# Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities

## Annual Report 2017

connacht-ulster waste region

eastern - midlands waste region

southern waste region

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# Introduction from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

The commitment of the Minister and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) to supporting the enforcement of the waste code in Ireland is absolute. This has been demonstrated through continued investment in the network of local authority waste enforcement officers, and the further development of the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs).

That investment and support is producing dividends. A clear signal has been sent to those who engage in waste crime that you will be pursued, that your operations will be shut down and that you will be held to account in the highest Courts in the land.

Multi-agency enforcement operations that have been facilitated through the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee (NWESC) have secured several important environmental and criminal outcomes in 2017 and represent a road-map which has the potential to put people who engage in waste crime permanently out of businesses. The WERLA offices have been to the forefront in spear-heading these operations involving an Garda Síochána, the Revenue Commissioners, the Department of Social Protection and others.

This approach has had tangible results for the various regulatory bodies in terms of identifying, stopping and prosecuting non-compliant activities in the waste sector. The success of these operations has been due to the planned and co-ordinated approach taken by all agencies involved. Multi-agency waste enforcement operations directed by the WERLAs have resulted in the cessation of very significant illegal waste activities with corresponding environmental benefits on identified sites across the regions.

These efforts will continue next year as the WERLA offices focus on emerging and strategically important waste enforcement issues.

The WERLAs have also been to the fore in tackling the problem of irresponsible dumping in rural Ireland in particular. The 2017 Anti-Dumping Initiative delivered through the WERLA offices has served to put the necessary tools in the hands of enforcement personnel to identify and prosecute those involved in such behaviour.

A range of clean-up and restorative projects led by community, environmental and sporting groups has also been undertaken as people joined by pride in place and respect for their environment have come together to reclaim their streets, woodlands, bridges and parks. Such was the response from across the country that the Department doubled the initial financial allocation with some €1.3M being provided to support over 200 anti-dumping projects throughout Ireland this year.

Since their establishment, this Department has worked effectively with the WERLAs to facilitate a transformation from process-driven enforcement to one that focuses greatest effort on the waste problems and issues that matter most and to take swift, proportionate and effective action. The impact of the WERLAs has been tangible and the high level of support now being made available to local authority waste enforcement officers has resulted in enhanced enforcement outcomes. The Department looks forward to building on the momentum within the system which has now been created and to working with the WERLA offices and waste enforcement officers throughout the country in responding effectively to the enforcement challenges which remain to be met.

**Mr. Kevin O'Donoghue**
NWESC Chairperson and Principal Officer of Waste Policy & Resource Efficiency Division, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

# Introduction from the WERLAs

Three WERLAs, covering the Connacht-Ulster, Eastern Midlands and Southern Regions, were established in 2015 with responsibility for coordinating the waste enforcement actions of local authorities, setting priorities and common objectives for waste enforcement and ensuring consistency of enforcement of waste legislation while still leaving local authority personnel as first responders on the ground.

The work of the WERLAs is overseen by the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee (NWESC), which is chaired by the DCCAE. Each WERLA reports independently to Regional Steering Committees comprising Directors of Service from each of the region's local authorities. This level of Governance is further strengthened by a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the constituent local authorities and their respective WERLA. To assist with communication and cooperation at operational level the WERLAs meet quarterly with Waste Enforcement Officers (WEO) at WEO meetings and with Waste Enforcement Management at Operational Group meetings.

The DCCAE determine National Waste Priorities each year, which set the basis for the WERLA work plan. The WERLAs seek views from local authorities on what their main areas of concern are. This information is channelled to the DCCAE through the NWESC and contributes to the Government's decision on the National Waste Priorities.

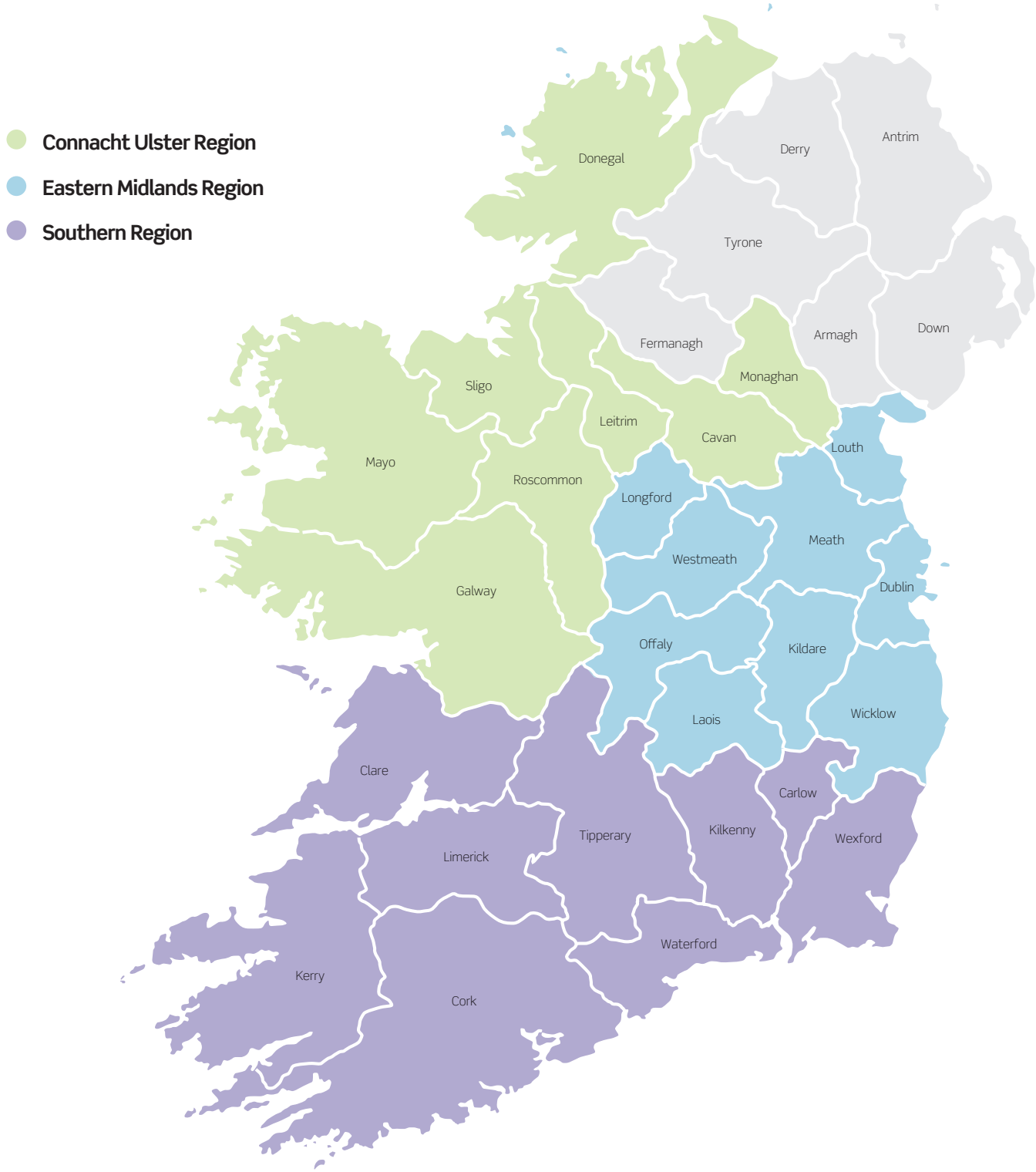
In 2017 a Producer Responsibility Officer was appointed in each WERLA to further support and enhance the enforcement efforts in relation to Producer Responsibility Initiatives (PRIs).

An Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Officer, shared by the three WERLAs, was recruited by the Connacht Ulster Region.

In addition, the Minister formally appointed WERLA personnel as authorised persons for the purposes of the Waste Management Act and other secondary waste legislation containing their own authorised persons provisions.

Through the WERLA structure and with the cooperation of local authority waste enforcement personnel, a more co-ordinated and consistent approach to tackling waste crime in Ireland has been achieved. Using a concerted action approach to national waste priorities and with the use of multi-agency operations the WERLAs, working with local authorities, have secured several important environmental outcomes. Building on an established work plan, the WERLA's will continue this approach throughout 2018 and will endeavour to build on success and learn from target outcomes to drive improved regulation and enforcement throughout Ireland.

The WERLAs would like to acknowledge the cooperation and support of local authorities in the process of moving towards a more targeted, coordinated and consistent approach to waste enforcement nationally. In addition the WERLAs would like to thank staff in the DCCAE and all stakeholders, in particular the support of the NWESC and CCMA, that were engaged with throughout the year.


Connacht Ulster Region
Eastern Midlands Region
Southern Region
Donegal
Derry
Antrim
Tyrone
Fermanagh
Armagh
Down
Monaghan
Sligo
Leitrim
Cavan
Louth
Mayo
Roscommon
Longford
Meath
Westmeath
Dublin
Galway
Offaly
Kildare
Laois
Wicklow
Clare
Carlow
Tipperary
Kilkenny
Wexford
Limerick
Waterford
Kerry
Cork

## WERLA Mission Statement

To protect and improve our high-quality natural environment by ensuring waste activities in Ireland are monitored, and waste legislation is enforced, in a consistent, coordinated and efficient manner in accordance with EU and national legislation and policy through a process of continuous improvement.

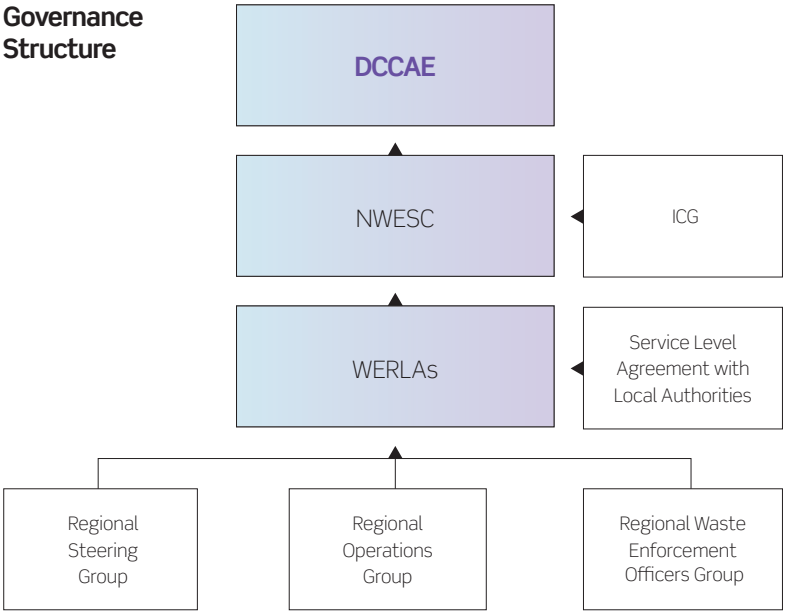
# WERLA Work Plan 2017: Objectives & Policies

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Objective A:** | **Implement EU and national legislation and policy to ensure a consistent approach to waste enforcement** | **Policy:** | Support and monitor implementation of the national waste enforcement priorities for 2017 as agreed by the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee (NWESC) |
| **Objective B:** | **Identify and manage national waste enforcement issues through a clearly defined strategy** | **Policy:** | Develop and maintain a waste enforcement strategy<br><br>Develop working relationships with stakeholders and utilise the data gathered to identify enforcement challenges<br><br>Deliver an integrated approach to drive consistent enforcement of legislation |
| **Objective C:** | **Communicate and coordinate waste enforcement strategies and activities and work with relevant stakeholders to drive improved levels of compliance** | **Policy:** | Ensure all guidance issued is accurate, consistent and takes account of relevant legislation<br><br>Provide the structure to facilitate greater cooperation between enforcement authorities, allow for increased peer-to-peer learning and allow for the creation of forums for knowledge sharing of best practice<br><br>Communicate effectively amongst stakeholders<br><br>Foster links and activities with relevant stakeholders |
| **Objective D:** | **Drive improved performance and consistency of waste enforcement through clearly defined structures and procedures** | **Policy:** | Provide standard waste enforcement guidance to ensure best practices and efficiencies are adopted<br><br>Work with stakeholders on structures required to develop knowledge sharing<br><br>Improve performance through the use of technology |
| **Objective E:** | **Work with local authorities and other stakeholders to deal with serious environmental waste crime** | **Policy:** | Develop measures to assist local authorities with the prevention, reduction, and cessation of unauthorised waste activities<br><br>Identify serious national waste enforcement issues and liaise with stakeholders in formulating appropriate responses |

# Stakeholder Engagement

The work of the WERLAs is overseen by the NWESC and is chaired by the DCCAE. The NWESC determine national waste enforcement priorities for the WERLAs and drive consistency at a central level. The Committee includes representatives from a wide range of regulatory authorities including the WERLAs, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), An Garda Siochana, National Transfrontier Shipment Office (NTFSO), National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO), Department of Social Protection, Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, Office of Revenue Commissioners, County and City Managers Association (CCMA). The Committee support the WERLAs in dealing with issues of serious waste crime.

**Governance Structure**




The WERLAs liaise with local authorities continually on both a formal and informal basis to identify emerging issues and challenges and to ensure that local authorities have input towards the process of identifying National Waste Priorities. Each Region has its own network of Local Authority Groups, which include Regional Steering Groups, Regional Operations Groups and Regional Waste Enforcement Officer Groups

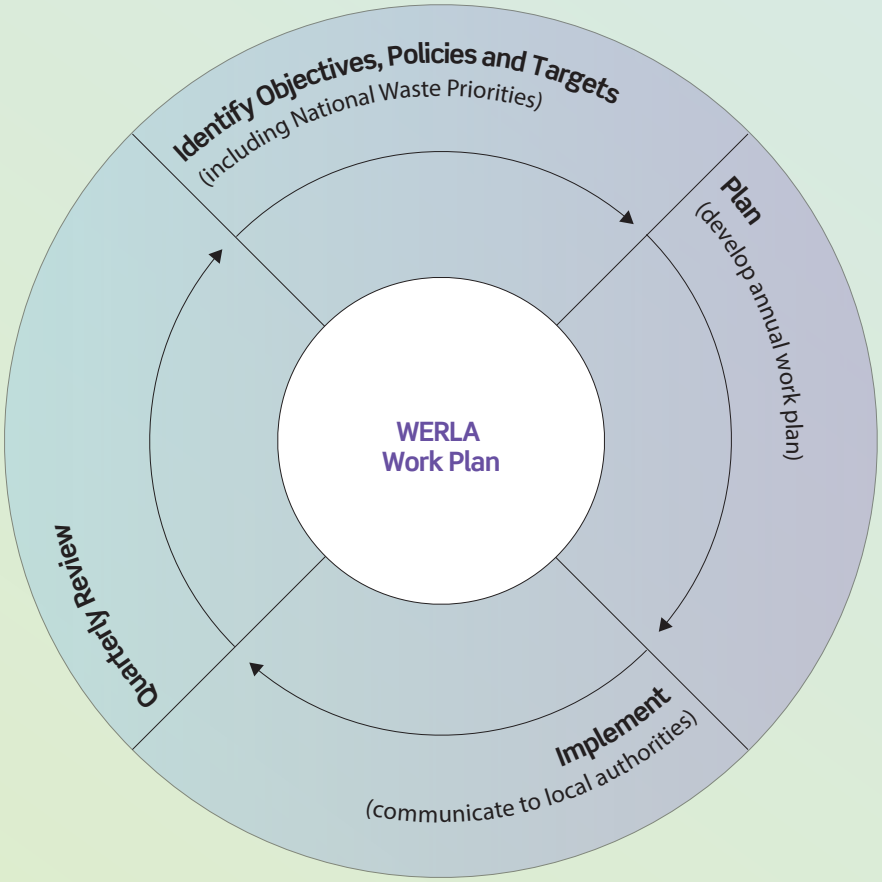
The WERLAs work closely with the Waste Management Planning Lead Authorities to align enforcement activities with the requirements of the Regional Waste Management Plans and to align awareness programmes with the National Waste Priorities.

The WERLA participate in a number of Working Groups including End of Life Vehicles (ELVs), Tyres, Pay by Weight, End of Waste / By-products, and the Environmental Services Training Group (ESTG).

The Industry Contact Group (ICG) is a forum for information exchange between key stakeholders. It is chaired by the Irish Waste Management Association (IWMA) and consists of members from the DCCAE, EPA, WERLAs, Chartered Institute of Waste Management, NTFSO, NWCPO and Producer Responsibility Compliance Schemes.

# A Process of Continuous Improvement

Active planning is a process of continuous improvement and is central to the management of the WERLA work plan. The WERLAs develop a comprehensive annual work plan, which is communicated to local authorities and facilitates the preparation of the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspection Plans (RMCEI). The plan sets out a programme of work for the WERLAs and local authorities to address the National Waste Priorities in a consistent manner across the country.



# Achievements 2017

The National Waste Priorities for 2017 were:

- Household Waste Management Compliance including Brown Bin.
- Tyres Producer Responsibility Initiative.
- End of Life Vehicles.
- Illegal Dumping including Construction and Demolition Waste.
- Pilot Targeted Packaging Enforcement Project.

The National Priorities were implemented through Objective A of the WERLA work plan. Ongoing work for the WERLAs include:

- Contributing to the EPA's new Waste Enforcement Manual.
- Working with other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive Management Information System.
- Developing and implementing an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Programme.

The following table outlines the WERLA work plan during 2017:

| Objectives | Policies | Actions | Sub actions |
|---|---|---|---|
| Implement EU and National legislation and policy to ensure a consistent approach to enforcement | 1 | 5 | 48 |
| Identify and manage national waste enforcement issues through a clearly defined strategy | 3 | 7 | 9 |
| Communicate and coordinate waste enforcement strategies and work with relevant stakeholders to drive improved levels of compliance | 4 | 7 | 18 |
| Drive Improved performance and consistency of waste enforcement through clearly defined structures and procedures | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| Work with local authorities and other stakeholders to deal with serious environmental crime | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| | 13 | 28 | 93 |

# National Waste Priority 2017: Household Waste Management Compliance including Brown Bin

Under the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) Ireland must meet targets for the diversion of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) from disposal to landfill. By 2020, BMW going to landfill must be reduced to 35% of the total quantity (by weight) of BMW produced in 1995 (427,000 tonnes). To address this Household Waste Management Compliance including Brown Bin was a National Waste Priority for 2017. The WERLAs focused on compliance of both the household and commercial Food Waste Regulations.

As part of concerted actions under this priority, household waste collectors that had not provided the brown bin in line with the 2015 Food Waste Regulations, were identified and follow-up actions taken across the three Regions. Consequently 83 Regulations 10 Notices were served on non-compliant operators by Local Authorities.

Based on the information received from the Regulation 10 notices and Annual Environmental Report (AER) data a number of operators with significant shortfall of brown bins were highlighted.

The WERLAs continue to engage with these operators, the NWCPO, the EPA and relevant local authorities in a coordinated manner to ensure the brown bin is provided to householders in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Food Waste Regulations.

The WERLAs also coordinated inspections on non-compliant operators that did not submit AERs.

The groundwork for a pilot project on un-serviced households took place in 2017. The project seeks a consistent approach to the enforcement of households not availing of a waste service in line with Section 34C of the Waste Management Act. The cooperation of local waste collectors is a key part of the project. The project will be officially launched in 2018.

A coordinated approach to the regulation of Pay to Use (PTU) compactors initiated in 2016 was further progressed in 2017.

The Commercial Food Waste Regulations 2009, requires producers of food waste to avail of a source segregated waste collection service. A targeted campaign of inspections on commercial outlets was completed nationwide. This will lead to greater compliance with the Commercial Food Waste Regulations.

# National Waste Priority 2017:
# Tyre Producer Responsibility Initiative

The Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyres) Regulations 2017 (SI No 400 of 2017) came in to effect on 1st October 2017 to promote the environmentally sound management of waste tyres.

Prior to the introduction of the Regulations road-shows were held across the country to raise awareness of retailer and producer obligations under the new Regulations. These road-shows were attended by regulators, local authority personnel and industry members.

In line with the new Regulations the WERLAs developed a Tyre Information Pack, with standardised letter templates and inspection forms. Local authorities were requested to write to all retailers in their functional area, using the standard letter template. The letter detailed retailer obligations under the Regulations.

The focus of local authority inspections, using the standardised inspection form, was on unregistered retailers. In addition, the WERLAs coordinated tyre inspections of retailers with a multi-regional and multi-local authority presence.

The WERLAs participated on the Tyre Working Group and are continuing to work with the DCCAE, Repak ELT, EPA and Producer Register Limited ( PRL) in developing a coordinated tyre enforcement programme.

Repak ELT reported a national compliance rate of 68% by the end of 2017.

# National Waste Priority 2017: End of Life Vehicles

The End of Life Vehicles Directive 2000/53/EC requires Ireland and other EU countries to recycle and recover End of Life Vehicles (ELVs).

The annual targets set out in the Directive are 95% for overall reuse, recycling, and recovery of ELVs. However there must be a minimum 85% reuse and recycling. Achievement of these targets is reported annually to the European Commission and is based on data gathered, by the EPA, from Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATFs).

In order for Ireland to meet these targets the WERLAs identified the need for improved reporting of data from ATFs. In the past, ATFs were required to submit both an ATF Survey and an AER. In 2017, these reports were amalgamated into the AER, which streamlined the reporting process for ATFs.

The WERLAs developed an ELV Pilot Project to ensure a consistent and effective approach to enforcement and to provide a cradle to grave picture of ELV activities. The purpose of the pilot project was to identify the barriers to enforcement and a subsequent Recommendations Report was issued to the DCCAE.

A knowledge sharing / information exchange day was held at Cork Port, as part of the pilot project, with the National Trans-Frontier Shipment Office (NTFSO) and local authority enforcement staff. This gave a better understanding of issues at the point of export when shipments of used vehicles / used parts / used Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) are not managed in an environmentally sound manner at point of origin.

As part of the pilot project the WERLAs developed a practical ELV Guidance Document for waste enforcement officers, providing details of the national and European context. The guidance document included an ATF "spot check" procedure and form. Using this form the WERLAs coordinated spot checks on ATFs, which resulted in a significant improvement in the reporting of AERs to the NWCPO. The spot checks also led to a 12% increase in the number of Certificates of Destruction (CoDs) issued.

The pilot project led to a number of inspections on unauthorised sites. The WERLA worked with the NTFSO to coordinate inspections on suspected unauthorised sites, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of sites. In addition, a number of multi-agency inspections and checkpoints were completed including the NBCI coordinated INTERPOL project focusing on the movement of hazardous waste.

The WERLAs participated on the ELV Working Group and are continuing to work with the DCCAE, ELVES, NWCPO, EPA and Industry in developing a coordinated ELV enforcement programme.

A guidance document, for the issuing of Fixed Payment Notices (FPNs) for PRIs was developed, which included details of fines for various offences relating to ELVs.

# National Waste Priority 2017: Illegal Dumping including Construction and Demolition Waste

The WERLAs commenced a number of projects relating to Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste in 2017 including compilation of a national database of government led major construction projects (sector specific). This was issued to local authorities for RMCEI scheduled inspections.

In addition the WERLAs developed an Article 27 inspection form, which was circulated to local authorities along with a list of Article 27 sites received from the EPA. Local authorities were requested to schedule these sites for inspection as per the RMCEI plans.

The WERLAs also participated in the Article 27 Working Group and subsequently provided a submission on the EPA's discussion paper which led to the publication of the Guidance on Classification and Notification of Soil and Stone as a By-product.

The WERLAs developed a course outline for C&D training, which will be rolled out through the Regional Training Centres in 2018.

The Anti-Dumping Initiative, which is detailed on page 20, is part of this National Waste Priority.

# National Waste Priority 2017:
# Pilot Targeted Packaging Enforcement Project

A Pilot Targeted Packaging Enforcement Project commenced in 2017. A Memorandum of Understanding between the DCCAE and Repak was agreed. Subsequently a Communication Strategy between the DCCAE, WERLA's and Repak was developed.

A national list prioritising one hundred suspected major producers (SMPs) was developed for targeted inspections. This list and an inspection pack were distributed by the WERLAs to each local authority. The PROs, when requested, accompanied and assisted waste enforcement officers on packaging inspections.

A packaging portal, which allows for timely updates on SMPs, has been rolled out and is now used by all local authority waste enforcement staff.

The WERLAs gave a presentation on the Pilot Targeted Packaging Enforcement Project at Repak's annual conference in September 2017.

# Waste Enforcement Manual

The EPAs Waste Enforcement Manual was published in 2005. Due to the significant changes in the waste sector since its publication, the EPA invited the WERLAs to carry out a review of the manual.

The WERLAs coordinated the first draft of the manual and invited waste enforcement officers to participate in the review process. A team of 19 local authority and NTFSO volunteers contributed to this process. There were 16 sections in the manual and each section was given to a waste enforcement officer for review. An additional 12 sections were drafted, which reflects the change in the waste enforcement activities since its first publication.

The first draft was submitted by the WERLAs to the EPA. The document is scheduled to undergo a technical and literary review.

# Waste Enforcement Management Information System

The Waste Enforcement Management Information System (MIS) is a joint venture between the WERLAs, the NWCPO and the waste industry. The objective of the project is to make key indicators available for waste enforcement officers on a monthly basis. The key indicators are based on the ten targets set out in the Regional Waste Management Plans.

The NWCPO portal currently provides information for each local authority on:

- Total waste authorisations for collectors and facilities.
- Household kerbside waste collected in the previous year, including residual, recyclable and food waste.
- Commercial municipal waste collected in the previous year, including residual, recyclable and food waste.
- C&D waste collected in the previous year.

With the MIS it is envisaged that this household data will be updated monthly, which will assist waste enforcement officers to take corrective action at the earliest opportunity.

# Multi-Agency Inspections

The business case for the WERLAs outline the requirement to develop intelligence led and coordinated multi-agency enforcement of unauthorised waste activities. The NWESC facilitates the sharing of information between key enforcement agencies to allow for a strategic approach to serious waste crime. The NBCI and the DCCAE have both emphasised that the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána and the Minister have prioritised multi-agency action.

Each WERLA has established a regional multi-agency group comprising An Garda Síochána, Department of Social Protection, NTFSO, Work Place Relations Commission, and the Office of Revenue Commissioners. While the groups' primary focus is unauthorised waste activities other offences such as tax and welfare fraud, or other criminality are key for the involvement of other Agencies.

The role of the WERLA is to coordinate multi-agency actions within the Regions using covert operations to target unauthorised activities.

In March 2017, INTERPOL invited member countries to participate in a global operation against illegal disposal and trade in hazardous waste entitled "Operation 30 Days of Action". Inspections were coordinated nationally by the WERLAs. The participation of all agencies in the INTERPOL activities proved to be beneficial to those involved leading to significant outcomes.

The WERLAs have coordinated Garda level one and level two interview skills training for waste enforcement officers through the NBCI. The trained officers are available to assist other local authorities in enforcement activities if required.

A business case was provided to the NBCI for the establishment of multi-agency task forces across all Garda regions.

In 2018 the WERLAs will explore the feasibility of a study on the cost of waste crime in the state, which will inform enforcement approaches in the future. There is strong evidence from similar studies elsewhere that investment in waste enforcement yields significant returns to the exchequer.

eastern - midlands
waste region

# CASE STUDY
# Multi-Agency Inspection South Dublin County Council

In October 2016 the Eastern Midlands WERLA coordinated their first multi-agency inspections on an unauthorised ELV site in South County Dublin.

The inspection resulted in waste enforcement actions against the landowner for the unauthorised storage of waste and an unauthorised waste collector by South Dublin County Council.

The intelligence led inspection proved beneficial to other agencies involved leading to significant outcomes for all.

An Garda Siochana secured two convictions for the discovery of a large amount of stolen high-end vehicle parts, cigarettes, champagne and significant quantities of cannabis and cocaine.

The Office of Revenue Commissioners gained intelligence from the inspection and detained goods under the Finance Act.

The Department of Social Protection conducted investigations under the Social Welfare Act.

The key to a successful multi-agency operation is up to date intelligence from all agencies and in particular An Garda Siochana and the local authority in whose functional area the activity is taking place. This intelligence may be gathered from inspection records, aerial photography surveillance and drone technology.

Following the success of this and more recent operations the WERLAs continue to build on the multi-agency networks and their established links supporting a co-ordinated approach across the Regions and nationally. This is in line with the concept of “Disruption Teams” which is well established in other states.

# Anti-dumping Initiative

Illegal dumping is first and foremost a matter of individual responsibility and compliance with the law and enforcement action in this area is a matter in the first instance for local authorities.

**Connacht Ulster Region**

**€0.5M** Funding
**78** Projects
**1,514** Tonnes of Illegal Waste

Local authorities expend significant resources carrying out routine litter patrols and inspections relating to unauthorised waste activities, including vehicle checkpoints, backyard burning, inspections relating to waste complaints, and unauthorised waste facilities.

Local authorities, through the WERLA Regional Governance structures and ultimately the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee (NWESC), sought additional support from the DCCAE to tackle the problem of illegal dumping and to develop effective deterrents to discourage people from engaging in this anti-social behaviour.

In response the DCCAE launched an Anti-Dumping Initiative and provided funding, over two phases, in 2017 for local authorities to work in partnership with local community organisations and other state agencies to identify high risk or problem areas, develop appropriate enforcement responses and carry out clean-up operations. This initiative was co-ordinated by the three WERLAs.

The aim of this initiative was to reduce incidents of illegal dumping nationally by providing funding for projects tackling illegal dumping including the provision of support for monitoring and surveillance of dumping black spots and the development of an integrated and effective approach to dealing with this issue using a collaborative approach with local authorities, local communities and other state agencies.

The Anti-Dumping Initiative 2017 was launched by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment, Denis Naughton, in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway in March 2017.

Phase I was significantly oversubscribed and in response the DCCAE made further funds available in May 2017. A total of €1.2M was made available to local authorities and resulted in the clean-up of over 2,600 tonnes of illegally dumped waste.

**Eastern Midlands Region**

**€0.4M** Funding
**44** Projects
**605** Tonnes of Illegal Waste

**Southern Region**

**€0.4M** Funding
**82** Projects
**532** Tonnes of Illegal Waste

# Connacht Ulster Case Study – Ballybane, Galway "Managing your Waste Caring for our Environment"

Ballybane Before

Ballybane After

Galway City Council submitted an application to fund a City wide waste/ environmental awareness campaign in conjunction with a pilot anti-dumping initiative in the Ballybane area.

The aim of the environmental awareness campaign was to:

- Provide advice on waste and environmental matters, including food waste and the correct use of the recycling and waste bins;
- Information was provided on the range of waste disposal options available to householders living in Galway City;
- The targeted clean-up of the Ballybane area complimented the awareness element of the project. Consultations are ongoing with the Galway City Council Tenant Liasion Officer for the area in relation to the possible roll-out of the Stop Food Waste Challenge to a number of interested householders.

The Campaign was officially launched in the Ballybane Community Resource Centre by the Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Pearce Flannery. A press release was circulated by Galway City Council's press officer following the launch. Information leaflets were distributed to c. 26,000 households in Galway City (including the Ballybane area) as part of the campaign. The information was also posted through social media and the Galway City Council website.

A total of 19.44 tonnes of waste was collected and removed from the Ballybane site. Following the clean up, letters were issued to all residents in the Fana Glas estate detailing contact numbers for reporting illegal waste activity in the area. In addition 1,700 household surveys were completed in the area to ascertain how household waste was being disposed of and to provide information on the services provided by Galway City Council.

# Anti-dumping Initiative (continued)

southern
waste region

## Southern Region Case Study - Carrick River-Walkway "Having a Greenway the Clean way"

Carrick River Way

Carrick River Way

Carrick River Way

The River Suir rises in the Devil's Bit Mountain northwest of Templemore and carves its way through the stunning landscapes of counties Tipperary, Kilkenny and Waterford on its 185 Km journey to the sea at Waterford harbour.

Those who live near the Suir have immediate access to a wonderful resource and there are many who regularly access the river for lifestyle and recreational purposes.

The river had been viewed negatively in the past by many due to regular flooding, however flood relief schemes in the main towns and villages have acted to address this and now the focus is on more positive associations with the river.

Increased activity and involvement along the river is evident today, however this increased activity has revealed the scale of the illegal dumping along the river bank and in the river itself.

Tipperary County Council identified five illegal dumping / fly tipping "hot-spots" along a two km walkway of the River Suir and working with a number of Community Groups in Carrick-on-Suir (Lions Club, Tidy towns, Men's Shed Group) developed an action plan to clean up these "hot-spots" which included:

- Covert surveillance.
- Mobilisation of the community to clean-up the sites.
- A media campaign including signage.

More than 40 volunteers answered the call to help with the clean up and almost six tonnes of waste was removed from the river and the river banks. It has been noted that the incidence of fly tipping has decreased significantly since the project has been completed.

# Eastern Midlands Case Study - Bogs of Laois

Windsor Bog Before

Windsor Bog After

Bog sites have always presented a particular difficulty in Co. Laois with regards to illegal dumping. The bog access roads which provide access to active bog sites see little traffic for much of the year outside of turf cutting season and are prone to illegal dumping on a significant scale. Three particular Bogs were targeted in Co. Laois under an anti-dumping initiative these include Derrybeg Bog, Winsor Bog and Lower Forrest Bog.

In working with the local residents, communities and tidy towns groups, Laois County Council developed a targeted action plan which included:

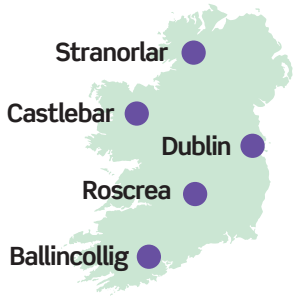
- a clean-up of the sites;
- erection of infrastructure to limit access (gates and barriers);
- the use mobile cameras to catch repeat offenders and increase surveillance by litter wardens;
- a media campaign including signage and a billboard campaign.

The three sites were cleaned and over 19 tonnes of waste was collected. The gates have to date acted as a deterrent and prevention mechanism and will continue to prove even more effective over the winter months when the turf cutting and saving season has drawn to an end. A billboard campaign was run to highlight the incidence of illegal dumping by unauthorised waste collectors in the area on foot of evidence received from the early investigative work and details provided by the community. Laois County Council litter wardens issued letters by hand in a targeted campaign to over 500 residents in a small town neighbouring one of the bog sites to advise residents of their obligation to ensure their waste collector was authorised. A number of litter fines were issued and the mobile cameras were successful in capturing a large scale illegal dumper.

Newly Installed Gate at Windsor Bog

# Training Programme

A significant challenge for the WERLAs in coordinating the implementation of waste policy in Ireland is managing the gap between standardisation and established local work patterns. This gap can be addressed by empowering and up-skilling through targeted training, the standardisation of forms, guidance manuals and the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).




Regional Training Centre Locations

The Environment Services Training Group (ESTG) was setup to meet the developing requirements of the Environment Services Sector through the provision of courses at the five Regional Training Centres. The following training courses were delivered in 2017 across the training centres:

- Waste Policy & Legislation.
- Regulation of Waste Activity.
- Dealing with Difficult & Aggressive Behaviour.
- Inspection Skills.

The identification of current training deficits among waste enforcement staff is ongoing. Training on Waste Management Policy & Legislation and Regulation of Waste Activities covers approximately 500 environmental protection requirements contained in 100 pieces of legislation.

The increasing number of waste enforcement cases contested coupled with the lack of day-to-day court experience within local authorities highlighted the need for inspection skills and courtroom training.

The work of the waste enforcement officers is often undertaken in potentially adversarial circumstances and in order to assist in dealing with incidents involving aggressive behaviour a training course was tailored to meet this requirement. This equipped waste enforcement officers with the necessary skills to stay safe when confronted with difficult and aggressive behaviour while continuing to undertake their key duties.

Multi-agency work has led to the WERLAs working in tandem with other enforcement agencies. As a result An Garda Síochána offered to provide specialist level one and two interview skills training for waste enforcement officers. The trained officers are available to assist other local authorities in enforcement activities if required.

The WERLAs have facilitated training from other stakeholders including the NTFSO (Waste Movement and Shipments Register), Repak (Packaging Regulations) and Repak ELT (Tyre Regulations).

Peer –to-peer learning, knowledge sharing and cross training are all key aspects of the WERLA work plan. The WERLAs organised an ELV Knowledge Sharing Day and coordinated site visits to best practice ATFs.

The development of standard guidance documents, inspection forms, enforcement documentation and SOPs have proved to be very effective. Ease of access to up to date information is key and this is achieved through NIECE. The feasibility of training videos and webcasts are also being investigated to facilitate capacity building in 2018.

# WERLA Publications

The development of guidance notes and standardised inspection forms is a key component of the WERLA work plan. Numerous guidance documents and standard forms have been prepared to date. A document control system is in place to track and control these documents.

### Packaging Inspection Pack

Letter requesting inspection date to be issued to suspected major producers including

Information Leaflet - Packaging Regulations – Your Obligations

Guidelines for the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014

10 points on the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014

Sample Inspection Report

Packaging Inspection Workflow

Overview for a Packaging Inspection on a Suspected Major Producer

Communication Strategy – Repak & WERLA offices

### Tyre Inspection Pack 2007 Regulations

Tyre Inspection Workflow

Tyre Inspection Form

Section 14 Template

Recommendation to Prosecute Template

Chief Executive Order Template

Standard Letter to Economic Operators

### Tyres Inspection Pack 2017 Regulations

Tyre Inspection Workflow

Tyre Inspection Form

Section 14 Template

Recommendation to Prosecute Template

Chief Executive Order Template

Standard Letter to Economic Operators

Copy of Regulations and Circular WP06/17

FAQs (prepared by DCCAE)

Repak ELT Certificate of Membership Template

Outcome of Oireachtas Committee Review

### End of Life Vehicles

ELV Guidance Manual

ATF Spot Check Form

ELV Recommendation Report

### Construction and Demolition

Compliance with Article 27 Notification Inspection Form

### Household Waste including Brown Bin

Workflow Diagram

Inspection Form

Food Waste Regulation Guidance Document

Standard Letter

### Fixed Payment Notices

Guidance on Producer Responsibility Initiatives - Fixed Payment Notices

Guidance on Waste Collection Permit – Fixed Payment Notices

### Reports

Progress Report to CCMA - September 2017

Progress Report to CU WERLA Joint Steering and Operations Team

Progress Report on Packaging Pilot (Repak)

Progress Report to NWESC - October 2017

Progress Report to CU Waste Enforcement Officers

Progress Report to DCCAE - End of Year 2017

Progress Report to CCMA - End of Year 2017

Progress Report to PSROG - End of Year 2017

### Submissions

Submission to the DCCAE on the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Amendment Regulations 2017 on Invasive species.

Submission to the WMPLAs on the C&D Waste Soil & Stone Recovery/Disposal Capacity Report

Submission to the WMPLAs on the Draft Waste Facility Siting Guidelines

Submission to the WMPLAs on the Waste Bye-Laws Template and Guidance Document

Submission to the DCCAE on C&D Waste Acceptance Limits for Facilities Authorised under Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration

Submission to the National Bureau of Criminal Investigations in relation to Setting up a Multi Agency Network across all regions of An Garda Siochána in the State

### Other Documents

Service Level Agreements

Certificate of Authorisations

Review of Waste Enforcement Manual, 2005 Version

Hazardous Waste Guidance

Multi-Agency Guidance

Prohibition of Disposal of Waste by Backyard Burning

Document Control Procedure

# WERLA Work Plan 2018

The National Waste Priorities for 2018 are:

- Household and Commercial Waste Management Compliance.
- Waste Tyres.
- Illegal Dumping including Construction and Demolition Waste.
- Unauthorised Sites of Concern which require a Multi-Agency Response.

An End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV) Pilot Compliance Project will be launched in 2018.

A Pilot Targeted Packaging Enforcement Project which was launched in 2017 will continue in 2018, focusing on suspected major producers to ensure compliance with the Packaging Regulations.

# Objective A: Implement EU and national legislation and policy to ensure a consistent approach to waste enforcement

| Policy | National Priority | Action | Target 2018 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Support and monitor implementation of the national waste enforcement priorities for 2018 as agreed by the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee (NWESC) | **Household and Commercial Waste Management Compliance** | To educate the public in the practice of prevention & segregation of waste specifically food waste | Meet with WMPLAs throughout the year |
| | | To ensure consistent enforcement of household and commercial waste legislation | Compliance of waste operators with relevant food waste legislation and Waste Management Plan<br>Conduct inspection to ensure compliance with Waste Collection Permit and Food Waste Regulation |
| | **End of Life Vehicles Pilot Compliance Project** | Improve recovery, reuse and recycling rates of ELVs and improve data gathering mechanisms at Authorised Treatment Facilities | To improve compliance rates to achieve targets set out by the ELV Directive (85% reuse and recycling and 95% reuse and recovery) |
| | | Ensure appropriate enforcement actions are taken against unauthorised ELV sites | To ensure only Authorised Treatment Facilities operate in the ELV sector |
| | | Ensure a consistent approach in the application of the ELV Regulation to include vehicle producers and importers | To enforce ELV Regulations, standardise practices and raise awareness amongst stakeholders |
| | **Waste Tyres** | Ensure compliance with the tyre regulations | To increase the number of registered retailers |
| | **Illegal dumping including construction and demolition waste** | Design and implement a programme to address fly-tipping and black bags | To identify and remediate black spots |
| | | Design and implement a programme to monitor construction and demolition waste activities | Roll out programme to monitor construction and demolition waste activities |
| | | Design and implement a pilot programme identifying unserviced households | To complete report on pilot project |
| | **Unauthorised sites of concern which require and multi-agency approach** | Design and implement a strategy for identifying sites of concern which require a multi-agency response | Acquire comprehensive lists of sites by liaising with DCCAE, CCMA and existing networks |

# Objective B: Identify and manage waste enforcement issues through clearly defined strategy

| Policy | Action | Target 2018 |
|---|---|---|
| **Review and maintain waste enforcement strategy** | To prepare a regional RMCEI plan to prioritise enforcement actions and activities across the region taking account of the national enforcement priorities laid down by the EPA, DCCAE and PROs | 2018 work plan agreed by December 2017 and notified to local authorities for RMCEI planning |
| **Continue working relationships with stakeholders and utilise the data gathered to identify enforcement challenges** | Identify and develop working relationships with stakeholders and utilise the data gathered to identify enforcement challenges | To identify and recommend waste enforcement challenges to the NWESC for consideration as future national priorities |
| | Identify local authorities who have become centres of excellence fir enforcement functions in specific waste streams | To establish and organise waste enforcement teams to deal with issues / emergencies and identify operations requiring a WERLA response |
| **Deliver an integrated approach to drive consistent enforcement of legislation** | Continue to work with the EPA to develop consistency of approach with RMCEI plans and enforcement of legislation | To ensure the local authority waste enforcement plans across the regions are consistent with the national waste priorities |
| | Improve enforcement through greater regional coordination, information sharing and prioritisation of enforcement activities | To prepare a regional RMCEI plan to prioritise enforcement actions and activities across the region taking account of the national enforcement priorities laid down by the EPA, DCCAE and PROs |
| | To ensure local authorities are aware of obligations under the Waste Management Plan | To ensure local authorities fulfil their requirements under Objective F of the Waste Management Plan |

# Objective C: Communicate and coordinate waste enforcement strategies and activities and work with relevant stakeholders to drive improved levels of compliance

| Policy | Action | Target 2018 |
|---|---|---|
| **Ensure all guidance issued is accurate, consistent and takes account of relevant legislation** | Continue to maintain a document control system | Manage a document control system |
| | Identify appropriate structure for provision of legal advice / document advice | Develop guidance documents where appropriate |
| **Provide the structure to facilitate greater cooperation between enforcement authorities, allow for increased peer to peer learning and allow for the creation of forums for knowledge sharing** | To identify current training deficits among waste enforcement staff within the region and future training requirements including specific specialist training where necessary and utilising the network of training centres to organise the relevant training and refresher training | Meet the training needs of the region |
| | To participate in relevant national and regional groups to formulate waste enforcement policy and practice | Attend all relevant meetings. |
| | Establish and maintain multi agency group and co-ordinate activities | Establish and maintain multi-agency groups and co-ordinate inspections |
| **To communicate effectively with stakeholders** | To communicate effectively with stakeholders | Maintain effective communications within governance structure and with other stakeholders |
| **Foster links and activities with relevant stakeholders** | To establish partnerships to build knowledge capacity and to promote improved waste enforcement practices | Drive compliance with Packaging Regulations<br>To have standard enforceable Waste Collection Permit conditions in place through a process of continuous improvement<br>All local authorities to have access to Waste Movement Register |

# Objective D: Drive improved performance and consistency of waste enforcement through clearly defined structure and procedures

| Policy | Action | Target 2018 |
|---|---|---|
| **Provide standard waste enforcement guidance to ensure best practices and efficiencies are adopted** | To maintain a funded Regional Waste Enforcement Office and the requisite structures (including administrative, technical and communication) to implement national and regional policy | Ensure a funded regional office is maintained<br>Maintain SLA and other related policy documents |
| | To maintain a Regional Coordinator, Regional Technical Officer, PRO and administrative support or as agreed with the DCCAE | Ensure roles are in place and maintained |
| **Work with stakeholders on structures to develop knowledge sharing** | To develop and disseminate guidance for waste enforcement practices | Develop and implement guidance for waste enforcement as required |
| **Improve performance through the use of technology** | Explore opportunities for the use of IC technologies that add value to waste enforcement policies | Progress MIS Project<br>Develop ICT Proposal |

# Objective E: Work with local authorities and other stakeholders to deal with serious environmental waste crime

| Policy | Action | Target 2018 |
|---|---|---|
| **Develop measures to assist Local Authorities with the prevention, reduction, and cessation of unauthorised waste activities** | Ensure all Local Authorities maintain the role of Environmental Complaints Coordinator to manage an unauthorised waste activity database based on complaints received and monitoring undertaken | Environmental Complaints Coordinator in place in each Local Authority<br>Consistent database of unauthorised waste activities in place in each Local Authority |
| | Support local authorities in their responsibilities in carrying out investigation and issue notifications, as required, as dictated by the unauthorised waste activity database and as directed by the EPA | Increased investigation and prevention of unauthorised waste activities |
| | Scope out an appropriate response (subject to AA screening) to deal with the prevention and management of waste from significant unauthorised activities and waste arising from other criminal activities. Coordination required between the regions | Prevent and address unauthorised activities in the region |
| **Identify serious national waste enforcement issues and liaise with stakeholders in formulating appropriate responses.** | Coordinate Regional / National response to unauthorised activities | Ensure a co-ordinated approach to unauthorised activities |
| | Support the development of intelligence led and coordinated multi-agency enforcement | Establish and support multi-agency group |

# Appendix
# Anti-Dumping Initiative

## Eastern Midlands Region

| County | No. Of Projects Funded | Name Of Project | Total Tonnages Removed |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dublin City | 1 | Combating Illegal Dumping and Promoting Responsible Waste Disposal in the Dorset Street Area | 10 |
| Dun Loaghaire Rathdown | 2 | Anti-dumping Initiative for Dunedin Park<br>Rathmichael / Ballycorus Clean-up and Campaign to Target the Waste Collectors | 0* |
| Fingal | 2 | Remediation, Enforcement and Prevention of Illegal Dumping in Gardeners Hill, Balbriggan, Co.Dublin | 40 |
| Kildare | 4 | Clean and Green Roseberry<br>Field of Dreams<br>Maynooth Bottle Banks<br>Woodstock Revival | 0* |
| Laois | 4 | The Future of Waste Management<br>Everyone Deserves a Second Chance<br>Probation / Community Services Portlaoise<br>Bog Walk and Media Campaign against Illegal Dumping | 27 |
| Longford | 2 | Ardnacassagh Anti-dumping Initiative<br>Longford South Municipal District | 57 |
| Louth | 4 | Anti-dumping Initiative Junction 14 and Dundalk<br>Waste Removal at St Kieran's Bridge<br>Anti-dumping Initiative at the Twenties<br>Anti-dumping Initiative at Moneymore | 25 |
| Meath | 4 | Girley Bog Loop Walk<br>River Broadmeadow<br>Bridge of the Boyne<br>Bohermeen Bog Enhancement Project | 24 |
| Offaly | 9 | Toberdaly Townland Clean-up<br>Boora<br>Curralanty<br>Derrycarney<br>Springfield Road<br>The Derries<br>Cushaling, Edenderry<br>Boheradurrow<br>Tullamore Municipal District<br>Tullamore River | 117 |
| South Dublin County Council | 4 | Rossfield Housing Estate<br>Sean Walsh Park<br>Piperstown Road<br>Camac River Clean-up<br>Smyth's Lane | 29 |
| Westmeath | 3 | Clean up at Cathedral View<br>Promote Community Involvement in Abbeylands & Ashfield Estate<br>Sarsfeild Square | 266 |

* The focus of these projects were awareness and prevention. Clean-ups were not carried out using funds from ADI.

| County | No. Of Projects Funded | Name Of Project | Total Tonnages Removed |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wicklow | 5 | Newtownmountkennedy Springfield Park Regeneration<br>Kiltegan and District Anti-dumping Initiative<br>Hillview Housing Estate Anti-dumping Initiative<br>Ennereilly Coast Care Anti-dumping Initiative<br>Kilcarra Community Response to Anti-dumping | 10 |
| Total | 44 | | 605 |

## Southern Region

| County | No. Of Projects Funded | Name Of Project | Total Tonnages Removed |
|---|---|---|---|
| Carlow | 5 | Best field Bridge. Askea Bottle Banks. Clean rivers of Carlow. St Killians Crest clean up. Old Leighlin. | 208 |
| Clare | 6 | Rocky road- clean up of illegal dumping and fabrication of steel gates. South East Clare Multi-Dumping site clean-up. | 58 |
| Cork City | 3 | Orchard Court Project. Combating illegal dumping in the Mahon area. | 34 |
| Cork County | 23 | A Local Solution to a Local Problem.<br>Bantry Bay shoreline clean up. Carriduff Mallow, Glengarriff community clean up. Blackwater community clean up. Rathpeacon Area clean up. Ballincollie road clean up. Courtstown, Little Iland/Blackstone Bridge clean up. Rathcooney clean up. Anti dumping initiatives at Bring sites. Cape clear Island project. Sherkin/Heir Island Project. Nash's Boreen, Fairhill project. Covert monitoring of Lay Bys project. Tools to support community based initiatives project. | 23 |
| Kerry | 2 | Kerry Anti -Dumping Initiative phase 1 & phase 2. | 50 |
| Kilkenny | 7 | Clean up River Barrow & Duiske/Anti-dumping Woodstock/ installation of CCTV. Anti dumping controls at the bottle bank in St Canice's car park. | 4 |
| Limerick | 4 | Anti Dumping initiatives. Clean up of Sites/CCTV. Purchase of Drone & associated Training. | 27 |
| Tipperary | 10 | Clean up Carrick Riverwalk/Nenagh/Clonmel. Purchase of Litter sweeper Device. Clean up of Clonmel Suirway/greenway. Moyne clean up. Glengoole Village/Knockmeadowns. | 10 |
| Waterford | 10 | Fixed camera surveillance. Anti dumping signage. Access Restriction works. Drone camera. Purchase of hunter cameras. clean ups. Purchase of Table computers. | 5 |
| Wexford | 12 | Spota Dubh -Monitor 5 sites with CCTV/Drones. Clean up sites. Feachaint - Mattress amnesty held at Holmestown Recycling facility. Purchase of 4 no. Trails cameras for rural dumping. Clean up sites. | 113 |
| Total | 82 | | 532 |

# Appendix
# Anti-Dumping Initiative (continued)

### Connacht-Ulster Region

| County | No. Of Projects Funded | Name Of Project | Total Tonnages Removed |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cavan | 9 | 1) Kilcogy, 2) Cavan Town, 3) Ballyhaise and 4) Ballyconnell, 5) Dowra Community Environmental Initiative, 6) Killenkere Community Environmental Initiative, 7) Killeter Community Environmental Initiative, 8) Castletara Community Environmental Initiative, 9) Snugborough Community Environmental Initiative | 89 |
| Donegal | 21 | 1) Inishowen - Aghaglason Gleneely 4 Sites, 2) Glenties - Glasagh Brinaleck, 3) Stranolar - Trusk Lough Bog Road, 4) Letterkenny - Ards Big, 5) Donegal Kilcar 2 Sites, 6) Meenaclady Clean Up, 7) Purchase of Covert Camera, 8) Ards Big, Letterkenny, 9) Old Bog Road, Carrick, 10) Ballyannan Clean Up, 11) Cloontagh Ballyliffin Clean Up, 12) Meendoran Straid Clean Up, 13) Cardonagh Ardglasson Gleneely Clean Up, 14) Clean Up Ballyargus, Redcastle, 15) Signage, 16) Gorawacken, Glengad, 17) Crua, Glengad, 18) Tower, Glengad, 19) Back Rd Bend, Glengad, 20) Back Road, over water, Glengad and 21) Trusk Lough 2 | 311 |
| Galway City | 2 | 1) Cleanup of Ballybane area 2) Removal of Waste from 6 No. Prominent Locations in Galway City | 93 |
| Galway County | 8 | 1) Polleeny, Barna and 2) Station Road, Gort, 3) Curraghline, Headford Road, Galway, 4) Parkmore, Tuam, 5) Pollboy, Kellysgrove, Ballinasloe, 6) Abbey Bog, Tuam, 7) Cloontooa/ Cloonascragh, Tuam, 8) Thoor Ballylee | 549 |
| Leitrim | 5 | 1) - Corneen Bog, Mohill; Faulties Bridge Area, Dromod; Hartley Area, Carrick on Shannon, St. John's Lough, Ballinamore; Gulladoo Lake, Carrigallen; Edenville, Kinlough; Glenanniff, Manorhamilton. 2) - Mill Race River, Drumshanbo; Sea Road, Tullaghan; Rossy Area and Kiltubrid, Drumcong; Owenbeg River, Manorhamilton. 3) - Media Campaign, 4) - Purchase of Electronic Equipment, 5) Tidy Towns & Local Groups Support Initiative | 4 |
| Mayo | 3 | 1) Blanemore Forest Archaeology Walk, Carnclogh, Co. Mayo and 2) Clean Up area of Ballyglass Looped Walks, 3) Dookineely (Calvy) Achill Island | 224 |
| Monaghan | 8 | 1) Clean Up - Muyllaghmatt/Killygoan, Bree/Ard na Lorgan, Latton, 2) Other Projects - include Fencing, Awareness/Publicity, Signage and 3) CCTV Equipment, 4) Horse Shoe Bridge, Monaghan Town, 5) Drumboory Lane Clean Up 6) Beautiful Bragan 7) Moy Bridge Litter 8) Castleblayney Crossmaglen Road | 87 |

| County | No. Of Projects Funded | Name Of Project | Total Tonnages Removed |
|---|---|---|---|
| Roscommon | 16 | 1) Salmon Lake to Kilnacarrow Bridge Nature Trail (Ballyleague), 2) Clean Ups with Probation Services, 3) Major Clean Ups to include - The Oaks, Frenchpark, Cuilagh, Scramoge, 4) Suck Valley Way and Kilteevan Bog and 5) Equipment and Signage, 6) Rockhill and Greachnaleave, Argina 7) Clean Up of Drumharlow Lake, 8) Link Road from N5 to Golf Course Road, Ballaghaderreen, 9) Suck Valley Way, 10) Emlagh Road, Castlecoote, 11) Purchase of Equipment 12) Termon, Castlerea, 13) Make an Add with an Anti-Dumping Theme, 14) Brooklawn, Ballaghaderreen, 15) Working with Probation Service, 16) Clean Up at Lisacul | 78 |
| Sligo | 6 | 1) Tullycusheen Bog, 2) Glencarraig Estate, 3) Clooncoose Bog, 4) Holy Well Road, 5) Media Campaign, 6) Arigna | 79 |
| Total | 78 | | 1,514 |
| National Total | 167 | | 2,651 |

# Notes

connacht-ulster
waste region

eastern - midlands
waste region

southern
waste region