



## Advisory Group ‘Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy’

**Meeting 31 January 2020**

### Discussion Note – The Citizen Engagement Challenge

As you are aware the Department commenced a public consultation process on the new policy last month and this will stay open until 21 February. We are seeing a healthy level of interest in the process to date. The establishment of this Advisory Group is a key component of the engagement process.

Our vision for this Group, as set out in the Terms of Reference circulated previously, is to harness the potential, capacity and creativity of a broad range of stakeholders. This will help guide the strategic thinking and decision-making necessary to lead the development and preparation of our national waste policy.

All members of the Group are asked to actively participate in the process and in the monthly meetings which will be held through to June 2020.

At our first meeting on 31 January we will focus the discussion on citizen engagement. We are acutely aware of the need to actively engage with all citizens in the State if we as a country are to achieve the transformational changes in waste management practices necessary to successfully transition to a more Circular Economy model. As a starting point we have posed a number of questions for you to consider and look forward to hearing your responses at our first meeting on Friday 31 January.

1. Transition to a circular economy will require action from all sectors of society. Members of the Advisory Group are influential representatives of a wide variety of interests and sectors. What role can you and/or your

organisation play in engaging citizens in the roll-out of a Waste Action Plan in a Circular Economy?

2. Effecting behavioural change will require that we encourage positive practices and behaviours while also seeking to discourage and/or prohibit others: how do we ensure an appropriate mix?
3. Thinking about how to effect a national transition to a more circular economy and the specific waste related elements, what are the main citizen engagement challenges in your view?
4. Given the ongoing challenges in tackling climate breakdown how do we best connect individual waste management practices and behaviours with mitigating the effects of climate change?
5. How do we translate the concept of a circular economy into meaningful, practical actions for households, businesses, individuals?
6. Do you have specific examples of successful citizen engagement initiatives from Ireland or elsewhere in recent years? What made them successful? What can we learn?
7. To support informed decision-making by the general public on all matters waste related how do we ensure a more consistent, environmentally sustainable message?