
9. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The implementation and success of the 2005 -2010 Kildare Waste Management Plan is dependent on the participation of a number of key stakeholders:

- the public
- Kildare County Council, and Athy and Naas Town Councils
- public authorities
- waste management industry
- commercial and industrial sectors

These are outlined below.

9.1.1. Public

This group includes householders and community groups. Community acceptance of the waste management plan is vital to create a sense of ownership of the Plan. The general public will play a key role in the success of recycling initiatives, in particular, participation in separate waste collection systems. Similarly, the public must also be prepared to implement home-composting and other schemes.

The public need to be pro-active with regard to unauthorised tipping, littering and undesirable waste management practices such as the backyard burning of household waste.

The public also needs to understand the necessity for the establishment of waste infrastructure. This applies not only to small initiatives such as bring centres but also to major developments such as landfills and thermal treatment plants. Public opposition to these facilities could result in difficulties in delivering the targets and policies outlined in the Plan.

9.1.2. Kildare County Council, Athy and Naas Town Councils

Local authorities, in addition to providing waste management services, regulate the quality of waste management activities provided by others. In parallel to the EPA's waste licensing function, local authorities exercise control over other waste management activities. These include the movement of hazardous waste, issuing waste permits to the private sector, and issuing waste disposal permits to waste disposal facilities.

It will also be the responsibility of the Council to ensure the implementation of this Plan which itself will bring its own challenges. Policies and objectives set out in this Plan will be assessed on an annual basis to assess their implementation and effectiveness.

9.1.3. Public Authorities

All public bodies such as health boards, Iarnród Éireann, Bord Fáilte, etc., have responsibilities under the Plan. These organisations are waste producers. For County Kildare to meet its diversion targets, large public authorities are encouraged to implement waste reduction initiatives, such as:

- Prevention of waste
- minimisation of waste and ensuring that waste generated is correctly handled and recycled where practicable

The Environmental Protection Agency provides waste/IPPC licences for the larger facilities within the County which contain waste reduction and environmental performance conditions and conditions for the implementation of the Hazardous Waste Management Plan. The EPA is also responsible for the National Waste Prevention Programme. This has set out a number of objectives for the period 2004 – 2008, which will affect every sector in the County. The EPA will ensure that licenced facilities are complying with their licence conditions.

The EPA, in conjunction with local authorities and the waste contracting industry, provides public education. The EPA has a role in providing factual information on the environmental impacts of waste disposal sites to the public.

9.1.4. Waste Management Industry

The private waste management industry is particularly active in the County. The waste contracting industry will play an essential role in the provision of new infrastructure. It is crucial that proposals for new waste facilities are considered positively, where they are environmentally appropriate, and where land use considerations are favourable.

The waste management industry will also have a role in educating its customers of various waste management initiatives that should be carried out in consultation with the local authorities.

9.1.5. Commercial and Industrial Sectors

The commercial and industrial sectors are major waste generators and must ensure that their waste is correctly managed, reduced and recycled wherever possible.

It will also be a requirement that industry and commerce fully participate in recycling schemes, e.g., separate collection. Packaging material producers and the construction and industrial sector need to comply with national legislation.

Commerce and industry should ensure that legitimate waste contractors are used and that these wastes are correctly handled and are disposed of at licenced facilities.