

Draft National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap Public Consultation Questions Responses from Repak (February 2022)

No.	Question
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?
<p>Response:</p> <p>The approach as outlined in the draft Roadmap may achieve the reductions required if the measurement criteria is well understood and managed correctly. With the population expected to increase by over 500,000 in the period up to 2030, there will be challenges to reduce Ireland's food waste by 50% compared to a 2020 baseline.</p>	
2	What additional actions do you think would be effective in helping Ireland reduce its food waste?
<p>Response:</p> <p>Well understood and well managed measurement criteria</p>	
3	What are the most effective awareness raising measures that could be taken to reduce food waste?
<p>Response:</p>	
4	Which sectors or stakeholders do you think should play a key role in the implementation of the Roadmap?
<p>Response:</p>	
5	Are you satisfied with the proposed Roadmap monitoring and evaluation arrangements?
<p>Response:</p> <p>The baseline dataset to be produced by the EPA will need to be clearly understood by all stakeholders so that they understand how the food waste is being produced and will then be in a position to implement measures to reduce it. If the reference year is to be 2020, it will be difficult to understand the data components unless they have been recorded already.</p>	
6	Have you any other comments or feedback on the content of the draft Roadmap?
<p>Response:</p> <p>Under 'Prevention Measures' in Section 9, the report includes:</p> <p>"Supporting the design and roll out of packaging developed by retailers and the packaging industry that meets the needs of food preservation without encouraging the generation of packaging waste, especially plastic packaging;"</p>	

Repak members and other packaging stakeholders have been actively involved in this initiative through their commitments to the Repak Plastic Pledge which was launched in September 2018. The aim is that Members commit to a Plastic Pledge which will make a significant contribution towards meeting Ireland's packaging recycling targets as set by the Circular Economy Package (CEP). To date over 150 of Ireland's largest producers of packaging have signed the pledge. Each year, the success of the Pledge members is measured against the five pledge objectives and a report is presented to the Minister with responsibility of the environment. The fifth objective in the Pledge states the members will:

"Ensure our approach to plastic packaging reduction is aligned to Ireland's goal of a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030 as set out in Ireland's food waste charter."

Below is a case study which outlines the five objectives in the pledge and there are also links to a Fact Sheet on the Pledge, and the latest report which was issued in 2021 based on 2020 performance. The Appendix in the report details the activities of 14 members in 2020 to avoid food waste as part of their commitment to the Pledge.

Ref: Repak Plastic Pledge Case Study (See below)

Ref: [Repak Plastic Pledge Fact Sheet](#)

Ref: [Repak Plastic Pledge Annual Report 2020](#)

The Repak Members' Plastic Pledge – Case Study

Ireland currently recycles just over 30% of its plastic packaging with most of the remainder recovered through waste to energy processes. However, by 2025 we must increase this recycling rate to 50% and in 2030 we will need to recycle at least 55% of our plastic packaging (EPA, 2018).

The Repak Members' Plastic Pledge is an initiative that forms part of our Plastic Packaging Recycling Strategy 2018 – 2030. The Pledge has five key objectives designed to improve the design of plastic packaging and maximise its recycling.

These Five Objectives are: -

1. Prioritise the prevention of plastic packaging waste by minimising avoidable single use packaging and promoting packaging reuse where possible.
2. Support Ireland to deliver the Circular Economy Package plastic recycling targets of 50% of all plastic packaging by 2025 and 55% by 2030, as set by the European Commission.
3. Reduce complexity within the plastic packaging supply chain by simplifying polymer usage and eliminating non-recyclable components in all plastic packaging by 2030.
4. Help to build a circular economy for used plastic packaging in Ireland and Europe by increasing the use of plastic packaging with a recycled content.
5. **Ensure our approach to plastic packaging reduction is aligned to Ireland's goal of a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030 as set out in Ireland's food waste charter.**