

APPENDIX A

Glossary Of Terms

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Aerated Systems: controlled composting systems with optimum aeration conditions ensuring aerobic conditions exist for decomposition of biowaste.

Anaerobic Digestion: the biological decomposition of biowaste in the absence of oxygen and under controlled conditions in order to produce biogas and digestate.

Best Available Techniques: The most effective and advanced stage in the development of activities and their methods of operation which indicate the practical suitability of particular techniques for providing in principle the basis for emission limit values designed to prevent and, where that is not practicable, generally to reduce emissions and impact on the environment as a whole.

Biodegradable Content: the percentage content of waste which is biodegradable. For municipal waste this usually fluctuates around 60%-70%.

Biodegradable Municipal Waste (Biowaste): municipal waste that is capable of undergoing anaerobic or aerobic decomposition, such as food and garden waste, and paper and paperboard.

Biological Treatment: involves composting, anaerobic digestion, mechanical/ biological treatment or any other process for stabilising and sanitising biodegradable waste.

Bring Banks: these are facilities in which members of the public deposit recyclable waste materials such as paper, glass, green waste and plastics in material specific receptacles for subsequent collection and delivery to material recovery facilities.

Central Composting Facility: a facility at which the biodegradable waste is delivered to be processed by composting into a compost product – can be for green (garden waste) food waste or a combination of both materials.

Civic Amenity Sites – See Recycling Centres:

Co-Incineration: involves plants where waste is used as a fuel or is disposed of at a plant along with other substances where energy generation or production may take place.

Collection System: a system of gathering, sorting or mixing of waste for the purpose of it being transported to a waste recovery or disposal facility.

Commercial Waste: waste from premises used wholly or mainly for the purposes of a trade or business or for the purposes of sport, recreation, education or entertainment but does not include household, agricultural or industrial waste.

Commercial/Industrial Recycling Park: A depot for small-scale waste producers (e.g. SMEs) to deliver materials for recycling and treatment.

Community Composting Facilities: facilities set up, whereby local communities can become involved in the management of their own wastes, whilst implementing the proximity principle and increasing awareness of waste recycling practices within their own community

Community Recycling Centre: similar to a full Recycling Centre (see definition) but smaller in scale and intended to serve a local community catchment. Likely to have limited access for cars.

Compost: the stable, sanitised and humus-like material rich in organic matter and free from offensive odours resulting from the composting process of separately collected biowaste.

Composting: the autothermic and thermophilic biological decomposition of separately collected biowaste in the presence of oxygen in order to produce compost.

Compost Quality Standards: are usually statutory in nature and designed to regulate potentially harmful aspects of compost production and use, and thereby protect the environment and human health.

Digestate: the material resulting from the anaerobic digestion of separately collected biowaste.

Government Contracts Committee: this committee assists the Department of Finance in formulating overall policy on public procurement. It is made up of senior officials in the higher spending Departments and is chaired by a Department of Finance representative. The committee also adjudicates on contracts being awarded by Central Government Departments in certain cases.

Hazardous Waste: means "waste of a class listed in the current Hazardous Waste Catalogue, which either:

constitutes Category I type waste as specified in Part I of the Second Schedule to the Waste Management Act 1996 and has any of the properties specified in Part III of the same Schedule; or constitutes Category II type waste as specified in Part I of the Second Schedule to the Waste Management Act 1996 that contains any of the constituents specified in Part II of the same Schedule and has any of the properties specified in Part III of the same Schedule;

or any other waste having any of the properties specified in Part III of the Second Schedule to the Waste Management Act, 1996 that may be prescribed as hazardous waste".

Home Composting: a process whereby biowaste is composted and used in gardens belonging to private households.

Household Waste: the waste produced within the grounds of a building or self-contained part of a building used for the purposes of living accommodation.

Incineration: a process by which heat is applied to waste in order to reduce its bulk, prior to final disposal which may or may not involve energy recovery.

In-Vessel Composting: the composting of biowaste in a closed reactor where the composting process is accelerated by controlled and optimised air exchange, water content and temperature control.

IPPC Licence: a licence granted by the EPA in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 as amended and the Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing) Regulations 1994 (S.I. No. 85 of 1994). The purpose of which is the protection of the environment and the protection of human, animal and plant life from harm or nuisance from certain industrial activities.

Kerbside Collections: entail waste collectors collecting a range of recyclable waste from outside private households, employing separate bins for the main waste streams (usually dry recyclables, organic waste, and residual waste).

Landfilling: the disposing of waste at a waste disposal facility used for the depositing of waste onto or under the land.

Landfill Directive: a Directive which aims, by means of stringent operational and technical requirements on the landfilling of waste, to implement measures, procedures and guidance to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular the pollution of surface water, ground water, soil and air, and on the global environment, including the green house effect, as well as any resulting risk to human health, during the whole life cycle of the landfill.

Landfill Levy: an additional environmental levy that is paid on top of normal gate fees by any private contractor or Local Authority that wishes to dispose of waste through a landfill site. The landfill levy is collected through landfill operators and forms part of a policy aimed at providing more incentives for re-use and recycling of waste.

Material Recovery Facilities: facilities where recyclables are sorted into specific categories and processed, or further transported to processors for remanufacturing.

Mechanical Biological Treatment: the treatment of residual municipal waste, in order to stabilise and reduce the volume of waste to be disposed of. A combination of mechanical processing and biological breakdown are employed.

Multi-Storey Dwellings: dwellings consisting of numerous floors and occupied by more than one family.

Municipal Waste: waste from households, as well as commercial and other waste, which because of its nature or composition, is similar to waste from households.

National Climate Change Strategy: this Strategy provides a national framework for achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions by 13% above 1990 levels in-keeping with the EU target to reduce emissions by 8%, as part of the Kyoto Protocol of 1997.

National Waste Data Base Report: a national report that provides information on waste generation, waste management and waste infrastructure in Ireland.

On-Site Composting: the composting of biowaste where it is generated.

Pay As You Throw Schemes: schemes where the fee charged for collection and disposal increases with the amount of waste collected from households. This provides a financial incentive for residents to reduce waste through reducing, reusing or recycling waste, which can in turn lead to lower transportation and disposal costs for Local Authorities and private waste collection companies. PAYT schemes may consist of pay per bag, pay per container, pay per volume or pay per weight.

Pay By Weight Schemes: schemes whereby resident's pay for the exact amount of waste collected per household. This scheme is devised to offer financial incentives for residents to reduce the amount of waste to be collected and disposed off by public or private waste collectors.

Polluter Pays Principle: the principle set out in Council Recommendation 75/436/Euratom, ECSC, EEC of 3rd March 1975 1(20) regarding cost allocation and action by public authorities on environmental matters.

Producer Responsibility Initiatives: a series of initiatives undertaken by the Government to facilitate better management of priority waste streams, in line with the 'Polluter Pays Principle'.

Proximity Principle: The principle set out in the EU Framework Directive (91/156/EEC) whereby member states should establish a network enabling waste to be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations, by means of the most appropriate methods and technologies to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and for public health.

Quality Assurance Schemes: are usually non-statutory in nature, and designed to ensure that producers maintain process management and produce a compost product of high quality, which will be easily marketed and profitable in nature.

Recovery: any activity carried out for the purpose of reclaiming, recycling or re-using waste in whole or in part.

Recyclables: waste materials that may be subjected to any process or treatment to make it re-useable in whole or in part.

Recycling: the subjection of waste to any process or treatment to make it re-useable in whole or in part.

Recycling Centre: a reception facility that enables householders to deposit a wide range of household waste including recyclable and non-recyclable materials, bulky household waste and certain categories of household hazardous waste

Residual Municipal Waste: the fraction of municipal waste remaining after the source separation of municipal waste fractions, such as food and garden waste, packaging, paper and paperboard, metals, glass and is usually unsuitable for recovery or recycling.

Resource Recovery Park (or Facility): A depot for collected materials to be sorted into different streams which will provide opportunities for recycling, repair, refurbishment and on-selling of these resources.

Separate Collection: the separate collection of biodegradable waste from municipal waste in such a way as to avoid the different waste fractions or waste components from being mixed, combined or contaminated with other potentially polluting wastes, products or materials.

Stabilised Biowaste: waste resulting from the mechanical/biological treatment of biowaste, unsorted waste or residual municipal waste which does not comply with specified minimum standards of environmental quality.

Thermal Treatment: a process by which heat is applied to waste in order to reduce its bulk, prior to final disposal. Thermal treatment can involve a number of processes such as incineration, pyrolysis and gasification.

Tradable Landfill Permits: are a flexible economic instrument, devised to minimise the cost of meeting the Landfill Directive targets whilst giving Local Authorities the greatest amount of freedom. Should diversion of waste away from landfill and other actions mean that not all of the permits are required for a particular year, then Local Authorities will be able to trade them. On the other hand, a waste disposal authority who does not have enough permits to cover the amount of waste it intends to landfill would need to either increase its rate of diversion or purchase additional permits.

Treatment Facilities: facilities where waste undergoes thermal, physical, chemical or biological processes that change the characteristics of waste in order to reduce its volume or hazardous nature or facilitate its handling, disposal or recovery.

Waste: any substance or object which the holder discards, or intends, or is required to discard, and anything which is discarded as if it were a waste, as per the Waste Management Act, 1996.

Waste Collection Permit System: a system whereby persons with a view to profit or otherwise in the course of business, collect waste are granted with a permit by a Local Authority in whose functional area the waste is collected.

Waste Management Facility: a site or premises used for the recovery or disposal of waste.

Waste Management Plans: statutory waste management plans implemented on a Regional basis in Ireland since 2001.

Waste Minimisation: any technique, process or activity that either avoids, reduces or eliminates waste at its source, or results in re-use or recycling.

Waste Prevention: A reduction in the quantity and harmfulness to the environment of waste and the materials and substances contained within waste.

Waste Producer: a person whose activities produce waste or who carries out pre-processing, mixing or other operations resulting in a change in the nature or composition of waste.

Waste to Energy Plant: a plant where waste undergoes thermal treatment with a recovery of energy due to the fact that the waste itself contains large amounts of thermal energy ready to be liberated either by combustion or by synthesis gas production followed by combustion. The energy that is recovered is often used to supply electricity.

Windrow Composting: the composting of biowaste placed in elongated rows which are periodically turned by mechanical means in order to increase the porosity of the heap and increase the homogeneity of the waste.