Draft National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap Public Consultation Questions

Template for Responses

No.	
1	Do you think the approach as outlined in the draft Roadmap will deliver the reductions necessary to reduce Ireland's food waste by 50% by 2030?
	Response: The Community Resources Network Ireland (CRNI) welcomes the Draft National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap, and the opportunity to respond to the public consultation. We particularly welcome the following actions as laid out in the draft Roadmap, in which both CRNI and a number of the network's members are actively working in: 4. Working together with a common goal 9. Food Waste Prevention 10. Food donation - redistribution 11. Food Waste Segregation 13. Communications and awareness 14. Research and innovation 15. Green Public Procurement 16. Monitoring, Evaluation, Review and Knowledge Sharing We acknowledge that the draft Roadmap is a good starting point on the journey towards achieving a 50% reduction in Ireland's food waste by 2030, and we have made additional suggestions under the highlighted headings below that we believe would be effective in helping Ireland to both significantly reduce its food waste and have a positive social impact in communities across the country. However, there is a need for additional detail in relation to, ● Overall and sectoral interim targets; ● Effort sharing between sectors; ● Definition and timeframe of required actions; ● Attribution of responsibility; and, ● Availability of funding and resources.

2	What additional actions do you think would be effective in helping Ireland reduce its food waste?
	Response: **4. Working together with a common goal & 9. Food Waste Prevention** CRNI strongly encourages further investment of the EPA's Circular Economy Programme's fund towards community-centric programmes that work to tackle food waste at both local and national level. There are already a number of exciting food waste prevention initiatives in operation, such as CRNI members: 1. **Food Cloud** *FoodCloud is a social enterprise with a mission to transform surplus food into opportunities to make the world a kinder place. They achieve this through:* A) *A retail solution that retailers with local charities, allowing them to donate food on a daily basis* B) *Providing a technology platform that complements and enhances the work of food banks* C) *A hub solution that reduces large volumes of surplus food and redistributes it to charities and communities* 2. **Diversion Green** *Diversion Green shows households, community groups, schools how to make compost with their unavoidable food waste, to see it as a resource not a waste.* *Diversion Green offer food waste audits, food waste prevention plans, workshops, challenges, talks to open the conversation around food waste and work with clients to educate them and to show people how to prevent food waste, make compost and how to brown bin successfully as a last resort.* 3. **WeShare** *WeShare is a Gift Economy Community that shares skills, knowledge, practical support, ideas, stuff and time - all for free. It was founded by volunteers, for volunteers and is run by volunteers.*

WeShare inspired 'Falling Fruit', a project to harvest the seasonal glut of local fruit (apples, pears, plums, nuts, etc.) from throughout the Dublin area. Fruit is given to charities that cater for those in need.

We urge the Irish Government to consider the social as well as the environmental value of investing in the community sector, in light of the opportunities for job creation that this Roadmap could provide in the areas of prevention, redistribution, and segregation.

In 2020, CRNI Members hired 728 people on a full time basis, and 62 people on a part time basis. 818 people were hired through employment schemes, and 8677 people were engaged as volunteers.

10. Food donation - redistribution

We encourage increased engagement, support and promotion of food redistribution platforms through national awareness raising campaigns that result from the implementation of the Food Waste Prevention Roadmap.

Second in the food waste hierarchy is feeding people in need.
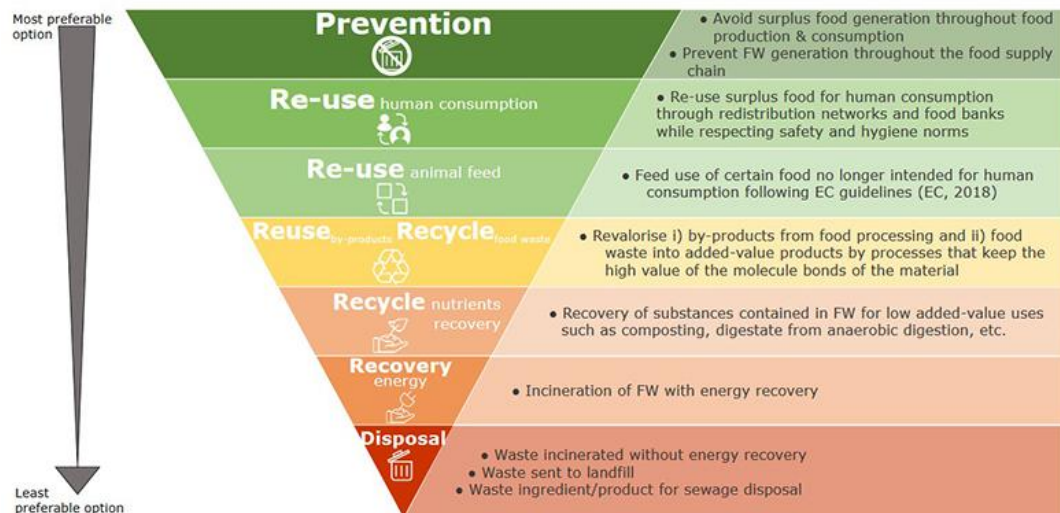
As noted previously, CRNI member FoodCloud is a social enterprise prioritising feeding people by redistributing surplus food to charities. To date they have redistributed over 58,900 tonnes of food or 140 million meals.

CRNI member WeShare's Falling Fruit project is seeking further support to develop a technological solution that will increase access to the seasonal glut of local fruit growing in public spaces in the Dublin area.

CRNI therefore welcomes further awareness raising support to increase their ability to redistribute surplus food to people through charities.

Other food redistribution platforms of note operating in Ireland include Olio and Too Good To Go.

11. Food Waste Segregation

CRNI encourages the implementation of increased composting and segregation facilities/activities at Civic Amenity sites that engage local social enterprises and not for profit organisations already working in the food waste prevention sector.

We also recommend that Civic Amenity Sites are rebranded as 'Recovery Parks' and are made more accessible by providing opening hours that better facilitate the public, provide reception facilities with trained operators that support the public with their segregation activities, and provide better signage and improved layout.

Increased composting facilities at Civic Amenity sites could create economic and social opportunities to:

- Support and engage the skills of social enterprises and not for profit organisations operating in the space.
- Redistribute compost locally to organisations and community groups working on greening projects.
- Provide increased employment opportunities at local level. A more circular, and less waste driven economy can deliver jobs across all skills levels, throughout rural and urban communities and across different sectors from craft to manufacturing. We believe a whole of Government approach is needed to preparing for jobs and skills in a Circular Economy across apprenticeships programmes, further learning and third level courses as well as funding toward training and capacity building for social entrepreneurs, enterprises and businesses working in or moving toward a more Circular Economy.
- Run community education and awareness raising programmes.

14. Research and innovation

CRNI welcomes the consideration of new research topics such as date marking, food losses, greenhouse gasses associated with food waste, and packaging.

With regards to packaging and engagement with the bioeconomy, we would recommend engaging with yet to be published feedback on the EU Commission's [forthcoming policy framework on bio-based, biodegradable](#)

and compostable plastics, and seek either zero packaging where possible, or 100% reused and recycled alternatives to food packaging at all times.

15. Green Public Procurement

As noted in answer to question 3, we believe one of the most effective ways to raise awareness around reducing food waste will be to promote green public procurement resources to the public sector.

However, CRNI recommends that a circular and and social approach to procurement is considered. Circular procurement is the process in which a product, service or project is purchases according to the principles of a circular economy, and social procurement is an approach to purchasing products and services that takes into account the economic, environmental and social impact of an organisation's buying choices.

CRNI members provide prevention, reuse, repair and recycling goods and services with a social impact through their social enterprises, charities, and voluntary organisations. See our procurement directory here.

In October 2022, in celebration of Reuse Month, CRNI will host a virtual procurement exhibition highlighting the services of some 40 reuse, repair and recycling members across Ireland. We warmly welcome further departmental engagement with this exciting initiative that will remain permanently online from October onwards.

3	What are the most effective awareness raising measures that could be taken to reduce food waste?
	Response:

Response:

CRNI recommends the following awareness raising measures for tackling food waste:

- Provision of simple, easy to understand information that provides people with easy ways to both save money and cut down on food waste. It is of key importance that this information is accessible to all and utilises Plain English.
- This information should be generated in collaboration with community based organisations who engage with the public on a regular basis and have a deep understanding of their current level of knowledge.
- Promotion of resources available to people locally, disseminated through local networks such as Public Participation Networks, and at Civic Amenity sites.
- Promotion of green public procurement resources already available to the public and private sector, such as the EPA's GPP guidance and training supports.

	• Provision of education at all levels, from informal to informal education, provided by people working in food waste prevention. Organisations such as CRNI Member Diversion Green are well placed to deliver informative sessions on food waste prevention.
4	Which sectors or stakeholders do you think should play a key role in the implementation of the Roadmap?
	Response: An essential component to driving waste prevention and reuse is engaging citizens and supporting behavioural change. In order to implement the Roadmap, we believe engagement with all of the following stakeholder groups will be essential: • Social enterprises • Other non-profit organisations such as charities and non-governmental organisations • Community groups, organisations and networks • Waste management companies • Local councils • Civic Amenity Site operators • All private business that sell or produce food • Agricultural workers • Education institutions • People living in both rural and urban communities across Ireland, who face different challenges when it comes to food waste.
5	Are you satisfied with the proposed Roadmap monitoring and evaluation arrangements?
	Response: We welcome the establishment of a Food Waste Prevention Task Force, and recommend including representatives from the social enterprise and not for profit sector in this group. We recommend the same for the establishment of sub-sectoral groups. As noted in answer to question 1, there is a need for more detail around overall and sectoral interim targets, as well as the definition and timeframe of required actions. CRNI does have concerns around the frequency with which the Roadmap will be updated. A review and update of the Roadmap 'at least once every three years' does not, in our opinion, give ample opportunity to adapt the Roadmap before 2030 if some initiatives are proving unsuccessful. We would recommend increasing reviews to once every 2 years at minimum.

6	Have you any other comments or feedback on the content of the draft Roadmap?
	Response: To achieve a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030, CRNI firmly believes that a social and environmental approach that incorporates the work of community based reuse, repair and recycling organisations at every step of the way will be highly necessary. Ireland has lead the way in developing a methodology for measuring the positive impacts of waste prevention through the EPA funded "Q2Reuse" project. Led by the Clean Technology Centre (CTC), in collaboration with The Rediscovery Centre, Community Resources Network and the Eastern Midlands Waste Region, this project developed methodologies for the qualitative and quantitative assessment of the reuse sector that reflects EU guidance but is tailored to the Irish market. Setting a target of a 50% reduction in food waste in Ireland presents an opportunity to make an important link between reuse / waste prevention and emissions reductions as required under the publication of the Climate Action Plan 2021. While we acknowledge it is a complex area due to the global nature of food production, clearly communicating the environmental, social and economic impacts of food waste emissions would highlight the global impacts of the food that we waste on a daily basis and strengthen the connection between the local circular economy and global climate action.