



Advisory Group on ‘A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy’

Date: Thursday 20th April 2023

Time: 10:00am

Location: Via MS Teams

DOT Break: 11:00

MINUTES

Philip Nugent, Assistant Secretary, DECC welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the agenda for the session. Sinead Boland advised the group that the meeting would be recorded for minuting purposes, and that the recording would be deleted following completion.

Presentations

The following presentations were given on the day:

- Denis Dunne (DECC) gave an update on forthcoming waste legislation.
- Mairead Fitzsimons (DECC) presented an overview of the upcoming Critical Raw Materials Act.
- Brian Quirke (DECC) informed the group of developments in the preparation of a new Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan.

Copies of the presentations given by Mr Dunne, Ms. Fitzsimons and Mr. Quirke will be circulated.

Forthcoming Waste Legislation 2023

- Incentivised waste collection charging in the commercial sector
 - EU Waste Legislation contains a number of binding targets and Ireland’s MSW Recycling rate has remained static in recent years and will require a number of new measures to tackle the issue.

- EPA Waste Characterisation studies indicate that 70% of the material in general waste bins from the commercial sector should be in either recycling or bio-waste bins.
 - Waste Management (Collection Permit) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations were signed by the Minister on the 7th March 2023.
 - The regulations require that all commercial premises be provided with a mixed dry recycling bin, biowaste bin and a residual waste bin by the 1st July 2023 as well as requiring waste collection companies to apply pricing plans to their commercial customers that encourage segregation.
 - Enforcement of waste segregation requirements will be a priority area for local authority waste enforcement officers during 2023 and 2024.
- Waste Recovery Levy
 - €10 per tonne will be introduced this year with corresponding increase of €10 per tonne also being applied to the existing Landfill Levy at the same time.
 - Target date for introduction of this policy measure is 1st July 2023.
 - The levy is intended to encourage higher value waste management practices by moving material management up the waste hierarchy.
 - Amounts raised will be lodged to the Circular Economy fund to promote and support more sustainable waste recover practices
 - The Waste Recovery Levy will only apply to MSW recovery operations at MSW landfills, waste-to-energy plants, co-incineration plants and to the export of waste. It will not apply to C&D material or composting or anaerobic digestion of waste.
 - Exemptions to the Landfill Levy will also be examined through a comparative study which is currently underway.

Mindy O'Brien of VOICE queried the issue of apartments and whether they are deemed commercial or residential.

Denis Dunne confirmed that under legislation, apartments should be treated as residential. All householders and commercial premises will be treated the same regarding segregation from 1st July 2023.

Leo Duffy (NWCPO) advised the group that the process to commission a study on incentivised charging is underway.

Hugh Coughlan (EM RWMPO) confirmed that funding has been received from DECC to conduct a communications campaign relating to the commercial pricing.

1. Critical Raw Materials Act

- As this is an EU Regulation, it will have an immediate effect and no country specific transposition is required.
- The Act is expected to pass through EU Parliament in Q1 2024.
- The Act aims to ensure a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials for the European Union.
- Various new benchmarks will now need to be met such as at least 10% of the EU's annual extraction should be from the EU as well as not more than 65% of the EU's annual consumption of any strategic raw materials should come from a single third country.
- CRM lists have been updated and Strategic Raw Materials lists have been introduced.
- DECC are seeking further insights and input to inform negotiations and preparations for Ireland.
- Various queries were raised and it was suggested that a subgroup of the Waste Advisory Group be established to review further. Mairead Fitzsimons will take this forward.

2. Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan

- Green Public Procurement (GPP) is a key focus of the Climate Action Plan 2023 and a key component of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.
- The Programme for Government 2020 commits to mandating the inclusion of green criteria in all procurements using public funds and is looking to establish an approach to accelerate GPP across the public sector as well as looking at monitoring and reporting on how GPP is implemented.
- Ireland is currently looking at opportunities for EU partnerships to leverage collective procurement power.
- The draft GPP Strategy and Action Plan will be circulated to key stakeholders in the coming weeks as part of a targeted consultation. Following this, the proposed strategy will be submitted for Government approval.
- It was requested that mandatory compliance could be worked into the tendering process for producers and suppliers. Brian Quirke will take this forward.

AOB

- There seems to be issues with collation of recycling rates for textiles. Bernie Kiely confirmed that this is very much a live issue being looked at by the Textiles Advisory Group at the moment. Textiles donated for re-use are not currently regarded as waste
- A consultation assessment and plan of action will be published shortly for the Coffee Cup Levy. The go-live date will be 3 months after this.
- A concern was raised that smaller shops won't be able to invest in DRS scheme due to financial concerns. It was also suggested that local

Civic Amenity Sites should be involved. DECC advised that discussions are ongoing with the LA sector. Re-Turn are also looking at ways to help smaller shops to get involved.

- Circuléire announced the Circular Economy Hotspot taking place in Dublin from 29th May to 1st June.
- Mr Nugent confirmed that the date of the next meeting is 20th July 2023. He commended the group for the excellent interaction at today's meeting and would like to ensure that this is continued by ensuring that agenda items are put forward. Mr Nugent thanked the group and closed the meeting.