



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

**TO EACH MEMBER OF THE ENVIRONMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Notification to attend the meeting of the above Committee to be held in the
Members Room, City Hall on 23rd January 2015 at 11.30am to deal with the items on the
agenda.

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Dated this the 20th January 2015.

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AGENDA

1. Discussion on the SPC-Environment submission to the Draft Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Plan 2015-2021
2. Motions
3. AOB

Summary Report on Briefing to SPC-Environment, January 14th, 2015
on the
Draft Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 Policy Actions
Wood Quay Venue, Dublin City Council

A brief background to the three waste management planning regions was provided based on the Department of Environment Policy Statement in 2012 (A Resource Opportunity) which reduced the number of waste regions from 10 to three. The key Eastern Midland (EM) regional facts were given, and the main objectives and performance targets of the Plan, and the structure of the Plan was provided. Reference was also made to the Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment which were also completed to accompany the Draft Plan. All information is available on a dedicated web site, www.emwr.ie. The role of Dublin City Council as the Lead Authority was clarified and the Committee was advised that a new Regional Waste Office was in the process of being established by DCC to implement the new Plan. A statutory two-month consultation phase commenced in November 2014 and will end on January 30th, 2015. A copy of the Draft Policy Actions was circulated to each attendee prior to the meeting and copies were available on the day.

The three main objectives of the Draft Plan were set out and explained:

- 1% reduction per year in the quantity of household waste generated per capita over the Plan period. (Current generation is 342 Kg/per person/year in 2012)
- Preparing for reuse and recycling target of 50% by 2020. (Current national recycling rate is 40%)
- Reduce to 0% of direct disposal to landfill of unprocessed residual municipal waste. (Proposal is to divert it to pre-treatment and indigenous recovery practices).

The eight strategic objectives and associated policy actions, as set out in Chapter 19 of the Draft Plan, were reviewed and the impacts on the City Council were explained (Policy Actions A-H)

A: Policy and Legislation Actions

The Policy and Legislation policies were explained and the definition of Pre-Treatment was clarified (i.e., the processing of waste which still results in waste which subsequently undergoes other waste recovery or disposal treatments e.g. sorting, compacting etc.) A query was raised as to whether the recycling targets set down in the previous waste management plan were achieved.

The objective of a 1% reduction per annum in the quantity of household waste generated per capita over the Plan period applies each year over the six year duration.

Information on the existing number of waste facilities in the Region was outlined: 246 facilities permitted by the Local Authorities and 46 facilities licensed by the EPA, with a total capacity of 4.2 million tonnes of waste. Kildare, Meath, Louth and South Dublin have 50% of this capacity, with DunLaoghaire having the least amount of capacity.

DCC currently has 25 permitted facilities. All facilities in the Region are listed in Appendix D of the Draft Plan. The EM Region also has waste to energy in Meath (INDAVER) accepting mixed municipal waste and two cement kilns (Westmeath and Meath) accepting solid recovered fuel (SRF). The existing landfill capacity in the Region was explained and the impact of the landfill levy on deposition and how it is impacting waste exports. The emerging trend in 2014 of organic waste being exported to Northern Ireland was also noted.

The 'polluter pay principle' was discussed and the policy action to review fees across all waste services, including bring centres and civic amenity sites was discussed.

The policy action to improve self sufficiency was discussed in the context of minimising exports and treating waste in Ireland and the creation of jobs, benefits to communities etc

B: Prevention Actions

The Prevention policies were explained. Following a query, it was confirmed that following a trial of recycling bins in the city, supported by funding from REPAK, contamination rates were very high and the bins were subsequently removed. It was noted that such bins were successful in areas such as Dublin Airport, shopping centres, universities etc where there was some level of supervision and control. The feasibility of a further pilot scheme could be considered in the context of the Draft Plan. The potential for kerbside glass collections was discussed and 'open-days' at civic amenity sites, allowing members of the public to take items from the civic sites for reuse etc. It was noted that kerbside glass collections take place in other local authority areas, depending on the waste service provider.

The Committee was advised that DCC includes a planning condition requiring the provision of a waste plan for new developments to ensure construction and demolition waste is recycled/reused. The funding of waste prevention activities was discussed and the inclusion of a policy action of a minimum of 0.15 cent per inhabitant to be spent on local prevention projects (this equates to ~€80,000 per year for DCC based on the current population).

C: Resource Efficiency and the Circular Economy

The Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy policies were explained. A number of DCC initiatives and projects were identified, ie Green Schools, Bloom Festival, Repair Cafes, Community Gardens, Green Festivals etc

D: Coordination Actions

The role of the Lead Authority, the Regional Office and the work to coordinate activities was discussed. The staffing of the Regional Office was explained – roles to be filled by existing DCC staff with the requisite skills and experience.

E: Infrastructure and Treatment Capacity

Policy Actions E are set out in Chapter 16 of the Draft Plan and relate to national infrastructure and total waste arisings. The commitment to maintain the network of bring centres and civic amenity

sites was highlighted and to explore the option of accepting hazardous waste at these sites, despite the considerable costs involved. The need for landfill capacity to be available was explained – ie to accept repatriated waste from Northern Ireland, crisis/contingency event (Department of Agriculture).

The projections indicate that an additional national thermal capacity of 300,000t will be required. The forecasting recycling rates of 50% (2020) and 61%(2030) were explained and the ambitious rate of 70%. The projected 50,000 tonnes of hazardous waste capacity was based on EPA's National Hazardous Waste Report findings. The treatment of bottom ash and fly ash from thermal treatment was clarified. The justification for the additional capacity was discussed and queried.

The feasibility of the use of 'drop off' collection areas by DCC was explained and the benefit of this type of collection for rural areas, not serviced by waste collectors was discussed.

F: Enforcement and Regulation

Current enforcement in the Council was discussed and the role of An Garda Siochana in assisting waste enforcement officers referred to. The role of the Lead Authority in coordination actions and working with other enforcement bodies was discussed. Enforcement at household and commercial level will be important to ensure compliance with Regulations in order to meet the targets in the Draft Plan.

G: Protection Actions

In DCC, a significant portion of existing expenditure is spent on lower tier waste activities (street cleaning, litter and landfill aftercare activities) which is reducing the available income for the implementation of higher activities to related to prevention, reuse and recycling. In 2014, expenditure on street cleaning (litter, market waste, and unmanaged/dumped bags) was ~€37 million. DCC will undertake a review of the current level of expenditure to ensure adequate funding is being diverted to activities which deliver the highest environmental outcome and to seek opportunities for operational cost savings.

Unmanaged waste was clarified and is defined as the quantity of household waste not collected by a kerbside/non-kerbside collection system. This figure was an estimate using a formula devised by the EPA and reference was made to the indicators document used across the 3 regions for this purpose.

A pilot scheme to deal with unmanaged waste in DCC was undertaken in 2014 in the north city area. A target area was selected, a daily search of dumped bags conducted, correspondence was sent to occupiers, 600 door to door compliance surveys were undertaken, green school visits, meetings with waste operators, and street cleaning initiatives. As a result, ~2000 dumped bag searches were carried out in 5 weeks, 77 litter fines issued, cases were initiated under the bye-laws. Overall, there was increased compliance with proof of waste collection arrangements. The next step is to implement similar pilots in other parts of DCC.

As a region, the EMR needs to address legacy, historic and closed licensed landfills over the Plan period. A process to remediate sites has been discussed with the DECLG and LAs are committed to

targeting and addressing the highest risk sites, subject to funding from the DCELG being made available.

H: **Other Waste Streams Actions**

The Draft Plan must take account of waste streams which are not covered currently by European and national performance targets. The management of these wastes needs to be addressed to ensure the systems in place are appropriate and the risk to the environment is managed and minimised. DCC will co-ordinate with Irish Water and other stakeholders to ensure sludge waste is safe and compliant.

The need to explore opportunities at local and regional level was noted to ascertain if the management of these wastes can be improved i.e., the use of CA sites by small businesses for hazardous waste.

The Committee was advised that DCC is represented on a number of Department of Environment Working Groups – End of Life Vehicles, Waste Tyres, Enforcement, ELV and Waste Tyre Working.

General Comments Received and Additional Information

- The role of the Committee in the context of the Draft Plan and the associated executive function was discussed.
- A comment was noted that the 1% reduction in household waste generated was a low target.
- The opportunity to participate in exploring research funding opportunities was noted.
- A comment noted that the Draft Plan is focussed on householders and without the same level of focus on the commercial sector
- In the discussions on the need/justification for additional thermal capacity, reference was made to an article reflecting a view that the Draft Plans may become an obstacle to waste infrastructure development and it was agreed to circulate the document for information.
- A query on the Prescribed Bodies was noted and it was agreed to circulate a copy of the list of statutory bodies that received a copy of the Draft Plan as part of the public consultation.

Additional Information provided based on queries arising:

- In the final evaluation (published in 2012) of the previous Dublin Regional Waste Management Plan 2005-2010, DCC's recycling rate went from 21% to 41%.
- Prescribed and other bodies consulted:
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
Environmental Protection Agency
An Taisce

Bord Failte

Teagasc

Local Authorities bordering the Eastern-Midlands Region

District Councils in Northern Ireland bordering the Eastern-Midlands Region

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

- Article on the new Regional Waste Management Plans, Duncan Lawrence, December 2014 was circulated after the SPC meeting to each Committee member for information.

Submission by Chairperson

Introduction

This is a submission in relation to the Eastern-Midlands Draft Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021. It arises as a result of two meetings of interested Members of the Dublin City Council Environment & Engineering Strategic Policy Committee and other elected representatives held on 14/01/15 and 23/01/15 at which these matters were discussed.

In relation to Section 19 – POLICY ACTIONS AND TARGETS

Members expressed disappointment at a lack of a formal role for both the SPC and elected representatives in plan formulation for the Region.

In relation to targets, Members were of the view that:

- (1) A 1% reduction p/a in the quantity of household waste generated per capita was not ambitious enough and that 2% would be more appropriate
- (2) Moving from 40% to 50% reuse/recycling of municipal waste by 2020 also lacked ambition.

There was also concern that the use of the terminology “higher value pre-treatment processes and indigenous recovery practices” implied support for incineration within the Region.

In relation to Section 19.2 – POLICY & LEGISLATION ACTIONS (A)

The waste collection industry should be encouraged to further develop seasonal patterns within waste collection including:

- (1) More frequent collections in late December/early January to deal with extra Christmas waste
- (2) More frequent brown-bin collections in summertime to minimise odour problems.

In relation to Section 19.3 – PREVENTION ACTIONS (B)

Members very supportive of Green Schools Officers but feel the Green Homes programme (waste, energy and water) should receive more prominence.

Greater research is needed in relation to assessing the attitude of citizens towards recycling; members would support the exploring of related research funding opportunities.

There is no emphasis within the plan on changing the behaviour of manufacturers in relation to waste generation including packaging – the focus is on consumption as it applies to the householder/consumer. Specific targets and initiatives should be introduced focussing on commercial/industry waste generation.

In relation to Section 19.4 – RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY (C)

Additional charging structures at bring centres/civic amenity sites are considered regressive as they will discourage the use of these facilities.

Local authorities like Dublin City Council should seek a means to open up civic amenities to allow for “swapping” of reusable waste items.

Kerbside glass collections should be given consideration under the new Plan.

In relation to Section 16.1 – MARKET ANALYSIS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (E)

Members queried the requirement for 300,000 tonnes of additional capacity for processing residual municipal waste based on (a) the potential for growth in recycling rates as laid out by target (b) the capacity of regional cement kilns to take waste and (b) a view that capacity not yet on-stream had not been included in estimates.

<To be discussed further>

In relation to Section 19.6 – ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATION ACTIONS (F)

Members queried the enforceability of pay-by-weight in relation to areas within the City that currently use tags/bags.

In relation to Section 19.8 – OTHER WASTE STREAM ACTIONS (H)

Members would support the piloting of on-street segregation of waste via the use of the appropriate litter-bins.

The ESRI should also be supported in the production of ongoing “waste arisings” research & projections.