

Waste Mgmt to a Circular Economy

Shane Colgan, Environmental Protection Agency, 21st May 2020

Circular economy: Waste PoV

1) Avoid waste generation through sustainable consumption and resource efficiency
(**Prevention [reduce]**)

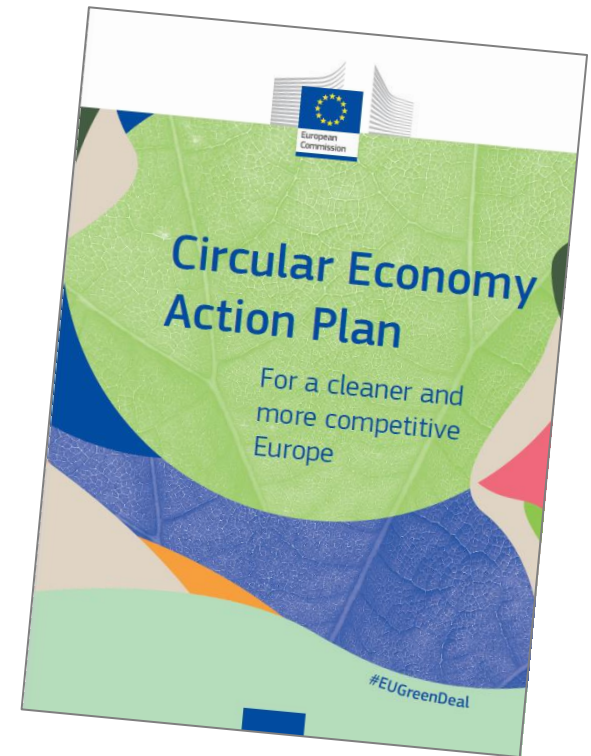
2) Keeping products in use for longer
(**Reuse, Repair**)

3) Ensure that end-of-life materials re-enter the raw materials stream
(**Recycling**)



CEAP - Waste actions...

- Waste reduction targets for more complex streams
- Enhanced requirements for Extended Producer Responsibility
- Review waste shipments rules - restrict exports of waste causing environmental/health impacts in third countries.
- Help citizens... EU-wide model for separate collection of waste; Right to Repair etc..



CEAP priority areas...

**Electronics &
ICT**

Textiles

Plastics

**Construction
& buildings**

Packaging

**Batteries &
vehicles**

Food

Bioeconomy

Waste & Circular Economy

- Policy to drive systemic change of waste market in Ireland – all are involved.
- Change operational / regulatory culture >> Dealing in materials instead of waste.
- Market structure is critical - a well-functioning market will facilitate and support a circular economy (*waste/resource ownership?*).
- Facilitate/incentivise entrepreneurship & investment in transforming wastes.
- Effective regulatory system, with clear guidelines & timely decisions.

Strategic

- Ensure institutional arrangements & priorities align to waste hierarchy.
- National Waste Prevention Programme re-established as a Circular Economy Programme.
- Mandatory introduction of green public procurement.
- National Food Waste Roadmap - including national / sectoral targets for 2025 & 2030.
- National Plastics Strategy - including measures to reduce plastic and packaging waste.

Operational

- Requirement on waste collectors to meet municipal waste recycling targets through waste collection permit conditions.
- Mandatory provision of an organic waste bin for all households.
- Mandatory construction waste and materials management plans and pre-demolition audits.
- Revise charging systems for household and commercial waste collection to actively incentivise waste prevention as well as recycling.
- Introduction of national targets for reuse of products – initial focus on WEEE.

By-products

- Introduction of fees for by-product notifications would benefit the regime overall.
- Regulation of by-products must provide clarity around responsibilities i.e. who is entitled to make a notification and when a notification should be made, and include specific requirements aimed at improving the quality of notifications made.
- The role of local authorities may be expanded, to benefit from local knowledge and presence on the ground.

End-of-waste

- Introduction of fees for end-of-waste applications would benefit the regime overall.
- Obligation of an operator to seek an end-of-waste decision from the EPA must be clarified; current ambiguity leads to challenges for enforcement authorities.
- The reputation of end-of-waste materials must not be undermined in terms of quality, reliability and environmental protection; incentives may be helpful to promote use of such materials.
- There may be a role for local authorities in relation to making end-of-waste decisions relating to operators regulated at the local authority level.

A new world...

- **Waste hierarchy >> institutional arrangements & operational practices**
- **Wastes are now “resources” - maintaining quality & value is priority.**
- **Move beyond waste management (“using the right bin”).**
- **Create a climate where transformation businesses start & thrive.**
- **Deliver Climate Action & CEAP targets – data is important.**
- **Deadlines are short, there is urgency for changes.**