



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Environmental Protection Agency

NATIONAL WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Preventing Waste, Driving the Circular Economy

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

Regulation: We implement effective regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.

Knowledge: We provide high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making at all levels.

Advocacy: We work with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental behaviour.

Our Responsibilities

Licensing

We regulate the following activities so that they do not endanger human health or harm the environment:

- waste facilities (e.g. landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations);
- large scale industrial activities (e.g. pharmaceutical, cement manufacturing, power plants);
- intensive agriculture (e.g. pigs, poultry);
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- sources of ionising radiation (e.g. x-ray and radiotherapy equipment, industrial sources);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea activities.

National Environmental Enforcement

- Conducting an annual programme of audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities.
- Overseeing local authorities' environmental protection responsibilities.
- Supervising the supply of drinking water by public water suppliers.
- Working with local authorities and other agencies to tackle environmental crime by coordinating a national enforcement network, targeting offenders and overseeing remediation.
- Enforcing Regulations such as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- Prosecuting those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

Water Management

- Monitoring and reporting on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters of Ireland and groundwaters; measuring water levels and river flows.
- National coordination and oversight of the Water Framework Directive.
- Monitoring and reporting on Bathing Water Quality.

Monitoring, Analysing and Reporting on the Environment

- Monitoring air quality and implementing the EU Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Directive.
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government (e.g. periodic reporting on the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports).

Regulating Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Preparing Ireland's greenhouse gas inventories and projections.
- Implementing the Emissions Trading Directive, for over 100 of the largest producers of carbon dioxide in Ireland.

Environmental Research and Development

- Funding environmental research to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions in the areas of climate, water and sustainability.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Assessing the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment (e.g. major development plans).
- Radiological protection.
- Monitoring radiation levels, assessing exposure of people in Ireland to ionising radiation.
- Assisting in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents.
- Monitoring developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety.
- Providing, or overseeing the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

Guidance, Accessible Information and Education

- Providing advice and guidance to industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics.
- Providing timely and easily accessible environmental information to encourage public participation in environmental decision-making (e.g. *My Local Environment*, *Radon Maps*).
- Advising Government on matters relating to radiological safety and emergency response.
- Developing a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to prevent and manage hazardous waste.

Awareness Raising and Behavioural Change

- Generating greater environmental awareness and influencing positive behavioural change by supporting businesses, communities and householders to become more resource efficient.
- Promoting radon testing in homes and workplaces and encouraging remediation where necessary.

Management and Structure of the EPA

The EPA is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and five Directors. The work is carried out across five Offices:

- Office of Environmental Sustainability
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Evidence and Assessment
- Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



National Waste Prevention Programme

Preventing Waste, Driving the Circular Economy

Annual Report 2019

The National Waste Prevention Programme is a Government of Ireland initiative funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

Acknowledgements

The EPA acknowledges the following for their support of the NWPP in 2019:

- The Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment for providing finance from the Environment Fund, and for ongoing support and guidance;
- The National Waste Prevention Committee who have provided their time and collective knowledge to the programme;
- The Board and staff of the EPA, in particular the NWPP team: Shane Colgan, Fiona McCooile, Odile Le Bolloch, Abigail Murphy; Ann Marie Donlon, Annmarie Tuohy, Helen Bruen, Helen Searson and Joe Reilly.

ISBN 978-1-84095-915-4

07/2020/30

© Environmental Protection Agency 2020

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material contained in this publication, complete accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Neither the Environmental Protection Agency nor the author(s) accepts any responsibility whatsoever for loss or damage occasioned, or claimed to have been occasioned, in part or in full as a consequence of any person acting or refraining from acting, as a result of a matter contained in this publication. All or part of this publication may be reproduced without further permission, provided the source is acknowledged.

FOREWORD

This report covers a period of intense change for Ireland as we move towards a low-carbon economy. The circular economy concept is gathering momentum, while consumers and businesses are engaging more than ever with the green agenda. The National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP) is responding to this increased interest through a range of major new initiatives including support for CIRCULÉIRE, the circular manufacturing platform; enhanced activity on food waste prevention; and targeted innovation funding through the Green Enterprise programme.

During the year, Ireland published its Climate Action Plan which recognises that Ireland must significantly step-up its response on tackling climate disruption and plots a course to reduce emissions and realise the opportunities of a low carbon economy and society. The plan is highly relevant to the work of the NWPP and contains ten specific actions under the heading of 'Waste & the Circular Economy' that are fully aligned to the vision and priorities of our programme.

The Climate Action Plan also includes a section on the public sector leading by example. The implementation of resource efficient practices to complement current successful public sector energy efficiency actions has strong potential to deliver measurable benefits and to prompt a market response across the whole economy. Over the course of the year the NWPP has supported the roll-out of Resource Efficiency Action Plans across government departments and public bodies and continues to promote and support Green Public Procurement.

It is clear that nearly every aspect of our economy will have to change, from food waste & consumer behaviours to manufacturing & construction. At time of writing the European Green Deal is emerging and reinforces the circular economy concept with a stated ambition to transform the European Union to a resource-efficient and competitive economy, without reducing prosperity.

Building on our experience since 2004, and informed by stakeholder and policy engagements, the NWPP is well-positioned to provide leadership in Ireland's Circular Economy and support Ireland's pathway to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. I am very pleased to issue this report on our activities in 2019 and look forward to building on these achievements in the years ahead.

Mary Frances Rochford

Chair, National Waste Prevention Committee



CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
NWPP HIGHLIGHTS 2019	5
INTRODUCTION	7
1. INNOVATION & DEMONSTRATION	10
1.1 DELIVERING IN 2019	11
1.2 CASE STUDY	14
1.3 HIGHLIGHTS 2019	15
2. DELIVERING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS	16
2.1 DELIVERING IN 2019	17
2.2 CASE STUDY	20
2.3 HIGHLIGHTS 2019	21
3. COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY	22
3.1 DELIVERING IN 2019	24
3.2 CASE STUDY	27
3.3 HIGHLIGHTS 2019	28

NWPP HIGHLIGHTS 2019

Resources & Raw Materials



Maximising use of products and materials towards a circular economy.

- National **circular manufacturing platform established**, targeting **20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions & waste production**.
- Rediscovery Centre launched **circular economy mentoring academy** with nine founding member groups.
- CRNI supported their members to **reuse 24,000 tonnes of materials**.

Food Waste Prevention



Reducing waste in households, retailers and along the food production chain.

- **23,000 followers engaged** on food waste by social media, along with over **12,000 monthly visits** to the stopfoodwaste.ie website.
- Over **2.3 million people** reached during a two-week media campaign.
- Guidance published to help **food service businesses save €300M** in food waste costs.
- **400 people** trained on **food waste reduction** in workplaces and community groups.

Plastics



Displacing single-use plastic items through prevention, reuse and recycling actions.

- National **survey on attitudes & behaviours regarding plastics** completed showing strong public interest in curbing plastic waste.
- New **campus waste project established** focussed on **avoiding single-use plastics and food waste** at Irish Universities.
- EPA shortlisted in Enterprise Ireland's **Small Business Innovation Research** programme for solutions to **reduce consumption of single-use plastics**.

Local Waste Prevention



Mobilising and empowering communities to make changes for sustainable and circular living.

- Local authorities funded for **58 community waste prevention initiatives** such as **public water fountains and green festivals**.
- **8,300 items reused** on FreeTrade Ireland.
- **RepairMyStuff.ie** directory connected **800 businesses** with **8,000 monthly users**.

Construction & Demolition



Working with industry and others to tackle high-volume wastes in this critical sector.

- **Online repository published** of Irish and international best-practice documents.
- **C&D waste prevention recommendations** produced for action in 2020 and beyond.
- **Conversations on a Circular Economy seminar** held at Rediscovery Centre focussed on **Construction & Demolition waste**.

Agriculture



Increasing output efficiency and reducing carbon emissions for sustainable food production.

- Smart Farming worked on 50 farms, identifying **10% greenhouse gas emissions reductions and savings of €6,336 per farm**.
- **Revised water guidance published** for farmers on enhancing the rural environment through water conservation and water quality actions.
- Smart Farming selected as a national **Sustainable Development Goals Champion**.

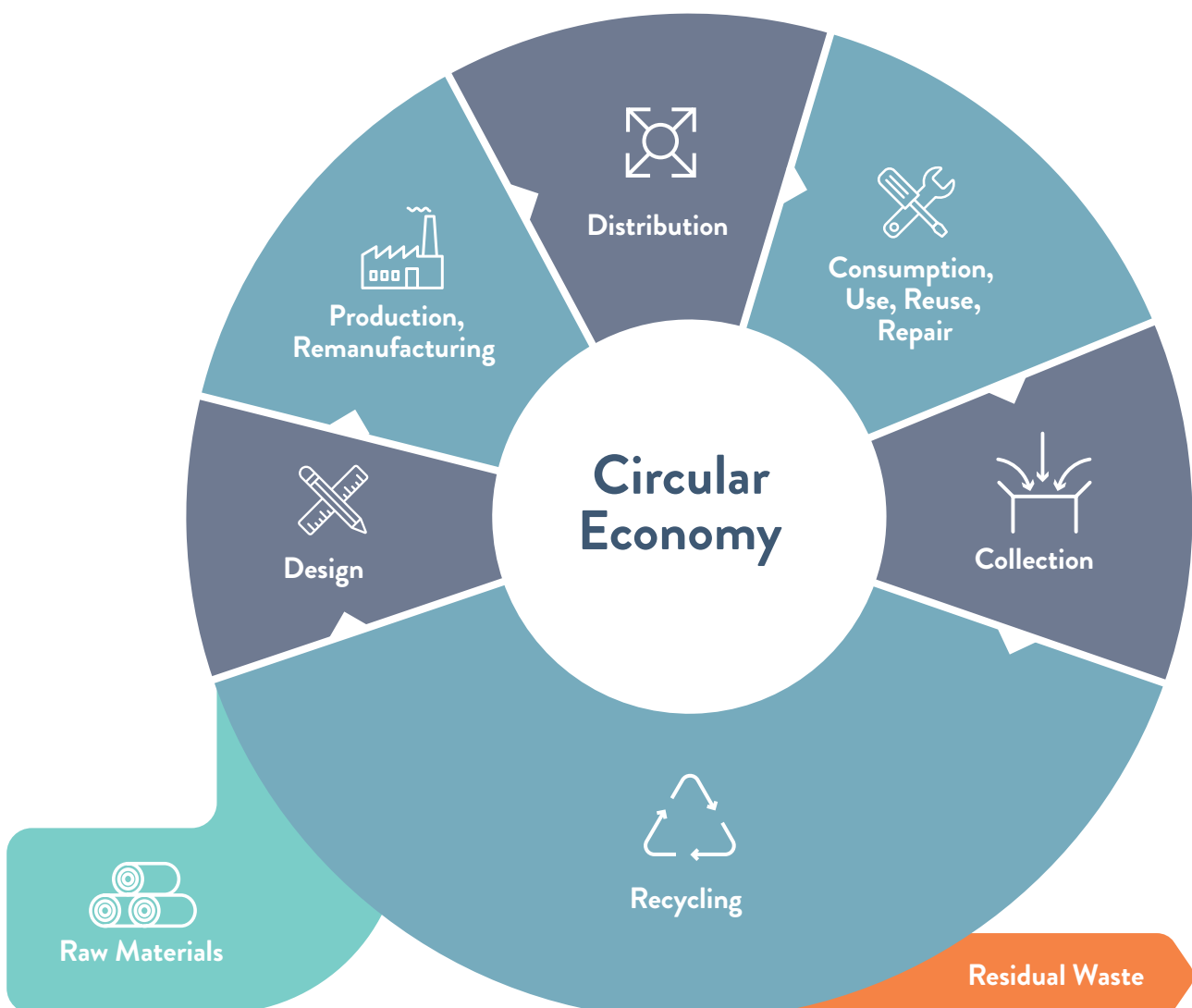
INTRODUCTION

Ireland's National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP) was established in 2004. It is led by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and has been recognised as an exemplary programme in the European Union. The programme has been reviewed periodically over the years and most recently in 2018. The current programme moves the focus from predominantly demonstration and local scale to national-level strategic programmes preventing waste and driving the circular economy in Ireland. Our aim is to provide tools and information to businesses, individuals and the public sector to influence behavioural change, support sustainable choices and inform policy.

The NWPP is Ireland's primary initiative with regard to developing the circular economy. This emerging economic model looks to minimise the consumption of resources and energy by keeping products and materials in use for longer. It is founded on the waste hierarchy which identifies waste

prevention as the primary approach; to be followed by reuse; repair; and recycling.

Drivers for the programme include the EU Circular Economy package and the associated legislative changes, including the Single-Use Plastics Directive. At a national level, waste policy and reporting and the recently published Climate Action Plan provide important inputs. The programme is also informed by the EPA's State of the Environment Report and National Development Plan. Drivers for priority waste streams within the programme are based on national waste statistics and legislative commitments.



How We Work

NWPP is delivered in three ways:



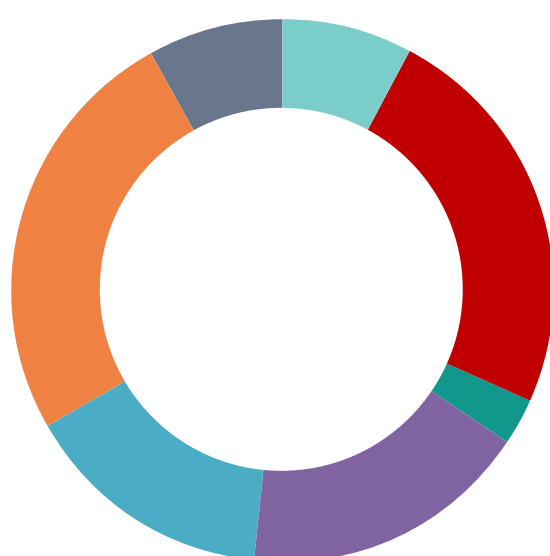
Our Priority Areas

Six focus areas of the NWPP reflect circular economy priorities:



Funding & Oversight

The NWPP is a Government of Ireland initiative and operates through direct actions by the EPA and through external activities funded by the programme. Programme funding is provided from the Environment Fund and is disbursed through contracting arrangements and grant agreements, as appropriate. In 2019 total expenditure was €1.53M and the chart below shows the breakdown of expenditure.



- Sponsorship, Communication & Outreach
- Agriculture
- Food Waste Prevention
- Plastics
- Resources and Raw Materials
- Innovations and Demonstrations
- Local Waste Prevention

Over the course of the year, the EPA Board reviews and approves the work of the NWPP. A Memorandum of Funding Agreement between EPA and DCCAE defines the strategic collaboration and financial controls in place between the two organisations. The NWPP is also subject to audit from the EPA Internal Audit Unit; DCCAE Internal Audit Unit; and the Comptroller & Auditor General.

Technical oversight is provided for the programme by the National Waste Prevention Committee. In addition, the EPA and DCCAE maintain strong cooperation on the NWPP to ensure alignment between programme actions and policy development & implementation. Further information on the NWPP is at www.epa.ie/waste/nwpp

National Waste Prevention Committee

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment
- Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine
- Chambers Ireland
- Chartered Institution of Wastes Management
- Clean Technology Centre
- Regional Waste Management Offices
- Community Reuse Network Ireland
- Engineers Ireland
- Enterprise Ireland
- Health Service Executive
- Ibec
- IDA Ireland
- Irish Environmental Network
- Irish Farmers' Association
- Irish Waste Management Association
- Small Firms Association

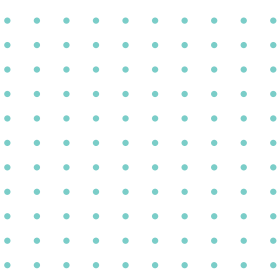
1. INNOVATION & DEMONSTRATION



Establishing a circular economy will require systemic transformations around resource-use and waste prevention in Ireland. Through funding calls and demonstration actions we are building expertise and showcasing solutions to drive the transitions within enterprises and their supply chains.

Our work in this area is channelled through the six priority areas of the NWPP. It supports the development of new ways to use and reuse the materials and products that underpin our economy. In particular, our 'Green Enterprise: Innovation for the circular economy' competitive funding programme offered opportunities in 2019 for key priority area innovations.

In order to bridge from innovation to full-scale application, the programme supports demonstration projects and case studies to highlight circular economy opportunities and scenarios for Ireland.



1.1 DELIVERING IN 2019

Green Enterprise: innovation for a circular economy

Green Enterprise is a flagship initiative of the NWPP and supports innovation for a circular economy in businesses and other organisations. Funding is provided to progress ideas from research stage to demonstration and commercial application. For 2019, our priority areas were: *Plastics; Construction & Demolition Waste; Food Waste; and Resources & Raw Materials*.

We focussed on strengthening promotion of the programme in order to encourage participation and engage with new business sectors. We worked through platforms such as Knowledge Transfer Ireland; promoted the call via social media; and provided support to potential applicants through webinars.

New Green Enterprise projects for 2019

Applications received were evaluated through a peer-review process and from this, we invested over €400,000 in the following five new projects:

Single-use plastic packaging remoulded into pallets

Polymer Alloy Technology



This project will showcase the potential of plastics pallet production in a circular economy using mixed plastic waste and demonstrating a prototype, mould and manufacture test.

Sustainable feed protein production through insect-farming

Hexafly



This project will identify suitable waste streams for conversion to protein by Black Soldier Flies; and demonstrate the conversion of waste to raw materials for producing animal and aquaculture feeds.

Skills training for upcycling textiles

Roscommon Women's Network



Demonstration of local circular economy potential by providing training to recover, repurpose and upcycle textiles. This project will also raise awareness and empower women to generate employment opportunities while protecting the environment.

SymbioBeer: Industrial synergies to reduce food waste

Irish Manufacturing Research



Demonstration of industrial synergies to reduce food waste by utilising waste bread as a secondary raw material in the production of beer and utilise beer waste to produce bread.

Rezero: Deposit-return system for food retailers

ZeroWaste.ie



This project aims to demonstrate national potential of deposit-return scheme for reusable food containers.

For more information on Green Enterprise projects please visit: <https://www.epa.ie/waste/nwpp/greenenterpriseprojects/>

Projects Completed in 2019

In 2019, several projects were completed, and the outputs used by the organisations and other stakeholders to shift towards more resource efficient operations.

The EPA Lean Water Community of Practice

Central Solutions Ltd



The EPA Lean Water Community of Practice continued to grow membership to 200 in 2019. The national certification scheme provides a new five step guidance for large water users which, since 2013, have reduced their water use by an average of 20%.

Reuse Quality Mark

Community Resources Network Ireland



Reuse Quality Mark was a formalised accreditation process for reuse stores. The pilot increased consumer confidence in the quality and safety of reused goods and continues to highlight the potential for establishing a nationwide reuse quality mark in Ireland. Benefits include increased support and consumer confidence as well as increased revenue and employee confidence in reuse stores.

Zero Waste Cashel

VOICE



Zero Waste Cashel was a community pilot and toolkit for implementing and measuring waste prevention, reuse, repair and awareness raising in communities. Since completion businesses in Cashel continue to offer incentives to prevent waste such as discounts for reusable coffee cups. Other communities who visited Cashel to learn about implementing zero waste initiatives, such as Belturbet, Co. Cavan are now on the journey of becoming a 'Zero waste town'.

NetMap project

Macroom E



The NetMap project provided a resource of mapping the management of waste fishing nets and rope (FNRs) in Ireland. The project demonstrated the potential for using this waste as a resource which could have societal, environmental and economic benefits. The project demonstrated reusing wasted fishing nets in concrete as a material for the construction industry.

Green IT at the University of Limerick

University of Limerick



This was a campus-wide strategy identifying key areas for improvement in three life cycle stages in IT (manufacture, use and end of life) and presented solutions on both staff and student levels, for resource and energy efficiency, carbon reduction and waste prevention through reuse and repair.

For more information on Green Enterprise project outputs please visit: <https://www.epa.ie/waste/nwpp/greenenterpriseprojects/>

Circular Campus

NWPP engaged with the Irish Universities Association (IUA) on the potential for a partnership project, to demonstrate the potential for scalable waste prevention and behaviour change on university campuses which have a population of 120,000 students and over 15,000 staff. Planning for campus waste characterisations began at the end of 2019 and will inform a project plan for approval with IUA in 2020.

Small Business Innovation Research

In 2019 the NWPP was shortlisted and has since been successful in applying to participate in the Small Business Innovation Research programme. This initiative is run by Enterprise Ireland and drives collaboration between SMEs and the public sector towards solving an identified 'Challenge.' Our challenge focuses on innovation to address unsustainable amounts of plastic packaging used in Ireland, which is currently 60kg per person, with a focus on difficult to recycle plastics, specifically soft plastic (films, wrappers). NWPP will go to the market through SBIR to address this challenge in 2020.

Resource Efficiency Tools

The NWPP supports a number of online tools for promoting resource efficiency.

TREE is an online resource efficiency tool that enables companies to examine their operational processes and their facility housekeeping practices to ensure that they are making best use of materials, energy and water. The tool provides a performance score for the company and a tailored action plan of measures to drive waste minimisation and a more efficient use of resources. In 2019 the number of registered users on TREE grew from 540 to over 800. The tool is a key part of Bord Bia's Origin Green Charter, allowing members to use the tool to reduce costs and their impact on the environment.

Repairing for reuse is a key concept of the Circular Economy. The NWPP-funded **Repairmystuff.ie** experienced continued expansion in 2019 and at the year-end had businesses registered with 7,500 monthly users. This national online directory connects repair businesses to consumers in Ireland. The website developed from a Local Authority Prevention Network initiative and the NWPP continues to support further development and promotion of this national resource, led by Monaghan County Council.

FreeTrade Ireland is an online platform supported by the NWPP which facilitates the reuse of items for free, from furniture to electronic goods, garden equipment and more. During 2019, over 8,300 items were reused for free on FreeTrade Ireland and there were 4,100 new registrations. Since its launch over 68,300 users have registered and over 115,200 items have been reused for free.

1.2 Case Study: Greening IT at the University of Limerick

The Green Enterprise programme provided €55,000 funding for University of Limerick to demonstrate 'Greening IT' — a circular economy approach to campus information technology services.

The project, which completed in 2019, was the first national campus plan to improve the resource and energy efficiency of IT equipment across each stage of the product life cycle. The outcomes of the project included:

- Demonstrating reduced energy use of campus IT equipment which included optimising cooling and investigating opportunities for reducing up to 90% of campus carbon emissions by moving onsite services to the cloud;
- Including Green Public Procurement criteria in tender documents;
- Encouraging and promoting campus reuse through existing informal reuse exchange systems;
- Engaging suppliers through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and promoting recycling through student 'end of semester' WEEE collection events;
- Upskilling the project team with local training on repairing phones and engaging the campus community on life-cycle impacts and opportunities for extending the use phase of electronic equipment through repair events;
- Hosting a pop-up shop for refurbished IT equipment. Over a two-month period, 150 items were sold to staff and students.

A key learning from this study was the importance of gaining support from senior management at the outset to establish cross-departmental motivation and support to undertake the project.

Benefits of the project have continued past completion, such as hosting further repair education events and annual end of semester WEEE recycling events, continuing close engagement with suppliers to enact EPR schemes, increasing the activity and use of existing onsite exchange and reuse systems and using opportunities to reduce campus IT carbon emissions by moving onsite services to the cloud.

This project demonstrated the potential for adopting a life-cycle approach to managing and procuring IT equipment at a university campus scale. Learnings and demonstrations from this project can be readily applied to similar settings within the public sector.



“We learned a lot during this project, we were able to find and promote what was existing including the informal reuse exchanges already happening on campus, looking back there were some initiatives we were able to leap forward to fulltime use such as the WEEE collections and keeping suppliers engaged through EPR schemes, and others we continue to work on such as moving our IT services to the cloud”

Colin Fitzpatrick,
University of Limerick

1.3 Innovation & Demonstration Highlights



Green Enterprise provided funding of €400,000 for five new projects creating circular economy solutions.

.....



Participated in Enterprise Ireland's Small Business Innovation Research programme to explore solutions to the plastics challenge.

.....



Green Enterprise delivered seven completed projects showcasing circular economy toolkits, case studies and best practice solutions for plastics, resources & raw materials and local waste prevention

.....



The RepairMyStuff.ie national repair directory connected over 800 businesses with 8,000 monthly users.

.....



The TREE resource efficiency tool has been used by 800 organisations to provide online efficiency scoring and an action plan.

.....

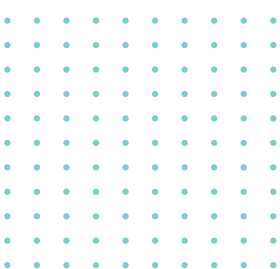
2. DELIVERING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



The NWPP collaborates with influential national-level organisations and networks to deliver strategic, co-created and targeted work programmes and initiatives. Our partnership approach is central to delivering on the NWPP ambition and vision. By working with and through others we extend our influence to drive the growth of the circular economy in Ireland.

The NWPP builds partnerships with organisations in line with our priority areas and we are working actively with sectors such as agriculture; food services; and local government. As we develop new partnerships, these will be formed around our priority areas with a clear focus on collaborative approaches that deliver significant national change.

2019 was a strong year for our partnership work. We built on existing successful partnerships with the Irish Farmers' Association, Rediscovery Centre and Community Resources Network Ireland. We also developed exciting new collaborations with Irish Manufacturing Research and the Irish Universities Association. Within the public sector, the NWPP worked closely with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, the Regional Waste Management Offices and with Local Authorities through the Local Authority Prevention Network.



2.1 DELIVERING IN 2019

Smart Farming

The [Smart Farming](#) programme is a strategic partnership between the Irish Farmers' Association and the NWPP. Farming is a resource-intensive sector with a clear need for improvements in resource sustainability. This programme uses on-farm resource efficiency assessments to identify savings and efficiencies. Fifty assessments were completed during the year, identifying the potential for average cost savings of €6,300 and greenhouse gas emission reductions of 10%. The farmers involved are required to share their learnings on a peer-to-peer basis with neighbouring farms which spreads the learnings from the on-farm assessments to at least 1,000 farmers per year. Smart Farming complements this work with awareness and advisory campaigns delivered through articles in the farming press and via social media. Two annual events – Spring Seminar and the Summer Farm Walk – saw over 500 attendees. The Spring Seminar has a technical focus, introducing new research, emerging technologies and innovation. The Summer Farm Walk gives the opportunity for practical demonstrations by experts in areas such as feed, grassland management, soil fertility and energy.

Smart Farming launched its revised guidance for conserving water and protecting water quality at the Tullamore Show in August 2019.

Smart Farming gained some well-deserved recognition, winning an *Agri-Innovation Award* at the RDS Spring Awards and being appointed as one of twelve inaugural national *Sustainable Development Goal Champions* (see case study).

Rediscovery Centre

The NWPP partnership with the [Rediscovery Centre](#) was officially launched in January 2019, supporting its development as the **National Centre for the Circular Economy**. The *Circular Economy Academy* was launched in June as a free mentoring programme to assist social enterprises and community organisations in any part of Ireland. The aim of the academy is to facilitate Ireland's transition to the Circular Economy through demonstration, education and collaboration, using Rediscovery Centre's expertise in social enterprise development and design thinking. Four regional academy clinics were held in 2019, and nine academy members had signed up by year end.

A new series, *Conversations on a Circular Economy*, was also launched with seminars on construction & demolition and fashion, bringing together diverse stakeholders and providing

opportunities for networking. The Rediscovery Centre presented webinar policy briefings on national and regional Circular Economy & Bioeconomy Action Plans in the EU and internationally to public bodies and government departments during the year. The centre also hosted workshops, camps and events to promote sustainable consumption and the circular economy. These activities attracted 7,500 visitors; a further 10,000 people were engaged through the centre's sustainability education programme.

Irish Manufacturing Research

Late in 2019, the NWPP entered a three-year strategic partnership (2020–2022) with Irish Manufacturing Research for **CIRCULÉIRE, the National Platform for Circular Manufacturing**. This is a landmark activity for Ireland which will deliver at scale for the circular economy through a public-private partnership innovation network. The platform will work with at least 60 manufacturers to develop circular economy models and provide innovation funding. Performance on targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and waste generation will be measured.

Local Authority Prevention Network

The **Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN)** supports the NWPP's priority area of Local Waste Prevention and its objective is to build waste prevention capacity at local and community level.

In 2019, 24 local authorities were funded €272,000 to carry out 58 initiatives¹. Two plenary meetings were held to exchange knowledge and best practice within the network.

Some 2019 LAPN highlights are set out below

Home Economics Resource Pack



An educational resource pack to engage over 20,000 Junior Certificate Home Economics students was launched in November. The focus is food waste prevention and

¹ <http://www.epa.ie/waste/nwpp/lapreventionnetwork/>

reducing food waste as an effective action to address climate change, given that 70% of food waste is avoidable and over 200,000 tonnes of food waste is generated in Irish homes every year.

This resource pack includes practical steps that students can apply in their own lives such as planning meals, making shopping lists, using proper storage methods, cooking and preserving.

The pack was developed as an LAPN partnership between the Stop Food Waste Programme, St. Angela's College, Galway City Council, Galway County Council, Roscommon County Council, Mayo County Council and VOICE Ireland.

To access these resources, visit:

<https://stopfoodwaste.ie/teachers-pack>

Training on designing out waste and sustainable procurement

LAPN supported a partnership between Limerick, Clare, Mayo and Dublin City and County Councils to deliver eight training workshops on Designing out Waste and Sustainable Procurement in Construction to local authority architects, quantity surveyors, planners, procurement and design & delivery staff. The sessions included lectures, scenario workshops, identifying supports available, measuring and reporting. The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland certified the course as CPD hours.

LAPN supporting provision of public drinking water fountains

LAPN supported ten local authorities to install public drinking water fountains in schools, parks and public buildings, with the ambition of reducing consumption of single-use plastic bottles.

Wicklow County Council used the funding to install bottle filling stations in three secondary schools. Surveys showed only half of the pupils owned a refill bottle and much less than half used a refill bottle with frequency. Fountains with counters were procured in order to measure usage. Useful insights from the project include: usage varied, with one school reading over 14,000 uses in the first six months and another reading over 48,600 uses. The location of the station had an impact, with lower usage recorded for the station on a side corridor and higher usage for the station on a central corridor close to the canteen. The school with the lower reading also offered free bottles of water in some lunch deals. The secondary school with the high usage invested in a second fountain to ease congestion



Water Fountain
Wicklow

at the filling station. The initiative had the added impact of one school including reusable water bottles on the book list for incoming first year students. All schools reported a reduction in plastic bottle waste and one school reported that it would ban single-use bottles due to the success of the initiative.

LAPN supporting repair for reuse



In 2019, Longford County Council's LAPN initiative was to increase business sign up to repairmystuff.ie, a national online repair directory service. Community groups, Tidy Towns and the Public Participation Network were asked to identify repair organisations, which was very successful in generating information. Forty-five businesses were targeted, and all signed up as well as all the Men's Sheds in the county. Repair organisations were very positive about the initiative and said that business had increased since signing up to Repairmystuff.ie.

LAPN supporting deposit and return scheme pilot

Dublin City Council's 2019 initiative was the Co-Cup pilot deposit and return scheme for reusable cups deployed across Dublin City University, Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City Council. The purpose was to assess and promote the business case for deposit & return cups and test their social acceptability over a three-month period. The pilot had learnings on pricing, cup design and retailer and customer experiences. The systems are still in place

and single-use cups have been eliminated in Dublin City Council. This pilot showcased the potential for deposit & return cups and supported the establishment of two commercial companies now providing this service.

Regional Waste Management Offices

The NWPP provided financial support and collaborated with the Regional Waste Management Offices to deliver the **2019 Upcycle Challenge**, a national competition to get Irish people thinking creatively about reuse for Reuse Month in October. Following a rebranding, a new online application form and increased promotional activity, this year saw a record 230 entries received. Seven category winners were selected, and prize-winning entries included ponchos for children made from discarded umbrellas and restoration of donated furniture by a school in Co. Leitrim.

In partnership with the Regional Waste Management Offices, a national survey on **behaviours & usage, attitudes and preferences for plastics** was undertaken. The online survey was completed by a representative sample of over 1,000 adults in October 2019 and results will be published in 2020.

Construction & Demolition Waste

As part of wider government stakeholder engagement and action on construction & demolition (C&D) waste, NWPP chaired a working group on waste prevention, best practice on-site and the circular economy which included representatives from Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Construction Industry Federation, DCCA, Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology and the Irish Environmental Network.

The group compiled an online repository of Irish and international guidance and policy documents.² It also produced a set of recommendations on C&D waste prevention for action in 2020 and beyond which were submitted to DCCA. The overarching action recommended was 'to identify C&D as a priority focus area for circular economy approaches in the forthcoming national plan.' Seven more specific recommendations were made including legislative changes (landfill restrictions, lower VAT on recycled materials), mandatory green public procurement and training & capacity development programmes.

Community Resources Network Ireland

NWPP supports **Community Resources Network Ireland**, an umbrella organisation for reuse and repair organisations on the island of Ireland.

In 2019, the network grew from 20 to 25 members. The economic, social and environmental impact of the network is measured and is significant: 24,000 tonnes of materials were reused in 2019 (generating an estimated 143,000 tonnes carbon savings), 705 people were employed, 2,160 training posts were provided, and member turnover was €75 million. CRNI actively raised its communications profile in 2019 and featured 16 times in media and attended 14 national and international events.

The network builds capacity in the sector by providing support and training to its members. The CRNI members' portal is an active and up-to-date resource with weekly newsletters, a funding roadmap and highlighting business opportunities. In 2019, CRNI led a consortium for green and sustainable public procurement (procurement of upcycled furniture and fittings for a public office refit).

CRNI represents the reuse & repair sector in national and EU policy development processes. CRNI hosted a policy workshop in February, made submissions to policy consultations and facilitated discussions on increasing reuse & repair activities. CRNI held three successful events on circular economy themes:

- *Style Sessions*, Sligo. Encouraging a shift from fast fashion to sustainable style. Session had a charity shop marketplace, talks and a 'Style Standoff' with Sustainable Fashion Dublin. 250 attendees.
- *Circular and Social*, Cork. TED Talk type event connecting Sustainable Development Goals 8, 12, 13 and 17 to reuse and recycling social enterprises. 65 attendees.
- *Future Jobs and Skills for the Circular Economy*, Athlone. Seminar highlighting future opportunities that will emerge with circular economy. 80 attendees.

² <http://www.epa.ie/waste/nwpp/candd/>

2.2 Case Study: Smart Farming – Sustainable Development Goals Champion



SmartFarming spring seminar



SDG Champion Ploughing Championships



SmartFarming spring seminar

Smart Farming was selected as one of twelve inaugural Sustainable Development Goals Champions for 2019 and 2020 by DCCAE.

Smart Farming was selected due to its visibility and impact within Ireland's farming community, and because of the practical ways the programme shows how to put the SDGs into practice through a review of water conservation & water quality, energy, grassland management, soil fertility, feed management, machinery, inputs & waste and time management.

The selection of Smart Farming as an SDG Champion is a strong endorsement and recognises the technical excellence, measurable impacts and engagement that characterise the programme and the farmers who take part.

Each of the twelve Champions is focussing on a select number of SDGs. Smart Farming is championing Goal 4 – **Quality Education**; Goal 8 – **Decent Work & Economic Growth**; Goal 15 – **Life on Land**; and Goal 17 – **Partnership for the Goals**.

4 – QUALITY EDUCATION

Smart Farming uses an 'adaptive leadership' model of inclusive education. Farmers are at the centre of the Programme's design, having selected the key themes that can make the greatest on-farm environmental and economic differences. Smart Farming participants share their learnings regarding the cost and environmental savings with their neighbours and friends in peer-to-peer sessions. This is facilitated by the Programme and overseen by suitably qualified advisors.

15 – LIFE ON LAND

Smart Farming works to identify cost savings of at least €5,000 on each participating farm and ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5–7%. The Programme focuses on eight key areas on farms to deliver these savings: soil fertility; energy use; inputs and waste; as well as machinery, time, water (conservation and quality), and grassland and feed management.

8 – DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH

In addition to the focus on improving environmental performance, Smart Farming endeavours to enhance the economic sustainability of participating farms. Savings that can be achieved through better resource management are highlighted.

17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Smart Farming delivers its dual objectives of improving farm returns and enhancing the rural environment through the collaborative leadership of the Irish Farmers' Association and Environmental Protection Agency. This is supported by organisations including Teagasc, UCD, National Federation of Group Water Schemes, FTMTA, SEAI and the Local Authority Waters Programme. These organisations share their knowledge and expertise with Smart Farming participants to continue to improve sustainability in the sector.

2.3 Partnership Highlights



Smart Farming selected as a Sustainable Development Goals Champion; carried out cost savings studies on 50 farms to identify an average of €6,300 cost savings & 10% greenhouse gas reductions; and engaged with over 1,500 farmers.

.....



The Rediscovery Centre, national centre for the circular economy, launched the Circular Economy Academy and the *Conversations on a Circular Economy* series.

.....



CIRCULÉIRE, the national circular manufacturing platform, established as a private-public partnership.

.....



Local authorities grant-aided €272,000 to deliver 58 innovative waste prevention initiatives in communities.

.....



CRNI members reused over 24,000 tonnes of materials, supported 705 jobs in the reuse and repair sector.

.....

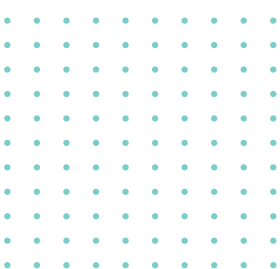
3. COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY



The NWPP is the national programme responsible for driving the circular economy in Ireland. This involves working with stakeholders to embrace the opportunities of the circular economy and to highlight the benefits of transitioning Ireland to systems which prevent waste and foster a sustainable, low-carbon economy. Through innovation and partnership working, we support initiatives that develop and showcase best practice in an Irish context.

The third pillar of the programme is focussed on sharing the knowledge and experience of the programme and providing supports. Our interactions are tailored to engage with the general public, commercial enterprises or public bodies, with an emphasis on evidence-driven messaging. The overall goal is to promote lifestyle choices, business decisions and policy developments that align to a sustainable, circular Ireland. Food waste prevention is an NWPP priority area and our actions in this area are guided by a communications and advocacy framework.

Within our advocacy role, the NWPP engages in informing policy development for both EU and Ireland on waste prevention. We provide input through participation in working groups; submissions to public consultations; and regular engagement with government departments and agencies.





To maximise the impact of our communications we engage widely across Ireland's business and public sectors to share the findings and outputs of the programme. We provide our project partners with tools, technical supports and guidance and facilitate networking and shared learnings on waste prevention.

We continually work to raise awareness of our programme initiatives, by sharing key messages and findings with the public through press releases, radio interviews, project websites and social media.

Our emphasis is to provide trusted evidence-based information to underpin the adoption and growth of circular economy practices. The programme also highlights best practice through sponsorships of awards to recognise companies and organisations who are leading on transitions towards the circular economy.

The Local Authority Prevention Network is a strong example of communication within the NWPP. Through online platforms and plenary meetings, we facilitate the sharing of knowledge and resources on waste prevention and circular economy across all of Ireland's local authorities.

3.1 DELIVERING IN 2019

Food Waste Prevention

Food Waste is a major issue nationally and across the EU – in terms of waste prevention and also climate change. The NWPP leads Ireland's food waste prevention effort, and takes different approaches to engage with consumers and businesses.

[StopFoodWaste.ie](https://stopfoodwaste.ie) is our national campaign for householders. Our approach is to bring awareness to people who are unaware of food waste issues. We also encourage people who are aware to take actions to reduce the amount of food they waste. Through participation in behaviour change training we create community food waste prevention champions.

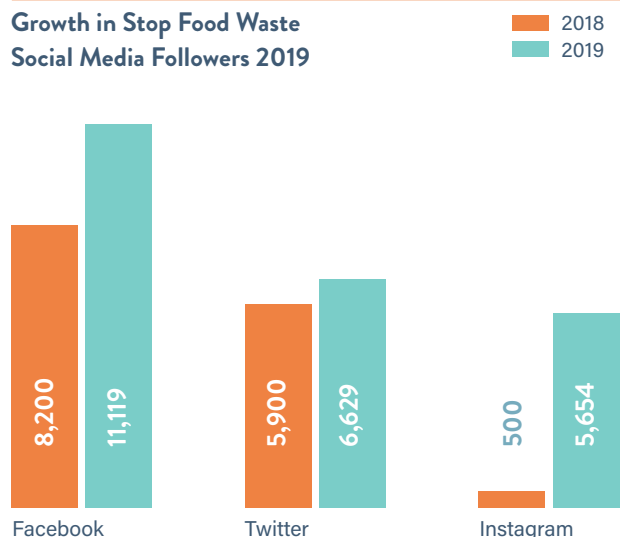
For businesses, the **Food Waste Charter** is the foundation to drive action on the prevention and reporting of food waste in Ireland. The Charter requires committed organisations to follow a framework of *Pledge > Measure > Reduce > Report*. Action in this area aims to build capacity for food waste prevention in food services business and across processors in the food & drink sector in the context of meeting 2030 food waste targets.

We also gather data to provide evidence of food waste generation in Ireland, to inform food waste prevention actions and to support national and EU legislative reporting requirements.

Consumers

In order to raise the profile of consumer-focussed food waste issues and spread awareness of our tips and tools to prevent food waste in the home, we developed a strategic social media plan. This included a national campaign, with the aim of increasing our overall audience and also reaching younger age groups via a new Instagram channel. Our social media initiatives resulted in a strong increase of Stop Food Waste social media followers, rising by 57% to over 23,000 followers in 2019. Traffic to the Stop Food Waste website also saw a strong 25% rise in users with ~12,000 monthly visits in 2019. This increased user traffic reflected the success of our social media plan.

Growth in Stop Food Waste
Social Media Followers 2019



We bring food waste prevention awareness to new and wider audiences using a range of media channels. Together with Bord Bia we co-sponsored *Grow Cook Eat*, a television series promoting food growing which included food waste messaging throughout the programme. This action brought the Stop Food Waste brand to a total audience of 2,935,000 over seven episodes.

We ran a media campaign highlighting food waste reduction as *'the climate action you can do three times a day'* for two weeks through radio and social media advertising. The campaign reached over 1.6 million listeners on national and regional radio. Social media messaging engaged over 530,000 people and a further 234,000 people were engaged through targeted messaging to broadcast and print audiences.

Expert tips on how to prevent food waste were shared online through two articles on the RTÉ website: *'7 ways to cut down on food waste at home'*; and *'5 Tips to stop food waste without spoiling your Christmas cheer'*. The RTÉ website is Ireland's second most visited site and so provided a large audience for these messages.

While traditional and social media helps to raise awareness and reach new audiences, direct peer-to-peer training has an important role in driving lasting behaviour change. During 2019 NWPP provided training on food waste prevention in communities and through a newly-developed course in workplaces.

We brought our Stop Food Waste stand and experts to two national events: Bloom and the National Ploughing Championships, which hosted over 400,000 event

goers. Surveys completed at these events provided the programme with data from 680 visitors and captured the knowledge of two different socio-demographic groups.

Our direct public engagement continued with 47 public talks, workshops and events around the country. We trained nearly 400 people in preventing food waste through ten community-based Stop Food Waste Challenges, fifteen workplace workshops, and five Challenge/Composting training programmes.



Stop Food Waste stand at Bloom

Businesses

In July we hosted the third Forum on Food Waste, gathering a range of stakeholders from the hospitality sector to policy makers. The theme of the event was 'Measuring what matters.' The results from an EPA-funded study on benchmarks for food waste across food services and retail businesses were launched, as was the updated 'Less Food Waste More Profit' guidance for the food services sector.

We continued to drive collaboration with key stakeholders. Ongoing engagement with retailers took place through the Retail Action Group, focused on improved reporting of food waste levels; taking action to reduce food waste; and engaging their customer base.

We partnered with Bord Bia to drive action on the prevention and reporting of food waste in food businesses; and DAFM to exchange knowledge on food production losses and input to food waste research.

Our Food Waste Charter continued to be promoted and progressed on several fronts: the associated grocery retailers provided their food waste data for the first time, the Charter website was extended with resources and guidance for measuring food waste in the hospitality sector and a new framework was established to provide future support for reducing commercial food waste.

We continued to provide leadership and expertise on food waste to support policy and decision-making. This included drafting a *Nature & Extent* paper to collate current knowledge of food waste within the supply chain; collaborating with Cré on a survey on commercial brown bin use; and development of a food waste carbon calculator (for completion in early 2020). We also participated in the EU Platform on Food Losses & Waste and provided input to its report on 'Recommendations for Food Waste Prevention.'

Policy input

Providing up-to-date evidence-based information to inform policy is a key role of the programme. In 2019 NWPP continued to engage with policymakers to inform climate and waste policy development processes.

Green Government

In support of the DCCAE-led **Green Government** initiative launched in January, we published a guidance document on developing Resource Efficiency Action Plans which is driving government departments to make savings in water, materials and energy use as well as preventing food waste and maximising recycling within their work environment. To support this activity, the Green Government website provided the NWPP TREE online resource efficiency tool and promoted green teams training, which was established through Green Enterprise. Under the Climate Action Plan, we commenced work on tasks relating to Green Public Procurement – along with DCCAE, SEAI and OGP. We initiated a review of the EPA's 2014 *Green Procurement Guidance for the Public Sector* and the development of the GPP training programme, both of which will be delivered in 2020.

Circular Economy Business Survey

During 2019, Ibec published a report on an online survey of Ibec member companies: 'Is Irish business getting ready for the Circular Economy?'. The survey was conducted in association with the NWPP to gauge the importance of the circular economy to Irish business leaders, and to understand current or anticipated levels of engagement in a variety of circular economy initiatives. It was distributed to senior managers in manufacturing, service sector industries and distribution companies, and 217 organisations responded.



Circular
Economy
Business
Survey

The survey covered aspects of business planning for the circular economy, as well as exploring initiatives already in place, and the attitudes or perceptions of the business community.

Key findings from the survey included:

- half of respondents understood beforehand what was meant by the circular economy; and less than two out of five were aware of the EU framework.
- half the respondents acknowledged that moving to a more circular economy presents a business opportunity in the long-term.
- one-tenth of the respondent companies had a specific budget in place in their organisation to support circular economy initiatives.
- two out of five respondents reported that they expect availability of funding to be a major challenge in the next 3 to 5 years.

The survey confirmed that there are opportunities and potential winners in transitioning to circular business operations. It also highlighted a low awareness of the circular economy model and a negative perception of the concept, particularly for smaller businesses. Ibec concluded that targeted education, reinforced by closer cooperation within supply chains, would help more Irish firms to transition successfully.

Promoting the Circular Economy

The programme issued press releases throughout the year sharing waste prevention messaging; releasing guidance; or announcing funding opportunities. These were followed-up with interviews and social media posts to increase engagement. In November, the NWPP collaborated with RTÉ to produce a high-profile podcast on the circular economy as part of the station's Climate Week series of events. To support and promote the revised direction and approach of the NWPP, a promotional video and brochure were published and disseminated to stakeholders at events and meetings.

We presented at events and conferences including: *Irish Green Building Council conference*; *NIECE symposium on C&D waste*; *Rediscovery Centre's Conversation on a Circular Economy event*; *Your Waste, Your Responsibility seminar*; and the *Irish Waste Management Conference*.

NWPP provided sponsorship to a range of initiatives promoting the circular economy – governed through a standard application process. Sponsorships in 2019 included: Green Awards – Green Small Organisation of the Year (winner: Irish Green Building Council); CSR Awards – Environment category (winner: Astellas); Repak Pakman Awards – Food Waste Management Award (winner: BuJo); and RTÉ's 'Towards a Circular Economy in Ireland' podcast discussion.

EPA and SEAI co-fund the **CDP Ireland Network**, a national initiative to promote and support corporate carbon reporting via the not-for-profit Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) organisation. The network promotes Irish participation in this global disclosure movement and supports organisations to complete reporting tasks. DCU, Endo, Perrigo and Total Produce joined CDP as new responders in 2019 (with DCU the first university to respond globally), bringing Irish responders to 31, along with over 250 multinationals with operations in Ireland.

3.2 Case Study: Food Waste: A Personal Climate Action

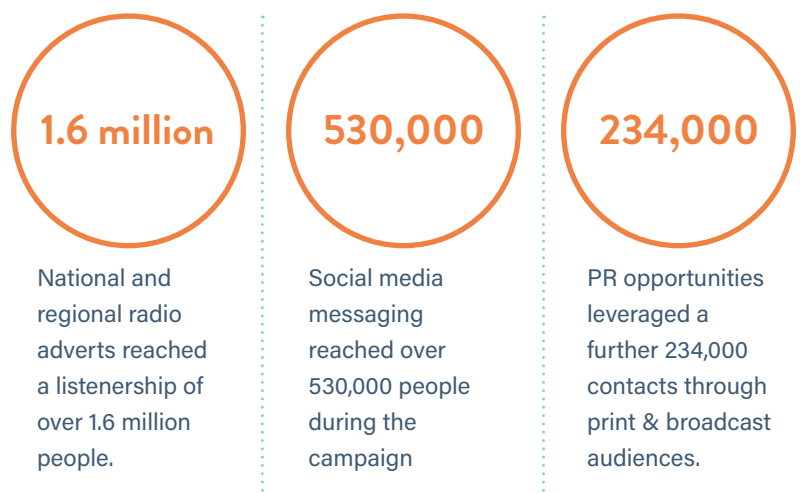


The NWPP ran a two-week national communications campaign (radio and social media) to make people aware of the link between food waste and climate change and to inform them that 'reducing food waste is a climate action that we can take three times a day'.

The campaign recognised that climate change is a high-profile issue, with consumers actively looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprint, and it highlighted food waste prevention as an effective personal response.

The communications campaign was targeted at young families and couples (age group 25–35 years). As around 80% of all grocery shopping is undertaken by females, they were the focus, with children identified as important secondary influencers. The campaign comprised four messages to introduce the link between food waste and climate change; and three personal food waste actions to empower the audience to respond. Over the two-week long campaign our messages were issued as over 670 advert slots targeted for our audience on national radio and on regional radio stations. This work was complemented by a social media push, using native and paid distribution to targeted online audiences.

The results of the campaign showed we reached a large number of people with our messaging and increased their awareness of reducing food waste as a climate action. Analysis shows that 32% of people who visited the Stop Food Waste website were 25–34-year-olds demonstrating a reach to new younger audience, and 70% were female – a target group for the campaign. Other key statistics for this campaign show:



3.3 Communications & Advocacy Highlights



National Waste Prevention Programme rebranded and launched with support material, including a video.

.....



400 people trained on food waste through workplace and community-based Stop Food Waste Challenges.

.....



EPA/Ibec survey on circular economy reports on attitudes and opportunities of 200 Irish Chief Executives.

.....



Updated 'Less Food Waste, More Profit' guidance for food services businesses published.

.....



57% increase in Stop Food Waste social media followers, now at 23,000 people.

.....



Five press releases relating to partnerships, funding calls and food waste prevention, and support provided to RTÉ's Towards a Circular Economy in Ireland podcast.

.....



Over 2.3 million people reached during a two-week media campaign linking food waste to climate action.

.....



CDP Ireland Network supported carbon disclosure in Ireland which saw a record 274 responses, including the world's first CDP reporting by a university.

.....

An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Tá an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC) freagrach as an gcomhshaoil a chaomhnú agus a fheabhsú mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaoil a chosaint ar thionchar díobhálach na radaíochta agus an truaillithe.

Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

Rialú: Déanaimid córais éifeachtacha rialaithe agus comhlíonta comhshaoil a chur i bhfeidhm chun torthaí maithhe comhshaoil a sholáthar agus chun díriú orthu siúd nach gcoíonn leis na córais sin.

Eolas: Soláthraimid sonraí, faisnéis agus measúnú comhshaoil atá ar ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírthe agus tráthúil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht ar gach leibhéal.

Tacaíocht: Bímid ag saothrú i gcomhar le grúpaí eile chun tacú le comhshaoil atá glan, táirgiúil agus cosanta go maith, agus le hiompar a chuirfidh le comhshaoil inbhuanaithe.

Ár bhFreagrachtaí

Ceadúnú

Déanaimid na gníomhaíochtaí seo a leanas a rialú ionas nach ndéanann siad dochar do shláinte an phobail ná don chomhshaoil:

- saoráidí dramhaíola (m.sh. láithreáin líonta talún, loisceoirí, stáisiúin aistrithe dramhaíola);
- gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíocha ar scála mór (m.sh. déantúsaíocht cógaisíochta, déantúsaíocht stroighne, stáisiúin chumhachta);
- an diantalmhaíocht (m.sh. muca, éanlaith);
- úsáid ghlanscartha agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe (OGanna);
- foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin (m.sh. trealamh x-gha agus radaiteiripe, foinsí tionsclaíocha);
- áiseanna móra stórála peitiril;
- sceitheadh fuíolluisce;
- gníomhaíochtaí dumpála ar farraige.

Forfheidhmiú Náisiúnta i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil

- Clár náisiúnta iniúchtaí agus cigireachtaí a dhéanamh gach bliain ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas ón nGníomhaireacht acu.
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí cosanta comhshaoil na n-údarás áitiúil.
- Caighdeán an uisce óil, arna sholáthar ag soláthraithe uisce phoiblí, a mhaoirsiú.
- Obair le húdarais áitiúla agus gníomhaireachtaí eile chun dul i ngleic le coireacht chomhshaoil trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmiúcháin náisiúnta, díriú ar chiontóirí, agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar fheabhsúcháin.
- Cur i bhfeidhm rialachán ar nós na Rialachán um Dhramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (WEEE), um Shrian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha agus na Rialachán um rialú ar shubstaintí a idíonn an ciseal ózóin.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

Bainistíocht Uisce

- Monatóireacht agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht aibhneacha, lochanna, uisce idirchreasa agus cósta na hÉireann, agus screamhuiscí; leibhéil uisce agus sruthanna aibhneacha a thomhas.
- Comhordú náisiúnta agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar an gCreat-Treoir Uisce.
- Monatóireacht agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar Cháilíocht an Uisce Snámha.

Monatóireacht, Anailís agus Tuairisciú ar an gComhshaoil

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht an aeir agus Treoir an AE maidir le hAer Glan don Eoraip (CAFÉ) a chur chun feidhme.
- Tuairisciú neamhspleách le cabhrú le cinnteoireacht an rialtais náisiúnta agus áitiúil (m.sh. tuairisciú tréimhsiúil ar Staid Chomhshaoil na hÉireann agus Tuarascálacha ar Tháscairí).
- Rialú Astaíochtaí na nGás Ceaptha Teasa in Éirinn
- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin na hÉireann maidir le gás ceaptha teasa a ullmhú.
- An Treoir maidir le Trádáil Astaíochtaí a chur chun feidhme i gcomhair breis agus 100 de na táirgeoirí dé-ocsaíde carbóin is mó in Éirinn.

Taighde agus Forbairt Comhshaoil

- Taighde comhshaoil a chistiú chun brúnna a shainaitheint, bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartais, agus réitigh a sholáthar i réimsí na haeráide, an uisce agus na hinbhuanaitheachta.

Measúnú Straitéiseach Comhshaoil

- Measúnacht a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar an gcomhshaoil in Éirinn (m.sh. mórfheananna forbartha).

Cosaint Raideolaíoch

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéil radaíochta, agus measúnacht a dhéanamh ar a oiread is atá muintir na hÉireann gan chosaint ar an radaíocht ianúcháin.
- Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as taismí núicléacha.
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhaineann le saoráidí núicléacha agus leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíochta.
- Sainseirbhísí cosanta ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

Treoir, Faisnéis Inrochtana agus Oideachas

- Comhairle agus treoir a chur ar fáil d'earnáil na tionsclaíochta agus don phobal maidir le hábhair a bhaineann le caomhnú an chomhshaoil agus leis an gcosaint raideolaíoch.
- Faisnéis thráthúil ar an gcomhshaoil ar a bhfuil fáil éasca a chur ar fáil chun rannpháirtíocht an phobail a spreagadh sa chinnteoireacht i ndáil leis an gcomhshaoil (m.sh. Timpeall an Tí, Mapaí Radóin).
- Comhairle a chur ar fáil don Rialtas maidir le hábhair a bhaineann leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíoch agus le cúrsaí práinnfhreagartha.
- Plean Náisiúnta Bainistíochta Dramhaíola Guaisí a fhorbairt chun dramhaíl ghuaiseach a chosc agus a bhainistiú.

Múscailt Feasachta agus Athrú Iompraíochta

- Feasacht chomhshaoil níos fearr a ghiniúint agus dul i bhfeidhm ar athrú iompraíochta dearfach trí thacú le gnóthais, le pobail agus le teaghlaigh a bheith níos éifeachtúla ar acmhainní.
- Tástáil le haghaidh radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre, agus gníomhartha leasúcháin a spreagadh nuair is gá.

Management and Structure of the EPA

Tá an ghníomhaíocht á bainistiú ag Bord lánaimseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóirí. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d'Oifigí:

- An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Fhianaise agus Measúnú
- An Oifig um Chosaint Radaíochta agus Monatóireacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tá Coiste Comhairleach ag an nGníomhaireacht le cabhrú léi. Tá dáréag comhaltaí air agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair inní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBor



OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK WITH US

We want to work with others to drive Ireland's Circular Economy through **national-level, strategic programmes** with high visibility and influence.

We want to engage with:

Industry &
Enterprise

Research &
Innovation
Organisations

Public Sector
Bodies

Representative
Bodies &
Networks

Product
Designers

We have opportunities for innovation funding, networking and partnering through our priority areas:



Food
Waste



Construction
& Demolition



Plastics



Agriculture



Resources &
Raw Materials



Local Waste
Prevention

TO FIND OUT MORE:

Email us: nwpp@epa.ie
Check our website: www.epa.ie/waste/nwpp
Follow us on twitter: @EPAIreland