

Waste Prevention Circular Economy

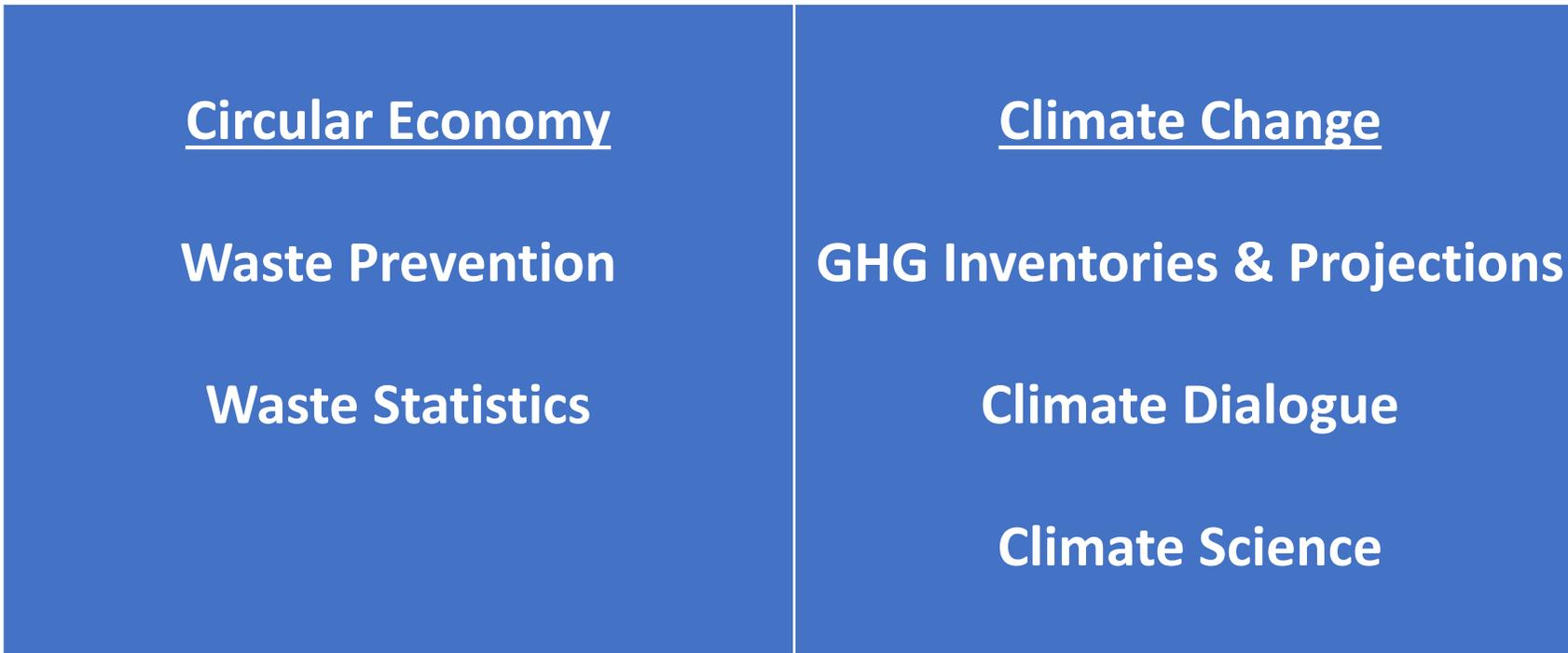
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Circular Economy & Climate Change

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Circular Economy & Climate Change

- New programme area...



Environmental context

- 86% of adults recognise the value of the environment.

Most pressing environmental issue...		
Climate Change	37%	(61% in top-3)
Waste	19%	(61% in top-3)
Water Quality	17%	(52% in top-3)
Pollution	11%	(52% in top-3)

- State of the Environment 2020: Water Quality; Urban Air Quality; Waste Management; Climate Change; Biodiversity & Ecosystem Loss; Environmental harm to Human Health
- ***Our Production & Consumption patterns are not compatible with safe, healthy prosperous society & environment.***

Waste Management context

- Waste generation remains coupled to economic & population growth
- In 2016, Ireland produced 2.8Mt of municipal waste (↑ 6% since 2014)
- Recycling rates are levelling off - 41% of MSW in 2016 was recycled, the same as 2014.
- Our recycling rates are now less than the European average and behind the leading performers (recycling 60+%)
- System Challenges: Current market structure; Treatment capacity

Climate Change context

- Ireland exceeded annual emissions allocation for 2018 by over 5 million tonnes. (exceedance of 3 million tonnes in 2017)
- Greenhouse gas emissions showed a marginal decrease of 0.2 % in 2018. (due to reductions in the energy sector which were offset by growth in emissions from households, transport, and agriculture)
- Ireland falling short in terms of lowering emissions, achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and responding to global climate change
- Swift implementation of the 2019 Climate Action Plan needed to put Ireland on the right track to meet its commitments.

Waste Prevention

- Consumption underlies Climate Change. Unnecessary (wasteful) consumption is accelerating us to a dangerous tipping point
- Waste Prevention is a central concept of the circular economy, challenges us to review our existing design, production, distribution and consumption of products.
- Focus is on avoiding the unnecessary use of materials in the first place.
- Reduces costs, protects the raw material supply chain and offers new business models.



Circular Economy

- Circular economy priorities >> Waste Prevention & Improved Recycling
- Ambitious targets in Waste Framework Directive.
- Climate Action Plan >> 10 actions on “Waste & the Circular Economy”
- Society’s expectations re: over-consumption, single-use items and disposable culture are increasing.
- Ireland’s material consumption is above EU averages.



National Waste Prevention Programme

- Vision: **supporting national-level, strategic programmes to prevent waste and drive the Circular Economy in Ireland**

- Six priority themes:



**Food
Waste**



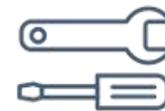
**Construction
& Demolition**



Plastics



Agriculture



**Resources &
Raw Materials**



**Local Waste
Prevention**

Food Waste & Climate

- Food waste is a major driver of global warming because of the huge resources and energy that go into producing it.
- Food waste produces almost 10% of all global Carbon emissions.
(almost as high as road transport emissions)
- More than a quarter of food produced is wasted
- Reducing food waste is one of the most effective climate actions
- Climate Action Plan: Target to cut food waste by 2030

Food Waste Prevention

- **Households** (growing interest)

- www.stopfoodwaste.ie
- Instagram; Twitter; Facebook
- Food Waste Week
- Food Waste Challenges
- Media campaign

- **Business** (emerging interest)

- Ireland's Food Waste Charter
- Retail Action Group
- Forum on Food Waste
- Guidance for Food Service sector
(*More Profit, Less Waste*)

Commercial Food Waste

- 250,000 tonnes generated by restaurants, shops and canteens
- Value of food waste for hospitality sector is over €300M.
- EPA support:
 - Target-driven programme for food service and hospitality sectors, from early-2020.
 - Training, Case Studies
 - Audit and reporting templates

Waste Prevention in the C&D sector

- Waste & Resources Sub-group - Emerging Themes...
 - *Updating current guidance - incl. on Waste Management Plans*
 - *Best practice note on Resource Efficiency*
 - *Training → on-site and at education stages*
 - *Green Public Procurement as a lever*
 - *Use of landfill restrictions and/or financial levers*
 - *Prioritisation via national Circular Economy planning*

Waste Prevention in Agriculture

- Smart Farming

- On-farm resource efficiency
- All inputs/outputs assessment
- Cost savings + GHG reductions
- SDG Champion programme
- 50 farms per year

- **www.smartfarming.ie**

- Farm Hazardous Waste

- Five-year campaign; 46 collections events
- 1,000+ tonnes of hazardous waste collected & managed
- Major streams: *Oil; Pesticides; Vet medicines; Paint; WEEE*

- National Scheme?

Resources & Raw Materials

- Rediscovery Centre
 - Centre for Circular Economy
 - Knowledge & research
 - Demonstration of circular operations & building
 - Education & outreach
 - EPA Partnership in place
- National Repair Directory
 - Repair is central to a functioning circular economy
 - Online listing of repair businesses catergorised by location & function
 - **www.repairmystuff.ie**

Working with the NWPP

- We want to engage with:



- Three action modes...



Green Enterprise

- 2018 projects:
 - *Scoping fruit and vegetable supply chain for biomass resources*
 - *Marine Plastic Waste - Closing the Loop*
 - *Producing a composite from plastic bottles*
 - *Resource Management & Materials Circularity Protocol for Construction Sector*
- 2019 projects – awarding now...
- **Annual call for proposals**

TREE

- Free resource efficiency tool for business & public sector
- Online, self-completion questionnaire
- Generates Resource Efficiency score and a tailored action plan
- 840 users to date

- **www.greenbusiness.ie**

Look out for...

- Public Attitudes on Plastic Survey - Results out in Q1-2020
- Update of C&D Waste Management Guidelines
- Support programme for Commercial Food Waste Prevention
- Report on Farm Hazardous Waste Campaign
- National Hazardous Waste Management Plan
- Update of Green Procurement Guidance for Public Sector

Concluding thoughts

- Consumption levels are not sustainable. **Waste Prevention** remains the primary response, and underpins Circular Economy principles
- Policy is **cross-linking** Climate Change & Circular Economy
- Measures on **single-use plastics** are coming.
- **Food waste** target for 2030 is very challenging.
- Improved **segregation of waste** needed at business and household levels to deliver highest value and potential for recycling.
- Public-sector **leading by example** will drive action & responses.