



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Waste Action Plan

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# Waste Action Plan – Circular Economy Strategy



## Background

- Policy context
  - *A Resource Opportunity – 2012 – 2020*
  - CEP
  - Climate Action Plan
- Then vs. now – where have we come from

## Developing the new Waste Action Plan

- Consultation paper – thematic issues
- Process
- Commitment to stakeholder engagement

# A Resource Opportunity



Published 2012 – early stages of CE concept. Strong focus on:

- Waste Management Plans on context of LG Reform programme;
- Strengthened permitting system (pricing, mandated service levels, fit and proper persons, customer charters);
- Enhanced enforcement;
- Additional PRI's;
- Education and awareness.

Successfully delivered:

- Reduction in landfill,
- phasing out of flat rate,
- bye-laws for presentation of household and commercial waste,
- RWMPAs,
- WERLAs,
- additional infrastructure,
- new PRI's,
- brown bin roll-out,
- mywaste.ie)



# Climate Action Plan – June 2019

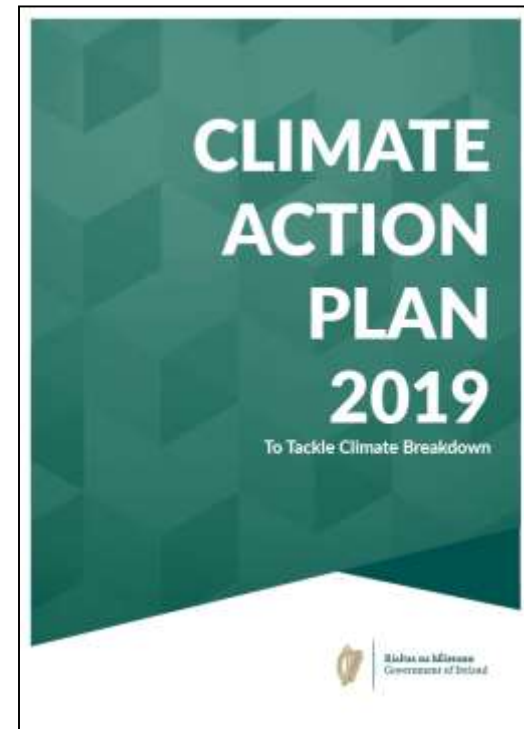


## ***Overall objective***

- To deliver step-change in emissions performance over the coming decade to meet mid-century decarbonisation objectives.
- Clear 2030 targets for each sector and the expected emissions savings that will result.

## ***Waste and the Circular Economy***

- Develop coherent reduction strategies for plastics, food waste, and resource use
- Increase the level and the quality of recycling, with less contamination and greater replacement of virgin materials by recycling.
- Eliminate non-recyclable plastic
- Reduce the reliance on landfill with sharp reductions in plastics and compostables entering landfill



## Where we have come from – 1998 vs now



**Landfill:** 92% vs 26%, 76 vs 3 active landfills

**LRMC:** Landfill, £20 per tonne. Incineration, £48, recycling, economically unviable (segregated collection)

**Recovery rate:** MSW 9% vs 74%. Packaging 14.8% vs 87%

**Recycling:** <5% vs 41%

**Kerbside collection:** 70k households (6.2%) vs 1.3m (over 75%)

**Organic waste collection:** 52k (2003) vs 750,000 (approx)

# Where we have come from – 1998 vs now



**Costs:** 40% of households paid nothing , 27% on fixed charge - polluter pays principle not applied. LA costs exceeded income 3:1

**Waste Management Plans:** more than 10 vs 3

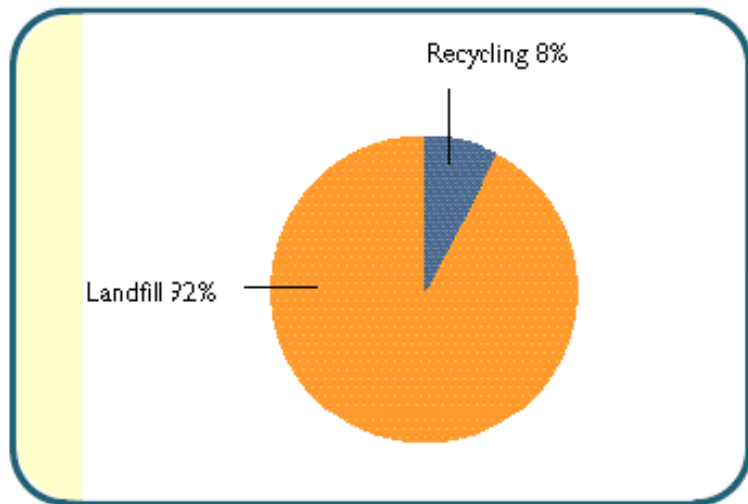
**Export:** Haz. waste only vs 360,000 tonnes

**Local Authorities:** 114 vs 31

**Structure of the market:** mainly LA collection vs fully privatised

**EU Targets:** “General and persistent deficiencies in application of WFD in Ireland” vs Case C494 closed, Ireland achieving or on track to achieve all EU targets

Fig.2(c) Management of Municipal Waste in Ireland 1995



# How?



No one thing.....multiple players, pulling – mainly (!) in the same direction.

- Four cycles of national waste policy – implementation of EU aquis (including landfill levy), strong legislative framework (WM / PoE Acts);
- European Commission / ECJ – C494 and Programme of Measures;
- Professionalised waste industry;
- De-municipalisation;
- EPA – regulatory and enforcement expertise;
- eNGO commitment and persistence;
- LA – focus on strengths, consistency of delivery, coordination – NTFSO, NWCPO, RWMPAs, WERLAs;
- PRIs;
- Households and businesses – people have generally embraced segregated collection and / or network of CA sites;
- Taxpayer – bill for C494, including landfill remediation and enforcement funding.



# Different challenge now

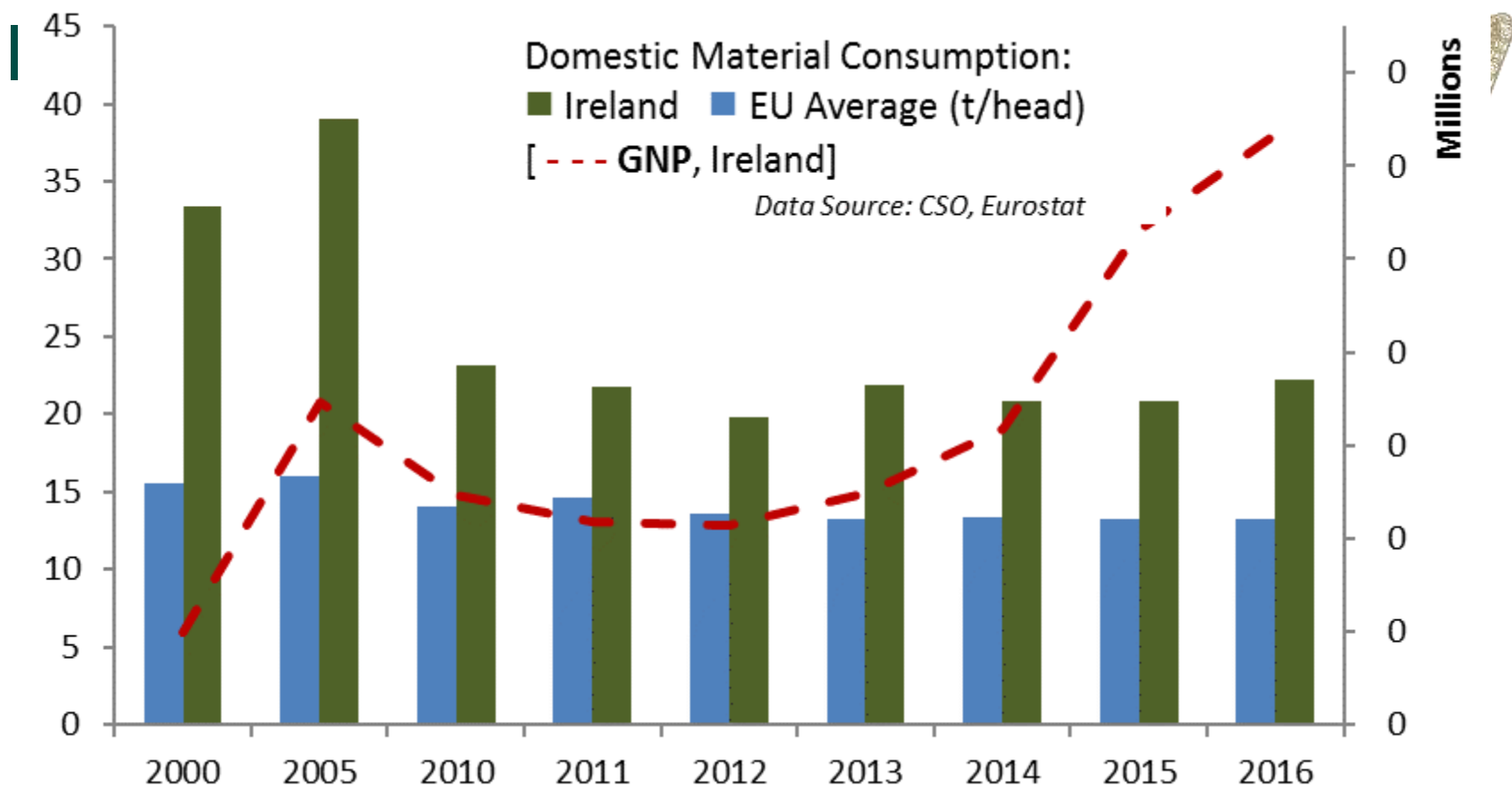


Starting from a better position:

- Achieving or on target to achieve
- Robust regulatory and enforcement framework
- Good collaboration - buy-in to shared goals, agreed general direction of travel
- Greater public awareness around things like waste hierarchy – contamination still a big issue but multi-bin system the norm.

But challenge is greater

- We were starting from a low base – success was relatively easier
- Targets are ambitious – performance has levelled-off
- Awareness around waste but CE is different matter – citizen engagement and activation critical
- Consumption patterns – Ireland considerably above EU
- Not just about reducing or treating waste – entire life-cycle of production and consumption
- Part of global crisis – out to 2050 global waste likely to increase by 70% to 3.4 billion tonnes due to economic development, population growth and increasing urbanisation.



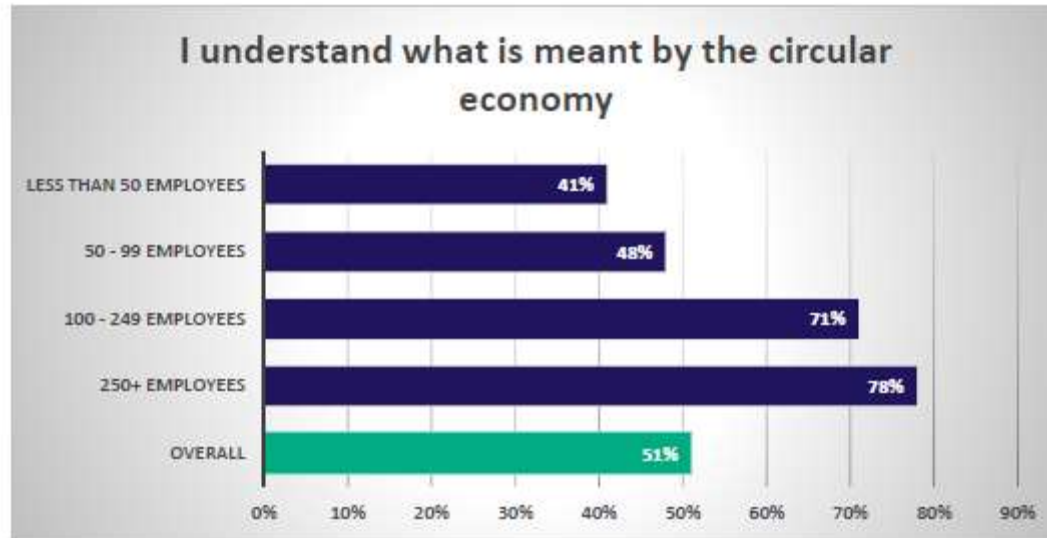


Figure 5: Understanding of what is meant by the circular economy - by company size

# Waste Action Plan – Circular Economy Strategy



- Consultation document to be published before Christmas 2019
- Focus on key thematic areas, outlining actions underway with request for proposed further actions
- In place ahead of CE transposition deadline and review of RWMPs
- Significant role for public / stakeholders in policy development and future implementation – Waste Action Plan Advisory Group
- Rethink of role (if any) for Waste Forum
- Final Waste Action Plan Q2 2020
- Actions, owners, timeframes, reporting and review mechanisms

# Waste Action Plan – Thematic issues



- Institutional arrangements
  - *What is optimal configuration of regulatory functions?*
  - *Other structural issues that should be considered as part of CE transition?*
- Household and commercial waste
  - *What measures will get us to 2025, 2030, 2035 targets?*
  - *How can we share responsibility for delivering EU targets (e.g. bail-ins through conditions)?*
- Food Waste
  - *Measures to reduce food waste, increase collection rate*
- Plastic and packaging waste
  - *Measures to get us from 34% to 55% by 2030 as minimum level of ambition*
- SUP's
  - *Levies*
  - *How do we get to 90% - including consideration of DRS*
  - *Bans?*

# Waste Action Plan – Thematic issues



- Circular Economy
  - *Citizen engagement – how do we activate CE concept for people / businesses?*
  - *Embed culture across sectors with public sector as lead*
  - *NWPP – central role*
- C&D waste
  - *Project Ireland2040*
  - *Waste Prevention*
  - *How do we expand range of recycled products / on-site recycling?*
- Infrastructure
  - *Capacity*
  - *Contingency*
- By-products / End of Waste
  - *Suggestions for process improvements?*

# Waste Action Plan – Thematic issues



- EPR
  - *Tyres – follow up on review and timescale for extension to truck / agri*
  - *How do we harness experience / utilise existing system for new EPR schemes*
- Enforcement
  - *Enhanced WERLAs*
  - *EPA Study on Waste Crime*
  - *Views on leading factors behind waste crime?*
- Waste Data and flows
  - *How do we improve current data to ensure timely, accurate, robust and useful data to:*
    - *help policy development,*
    - *hold system to account,*
    - *inform investment decisions?*
- Consumer Protection and Market Monitoring
  - *CCPC Recommendation for Regulator – what would it do?*
  - *Synergies with existing entities?*
  - *Other ways to further improve transparency and provide consumer complaints mechanism without agencification?*

# Waste Action Plan – what next?



- Consultation document to be launched by Minister Bruton before Christmas
- Multi-sectoral stakeholder Advisory Group to be established to inform development
- Focused consultation to align with consultation on economic instruments
- Final Waste Action Plan in place Q2 2020
- Advisory Group to become standing WAP Implementation Group





# Thank You