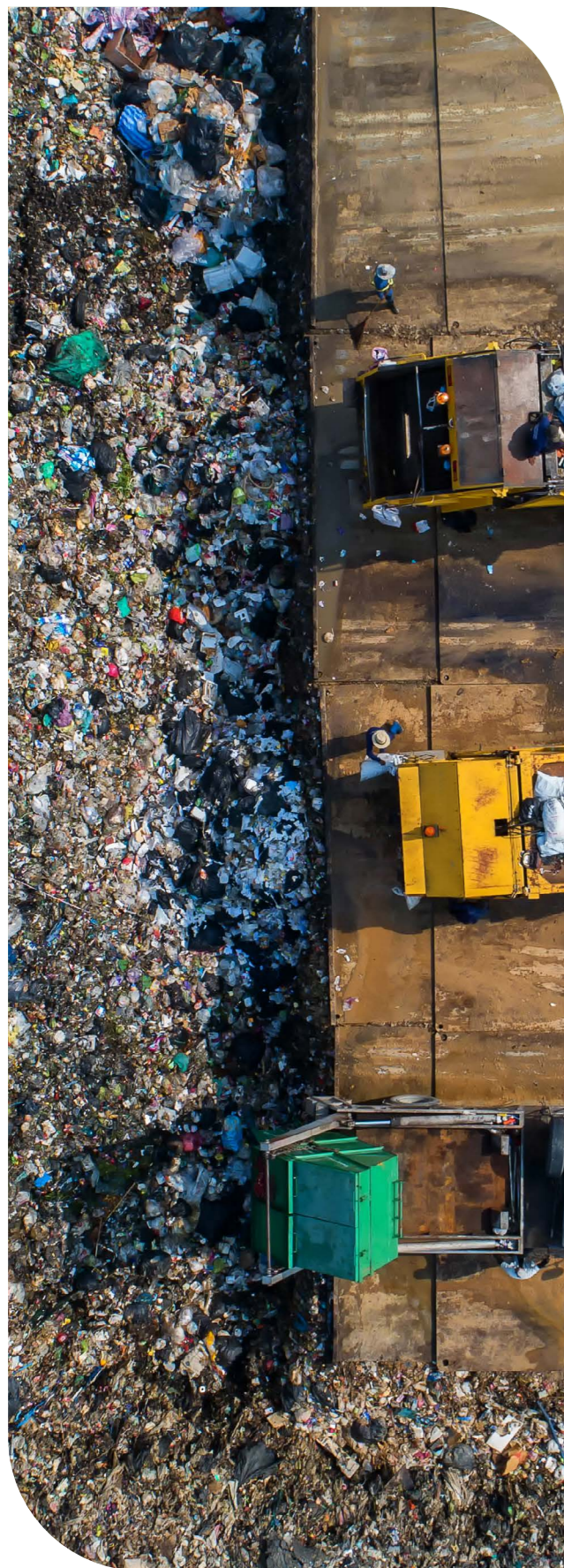
However, the data suggests that additional measures are required on plastic recycling to meet the 2025 (50%) and 2030 (55%) targets from the current level of 29% in 2020.

By 31st December 2030
70% Recycled (by weight)

Including:
55% of Plastic
30% of Wood
80% of Ferrous Metals
60% of Aluminium
75% of Glass
85% Paper / Card

⁹ Link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32018L0851>

¹⁰ Link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1551965345008&uri=CELEX:32018L0852>



3.2.4 Landfill

Directive (EU) 2018/850¹¹ amending Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste has set a target to limit the amount of waste that may be landfilled in any year by 2035. The European Commission states that this reduction of landfilling is necessary to prevent detrimental impacts on human health and the environment and to ensure that economically valuable waste materials are gradually and effectively recovered through proper waste management and in line with the waste hierarchy.

The EPA reported that Ireland's landfill rate for municipal waste was 16% in 2021.



LANDFILL
<10%
OF TOTAL MSW
BY 2035

¹¹ Link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018L0850>

3.2.5 Single Use Plastics (SUP)

The Single Use Plastic Directive ((EU) 2019/904)¹² sets a series of targets for the minimum quantity of recycled content for beverage bottles which are relevant to the manufacturing sector as well as plastic recycling operations, some of which have been developed within the State.

In addition, the Directive sets minimum collection targets to ensure the separate collection of plastic beverage bottles for recycling that must be achieved by 2025 and 2029.

New collection systems such as the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS – to be operational in 2024) for plastic bottles will assist in achieving this collection target.

No details on the State's performance on this stream are currently available for these new targets.

SUP TARGETS

From 2025

PET Bottles must contain at least 25% recycled plastic

From 2030

Beverage Bottles must contain 30% recycled plastic

By 2025

77% separate collection of SUP beverage bottles by weight

By 2029

90% separate collection of SUP beverage bottles by weight

¹² Link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/904/oj>

3.2.6 Construction Waste

The WFD set a recycling target of 70% by weight of C&D non-hazardous waste (excluding natural soils & stone) for construction waste for 2020 which has been achieved by the State in recent years (Ireland reported 78% in 2020).

There is no revision of the target presented pending, but the Commission has signalled the plan to introduce material recovery targets which will be set in EU legislation for total construction and demolition waste and for individual material-specific fractions.

Any new targets imposed in the lifetime of this Plan may be adopted, implemented and monitored in the annual work plans.



CONSTRUCTION WASTE

70%
RECYCLING BY
2020

3.2.7 Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

The WEEE Directive (2012/19/EC¹³) sets a minimum collection target of greater than or equal to 65% for all WEEE placed on the market or 85% of WEEE generated in the State. Ireland has not achieved this target with a reported collection rate of 60% in 2020.

The Directive also sets a series of individual targets for the reuse, recovery and recycling of six different categories of WEEE as follows:

- Category 1. Temperature exchange equipment – Ireland achieved a compliant 96% recovery rate and an 86% reuse and recycling rate in 2020;
- Category 2. Screens, monitors, and equipment containing screens having a surface greater than 100 cm² – Ireland achieved a compliant 98% recovery rate and an 85% reuse and recycling rate in 2020;
- Category 3. Lamps – Ireland achieved a compliant 82% reuse and recycling rate in 2020;
- Category 4. Large equipment – Ireland achieved a compliant 90% recovery rate and an 86% reuse and recycling rate in 2020;
- Category 5. Small equipment – Ireland achieved a compliant 89% recovery rate and a 78% reuse and recycling rate in 2020; and
- Category 6. Small IT and telecommunication equipment – Ireland achieved a compliant 88% recovery rate and an 86% reuse and recycling rate in 2020.

WEEE TARGETS

From 2019

Minimum collection rate of 65% OR 85% of WEEE generated in the State.

From 2018

Minimum targets by category:

Cat. 1 or 4 Annex III

85% Recovered; 80% Prepared for Reuse or Recycled

Cat. 2 Annex III

80% Recovered; 70% Prepared for Reuse or Recycled

Cat. 5 or 6 Annex III

70% Recovered; 55% Prepared for Reuse or Recycled

Cat. 3 Annex III

80% Recycled



¹³ Link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0019>

3.2.8 Batteries

Batteries are currently regulated under Directive 2006/66/EC¹⁴ which sets minimum targets for the collection coupled with recycling targets for each of the main battery sources. Ireland was in compliance with all targets in 2020 delivering a 51% collection rate, 88% recycling of lead-acid batteries, 79% recycling of nickel-cadmium batteries and 66% of other batteries relative to the associated targets.

Regulation (EU) 2023/1542¹⁵ was adopted in July 2023 with wide ranging targets for battery safety and sustainability and will take effect from February 2024 replacing Directive 2006/66/EC.

This Regulation introduces new collection targets for both portable batteries and Light Means of Transport (LMT) batteries (i.e. for electric or hybrid vehicles) that will take effect within the lifetime of this Plan.

BATTERIES TARGETS

Collection Targets for Portable Batteries

45% by 31 December 2023

63% by 31 December 2027

73% by 31 December 2030

Collection Targets for Light Means of Transport (LMT) Batteries

51% by 31 December 2028

61% by 31 December 2031

Recycling Efficiency by 31 December 2025

75% of lead-acid batteries

65% of lithium-based batteries

80% nickel-cadmium batteries

50% of other waste batteries

Recycling Efficiency by 31 December 2030

80% of lead-acid batteries

70% of lithium-based batteries

¹⁴ Link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:3A32006L0066>

¹⁵ Link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1542/oj>

¹⁶ Link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:3A32000L0053>

Similarly, the Regulation includes progressive targets for recycling efficiency of various battery types for 2025 and 2030.

In addition to the battery specific targets, the Regulation also imposes targets for the minimum levels of recovery of key raw materials such as cobalt, copper, lead, lithium and nickel for 2027 and 2031.

3.2.9 End of Life Vehicles

The End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV) Directive (2000/53/EC¹⁶) aims to limit and prevent waste from ELVs and outlines measures to promote the reuse, and recovery of ELVs. Targets are set for reuse and recovery and reuse and recycling. Ireland exceeded both targets in 2020 delivering 97% reuse and recovery and 90% reuse and recycling for ELVs.

ELV TARGETS

Minimum 95% Reuse and Recovery

Minimum 85% Reuse and Recycling

European Targets represent Core Positions in this Plan and will be achieved by the implementation of policies and actions identified.



4 CORE POLICIES

CORE POLICIES represent the fundamental principles of this Plan.

The Core Policies are designed to apply universally to all Focus Areas in this Plan and taken together provide a frame of reference for the operation and development of the wider waste and circular economies.

The Core Policies have been developed from the objectives presented in the RWMP 2015-2021 and supplemented to respond to the challenges identified and to support the transition to a circular economy.

All actions in this Plan will be subject to the core policy test:

CORE POLICIES TEST

Protect the environment and address climate action, comply with policy and embrace collaboration, influence behaviours using existing and proposed organisational structures, promote innovation and monitor impact, support national plans and use green procurement, provide good quality data, identify and support important infrastructure where appropriate and ensure that resources and funding are available.

CORE POLICY 1

Protection of the Environment

Oversee waste activities and litter control measures to ensure they do not pose a risk to the environment and human health and make a positive contribution to circularity.

Core Policy CP1 recognises the need to protect the environment and human health which is paramount for all targets, policies and actions listed in this Plan and for the operation of the waste and circular sectors.

The policy references circularity and a transition to a circular economy is part of the waste sector's contribution to climate action (wider climate action policy included as CP2).

CORE POLICY 2

Climate Action

Support the delivery of the measures and actions prescribed in the Climate Action Plan to contribute to achieving the national climate targets.

Chapter 19 of the Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP) states that the circular economy and climate action are inherently interlinked, where a functioning circular economy has clear co-benefits for climate and waste. The circular economy measures listed in the CAP to achieve the carbon budgets are formed

PART B: CORE POLICIES

around the achievement of a series of EU waste targets including the reduction in waste to landfill, increased recycling rates, the halving of food waste, enhanced collection and implementation of the SUP measures.

Core Policy CP2 commits this Plan to supporting the achievement of the evolving targets in the Climate Action Plan (including all future revisions).

CORE POLICY 3

Policy and Legislation

Implement and enforce EU and national waste policies and plans and translate into actions that enable the transition to a circular economy and the achievement of national recycling targets.

Core Policy CP3 specifies the need to implement and enforce the relevant EU and national waste policy and legislation and this requirement underpinned the development of the targeted policies, priority actions for each of the Focus Areas presented in this Plan.

This includes general EU policy such as the waste hierarchy, polluter pays, self-sufficiency and proximity as well as national policy such as the WAPCE obligations and more specific policy and targets on MSW, food, packaging, etc. In addition, the existing and pending targets presented in the relevant EU legislation are replicated in the EU targets presented in **Section 3.2** of this volume.

One of the key learnings from the evaluation of the previous RWMP was that the local government sector did not have all of the necessary control to deliver on the targets committed to within those plans. As such, the development of this Plan has been guided by a collaborative approach with stakeholders to build on existing relationships and to ensure that the implementation of this Plan is undertaken using a shared model approach.

CORE POLICY 4

Collaboration

Collaborate with key partners and stakeholders on the delivery of core and targeted policies and priority actions to ensure appropriate financial and human resources are provided.

The delivery of policies and actions will be the responsibility of multiple parties including the local government sector the EPA, DECC, the private waste sector and other stakeholders.

Core Policy CP4, establishes the requirement for collaboration and shared ownership of this Plan and associated targets and implementation.

The policy also identifies the need for collaboration in the delivery of the required resources for the local government sector to implement the Plan. **Volume III Chapter 6** identifies the scale of government investment required to resource the local government sector to deliver on the implementation of this Plan.

CORE POLICY 5

Changing Behaviours

Create better understanding, through polls, surveys and research and then influence and encourage informed behavioural improvements in business and households through Local Authority and external networks and coordinated multi-agency awareness campaigns, including mywaste, ie, to prevent waste and manage resources to increase the value and circular potential of materials.

Human behaviour is a significant driver of waste generation. Commercial, household, industrial and construction waste generation are directly related to consumer decisions on the nature and scale of materials purchased and how these materials are managed.

Improving consumer behaviours can be difficult and slow but can be achieved through sustained and accessible information campaigns.

Currently, there are a number of operators, such as the Environmental Awareness Network, hosting information campaigns for the express purpose of changing consumer behaviour on circular choices and waste management.

Core Policy CP5 proposes to coordinate all behaviour change campaigns to prevent duplication and increase collaboration on messaging.

CORE POLICY 6

Organisational Structures

Ensure that the planning, regulatory and enforcement functions of the local government sector are appropriately aligned, coordinated and supported by central government to respond to existing challenges.

As part of the implementation of the previous RWMP, the organisational structures of the local government sector have been established on a regional basis to cover the three waste management regions. This includes the establishment of RWMPO to coordinate local authority waste management planning and the establishment of WERLA to coordinate and implement enforcement activities. These structures are well established and have proved highly successful and the retention of these regional structures under this national Plan is proposed.

Core Policy CP6 mandates the ongoing need for these organisational structures to ensure the successful implementation of this Plan and further enhancements are proposed in **Volume III Chapter 4**.

CORE POLICY 7

Innovation

Encourage and support further research and innovation in the transition to a circular economy.

A successful transition from a linear to a circular economy will benefit the established waste sector and will also create opportunities for innovative reuse, repair and recycling solutions and novel uses for secondary materials.

Such innovation needs to be supported and promoted to inspire further market development to enable a true circular economy.

Core Policy CP7 seeks to encourage and support innovation in the waste and resource sector, in particular, new services, products and initiatives aligned to circular economy principles with positive climate impacts.

The State requires the right balance of infrastructure to manage waste in a manner which optimises the value of the material and future market opportunities while maintaining a functioning market for the present.

CORE POLICY 8

Monitoring

Monitor the provision of waste infrastructure to ensure that there is adequate appropriate infrastructure in place and where deficits exist to support solutions in line with the waste hierarchy, self-sufficiency, proximity and circularity.

Core Policy CP8 requires the local government sector to interact with key stakeholders through the appropriate governance structures on the status of treatment capacity. Gaps in infrastructure capacity will be identified with solutions supported, as will opportunities to support the development of new businesses using secondary materials including reuse, and recycling activities.

In addition, the local government sector will continue to engage with bodies such as An Bord Pleanála and the EPA on large-scale waste treatment infrastructure and the national need for such facilities.

Local Authorities in each region will continue to take a consistent approach to the authorisation of waste treatment facilities so that a uniform approach to consenting is maintained.

CORE POLICY 9

National Development Plan

Support the National Strategic Objectives, Sectoral Strategies and Strategic Investment Priorities set out in the National Development Plan 2021-2030.

The National Development Plan 2021-2030 (NDP¹⁷) sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. The NDP notes that 'Significant infrastructure capacity development will be required to separate and process various waste streams at municipal and national levels to achieve new EU legally binding targets and the additional investment may include a potential role for public investment.'

Core Policy CP9 commits this Plan to supporting the delivery of the strategic objectives, strategies and priorities of the NDP to ensure that there is no conflict between the plans.

The Climate Action Plan 2023 includes a suite of measures and actions under the broad policy of the public sector leading by example. Similarly, under this Plan the public sector will show leadership and a clear opportunity to simultaneously lead by example and support the circular economy is through the full implementation of the Green Public Procurement (GPP) Guidance for the Public Sector.

CORE POLICY 10

Green Public Procurement

Reinforce the consistent application of Green Public Procurement criteria in local authority contracts to ensure that public spending is aligned with the policies of this Plan and the Green Public Procurement strategy and Action Plan.

Core Policy CP10 supports the consistent application of Green Public Procurement.¹⁸ This guidance was published by the EPA in 2021 to support the inclusion of sustainable and green practices into public sector procurement procedures and Ireland has committed to implementing GPP in all tenders using public funds from 2023.

Through the procurement of services and products such as construction, textiles and food, the local government sector can make meaningful progress in reducing waste and supporting circular enterprises in the community.

CORE POLICY 11

Data Quality

Assist all stakeholders to ensure the availability of timely quality data and projections to inform policy development and to enable the monitoring of progress against policies and targets.

The delivery of timely and robust datasets is essential to tracking progress on compliance with national and EU targets and in determining capacity risks for the sector.

Active collaboration between stakeholders is required to ensure the transparent exchange of information and the timely delivery of highly reliant data.

Core Policy CP11 supports this collaboration over the Plan period to enable performance and compliance tracking as detailed in **Volume III Chapter 8**.

CORE POLICY 12

Nationally and Regionally Important Infrastructure

The Plan recognises and supports the need for nationally and regionally important waste infrastructure, including infrastructure of the type, scale and proximity essential to maintain waste services and infrastructure that contributes to the ambition and policies of the Plan.

There is a waste treatment capacity deficit within the State which is illustrated by high levels of waste export (Ireland exported 38% of MSW in 2021 for thermal recovery and recycling). Reliance on export is not sustainable and the identification of existing and future critical infrastructure for the final treatment of municipal waste is essential to protect, promote and ensure continuity of supply in the market.

Core Policy CP12 identifies the need to support and protect existing and future 'nationally' and 'regionally' important waste infrastructure and move towards self-sufficiency.

This relates to infrastructure which is of the type and scale deemed essential to maintain a functioning waste market within the State as defined **Volume I Chapter 5**.

Table 4-1 provides the criteria for nationally and regionally important infrastructure supported by Core Policy 12.



¹⁷ Link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/774e2-national-development-plan-2021-2030/>

¹⁸ Link: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/resources/GPP-Guidance-for-the-Irish-Public-Sector.pdf>

Table 4-1: Criteria for Nationally and Regionally Important Infrastructure

Treatment	National Criteria and Threshold
Pre-Treatment Infrastructure	Pre-treatment infrastructure with a capacity greater than 100,000 tonnes per annum.
Recycling Infrastructure	Recycling infrastructure with a capacity greater than 100,000 tonnes per annum.
Recycling Infrastructure (Composting and Anaerobic Digestion)	Recycling infrastructure with a capacity greater than 90,000 tonnes per annum.
Thermal Treatment of MSW	Dedicated thermal treatment plants with a capacity greater than 100,000 tonnes per annum.
Non-hazardous Landfill	Landfills with a capacity greater than 100,000 tonnes per annum.
Soil Recovery Facilities	Soil recovery facilities with a capacity greater than 250,000 tonnes per annum.
Treatment	Regional Criteria and Threshold
Pre-Treatment Infrastructure	Pre-treatment infrastructure with a capacity greater than 50,000 tonnes per annum.
Recycling Infrastructure	Recycling infrastructure with a capacity greater than 50,000 tonnes per annum.
Recycling Infrastructure (Composting and Anaerobic Digestion)	Recycling infrastructure with a capacity greater than 50,000 tonnes per annum.
Soil Recovery Facilities	Soil recovery facilities with a capacity greater than 100,000 tonnes per annum.

CORE POLICY 13

Funding this Plan

The Plan seeks to attract funding, including from relevant taxes and economic instruments to support initiatives and projects that underpin business continuity, core and targeted policies and priority actions. Any project or initiative arising from the implementation of this Plan will take account of appropriate principles including the polluter pays principle.

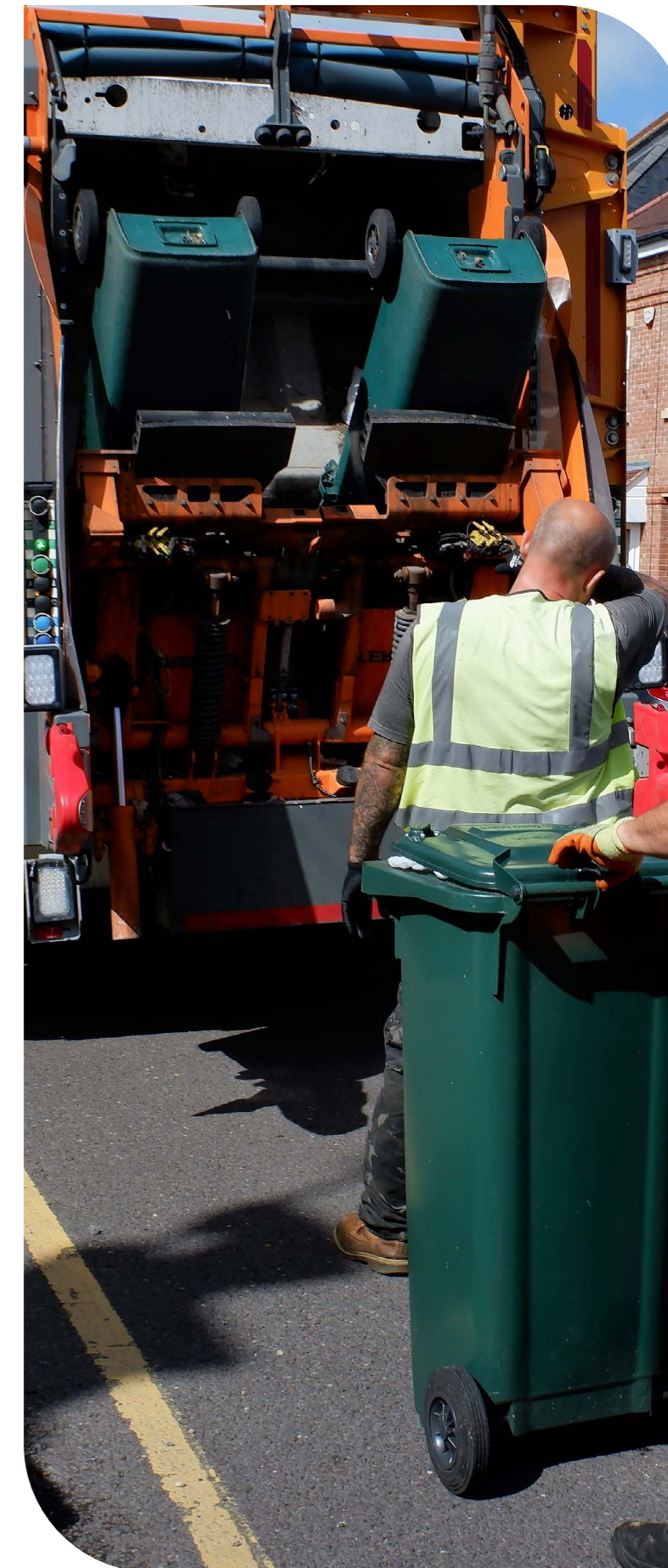
Funding is a key challenge for the local government sector for the delivery of waste functions and environmental obligations. This Plan provides a framework for continued funding of essential services together with increased investment in public and private infrastructure.

The principal funding sources for the implementation of this Plan are:

- **From** central government to ensure that the local government sector has the requisite financial and technical resources required to implement the Plan;
- **From** local government for all waste functions and obligations including waste infrastructure, CAS; and
- **From** the private sector for innovative prevention, reuse and repair or collection, recycling, and disposal systems.

Core Policy CP13 commits key partners and stakeholders to support the delivery of essential services and obligations and to provide additional support for the delivery of policies and actions that accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

A more detailed analysis of the financial requirements for the implementation of this Plan are presented in **Volume III Chapter 6**, including the resources required to maintain business continuity and the additional resources required to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.





FOCUS AREA GROUPS

Due to the complexity of the waste sector and the challenges faced, this Plan presents 16 focus areas for which targeted policies and priority actions have been identified. The focus areas have been chosen to support the achievement of the Plan ambition and targets within the frame of reference provided by the core policies.

The focus areas have been categorised into three groups: operational; material stream and infrastructural.

The following sections present the 16 focus area factsheets which contain the targeted policies and priority actions identified to support the ambition and targets of the Plan.

FACT SHEET GUIDE

What the focus area wants to achieve

Focus area number	Explainer
FOCUS AREA 1	MUNICIPAL COMMERCIAL WASTE
Purpose	What is it?
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP1.1	PA1.1 (LAS)
TP1.2	PA1.2 (LAS)
TP1.3	PA1.3 (LAS/Ind.)
TP1.4	PA1.4 (LAS)
TP1.5	PA1.5 (LAS)

Targeted policies

Priority actions with (responsibility)



PART C: FOCUS AREAS

OPERATIONAL

Operational Focus Areas focus on the operation of commercial and household waste systems the existing compliance schemes and waste collection systems. There are four focus areas in this group.

MATERIAL STREAMS

Material stream focus areas focus on the various waste streams that have to be managed and there are six focus areas in this group.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure focus areas focus on the infrastructure that is required to maintain the operations to manage material streams and there are six focus areas in this group.



5 OPERATIONAL FOCUS AREAS

There are four Operational Focus Areas as follows:

- **FA1** Municipal Commercial Waste;
- **FA2** Municipal Household Waste;
- **FA3** Compliance Schemes (Extended Producer Responsibility); and
- **FA4** Collection Systems.

A Fact Sheet for each Focus Area is presented with designated targeted policies and priority actions. Each priority action has an associated stakeholder responsibility continuing the collaborative approach to the implementation of the Plan.

ALIGNMENT

The Operational Focus Areas targeted policies and priority actions are designed to respond to operational challenges including:

- Preventing the generation of waste and delivering on the ambition for 0% total waste growth through policies such as TP1.1, TP1.5, TP2.1 and TP2.5;
- Increasing the municipal recycling rate to help bridge the gap to the next generation recycling targets while optimising the quality and quantity of materials captured and recycled to enable greater circularity. There are a number of policies presented to increase the recycling rate including TP1.2, TP2.2, TP2.4, TP3.1, TP4.1, TP4.2, TP4.3 and TP4.4; and

- To deliver on the circular economy measures for the Climate Action Plan, in particular the following targets which are broadly supported by the policy base:
 - Recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035; and
 - Separate collection obligations extended to include hazardous household waste (by end 2024), bio-waste (by end 2023), and textiles (by end 2024).

While targeted policies are designed for implementation during the Plan period, priority actions are more dynamic to allow for Plan implementation to be flexible to respond to emerging market policy or legislative changes through the annual work plans.

The actions listed on the worksheets are the priority actions for implementation early in the Plan period and may be amended or supplemented as required by the RWMPO through Plan implementation.

Responsibility for each priority action has been assigned to a key partner or stakeholder to maintain collaboration and co-ownership and a responsibility matrix is presented following the factsheets for each focus area group.

FOCUS AREA 1 MUNICIPAL COMMERCIAL WASTE	
Purpose	What is it?
Promote prevention and better segregation of commercial waste.	Municipal commercial waste is mixed waste which is similar in nature and composition to waste from households and includes food waste.
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP1.1	PA1.1 (LGS)
Identify and promote new means, methods and key drivers of sustainable consumption practices to reduce waste generation.	Collaborate with other agencies to develop and deliver targeted awareness campaigns and projects to improve behaviours on prevention, reuse and repair in non household settings.
TP1.2	PA1.2 (LGS)
Ensure that all non-household municipal waste settings adopt best practice on waste segregation and are serviced with a segregated waste collection system to maximise the quantity and quality of materials collected.	Enhance the capture of data from waste collectors for non-household settings through the National Waste Collection Permit Office.
TP1.3	PA1.3 (LGS/Ind.)
Strengthen the monitoring and accurate measurement of commercial municipal waste flows.	Investigate the potential for a sustainable waste management assurance scheme for business consistent with the transition to a circular economy.
TP1.4	PA1.4 (LGS/Ind.)
Implement appropriate engagement and /or enforcement measures in response to non-compliances identified.	Engage with businesses through local authority structures to promote consistent practices with regard to the management of commercial waste using measures including the MyWaste.ie business tools.
TP1.5	PA1.5 (LGS)
Promote the consistent application of an appropriate incentivised charging system for non-household municipal waste, through awareness and enforcement.	Ensure the consistent and targeted application of waste storage and presentation bye-laws to improve participation and segregation practices and incorporate into the RMCEI process.

FOCUS AREA 2 MUNICIPAL HOUSEHOLD WASTE	
Purpose	What is it?
To reduce household consumption and provide universal access to, and increase participation in, authorised collection systems and improve source segregation to preserve the inherent value of materials.	Municipal household waste is mixed waste and separately collected waste including paper and cardboard, glass, metals, plastics, food waste, biowaste, wood, textiles, packaging, waste electrical and electronic equipment, waste batteries and accumulators, and bulky waste, including mattresses and furniture.
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP2.1	PA2.1 (EPA/LGS/DECC)
Identify and promote new means, methods and key drivers of sustainable consumption practices to reduce waste generation.	Collaborate with all stakeholders to deliver continued and focussed behavioural change campaigns and projects, targeting households, that enable the transition to sustainable consumption.
TP2.2	PA2.2 (LGS/Ind.)
Ensure that all household settings can avail of an authorised waste service primarily segregated kerbside but also including Civic Amenity Sites or other appropriate alternatives.	Maximise households on kerbside systems, standardise the identification of bins and promote items accepted for recycling using visual representation.
TP2.3	PA2.3 (LGS/Ind.)
Strengthen the monitoring and measurement of household waste and implement appropriate enforcement measures in response to non-compliances identified.	Identify potential waste streams for preliminary feasibility assessment as additional kerbside services.
TP2.4	PA2.4 (DECC / LGS)
Identify and implement enhanced collection and segregation systems for additional waste streams for all household settings to maximise the quantity and quality of materials collected.	Arising from the impact analysis (TP2.5), review the application of existing incentivised charging arrangements and examine the potential for enhancements and improvements.
TP2.5	PA2.5 (LGS)
Analyse the impact of the existing incentivised charging system for household municipal waste.	Identify/investigate unauthorised collection/disposal/recovery of household waste, ensure the consistent and targeted application of the waste storage and presentation bye-laws and incorporate into the RMCEI process.
	PA2.6 (LGS / Ind.)
	Identify appropriate segregated waste collection systems for apartments and mixed use developments and support the waste industry in the implementation of these systems.

FOCUS AREA 3 COMPLIANCE SCHEMES (EPR's)	
Purpose	What is it?
To improve the circularity of waste streams collected by facilitating the potential for reuse and repair and compliance with targets.	Compliance Schemes or Extended Producer Responsibility schemes, EPR's, ensure that producers of products bear financial responsibility for the management of the waste stage of a product's life cycle. There are currently six Compliance Schemes including packaging, WEEE, batteries, tyres, ELVs and farm plastics.
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP3.1	PA3.1 (EPR/LGS)
Promote and enhance the capture, reuse, repair and circularity of mandated waste streams by working with Compliance Schemes.	Support Compliance Schemes in the development and delivery of targeted awareness campaigns and projects in relation to packaging.
TP3.2	PA3.2 (EPR/LGS)
Promote the eco-design of products that are resource-efficient, durable, repairable, reusable and upgradable in order to maximise material reuse and prevent waste generation.	Implement the recommendations in the Civic Amenity Site Review including a framework for access to materials for reuse and repair with the Compliance Schemes.
TP3.3	PA3.3 (DECC/LGS/Ind.)
Identify and prioritise the establishment of additional Compliance Schemes or appropriate arrangements for priority waste streams.	Establish the feasibility, with DECC, of Extended Producer Responsibility arrangements for other waste streams to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.
TP3.4	PA3.4 (EPR/LGS)
Promote the Commission's introduction of a 'right to repair' initiative to provide consumers with information on product durability and reparability, availability of repair services, spare parts and repair manuals, and software updates and upgrades.	Support and track the impact of fee modulation as a key driver for increased recycling and circularity.
	PA3.5 (DECC/LGS)
	Ensure that there is an adequate and proportionate enforcement regime in place to support Compliance Schemes and identify deficits where they exist.

FOCUS AREA 4 COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Purpose

To maintain and improve existing waste collection systems and provide viable alternatives for waste streams not serviced.

Targeted Policies

TP4.1

Maintain the primacy of kerbside source segregated collection of commercial/household waste as the optimum method to ensure the quantity and quality of materials collected.

TP4.2

Ensure that alternative collection systems are consistent with established kerbside collection systems.

TP4.3

Identify potential enhancements to existing collection and segregation systems and options for additional waste streams including material from street cleaning and litter management.

TP4.4

Develop an integrated, consolidated and coordinated public waste collection infrastructure network that responds sustainably to consumer needs, regulatory and policy challenges and the circular economy with the support of central government.

TP4.5

Evaluate existing offshore islands waste collection systems and identify appropriate enhancements consistent with international best practice and the waste hierarchy.

What is it?

Collection systems provide for the capture of waste materials and include the preliminary sorting and storage of materials to facilitate transport to treatment facilities.

Priority Actions (Responsibility)

PA4.1 (LGS/Ind.)

Identify areas of low participation/coverage with WERLA and NWCPO and engage with service providers to enhance coverage.

PA4.2 (LGS/Ind.)

Develop a strategy for the provision of fully segregated collection infrastructure at apartments and mixed use developments and produce guidance for the inclusion of infrastructure at all new developments.

PA4.3 (LGS/Ind.)

Collaborate with service providers to develop templates for standardised bulky goods and textile collection schemes, a dedicated collection service for repairables and examine the potential for the collection of household and small-scale hazardous waste.

PA4.4 (LGS/DECC/EPR)

Support and implement the recommendations of the National Review of Civic Amenity Sites in conjunction with DECC, Compliance Schemes and other key stakeholders.

PA4.5 (DECC/LGS)

Promote the provision of publicly accessible waste infrastructure including civic amenities, bring banks and pay to use facilities in particular in response to PA4.1, and ensure that such infrastructure is properly regulated.

PA4.6 (LGS)

WERLAs will work to ensure: the application of targeted equitable and proportionate enforcement on all waste collection activities, the implementation of the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws with a particular focus on the provisions of PA4.1 and continued and consistent data validation.



6 MATERIAL STREAM FOCUS AREAS

There are six Material Stream Focus Areas as follows:

- **FA5** Food Waste;
- **FA6** Packaging Waste;
- **FA7** Single Use Plastic Waste;
- **FA8** Construction and Demolition;
- **FA9** Textiles; and
- **FA10** Hazardous Waste.

A Fact Sheet for each focus area is presented with designated targeted policies and priority actions. Each priority action has an associated stakeholder responsibility continuing the collaborative approach to the implementation of the Plan.

ALIGNMENT

The Material Stream Focus Areas targeted policies and actions have been designed to specifically address the current and pending challenges identified in **Volume I** which vary for each of the streams presented.

The policies and actions presented include measures to mitigate consumption, improve circular systems and to promote better regulation.

Targeted policies respond to the emerging challenges, i.e. enabling prevention (TP6.1) and achieving the next generation recycling targets (TP6.2 and TP6.4). Similarly, construction waste policy is focussed on prevention (TP8.1) through the implementation of national decisions on by-product and end of waste (TP8.2). In both cases the policies have been devised in line with the ambition for 0% total waste growth in this Plan and to increase the national recycling rate.

A Focus Area for single use plastics (FA7) is presented separately from that for packaging (FA6) given the broad remit of requirements from the Single Use Plastic Directive (TP7.1) including prevention, recycling and capture.

For emerging streams such as food waste and textiles, the policies respond to both preventing the generation of these materials and capturing data to ensure these materials may be tracked and managed (TP9.2) to enable circular interventions. Again, these policies will aid in mitigating the growth in waste generation (TP6.1 and TP9.1) and enable better capture and recycling of these streams (TP6.2 and TP9.3).

In addition to the waste and circular commitments, these Material Stream Focus Area policies have been designed to respond to the following targets listed in the Climate Action Plan 2023:

- Recycle 70% of packaging waste by 2030;
- Recycle 55% of plastic packaging waste by 2030;
- Reduce food waste by 50% by 2030;
- Provide for 90% collection of single use plastic drinks containers by 2029;
- Achieve the single use plastic waste reduction targets through prescribed measures no later than 2026; and
- Ensure all single use plastic packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030.

Delivering these targets will be beneficial for both climate action and the transition to a circular economy and the policies in this Plan have been designed to support the required change.

While targeted policies are designed for implementation during the Plan period, priority actions are more dynamic to allow for Plan implementation to be flexible to respond to emerging market policy or legislative changes through the annual work plans.

The listed actions are the priority actions for implementation early in the Plan period and may be amended or supplemented as required by the RWMPO through Plan implementation.

Responsibility for each priority action has been assigned to a key partner or stakeholder to maintain collaboration and co-ownership and responsibility matrix is presented following the factsheets for each focus area group.

FOCUS AREA 5 FOOD WASTE	
Purpose	What is it?
To support the prevention of food waste in line with the UN SDG target to halve per capita global food waste by 2030 and to implement the National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap.	Food waste means all food as defined in the EU Food Law Regulations (any substance or product, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be, or reasonably expected to be ingested by humans) that has become waste.
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP5.1	PA5.1 (EPA/LGS)
Enable consumers, service providers and producers to make informed choices to prevent food waste.	Collaborate with the Stop Food Waste programme to inform business' and householders on best practice food waste prevention to drive behavioural improvements.
TP5.2	PA5.2 (EPA/LGS)
Coordinate the response of the local authority sector to the Food Waste Charter and the specific sectoral obligations contained in the National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap including regulatory and awareness activities.	Coordinate the annual National Food Waste Recycling Week in partnership with the members of the National Food Waste Recycling Steering Group and local authorities.
TP5.3	PA5.3 (LGS)
Support the development and implementation of sustainable and circular food waste management options for all businesses and homes.	Manage the delivery and monitoring programme for the national rollout of Food Waste Separation Packs to households.
TP5.4	PA5.4 (EPA / LGS/DAFM)
Continue to promote the optimum and preferred methods for the management of food waste in all settings.	Provide guidance and support to assist all settings to meet the food waste target and to assist the primary production, manufacturing and processing sectors with the quantification and reduction of food losses along the production and supply chain including post-harvest losses.
	PA5.5 (LGS)
	Continue the targeted enforcement of waste collection permits and waste presentation bye-laws with regard to the provision of food waste recycling bins to non-household and household settings.
	PA5.6 (DECC / LGS)
	Explore options to improve the harmonisation of the renewable feed in tariffs across the island of Ireland to incentivise the indigenous treatment of food/biowaste.

FOCUS AREA 6 PACKAGING WASTE	
Purpose	What is it?
To prevent packaging waste through improved business/producer practices and consumer choices and increase the circularity of packaging to comply with new packaging recycling targets.	Packaging waste means any packaging or packaging material products made of any materials of any nature to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery and presentation of goods.
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP6.1	PA6.1 (LGS)
Enable consumers, service providers and producers to make informed choices to prevent plastic and packaging waste.	Develop and deliver targeted campaigns to improve consumer behaviour on preventing and segregating packaging waste.
TP6.2	PA6.2 (EPR/LGS)
Improve the source segregation and processing of recyclable bin materials to optimise recycling and aid circularity.	Promote best practice and raise awareness of future obligations in the retail sector on reducing packaging waste including in-store packaging collection systems, deposit return schemes, promotion of reusable packaging and product refills.
TP6.3	PA6.3 (DECC/LGS)
Coordinate the response of the local authority sector to the sectoral obligations contained in the EU Directive on Packaging Waste, including regulatory and awareness activities.	Promote the introduction of Deposit Return Schemes for plastic bottles and aluminium cans emphasising the positive contribution to materials quality and potential circularity.
TP6.4	PA6.4 (DECC/EPA/LGS)
Work with the Packaging Compliance Scheme to promote and enhance the capture and circularity of packaging waste.	Promote the use of recycled materials in packaging with designers and manufacturers to support the transition to the requirements of the revised Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulations.
	PA6.5 (EPR/LGS)
	Increase compliance scheme participation with the support of the compliance scheme operator.

FOCUS AREA 7 SINGLE USE PLASTIC (SUP)	
Purpose	What is it?
To prevent single use plastic waste where known alternatives with greater circular potential are available and to implement the Single Use Plastic Directive.	A 'single-use plastic product' means a product that is made wholly or partly from plastic and that is not conceived, designed or placed on the market to accomplish, within its life span, multiple trips or rotations by being returned to a producer for refill or re-used for the same purpose for which it was conceived.
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP7.1	PA7.1 (DECC/LGS/EPA)
Coordinate the response of the local authority sector to the sectoral obligations contained in the Single Use Plastic Directive and national policy, including regulatory and awareness activities.	Monitor the application of the prohibitions on single use plastic materials being placed on the Irish market.
TP7.2	PA7.2 (LGS/DECC)
Promote awareness and deliver best practice in the hospitality, sports and events sector including the mandatory requirement for reusable containers / plates / cutlery and provision of accessible drinking water fountains.	Implement best practice with regard to single use plastic in the licensing of hospitality events and community sectors and prepare best practice guidelines for the sector for the elimination of single use plastic.
TP7.3	PA7.3 (DECC/LGS)
Promote and facilitate the introduction of deposit return systems or schemes for single use plastics.	Monitor the application of existing and new environmental levies on single use products and highlight the purpose of the levies.
TP7.4	PA7.4 (DECC/LGS/EPR)
Support the application of the prohibitions and levies on single use plastics.	Pilot the elimination of single use plastics in selected towns, institutions or events.
TP7.5	PA7.5 (DECC/LGS)
Prohibit the use of single use plastics by local authorities in offices and public areas as well as at outdoor public events through licensing.	Ensure that there is an adequate and proportionate enforcement regime in place with regard to the prohibition of single use plastics and the application of environmental levies and identify deficits where they exist.

FOCUS AREA 8 CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE	
Purpose	What is it?
To support national decisions for C&D waste and promote EPA Best Practice Guidelines for Construction & Demolition Projects.	Construction and demolition waste means waste generated by construction and demolition activities.
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP8.1	PA8.1 (LGS)
Prioritise waste prevention and circularity in the construction and demolition sector to reduce the resources that need to be captured as waste.	Implement Green Public Procurement criteria on all local authority construction and demolition projects and promote its wider use within the sector.
TP8.2	PA8.2 (LGS)
Identify and promote the growth of secondary material markets, including the elimination of barriers to the development of these markets, within the construction and demolition sector.	Pilot the preparation of Resource & Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition projects at selected local authority developments.
TP8.3	PA8.3 (EPA/LGS)
Incorporation of the EPA Best Practice Guidelines for the preparation of Resource & Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects and NWPS Soil & Spoil Action Plan, and monitoring by local authorities of the application of these requirements.	Develop and deliver training, with the EPA, to support national decisions on Regulation 27 by-products for site won asphalt (road planings) and greenfield soil and stone; and support the implementation of a national decision on Regulation 28 end-of-waste for aggregates, which includes crushed concrete and prioritise the use of materials arising from national end-of-waste or by-product decisions.
TP8.4	PA8.4 (LGS)
Identify and promote materials with a low embodied carbon and high circular potential to maximise use in the construction sector.	Incorporate the requirement for Construction and Demolition Resource & Waste Management Plans in land use policy in County/City Development Plans.
TP8.5	PA8.5 (LGS)
Pursue and support a targeted levy on virgin materials to encourage the use of secondary raw materials.	Explore the potential to segregate waste streams in mixed waste skips to minimise contamination and maximise reuse, recycling and circularity on construction projects and provide guidance to the sector.
	PA8.6 (LGS)
	Allocate available resources, and identify any additional resources required, to consistently monitor construction and demolition projects to assess compliance with the project Resource & Waste Management Plan and apply appropriate enforcement measures to ensure compliance.

FOCUS AREA 9 TEXTILES	
Purpose	What is it?
To reduce textile waste and the impact of fast fashion and improve the regulation of the post-consumer textile market.	Textiles include yarns, threads and finished articles for sale. Textiles also include some industrial and specialised use materials and all non-clothing materials like linen, towels, and carpets regardless of the use.
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP9.1	PA9.1 (LGS)
Influence and drive improved behaviours around textile consumption, in particular with regard to climate impact and the EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles and the Circular Economy Programme.	Develop and deliver targeted awareness campaigns and projects to improve behaviour around the sustainable consumption, circularity and collection of textiles.
TP9.2	PA9.2 (EPA/LGS/DECC)
Engage with designers, producers, retailers, collectors and processors to coordinate the systematic tracking and management of textiles to minimise waste and optimise circularity.	Assess and define the extent of existing textile collection options and infrastructure, including the network of registered charity outlets and define the challenges, barriers and gaps to progress.
TP9.3	PA9.3 (EPA/LGS/DECC)
Identify measures to promote reuse and repair of textiles.	Further to the outcome of PA9.2, make recommendations on the enhancement of existing options or the introduction of alternative options for textile collection.
TP9.4	PA9.4 (EPA/LGS/DECC)
Foster greater collaboration between the retail, reuse and post-consumer textile sector to maximise synergies.	Encourage and facilitate greater collaboration between the retail, reuse and post-consumer textiles sector to maximise synergies.
	PA9.5 (EPA/LGS/DECC)
	Review the regulatory and enforcement regime for textile collection and processing and make recommendations as required.

FOCUS AREA 10 HAZARDOUS WASTE	
Purpose	What is it?
To implement the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021 – 2027 and raise consumer awareness on the prevention and generation of hazardous waste.	Hazardous waste means waste which displays one or more of the hazardous properties listed in Annex III of the WFD (explosive, oxidising, flammable, irritant, etc.).
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP10.1	PA10.1 (EPA/LGS)
Promote informed decision making to influence appropriate consumption to prevent the generation of hazardous waste.	Conduct awareness raising campaigns to highlight best-practices and alternatives, with initial focus on paints, cleaning products, lithium-ion batteries and gardening chemicals.
TP10.2	PA10.2 (EPA/LGS)
Coordinate the response of the local authority sector to the specific sectoral obligations contained in the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021 – 2027 including regulatory and awareness activities.	Update guidance on disposal of household hazardous waste and disseminate with targeted campaigns through the EPA website, mywaste.ie and waste operators.
	PA10.3 (EPA/LGS/CSO)
	Conduct national surveys on householder awareness and behaviours regarding hazardous substances to inform prevention initiatives and measures.
	PA10.4 (EPA/LGS)
	Examine the potential of product and in-store labelling of hazardous substances to inform consumer purchasing and waste management decisions.
	PA10.5 (EPA/LGS)
	Identify locations for asbestos collection facilities and work with the EPA to deliver collections and to promote best practice in the management of asbestos contaminated waste.
	PA10.6 (EPA/LGS including NTFSO)
	Ensure that there is an adequate and proportionate enforcement regime in place to mitigate the impact of hazardous waste on the environment and human health and identify deficits where they exist.



7 INFRASTRUCTURAL FOCUS AREAS

There are six Infrastructural Focus Areas as follows:

- **FA11** Infrastructure Regulatory;
- **FA12** Reuse/Repair Infrastructure;
- **FA13** Recycling Infrastructure;
- **FA14** Recovery Infrastructure;
- **FA15** Disposal Infrastructure; and
- **FA16** Hazardous Infrastructure.

A Fact Sheet for each Focus Area is presented with designated targeted policies and priority actions. Each priority action has an associated stakeholder responsibility continuing the collaborative approach to the implementation of the Plan.

ALIGNMENT

The Infrastructural Focus Areas targeted policies and priority actions are designed to respond to infrastructural challenges including:

- Regulation of existing and new infrastructure needs to be controlled to ensure that any new infrastructure or initiative meets the market need, is economically viable and complies with the waste hierarchy and principles of self-sufficiency and proximity. In addition, this Plan has established further criteria including siting guidelines for new infrastructure to ensure environmental protection. These regulatory controls are presented for all waste and circular operations in Focus Area 11.
- While the reuse, preparation for reuse and repair sector has shown growth in recent years, the sector needs continued and enhanced support to grow further and to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. The policy support for this sector is prescribed in Focus Area 12 including the commitment for reuse activity at CAS as per National Target 3B.
- Over the course of the previous RWMP there has been a marked increase in self-sufficiency through the growth of indigenous recycling infrastructure. As with reuse and repair, this sector needs further supports and a clean reliable recyclable feedstock to ensure capacity can be maximised and

expanded. As above, the recycling sector is central to the transition to a circular economy (refer Focus Area 13).

- The State has a continued reliance on export to manage residual MSW and other waste streams which is unsustainable and while an emphasis on prevention and reuse may reduce this reliance, there remains a need for additional indigenous recovery infrastructure which is supported by this Plan in Focus Area 14.
- While the trend of decreased disposal to landfill has continued in recent years, there remains a need to retain disposal capacity within the State to manage residual MSW coupled with wider disposal policies in Focus Area 15. These disposal policies have been devised to respond to the following Climate Action Plan targets which will require the sector to reduce the reliance on landfill disposal:
 - Limit diversion of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill to a maximum limit of 427,000 tonnes; and
 - Reduce the amount of municipal waste landfilled to 10% by 2035.
- Infrastructure and collection systems mandated under the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan are supported in this Plan in Focus Area 16.

While targeted policies are designed for implementation during the Plan period, priority actions are more dynamic to allow for Plan implementation to be flexible to respond to emerging market, policy or legislative changes through the annual work plans.

The listed actions are the priority actions for implementation early in the Plan period and may be amended or supplemented as required by the RWMPO through Plan implementation.

Responsibility for each priority action has been assigned to a key partner or stakeholder to maintain collaboration and co-ownership and responsibility matrix is presented following the factsheets for each focus area group.

FOCUS AREA 11		INFRASTRUCTURE (REGULATORY)
Purpose		What is it?
To regulate existing and new infrastructure and initiatives to ensure developments are appropriately scaled and located and reflect the policies of the waste hierarchy, self-sufficiency and proximity principles.		Waste treatment infrastructure includes processing, recovery, and disposal facilities and the regulation of facilities protects the environment and human health.
Targeted Policies		Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP11.1		PA11.1 (LGS)
The development or enhancement of existing or new infrastructure or initiatives will be subject to the application of the waste hierarchy and the waste facility siting guidance for all new infrastructure (with this guidance to be embedded in Local Authority Development Plans).		Ensure infrastructural developments are in compliance with the waste hierarchy, siting guidance and the wider policy framework of this Plan through engagement with An Bord Pleanála, Planning Authorities and other relevant bodies.
TP11.2		PA11.2 (EPA/LGS)
Enhance national self-sufficiency with the development of sustainable waste management infrastructure where feasible and viable.		Develop a National Waste Infrastructure Capacity Register and other improvements to aid the consenting process.
TP11.3		PA11.3 (EPA/LGS)
Ensure that future authorisations of waste infrastructure take account of the authorised and available capacity in the market.		Ensure at least one facility per local authority is authorised for storage of waste from road maintenance and other local authority construction projects.
TP11.4		PA11.4 (ABP/LGS)
Work with regulators to expedite the consenting processes for new or modified infrastructure and operations to ensure efficient delivery of the required capacity.		Review all waste related Strategic Infrastructure Development applications with regard to the waste hierarchy, business continuity and contingency.
TP11.5		
The EPA and the National Waste Collection Permit Office will work on the development and maintenance of a national capacity register for all authorised waste treatment operations within the State.		

FOCUS AREA 12 REUSE/REPAIR INFRASTRUCTURE

Purpose

To provide technical, regulatory and financial support to promote the development of the reuse/repair sector to prevent materials becoming waste.

Targeted Policies

TP12.1

Promote the development of repair and preparing for reuse initiatives with the provision of technical, regulatory and financial support working in partnership with the voluntary sector and other parties through the National Reuse and Repair Partnership.

TP12.2

Support, develop and deliver training programmes to provide upskilling in reuse and repair.

TP12.3

Support the development of viable reuse/repair infrastructure and initiatives including materials recovery or other advanced pre-treatment infrastructure that increases the circular potential of materials.

TP12.4

Encourage the development of circular activities which stimulate and support viable secondary material markets and secondary product markets in the construction, industrial and bioeconomy sectors.

TP12.5

Work with stakeholders to overcome insurance and liability barriers within the reuse and repair markets.

What is it?

Reuse means any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived. Repair is not defined in waste legislation but includes for products or components that are not waste which undergo repairs (note this excludes 'preparation for reuse').

Priority Actions (Responsibility)

PA12.1 (LGS)

Provide technical support and training to the reuse and repair sector.

PA12.2 (LGS/DECC)

Facilitate reuse and repair at designated Civic Amenity Sites.

PA12.3 (LGS/DECC)

Pilot one dedicated collection service for potential repairable products in each region and align with repair practitioners.

PA12.4 (LGS)

Identify and encourage potential materials markets for reuse and repaired goods.

PA12.5 (EPA/DECC/LGS)

Investigate the appropriate authorisation regime for reuse and repair activities.

PA12.6 (LGS/EPA)

Collaborate with the EPA through the National Reuse and Repair Partnership to facilitate the capture of reuse and repair data.

FOCUS AREA 13 RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Purpose

To support the continued growth of the recycling sector in Ireland for viable material streams.

Targeted Policies

TP13.1

Support the development of pre-treatment (for recycling), reprocessing and recycling capacity where technically, economically and environmentally practicable in line with the proximity principle.

TP13.2

Support the development of plastic management infrastructure to ensure that a clean, reliable feedstock is available to processing and recycling plants.

TP13.3

Support the development of recycling capacity and outlets for waste tyres in line with the proximity principle to reduce the reliance on export of this waste stream.

TP13.4

Work with key stakeholders to maximise the circular potential of anaerobic digestion and composting facilities to deliver high quality outputs with high circular potential.

TP13.5

Support the provision and maintenance of appropriately scaled biological treatment capacity within the State.

What is it?

Recycling infrastructure processes waste materials into products, materials or substances for their original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations.

Priority Actions (Responsibility)

PA13.1 (LGS)

Maintain the register of recycling infrastructure on Mywaste.ie to include Civic Amenity Sites, Bring Centres and Pay-to-Use facilities.

PA13.2 (EPA/LGS/Ind.)

Investigate the potential for circularity of Incinerator Bottom Ash using the by-product or end of waste regulatory mechanisms.

PA13.3 (EPR/DECC)

Set circularity criteria for waste tyres in conjunction with the compliance scheme and identify the infrastructure required.

PA13.4 (EPR/EPA/LGS/Ind.)

Evaluate the processes and outputs of Material Recovery Facilities, set a goal for the circularity of waste streams and identify process enhancements or alternative processes.

PA13.5 (LGS/DECC)

Ensure that sufficient resources are available to review and validate annual returns from collectors and facilities and identify deficits where they exist.

FOCUS AREA 14 RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE	
Purpose	What is it?
To monitor existing recovery infrastructure and identify the need for additional recovery infrastructure within the State for municipal and construction waste.	Recovery infrastructure includes any operation where the principal outcome is waste substituting for other materials which would have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function.
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP14.1	PA14.1 (EPA/LGS)
Support the development of pre-treatment capacity for recovery where technically, economically and environmentally practicable in line with the proximity principle.	Ensure that there is an agreed schedule of planned maintenance shutdowns within the thermal sector to minimise disruption to waste treatment.
TP14.2	PA14.2 (EPA/LGS)
Support the provision of 200,000 to 300,000 tonnes of additional dedicated thermal recovery capacity for the treatment of non-hazardous residual wastes nationally, to ensure there is adequate active thermal treatment capacity.	Set circularity criteria for the output from biological treatment facilities and for soil and other construction and demolition waste streams.
TP14.3	PA14.3 (EPA/LGS)
Monitor Soil Recovery Facility capacity in the market to ensure adequate and appropriate authorisations are in place, in each region, to satisfy the need for soil recovery capacity.	Determine the implications of calorific values on thermal capacity with the thermal recovery sector (e.g., waste to energy plants).
TP14.4	PA14.4 (EPA/LGS)
Support the provision of treatment capacity for non-hazardous construction and demolition waste streams (in particular soils, fines, rubble and concrete).	Maximise the use of Solid Recovered Fuels in the thermal co-processing sector (e.g., cement plants) consistent with licence conditions.
TP14.5	PA14.5 (EPA/LGS)
Support the provision of national capacity for bottom ash from existing thermal treatment facilities, pending the provision of alternative uses which optimise the circularity of this material.	Liaise with the EPA on the enforcement of Waste Recovery Licences to avoid disruptions to waste treatment.
TP14.6	
Support the development of circular bioeconomy infrastructure and initiatives that align with the policies of this Plan and the National Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025.	

FOCUS AREA 15 DISPOSAL INFRASTRUCTURE	
Purpose	What is it?
To maintain adequate disposal capacity at landfills and provide for contingency capacity for unforeseen events.	Disposal infrastructure includes any operation which is not recovery even where the operation has as a secondary consequence such as the reclamation of substances or energy.
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP15.1	PA15.1 (LGS)
Additional disposal capacity for non-hazardous waste is only supported in the context of compliance with the EU target of disposal to landfill of not more than 10% of MSW by 2035.	Prepare the detailed feasibility report for a national waste contingency facility.
TP15.2	PA15.2 (LGS)
Ensure the provision of appropriate waste contingency capacity in response to market disruption/interruption and/or events which pose a risk to the environment and/or health of humans and livestock.	Implement the recommendations of the detailed national waste contingency feasibility report.
TP15.3	PA15.3 (LGS)
Ensure the continuation of the Historic Landfill Remediation Programme consistent with the existing risk based approach.	Progress the investigation and remediation of the registered unregulated historic landfills in accordance with the established risk based approach and the necessary statutory approvals.
TP15.4	PA15.4 (Ind./LGS)
Encourage appropriate alternative land uses at authorised inactive landfills (un-commenced, permanently closed, or temporarily closed) subject to amendments to existing approvals.	Collaborate with the landfill operators to ensure residual municipal waste has priority to the available licensed landfill void capacity over and above other waste streams.
TP15.5	PA15.5 (LGS)
Encourage appropriate land uses at remediated historic landfills which are consistent with environmental protection criteria and which do not compromise the remediation solution.	The Local Authority Sector will work collectively to examine potential efficiencies around aftercare of landfill sites.
TP15.6	PA15.6 (LGS/EPA)
Develop an integrated and coordinated strategy to respond to the operational and financial challenges associated with landfill aftercare.	Liaise with the EPA on the enforcement of Waste Disposal Licences to avoid disruptions to waste treatment.

FOCUS AREA 16 HAZARDOUS WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE	
Purpose	What is it?
To support the implementation of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan.	Hazardous waste infrastructure is required to manage materials which display one or more of the hazardous properties listed in Annex III of the WFD (explosive, oxidising, flammable, irritant, etc.).
Targeted Policies	Priority Actions (Responsibility)
TP16.1	PA16.1 (EPA/LGS)
Support the development of additional capacity for the treatment of hazardous waste in accordance with the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to ensure there is adequate active treatment capacity.	Identify hazardous waste streams where there is an associated treatment capacity risk.
TP16.2	PA16.2 (LGS)
Maintain annual capacity for the treatment of asbestos waste to ensure the waste stream is managed and monitor the requirement for additional capacity.	Facilitate and assist with the establishment of collections for household and small-scale hazardous waste through Civic Amenity Sites and/or via special collections.
TP16.3	PA16.3 (EPA/LGS)
Conduct a review of hazardous waste management capacity and performance during the Covid-19 pandemic with the EPA.	Develop a register of hazardous waste storage / processing/ treatment facilities with a particular focus on business continuity and contingency.
TP16.4	PA16.4 (EPA)
Conduct a business continuity assessment for hazardous waste management capacity with the EPA.	Liaise with the EPA on the enforcement of Hazardous Waste Licences to avoid disruptions to waste treatment.

SUMMARY OF SEA AND AA MITIGATION MEASURES

Each of the Core Policies, Target Policies and Priority Actions listed in this volume have been subject to environmental assessment through two separate statutory processes as follows:

- A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Plan was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and the findings of the assessment are presented in an SEA Statement included included as **Volume V Part A** of this Plan; and
- An Appropriate Assessment (AA) was also carried out under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the findings of this assessment are presented in a Natura Impact Statement included as **Volume V Part B** of this Plan.

Both these documents are issued for consultation with this draft Plan in accordance with Section 23 of the WMA.

Each assessment has considered the potential for adverse effect on the environment from the implementation of the Core Policies, Target Policies and Priority Actions listed. Where these assessments have identified a potential for adverse impact from any policy or action, mitigation measures have been presented and these measures are listed in full in **Appendix 12 of Volume IV**. This Plan commits to the incorporation of these measures through the implementation of the Plan to ensure no adverse impact on the environment.

The prescribed mitigation largely falls within a number of themes as listed below:

- The need to ensure that any new or modified infrastructure or initiative complies with the regulatory regimes for planning and licensing/ permitting (where applicable) and have due regard for the EIA and AA statutory processes;
- Training of local authority staff engaged in waste or circular regulation and enforcement on compliance with the EIA and AA processes;

- Training of local authority staff engaged in procurement on the circular economy;
- Implementation of the siting guidance presented in **Appendix 9 Volume IV**;
- Ensuring that any local authority support offered to any infrastructure or initiative is contingent on these activities being compliant with all regulatory requirements; and
- Making information publicly available for full transparency of implementation.

These mitigation measures are largely operational and will be adopted within the implementation of the Plan.

It is noted that through the development of the Plan, the protection of human health and the environment has been a primary consideration in establishing the core positions and policy response. This is reflected in the first of the core policies that set the framework for the Plan which embed the protection of the environment and climate action within the Plan core:

- CP1: Oversee waste activities and litter control measures to ensure they do not pose a risk to the environment and human health and make a positive contribution to circularity; and
- CP2: Support the delivery of the measures and actions prescribed in the Climate Action Plan to contribute to achieving the national climate targets.

Based on the findings of the SEA and AA assessments, it is concluded that the implementation of this Plan may be undertaken with no significant adverse impacts on the environment subject to the prescribed AA and SEA mitigation.



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