



March 2008

# VARIATION TO THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DUBLIN REGION



## 2005-2010

Made on  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008



WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
*Working for the Dublin Region*



## WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTS 1996-2007

### Variation of the Waste Management Plan for the Dublin Region 2005-2010

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Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Fingal County Council and South Dublin County Council (The Dublin Local Authorities) have made a Variation to the Waste Management Plan for the Dublin Region 2005-2010 (the “Plan”).

The Variation provides for the insertion into the Plan of specific objectives that the collection of household waste from single dwelling households (other than those in purpose built apartment blocks) will be carried out in designated areas by a single operator. The single operator shall either be a Dublin Local Authority or a successful tenderer under a public tendering process (which may be on a geographical or area basis). Variations consequential to these objectives were also made.

Full details of the variations are as follows:

#### **New Section 18.4A:**

- 1 Section 18.4 of the Plan entitled Household Waste Collection and Recycling is varied by the insertion of the following paragraphs after the section entitled **“Waste in Apartments – Additional Policies”**:

#### **“Section 18.4A: Household Waste Collection from Single Dwelling Households**

In considering the household waste collection market in the Dublin Region the Dublin Local Authorities, in line with a recent decision of the Competition Authority, have identified the following two distinct service markets:

- *single dwelling households*; and
- *purpose-built apartment dwellings*.

This section 18.4A deals with the collection of household waste from single dwelling households only.

#### **(i) Existing situation for single dwelling households**

As indicated in section 7.1 of this Plan the household waste collection service for single dwelling households in the Dublin Region is predominantly operated directly by the Dublin Local Authorities. The preferred approach to managing household waste is based on the principle of source separation of the waste into different waste fractions. Key aims of segregation are to deliver clean and high

value materials for recovery, in a cost effective and environmentally safe manner to the householder and to reduce material going to landfill.

To achieve this objective the Dublin Local Authorities are committed to rolling out a 3-bin (brown, green, black/grey) kerbside collection system to all single dwelling households in the Region and good progress has been made to date in achieving this objective. The black and green bin kerbside service is available to almost all single dwelling households in the Region. Pilot brown bin collection routes are also in operation with the continued expansion of this service to all households to be implemented during the lifetime of the Plan.

## **(ii) Post-implementation review of household waste collection**

The Dublin Local Authorities have reviewed the workings of household waste collection in the Dublin Region since the implementation of this Plan. Since this time the private sector has entered the household waste collection market for single dwelling households alongside the Dublin Local Authorities. The Dublin Local Authorities have identified a number of concerns which relate to the entry of the private sector into the single dwelling household waste collection market.

These concerns centre on encouraging and supporting the recovery of waste and the prevention of environmental pollution and include:

- (a) The environmental implications of multiple refuse collection vehicles servicing individual routes on air, noise, carbon emissions and traffic.
- (b) The concentration of private sector household collection services on higher density routes leaving more rural routes without a service and increasing the possibility of illegal tipping, backyard burning and other environmental pollution.
- (c) Loss of collection services to low income households (who may benefit from waivers) in areas where Local Authorities have had to withdraw from the collection market.
- (d) The cost/price to consumers of a situation where multiple refuse collection vehicles service individual routes.
- (e) The loss of revenue from the provision of household waste collection services from single dwelling households would jeopardise the ability of the Local Authorities to provide waste services in an economically sustainable manner. In particular the provision of infrastructure (treatment facilities, bring centres, recycling centres and facilities for household hazardous waste), education and awareness programs and services to waiver customers (households unable to pay for services) would be prejudiced. Finally, the funding of enforcement services to manage illegal tipping, backyard burning and other environmental pollution arising from households would also be prejudiced.

The June 2006 Waste Management Benchmarking Study by Forfás indicated that the direct collection of waste by municipalities is common

in most of the EU countries benchmarked. This is mainly household waste but in some cases some commercial waste as well. The study demonstrates that Ireland is almost unique among the benchmark countries in having private services directly involved in the collection of waste without any municipal involvement in establishing the contract and determining what happens to the waste.

**(iii) Specific objectives**

Specific objectives with respect to the collection of household waste from single dwelling households are:

- Each Dublin Local Authority shall either collect specific streams of source separated household waste from single dwelling households within its functional area or arrange for the collection of such household waste by means of competitive tendering process(es).
- Such collection of this source-separated household waste shall be by a single operator in designated areas, which may comprise all or part(s) of a functional area or a number of functional areas within the Dublin Region. The single operator shall either be a Dublin Local Authority or the successful tenderer under a competitive tendering process.”

**Variations consequent on new section 18.4A:**

**2 Section 17 of the Plan is varied –**

2.1 In subsection 17.6 by the substitution for the eighth bullet point of the following:

“The private sector waste industry will be encouraged to provide waste management infrastructure and services in so far as is consistent with other policies and objectives contained in this Plan.”

2.2 In subsection 17.8 by the substitution for the second paragraph of the following:

“Therefore householders are obliged to pay not just for the cost of collection and disposal of waste in their Grey Bins, but for other services that are provided or arranged for by the Local Authority in respect of waste presented in Green Bins (and Brown Bins from 2006) along with waste presented to Recycling Centres and Bring Banks.”

**3 Section 18 of the Plan is varied –**

3.1 In subsection 18.4 by the substitution for the first paragraph of the following:

“The Dublin Local Authorities will continue to offer or arrange for an integrated and cost-effective collection service to single-dwelling

households and where appropriate apartments in the Region. Emphasis will be on separate collection of clean, high value resources. Recognising some inconsistencies in the current service levels across the Region, the Local Authorities will work to harmonise the current system over the Plan period.”

- 3.2 In subsection 18.12 by the substitution for the sixth bullet point of the following:

“Any company permitted to collect household waste in accordance with the other policies and objectives contained in this Plan may be required to provide the full range of services outlined in this Plan – including bring banks, dry-recyclables collection, organic waste collection (when introduced by Local Authorities), Recycling Centres and Bulky Waste collection – or alternatively to pay the costs for providing these services to the local authorities.”

**4 Section 20 of the Plan is varied –**

- 4.1 In subsection 20.5 by the substitution for the bullet point following the paragraph “**Data Collection and Auditing**” of the following:

“Regulation systems will be improved by the Local Authority (waste collection permit AER) to determine the number of individual household (including apartment) units served by any private collectors permitted to collect from such households and the quantity of household waste collected.”