



CIWM

Ireland Centre

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CIWM Ireland response on the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) Draft National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap -2022

Submitted to: foodwaste@decc.gov.ie

Date: 28th March 2022.

Introductory Remarks

The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM), Ireland Centre (CIWM Ireland) wishes to make the attached submission to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communication (DECC), in relation to the Draft National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap.

CIWM Ireland is one of ten CIWM Centres comprising of circa 5900 waste management professionals working in all sectors and levels of the waste and resource management industry. CIWM on the island of Ireland represents up to 280 members. The Ireland Centre Council comprises of Councillors (Chartered Resource and Waste Managers) who are representative of most sectors of the waste and resources sector such as Academia, Consultancy, EPA, Local Authority, Waste Collection & Treatment, Producer Responsibility and Social Enterprise.

CIWM sets the professional standards for individuals working in the industry and has various grades of membership determined by education, qualification, and experience.

On behalf of CIWM Ireland, can I thank you for the opportunity to provide our members collective view on the above consultation paper. We have requested input from across the Irish Centre Membership to collate this submission, but note the views contained below are not necessarily representative of all individual Member's views.

CIWM Ireland note and acknowledge the conditions of the submissions as outlined on the Departments website.

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CIWM Ireland



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Composite Member Survey Response

DECC Draft National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap

– Public Consultation

Questions

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?

No. There are many links in the food waste chain that first need to be joined up. Following the Farm to Plate approach - manufacturing and processing with attributable food losses of up to 45%¹ needs to be addressed and tackled first. Business efficiency should be the norm and built in to be cost effective. Then, there is a requirement to urgently address the commercial and household food losses that account for 55%. With just eight years now remaining to 2030, a very dramatic and expeditious turnaround is required to change the adopted social and business practices that accept large food loss as normal business. This is not acceptable whilst we waste a reported circa 1 million tonnes of food waste each year.

2. What additional actions do you think would be effective in helping Ireland reduce its food waste?

Firstly, establish what is the real figure actually is and break this down between farm food waste, commercial food waste (from food prep by commercial entities), and consumer food waste (generated as unused or wasted food). Eight years is a tight timeframe to change inbuilt casual approach to food waste prevention and management – Cost has previously been shown to be an effective, if the most effective, change behaviour tool. A food waste tax in parallel with the required training and awareness raising may accelerate desired changes.

¹ <https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/resources/nature-and-extent-of-food-waste-in-ireland.php>

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

Focus on cost and supply challenges. Both the supply chain and consumer need to be aware of the realities of our food waste issues, stirred into action and that they would apply at all times, internationally accepted best practice to prevent food waste.

4. Which sectors or stakeholders do you think should play a key role in the implementation of the Roadmap?

Available studies of the food roadmap in Ireland indicate all stakeholders in the supply chain need to work together in implementing the joint roadmap.

5. Are you satisfied with the proposed Roadmap monitoring and evaluation arrangements?

Any roadmap needs to ensure and guarantee that any plan to reduce food waste does not add any additional burdens on the private sector/businesses and the private individual - how this is to be done needs to be clearly stated and planned. There will be a clear need for interim milestones and review periods during the delivery period of the roadmap, to be built into the final work action plan.

6. Have you any other comments or feedback on the content of the draft Roadmap?

Information to target all specific areas should be targeted by specific groups in that area. It's a good start. Taking all available information into one joined up stop shop. Identifying gaps. Adopting best practices to address challenges. There is now a very real need to look at the bioeconomy and the sustainable use of any unintended food wastes going forward as evidenced by the increase in chemical fertilisers by over €200 in recent weeks to €1100-1200 per tonne. We need to look at our organic wastes including agricultural wastes with a view to maximising their inherent resources in terms of heat, gas, electricity, fertiliser values etc.D

End of CIWMIRL Response.