
3. REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Section 4 of the 2000 – 2005 Waste Management Plan for County Kildare outlined a number of policy actions/targets for the period of the Plan. A total of 11 areas were identified and specific policies set.

This section of the Plan summarises the nature of the particular policies under each heading and this will be followed by a review of what has been achieved to date. It is apparent that there has been some significant progress in realising a number of key objectives of the Plan.

3.1. Waste Prevention

3.1.1. Waste Prevention Policies

The Waste Management Plan set out the following policies on waste prevention:

- intensification of public awareness and information using the internet, environmental bulletins and County Council staff
- review of disposal charges as an economic incentive for waste prevention
- review of the recommendations of the “Consultancy Study on Plastic Bags”

3.1.2. Current Implementation Status of Waste Prevention Policies

An Environmental Awareness Officer has been employed. The role of the Environmental Awareness Officer is to work in conjunction with community groups, schools, industry, and members of the public to raise awareness of best practice with regards to waste prevention. Duties include:

- development and maintenance of the Environment Section of the Council website
- production of the Acorn Newsletter twice yearly
- dealing with individual queries by phone, e-mail, or in person
- promotion of Council’s home-composting scheme
- Liaising with and assessment of the Green Schools programme

The Environmental Awareness Officer is also involved in the following initiatives:

- Community Education Programme
- Schools Education Programme

Community Education Programme

The Community Education Programme features the following:

- visits to community organisations (e.g., Tidy Towns groups, ICA branches, and residents’ associations)
- advertising and promotion of National Spring Clean

- advertising and promotion of National Tree Week
- assisting communities to obtain grants from the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund, Residents Association Grants, grant-aid for litterbins, sponsorship for wheelie bins; assistance with community clean-ups is offered throughout the year
- a specific target with respect to waste prevention is to increase community composting projects (one project to compost green waste from communal areas with Moone Tidy Towns is ongoing and other community groups are also expressing an interest)

Schools Education Programme

The Schools Education Programme features the following:

- Visits to all schools to raise awareness of environmental issues.
- Visits by school groups to Silliot Hill Waste Management Facility. As of April 2005, approximately 3,000 pupils have visited this facility.
- The Council actively supports the Green-Schools programme. As of April 2005, 63 schools have registered, and 24 have achieved Green Flag status. Schools must apply every two years to renew their Green Flag. A large number of these schools have renewed their flags, indicating their commitment to the programme.

3.2. Waste Minimisation

3.2.1. Waste Minimisation Policies

The Waste Management Plan outlines the following policies in relation to waste minimisation:

- the Council will carry out a detailed waste audit of its activities
- based on the audit, targets will be established for in-house waste minimisation and recovery
- the Council will pursue full certification such as ISO 14001, via an environmental management system
- the Council will continue to encourage small and medium sized enterprises in the application of waste minimisation processes
- the Council will initiate a public information programme for environmental issues in general and waste management in particular
- realistic disposal charges will be imposed which further waste minimisation objectives

3.2.2. Current Implementation Status of Waste Minimisation Policies

The current status of the Council's waste minimisation policies is as follows:

- A detailed waste audit of waste arisings from Council buildings has been carried out. Plans are now advanced in minimising waste arisings at the new Civic Offices. This includes altering procurement policies to include future purchasing of photocopiers and printers capable of copying double-sided.
- Other policies will be developed to reduce the amounts of packaging waste currently arising within the Council, e.g., a pilot scheme to encourage reusable envelopes for internal post has proven popular.
- An internal recycling system called 'Greencheck' has been established to recycle paper, cardboard, newsprint, fluorescent tubes, batteries and printer toner cartridges.

- The ISO 14001 process has been delayed until the relocation of the offices to Devoy Barracks is complete.
- The Council has sponsored a battery recycling scheme for primary and secondary schools.
- The County Council has purchased and provided composting bins for householders at cost price. Since 1996, 6,000 bins have been distributed. A survey of participating households was completed by the Council in 2004.

3.3. Waste Recovery/Re-Use

3.3.1. Waste Recovery/Re-Use Policies

The Waste Management Plan outlines the following policies in relation to waste recovery/re-use:

- provision of facilities at the Council's civic amenity sites to recover reusable materials
- facilitation of a repair/renovation outlet for household electrical and electronic goods

3.3.2. Current Implementation Status of Waste Recover/Re-Use Policies

The current status of the Council's waste recovery/re-use policies is as follows:

- The existing civic amenity site at Silliot Hill has been developed to cater for additional recyclable materials. This facility will be upgraded to facilitate further recycling/recovery, which is due for completion in 2005.
- The EPA has issued Waste licences for the operation of two civic amenity sites at Kilcock and Athy. Athy Civic Amenity Site was completed in mid 2004 and will become operational in 2005. It is the intention of the Council to construct Kilcock in 2006 subject to funding being available.

3.4. Waste Recovery/Recycling

3.4.1. Waste Recovery/Recycling Policies

The Plan proposes that Kildare County Council carries out the following in relation to waste recovery and recycling:

- continued support for commerce and industry in the achievement of statutory targets for the recovery and recycling of packaging waste
- Council liaison with and support for REPAK with respect to the implementation of the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 1997
- arranging for the provision of separate collection for packaging waste and newspapers in a number of towns (Naas, Newbridge, Kildare, Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth, Athy)
- arranging for the provision of an intensive bring system for the recovery of household recyclable material in the remainder of the County
- arranging for the provision of a minimum of three civic amenity sites for the acceptance of recyclable materials, green waste, and household hazardous waste

3.4.2. Current Implementation Status of Waste Recovery/Recycling Policies

The current status of the Council's waste recovery/recycling policies is as follows:

- Kildare County Council is represented on the National Working Group for Packaging Waste Regulations operated by the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) and the EPA.
- Personnel have been appointed to liaise with the commercial sector to ensure compliance with the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations.
- A Packaging Enforcement Officer has been employed by the County Council, whose role includes:
 - Enforcement of the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations, 2003 and the Waste Management (Amendment) (Packaging) Regulations, 2004 within the functional area of County Kildare.
 - Ensuring that all major waste producers are either participating in a recovery scheme operated by an approved body (Repak being the sole approved body) or self-comply with the local authority.
 - Ensuring that all producers of packaging waste segregate the packaging waste arising on their premises (back-door packaging waste) into specified waste streams such as glass, steel, aluminium, paper, fibreboard, wood and plastic sheeting, and have it collected by authorised operators for recycling.
- All County Council customers have received a second bin for the separate collection of dry recyclables.
- There are currently 40 bring sites throughout the County for the collection of glass and cans.
- A civic amenity site has been developed at Silliot Hill. As noted above, the civic amenity sites at Athy will be in operation in 2005. A civic amenity site at Kilcock will be constructed in 2006 subject to funding.
- The DoEHLG have requested that the review of waste collection permits is to include a pay-by-use condition. Kildare County Council has commenced this process.
- The Council actively seeks recycling markets for municipal waste. To date, suitable material is collected at the Integrated Waste Management Facility at Silliot Hill, and sent for recycling to the facilities outlined in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Recycling Outlets for Silliot Hill Recyclable Waste Streams

| Waste Stream | Recycling Outlet |
|---------------------------|---|
| cardboard & paper | Smurfit Recycling, Dublin |
| cans | Rehab, Dublin |
| glass bottles | Rehab, Dublin |
| plastics | Rydon Plastics, Manchester |
| tetra packs | Bailey Waste Products, Dublin |
| batteries | Returnbatt Ireland |
| waste oil | Atlas Oil |
| scrap metal | Hammond Lane (exported to Britain) |
| tyres | Crumb Rubber, Co. Louth |
| household hazardous waste | Cara Environmental |
| food waste | Greenstar – In vessel composting system |
| WEEE | shipped to Germany for recycling/recovery via Cara Environmental* |

*a national contract is being awarded for the collection of WEEE

3.5. Energy Recovery

3.5.1. Energy Recovery Policy

The Waste Management Plan proposes that the Council will examine the feasibility of the recovery of landfill gas at Silliot Hill Integrated Waste Management Facility.

3.5.2. Current Implementation Status of Energy Recovery Policy

Irish Power Systems installed a gas collection and flaring/utilisation plant at Silliot Hill in 2003. An overhead power line was constructed to link the site to the national grid. The gas utilisation plant was commissioned in early 2004.

3.6. Waste Disposal

3.6.1. Waste Disposal Policies

The Waste Management Plan proposes the following in relation to waste disposal:

- the Council will dispose of municipal solid waste arisings through landfill in adjacent local authority areas in the short term
- in the short to medium term, the Council will provide for a materials recovery facility, biological treatment centre and residual landfill in the County
- in the medium to long term, the Council will consider alternative arrangements for the disposal of residual waste in co-operation with neighbouring local authorities
- the Council will provide for the restoration and aftercare of Silliot Hill Landfill Site once it has been closed
- the Council will encourage private sector collectors in the use of approved privately operated disposal facilities
- the Council will provide, or arrange for the provision, of a materials recovery facility/waste processing facility, biological treatment plant and waste transfer facilities
- the Council will have due regard to developments by or in adjoining local authorities
- the Council will develop measures designed to limit the quantity of construction and demolition waste landfilled in the County

3.6.2. Current Implementation Status of Waste Disposal Policies

The current status of the Council's waste disposal policies is outlined as follows:

- Silliot Hill landfill facility reached its design capacity in March 2002. Consequently, it has ceased to accept waste for disposal by landfill. Since then, the Council has constructed a waste transfer station at Silliot Hill. From there, all the Council's domestic waste is transported to Thornton's Recycling Ltd. in Dublin for baling, followed by subsequent disposal at Arthurstown landfill site.
- The site selection process for a local authority residual landfill has been completed with a preferred site been identified. There are a number of proposals for landfills from private operators which are currently going through the statutory processes of planning and licensing.

- Two biological treatment centres have been constructed at Silliot Hill for the treatment of sludge and commercial organic waste. A planning application has been received by Kildare County Council for a private operator to compost biodegradable waste at the Silliot Hill Facility. The Council has sought and received expressions of interest for a materials recovery facility at Silliot Hill. These are currently under assessment.
- The Council continually reviews proposals for new waste management infrastructure in adjacent counties.
- A waste licence for Silliot Hill was granted in May 2002. The restoration and aftercare plan for Silliot Hill landfill has been completed, with the final capping of the landfill to occur in the near future.
- Permits under the Waste Management (Permit) Regulations have been granted to a number of private operators within the County, mainly for the recovery and disposal of construction and demolition waste.
- Private collectors are disposing/recovering waste in a number of licenced/permitted facilities around the County.
- Working Groups have been set up nationally for trans-frontier shipments (TFS) and unauthorised waste activities. Kildare County Council is represented on the Unauthorised Wastes Group. All key stakeholders participate in these working groups.

3.7. Waste Collection

3.7.1. Waste Collection Policies

The Plan proposes the following in relation to waste collection:

- the Council will ensure that all householders within its administrative area are provided with a regular and efficient system for the collection of waste
- the Council will review options for waste collection services in the County, including the feasibility of on-vehicle-weighing
- the Council will regulate all waste collectors in accordance with the Waste Collection (Permit) Regulations as and when they are implemented

3.7.2. Current Implementation Status of Waste Collection Policies

The current status of the Council's waste collection policies is as follows:

- Approximately 24,000 households are supplied with a weekly wheelie bin waste collection service by the Council. The Council operates a waiver scheme for approximately 5,500 households. It is estimated that a further 25,000 households are served by private operators. 2,105 households are estimated to have no collection.
- The standard 240 litre wheelie bin has a standard annual charge of € 185 and a € 7 tag must be purchased thereafter for every bin presented for collection. A smaller 140 litre bin has a standard annual charge of € 140 and a € 5 tag must be purchased thereafter for every bin presented for collection. Both charges include the Government Landfill Levy.
- Since the introduction of the Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations 2001 Kildare County Council has issued 250 waste collection permits.
- Separate collection services are available to the majority of households in the County for the collection of dry recyclables.
- The Council provides support for local clean-up campaigns.

- Kildare County Council is involved with national working groups for the standardisation of the waste collection permitting process throughout the country.
- Kildare County Council carries out regular checkpoints with the Gardaí to ensure that waste being transported is in compliance with the Waste Management (Permit) Regulations and the Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations.

3.8. Animal Slurries

3.8.1. Animal Slurries Policy

The Plan proposes that, where the spreading of slurry-related materials contributes to elevated nutrient levels in freshwaters and groundwater, the relevant regulations will be implemented, as well as the recommendations contained in relevant DoEHLG publications.

3.8.2. Current Implementation Status of Animal Slurries Policy

The current status of the Council's animal slurries policy is outlined as follows:

- Monitoring conducted by Kildare County Council and the EPA has highlighted elevated nutrient levels in certain areas of the County. In accordance with the Phosphorous Regulations, a Measures Report and Implementation Report have been prepared and submitted to the EPA for the Boyne, Barrow and Liffey river catchments.
- Kildare is involved in a number of river protection schemes including:
 - The Three Rivers project (complete)
 - South East River Basin District (ongoing)
 - Eastern River Basin District (ongoing)
- The EPA operates a working group for the enforcement of the Regulations for Farm Film Producers. Kildare County Council will adhere to its recommendations.

3.9. Sludge Management

3.9.1. Sludge Management Policies

The Waste Management Plan sets out the following policies in relation to sludge management:

- a sludge management plan for County Kildare is to be finalised in accordance to national guidance
- the sludge management plan will consider all forms of non-hazardous sludge arising and predicted to arise in the County over the next 20 years
- in the short term, Kildare County Council intends to enter into a service contract for two years for the treatment of digested sludge arisings from the main waste water treatment plants at Osberstown and Leixlip
- this temporary sludge treatment plant will be set up at Silliot Hill

3.9.2. Current Implementation Status of Sludge Management Policies

The current status of the Council's sludge management policies is as follows:

- Kildare County Council adopted the Sludge Management Plan in 2001
- a hub centre for the treatment of sewage sludge within the County will be constructed at Osberstown; this project is currently at tender stage
- waste permits are required for the land spreading of certain sludges such as industrial-type sludges

3.10. Hazardous Waste

3.10.1. Hazardous Waste Policies

The Plan proposes that:

- the Council will review and consider the objectives of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan, and will consider the implementation of any actions required of it under this document
- the Council will base its own hazardous waste strategy on this document
- the Council will provide appropriate facilities for the collection of waste oils and household hazardous waste
- the Council will appraise the success of the newly established collection points system for scrap batteries; the density of battery collection facilities could be increased, being dependent on the success of the initial trials

3.10.2. Current Implementation Status of Hazardous Waste Policies

The current status of the Council's hazardous waste policies is as follows:

- since the Waste Management Plan was adopted, the EPA's National Hazardous Waste Plan was finalised in 2001 and is currently under review
- receptacles for certain types of household hazardous waste have been made available at the Silliot Hill Civic Amenity Site
- household hazardous waste receptacles will also be available at Athy and Kilcock civic amenity centres
- the Council continues to support a schools battery-recycling scheme; to date, over 100 schools have collected 1.1 tonnes of batteries
- Kildare County Council, in conjunction with the private industry, has facilitated a mobile hazardous collection unit for household waste such as paint, medicines, pesticides, fluorescent tubes and batteries; advertisements are placed in local newspapers, and waste is collected at a number of locations periodically

3.11. Litter Prevention

3.11.1. Litter Prevention Policies

The Waste Management Plan proposes the following in relation to litter prevention:

- a programme of education will be undertaken in both primary and secondary schools
- the Council will ensure that the leaflet "Litter and the Law" is available and distributed County-wide
- the Council will continue to operate a number of schemes which are designed to assist the community in their endeavours to clean up their areas
- the Council will continue to operate a street-cleaning programme throughout the period of this Plan
- the number of litter bins and their location shall be reviewed and additional bins will be provided, as required, in all towns

3.11.2. Current Implementation Status of Litter Prevention Policies

The current status of the Council's litter prevention activities is as follows:

- a Schools Education Programme has been established (please refer to section 3.1.2 of this document - Current Implementation Status of Waste Prevention Policies)
- the Council has appointed an environmental crew to assist communities in clean-ups and to remove litter from individual sites
- the Council facilitates litter abatement schemes in conjunction with various groups, through the Anti-Litter Awareness Grant Scheme which is funded by the DoEHLG
- the Anti-Litter League is run in conjunction with the Irish Business Against Litter; Newbridge, Naas, Athy and Maynooth are entrants
- a number of litter wardens have been employed by Kildare County Council. Naas and Athy Town Councils have also appointed litter wardens
- a revised Litter Management Plan was adopted in June 2003
- Kildare County Council continues to operate a number of Street Cleaning Programmes
- Kildare County Council actively co-operates and assists a range of local groups in tidy towns and pride of place competitions
- there has been an expenditure of € 3.5 - 4 m over the period of the current Waste Management Plan