



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland

NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY 2024-2030



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



THIS PLAN

This Plan is the National
Waste Management Plan
for a Circular Economy

The Waste Management Act 1996 requires Local Authorities to make a waste management plan either individually or collectively for their functional areas. In 2015 local authorities established three Regional Waste Management Planning Offices to develop and implement three regional waste management plans on their behalf. Following an evaluation, it was recommended that a single plan be prepared to replace the existing regional plans.

This Plan seeks to **influence** sustainable consumption and **prevent** the generation of waste, **improve** the capture of materials to **optimise** circularity and **enable** compliance with policy and legislation.

The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association National Oversight Group, have co-ordinated the preparation of this plan which is the first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.

CIRCULARITY
 “Keeping materials in use
 for longer”

The draft Plan was published for consultation from the 3rd May to the 5th July 2023 and all comments raised in the consultation have been considered in the process of the completion of this final Plan.

Ireland is moving away from the traditional linear ‘take-make-use-dispose’ model towards a ‘circular economy’ regenerative growth model where resources are reused or recycled as much as possible and the generation of waste is minimised. The transition to a circular economy is essential to reduce pressure on natural resources, aid in achieving climate targets, support Sustainable Development Goals and create sustainable growth and jobs.

The Circular Economy Act 2022 is supported by a wider circular policy base which establishes the framework for the national transition to a circular economy. This Plan has been prepared to support and supplement the wider policy base and includes specific targets, policies and actions to enable the waste and resource sector to meet the circularity challenge and accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

The role of the waste and resource sector is central to this national transition and the **National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy** (the ‘Plan’) provides a framework to support this strategy.

This Plan recognises Climate Change as a key driver for both behavioural change and improved waste management practices. The Plan will be evaluated annually for climate impact and annual work plans will be adapted to respond to the climate challenge.

The transition to a circular economy requires a collaborative national response across all sectors of the economy through the lifecycle of products and materials.

The content of this Plan has been created through extensive collaboration with key partners, stakeholders and the wider waste audience and the principle of co-ownership has been embedded into the responses to the challenges identified.

The Plan identifies key deliverables which will unlock the potential of all stakeholders to contribute to the transition to more sustainable practices. Responsibility for key deliverables has been allocated to the key partners for the delivery of waste policy namely the Local Authority Sector, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Collaboration will continue to be central to the implementation of the Plan and key deliverables have been included on organisation, engagement and monitoring to support this collaborative approach.



The ambition of this Plan is 0% total waste growth per person over the life of the Plan with an emphasis on non-household wastes including waste from commercial activities and the construction and demolition sector.

This ambition is underpinned with a comprehensive series of targets, policies, actions and a suite of key deliverables. Each of these Plan provisions has been devised to support achievement of the Plan ambition, respond to current and future challenges, and support the transition to a more circular economy with reduced climate impact.

INCREASE RECYCLING RATES

While the ambition of the Plan is to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, increasing recycling rates is also a key priority.

Ireland is currently on track to achieve many of the current European Union waste targets, however, significant challenges remain on the achievement of recycling targets. Performance targets are increasing, and the next generation of targets will present an additional significant challenge.



The private waste sector in Ireland is valued at in excess of €1.4bn and provides employment for circa 10,000 people while total Local Authority expenditure on waste functions exceeds €280M annually and involves over 1700 people.

The scale of the financial and human commitment to the continuation of waste services is large and the transition to a circular economy will require an additional minimum investment of €40M by the State to achieve the desired outcomes over the lifetime of this Plan.

Additional resources will be required in key areas including, communications, engagement, regulation and infrastructure to enable the local authority sector to make a meaningful contribution to the transition to a more circular society.

THIS PLAN IS PRESENTED IN FIVE VOLUMES AS FOLLOWS:

VOLUME I

Sets out the current situation including policy, the existing waste landscape and financial, human and market resources deployed. It also identifies the **key waste management challenges** facing the State.

VOLUME II

Sets out **the responses** to the waste management challenges identified including the Plan ambition, targets, policies and priority actions. Targeted policies and priority actions are identified for a range of focus areas chosen to align with the challenges.

VOLUME III

Sets out the **delivery roadmap** for the responses contained in Volume II and contains key deliverables required to enable the ambition, targets, policies, and actions identified.

VOLUME IV

Provides the **supporting information** for the Plan in a series of technical appendices.

VOLUME V

Contains the **Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement** and **Natura Impact Statement**.

PROGRESS

Significant progress has been made in the management of waste in Ireland and the previous Regional Waste Management Plans have provided a framework for these advances.

Challenges remain as the State seeks to transition to a more circular economy and this Plan provides a national framework which recognises the challenges, presents responses and sets out a roadmap for delivery over the next six years.

THIS PLAN IN NUMBERS:

1

Plan
Ambition

8

National
Targets

13

Core
Policies

16

Focus
Areas

74

Targeted
Policies

85

Priority
Actions

51

Key
Deliverables



WASTE MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Volume I of the Plan

Volume I of the Plan sets out the waste management challenges faced by the State including the legislative rules, the strengths and weaknesses of the existing waste landscape and the financial and human resources required to maintain existing services and to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

Key challenges identified include resources, organisational capability, policy requirements, specific material stream targets, the provision of infrastructure and waste generation.

CHALLENGE 1: RESOURCES

The Plan presents an overview of existing financial, human and market resources deployed across the waste sector including the current levels of income and expenditure by central and local government to deliver national policy and local authority waste functions.

Total local authority budgeted expenditure across all waste functions in 2021 was €281 million and this chart presents a breakdown of the expenditure for each waste function.

Total local authority income from waste collection and treatment was €64 million resulting in an operational deficit of €217 million for 2021.

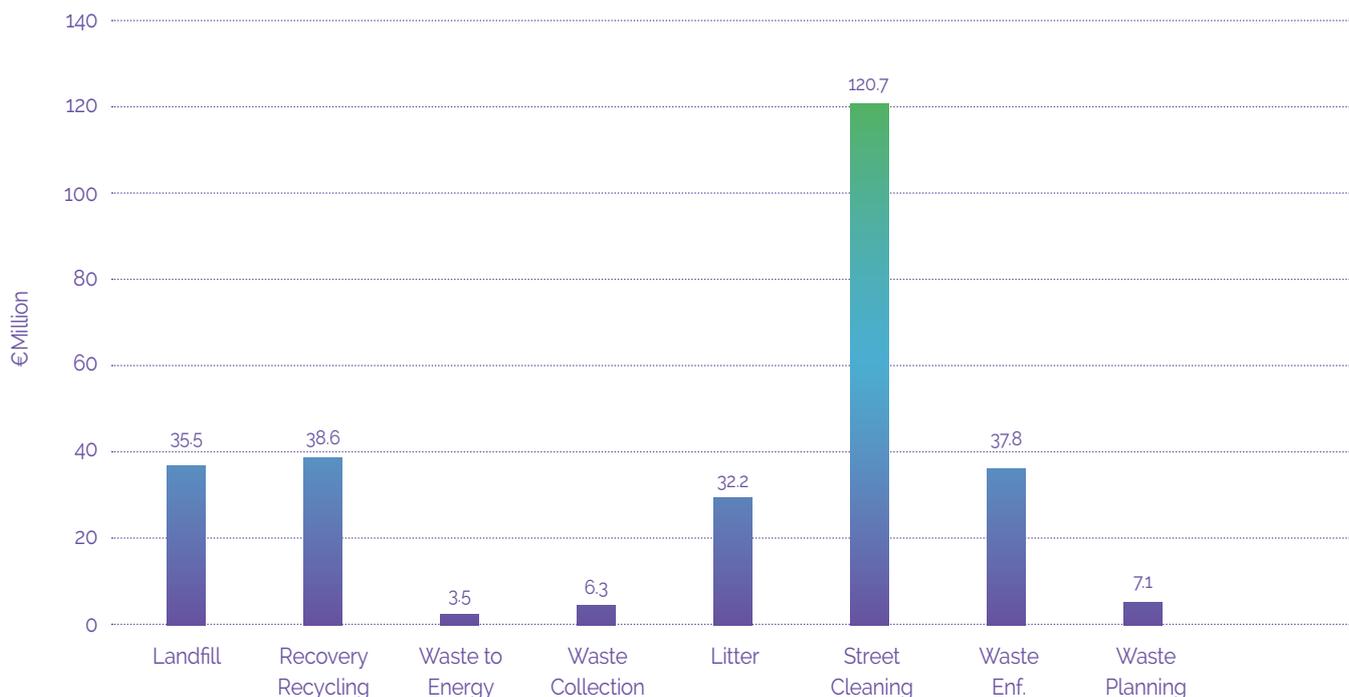
The major portion of the deficit relates to street cleaning, which if combined with litter management, accounts for 67% of the 2021 deficit.

This deficit is currently met by the local authorities from commercial rates and local property tax incomes which indicates that the polluter pays principle is not working effectively.

A budget deficit of this scale is unsustainable, and this Plan commits the local authority sector to the examination of potential measures and strategies to mitigate the deficits in each of the waste functions identified.

Where interventions are identified that support the achievement of targets, enhance circularity and support climate action, additional government support will be required to implement these measures.

TOTAL LOCAL AUTHORITY EXPENDITURE – WASTE FUNCTION



CHALLENGE 2: ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

Existing organisational arrangements have been largely successful in delivering and maintaining a functioning and regulated waste market. However, significant challenges remain including participation, compliance, recycling and reuse activities.

The challenge of accelerating the transition to a circular economy requires an appropriate organisational response from the local authority sector and its key partners.

The move to a single national plan, while retaining regional structures for implementation, requires greater cohesion between local authority sector waste functions to enable effective collaboration with key partners and stakeholders.

Organisational arrangements must take account of the evolving role of the local authority sector within the wider waste landscape as the sector continues the transition from the direct provision of most waste services to an increased planning and regulatory role.

This Plan contains key deliverables to ensure proposed organisational arrangements are fit for purpose.

CHALLENGE 3: POLICY

The policy and legislative base for waste and the circular economy in Ireland is driven by the European Union through the Circular Economy Package.

A circular economy is a development priority of the Commission and is part of the European Union industrial strategy.

Nationally, the Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy, the Circular Economy Programme and the Circular Economy Act 2022 have established the circular economy policy framework. In addition, the Climate Action Plan includes a series of measures to be delivered by the waste sector to contribute to the achievement of the national climate ambition.



CIRCULARITY RATE

Historically, Ireland has been largely compliant with European Union waste limits and targets, but the Environmental Protection Agency has signalled that the State is in danger of failing to meet the municipal waste recycling rate and the plastic packaging recycling rate. Ireland also faces more arduous challenges in meeting the next generation of waste targets for these material streams.

The Circular Economy Act 2022 commits to the establishment of new targets and indicators to measure the State's circularity rate or the State's ability to keep materials in use and avoid continued extraction of primary raw materials.

This Plan recognises circularity as a key driver and the circularity rate as an indicator of progress in this area.

CHALLENGE 4: MATERIAL STREAMS

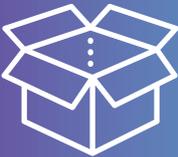
Waste generation in Ireland is driven by population growth (growing almost twice as fast as the OECD average) and economic activity (modified gross national income increased by 44% from 2015 to 2021).

The range of waste and material streams addressed in the Plan are shown in the graphic along with 2020 generation rates and compliance levels with European Union targets (where applicable).

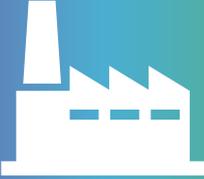
Each of these streams has circular potential that is not currently being maximised and this Plan seeks to both prevent the generation of these waste streams and to optimise any material generated to maximise circular potential.

Material Stream Focus Areas have been included in Volume II of the Plan with targeted policies and priority actions to address the challenges identified.

Decoupling waste generation from population and economic output is a clear challenge and the Plan ambition responds to this challenge.

Material Stream	Generation versus Target	Material Stream	Generation versus Target
Municipal Solid Waste 	3.2 million tonnes municipal waste in 2021. 644kg/person versus European average 527kg/person. 41% recycled versus target of 50% and higher targets for 2025 (55%), 2030 (60%) and 2035 (65%).	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment 	71,811 tonnes WEEE collected in 2021. 64% collection rate versus target of 65%.
Food Waste 	753,00 tonnes food waste in 2021. Target to halve this waste by 2030. National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap launched in November 2022.	End of Life Vehicles 	145,628 ELVs treated in 2021. 88% recycled versus target of 85%.
Packaging Waste 	1.2 million tonnes packaging waste in 2021. 58% recycled. Only 28% of plastic recycled with a target of 50% in 2025.	Tyres 	40,393 tonnes of tyres in 2020. 68% recycled but 81% exported.
Single Use Plastics 	372,818 tonnes of plastic waste in 2021. Changes with the Single Use Plastic Directive. Deposit Return Scheme commenced in February 2024.	Construction and Demolition Waste 	9 million tonnes C&D waste in 2021. 78% recovery versus target of 70%.
Textiles 	Textile waste estimated at 170,000 tonnes per year. Equates to 35 kg per person per year.	Hazardous Waste 	466,941 tonnes hazardous waste in 2021. Mostly industrial and construction.

CHALLENGE 5: INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure	Current Status
<p data-bbox="134 454 367 483">Reuse and Repair</p> 	<p data-bbox="603 454 1246 483">Community Resources Network Ireland – 41 members.</p> <p data-bbox="651 517 1198 546">Irish Charity Shop Association – 470 outlets.</p> <p data-bbox="504 580 1347 609">1,267 reuse centres nationally including retail stores and online services.</p>
<p data-bbox="181 766 317 795">Collection</p> 	<p data-bbox="722 766 1126 795">2,021 authorised collectors in 2021.</p> <p data-bbox="557 826 1294 855">69% of households with a 3 bin kerbside collection in 2021.</p> <p data-bbox="539 889 1310 918">Need for greater participation from commercial waste generators.</p> <p data-bbox="689 952 1160 981">96 local authority Civic Amenity Sites.</p> <p data-bbox="432 1014 1418 1077">6 Compliance Schemes (batteries, end of life vehicles, farm plastic, packaging, tyres and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment).</p>
<p data-bbox="185 1137 314 1167">Recycling</p> 	<p data-bbox="517 1137 1334 1200">18% of the packaging waste generated in 2021 was recycled in Ireland (glass and wood).</p> <p data-bbox="443 1234 1407 1296">Circa 687,560 tonnes composting and anaerobic digestion capacity available within the State.</p> <p data-bbox="628 1330 1222 1359">Tyres, wood and glass all recycled within the State.</p> <p data-bbox="633 1393 1217 1422">Indigenous plastic recycling industry growing.</p>
<p data-bbox="188 1476 311 1505">Recovery</p> 	<p data-bbox="424 1476 1430 1538">Two dedicated thermal treatment plants with 910,000 tonnes per annum capacity and operating at capacity.</p> <p data-bbox="448 1572 1406 1666">Four cement plants authorised for co-incineration of municipal waste with a combined authorised capacity of 482,875 tonnes per annum (but only two thirds of capacity utilised).</p> <p data-bbox="612 1700 1238 1729">Some additional thermal treatment capacity pending.</p> <p data-bbox="448 1762 1406 1825">474 regulated soil recovery facilities with capacity to manage soil and stone from the construction sector.</p>
<p data-bbox="193 1881 306 1910">Disposal</p> 	<p data-bbox="432 1881 1420 1944">Three active municipal waste landfills with a capacity of 458,000 tonnes/annum and operating at capacity.</p> <p data-bbox="437 1977 1415 2040">Competition for municipal waste capacity from other waste streams (e.g. non-hazardous construction waste).</p> <p data-bbox="448 2074 1406 2103">Continued reliance on landfill and known changes to landfill capacity are pending.</p>

The capacity of the State to manage waste and resources is evolving and the trend of decreased disposal to landfill has continued but stabilised in recent years.

There is improved self-sufficiency as a result of the growth of indigenous material reuse, recycling and thermal recovery outlets.

An overview of infrastructure available within the State is presented in the graphic which illustrates that when generation rates are compared to treatment capacity, there remains a deficit which is being managed through waste exports.



WASTE EXPORTS

Continued reliance on export is unsustainable and while an emphasis on prevention and reuse may reduce this reliance, there remains a need for additional indigenous infrastructure which is supported by this Plan.

CHALLENGE 6: WASTE GENERATION

Household Waste generation is driven by population growth and personal consumption.

Non-Household or commercial waste generation is driven by economic activity.

The output of the construction sector drives the generation of construction and demolition waste.

These drivers are predicted to continue to grow during the lifetime of this Plan and they have been used to project future waste generation levels in the absence of any further interventions.

Projections indicate continued unsustainable growth in waste generation over the lifetime of this Plan. This highlights the need for interventions to reverse this trend and decouple waste generation from economic activity and population growth.

This Plan, in conjunction with other planned policy interventions, seeks to mitigate total waste growth to 0% growth per person over the life of the Plan.



The challenges identified in this Plan will require absolute collaboration between key partners and all stakeholders to achieve the desired outcomes over the life of the Plan.



POLICY RESPONSES AND ACTIONS

Volume II of the Plan

The policy responses to the challenges identified in Volume I of the Plan are set out in Volume II. Volume II is built on the foundation of an extensive collaborative consultative process with key partners and stakeholders which has informed the development of targets, policies and actions to address the challenges presented.



CONSULTATION

Volume II addresses key pressures, risks and opportunities and provides a framework of policy interventions and actions which respond to the challenges identified.

Policy interventions and actions identified build on the vision, strategy and progress made under the 2015-2021 Regional Waste Management Plans and provide a flexible policy framework to:

- Promote Sustainable Consumption and Prevent Waste
- Strengthen National Waste Collection and Treatment Capacity
- Support the Transition to a Circular Economy
- Deliver Action through Collaboration and Shared Ownership



COLLABORATION

This Plan has been developed through collaboration with key partners and stakeholders and guided by National and European Union policy.

The key partners to the collaboration are the Local Authority Sector, represented by the County and City Managers Association, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Proactive engagement with other key stakeholders was facilitated through thematic workshops while input from the local authority sector was achieved through established Regional groupings

The development of the Plan was overseen by a National Oversight Group established by the Local Authority Sector to ensure that sectoral obligations were met while embracing national waste policy.

Policy responses and actions emerged from this collaborative process and have been embedded in Volume II of the Plan.



Cumann Lucht Bainistíochta Contae agus Cathrach
County and City Management Association



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications



Environmental Protection Agency
An tAonmhúlaíocht um an tOibríocht Comhshaoil



Maintaining and enhancing existing waste services will provide a platform for improved circular behaviours and practices to accelerate the transition to a more circular economy.

ELIMINATING WASTE AND MAXIMISING THE REUSE OF RESOURCES

A successful circular economy will improve consumption behaviours and reduce waste generation and will have wider environmental benefits through reduced greenhouse gas emissions and reduced biodiversity loss.

The circular economy is an inherently regenerative system and offers a better model of production and consumption compared to the linear ('take-make-waste') approach which is resource and carbon intensive.

The circular economy model fundamentally considers waste as a resource which can be recirculated into systems that focus on maintaining, repairing, reusing, refurbishing, remanufacturing and recycling materials and products.

The State needs to move to a more sustainable production and consumption model by influencing design and consumption to extend the lifespan of materials and resources.



This Plan commits to supporting the delivery of the waste sector's response to the Climate Action Plan and achieving national circularity targets adopted.

Avoiding waste generation through circular systems is the basis for the waste sector measures and targets in the Climate Action Plan.

Climate and the circular economy are inherently interlinked with potential significant emissions savings to be made through maximising the efficiency of material usage.

Section 7(6) of the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 requires that the Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy sets out national targets for circularity.



The ambition of this Plan is 0% total waste growth, per person, over the lifetime of the Plan.

Against the backdrop of historic and predicted annual growth in waste generation, this represents a significant ambition and equates to an effective 7-10% reduction in predicted waste generation over the lifetime of the Plan.

Key population and economic drivers that have historically influenced waste generation will continue and the key to moderating total waste growth will be a renewed focus on behavioural improvements across all household settings and a new focus on better waste practices in the non-household or commercial sector through the introduction of incentivising measures.

PLAN AMBITION



TOTAL WASTE GROWTH PER PERSON

By:

Maintaining

Waste management and behavioural advances

Accelerating

The transition to a circular economy

Influencing

Sustainable consumption

Improving

The capture of all resources

Optimising

Circularity

Enabling

Compliance with policy and legislation

There is a need to further improve behavioural advances achieved over the lifetime of the 2015 Regional Waste Management Plans and to translate improved behaviours to more circular practice.

Big gains can be made in the reduction of construction and demolition wastes arising through the application of national decisions by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The growth of reuse, repair, preparation for reuse and recycling initiatives and infrastructure will enable secondary materials markets to develop reducing the need for primary materials and preventing waste generation.

The ambition of this Plan will drive the transition to a more circular economy while acknowledging existing pressures including consumption, recycling rates and waste exports.



TARGETS

This Plan responds to the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy requirement to include targets for reuse, repair, resource consumption and a reduction in contamination.

Eight national targets have been developed as follows:

6%

Reduction in rMSW per person by 2030

Target 1A Residual Municipal Waste

Waste destined for landfill or recovery by thermal treatment

12%

Reduction in C&D Waste by 2030

Target 1B Construction Materials

Construction and Demolition Waste generated

90%

Material Compliance in the Dry Recycling Bin

Target 2A Material Compliance Recycling

Material Compliance in the Dry Recycling Bin

10%

per annum increase in Material Compliance in the Residual Bin. (90% by end of 2030)

Target 2B Material Compliance Residual

Material Compliance in the Residual Bin

20kg

Per person/year

Target 3A Reuse of Materials

Reuse of materials like clothes or furniture to prevent waste

10

Sites for Reuse (min)

Target 3B Reuse Facilities

Provide for reuse at 10 Civic Amenity Sites, minimum

3

Collection Schemes

Target 4A/B Repair of Materials

(Develop a roadmap for a Repair Target and Provide 1 collection scheme for repairable materials in each region and align with repair practitioners).

This target will also consider a roadmap for remanufacturing



CORE POLICIES



CORE POLICY TEST

All actions in the Plan will be subject to the Core Policy Test:

Protect the environment and address climate action, comply with policy and embrace collaboration, influence behaviours using existing and proposed organisational structures, promote innovation and monitor impact, support national plans and use green procurement, provide good quality data, identify and support important infrastructure where appropriate and ensure that resources and funding are available.

This Plan adopts 13 core policies which are designed for universal application across all areas of waste management planning and operations identified in the Plan.

1 Protection of the Environment

2 Climate Action

3 Policy and Legislation

4 Collaboration

5 Changing Behaviours

6 Organisational Structures

7 Innovation

8 Monitoring

9 National Development Plan

10 Green Public Procurement

11 Data Quality

12 Nationally and Regionally Important Infrastructure

13 Funding this Plan



FOCUS AREAS

Because of the scale of the waste sector and the wide range of activities and challenges faced, this Plan identifies 16 Focus Areas to which specific targeted policies and priority actions are assigned.

The focus areas can be broadly categorised into operational, material waste streams and infrastructure.

OPERATIONAL FOCUS AREAS

Operational focus areas are concerned with the systems that facilitate waste management. These focus areas promote prevention and better segregation of commercial waste, influence household consumption and promote participation in authorised systems. These areas also seek to improve the circularity of materials collected through compliance schemes and to maintain and enhance existing collection systems.

OPERATIONAL Focus Areas

- 1** Municipal Commercial Waste
- 2** Municipal Household Waste
- 3** Compliance Schemes
- 4** Collection Systems

- 19** Targeted Policies and
- 22** Priority Actions

MATERIAL STREAM FOCUS AREAS

Material Stream focus areas are concerned with the prevention of food, packaging and textile waste and the elimination of single use plastics. These focus areas support and promote national decisions to reduce construction and demolition wastes.

MATERIAL STREAM Focus Areas

- 5** Food
- 6** Packaging
- 7** Single Use Plastic
- 8** Construction and Demolition
- 9** Textiles
- 10** Hazardous

- 24** Targeted Policies and
- 33** Priority Actions

INFRASTRUCTURAL FOCUS AREAS

Infrastructural focus areas are concerned with the regulation of existing and new waste infrastructure and the support and promotion of reuse, repair and recycling systems. These focus areas support the provision and maintaining of recovery and disposal facilities including waste contingency facilities.

INFRASTRUCTURAL Focus Areas

- 11** Regulatory
- 12** Reuse / Repair
- 13** Recycling
- 14** Recovery
- 15** Disposal
- 16** Hazardous

- 31** Targeted Policies and
- 30** Priority Actions



The focus areas are the engine of this Plan and contain 74 targeted policies and 85 priority actions which underpin the ambition of the Plan.



DELIVERY ROADMAP

Volume III of the Plan



DELIVERY ROADMAP

The roadmap for the delivery of this Plan is set out in Volume III which presents a series of key deliverables when taken together, provide a route to the achievement of the Plan ambition and targets.

The key deliverables identified are aligned to the key partners for the delivery of policy and responsibility is assigned for each of the key deliverables identified.

The key partners are responsible for enabling the wider waste sector through policy and regulatory support and depend on all key stakeholders for the delivery of this Plan's ambition.

REGULATORY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND CLIMATE IMPACT

While the focus areas are the engine of this Plan, the key deliverables are the fuel that will accelerate the achievement of the Plan ambition and national policy.

Population growth and the economic drivers for the commercial and construction sector are predicted to increase during the lifetime of this Plan.

While the interventions detailed in this Plan, the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy and the Circular Economy Act will have an impact on the generation of waste, the underlying trend is for an increase in waste generation.

The primary focus of this Plan will continue to be on waste prevention and changing behaviours across all sectors to decouple waste generation from these drivers. The ambition of this Plan is to break the link between economic growth and waste growth.

PART A of the Delivery Roadmap sets out key regulatory, infrastructure and climate deliverables required to unlock the potential of the policies and actions in the Plan and to realise the Plan ambition.

The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy and the Circular Economy Act propose a range of policy interventions that will contribute to the prevention of waste and the increase of recycling rates. Key measures include incentivised charging for commercial waste, new or increased levies on single use items, waste recovery activities and landfill.

COMBINED POLICY INTERVENTIONS

300,000 tonnes
Waste Reduction

4-9% Increase
in Recycling

It is anticipated that the combined effect of these interventions will prevent 300,000 tonnes of waste over the life of this Plan and increase the recycling rate by 4-9% depending on the success of the interventions.

Notwithstanding the proposed interventions, the recycling rate is still expected to fall short of the target of 55% by 2025, illustrating the absolute need for more radical interventions as part of the review of the Circular Economy Strategy in 2023.

REGULATION 27 & 28 DECISIONS

To achieve the Plan ambition of 0% total waste growth, significant advances will be needed with the designation of greenfield soil and stone as by-product and not waste under Article 27 of the Waste Framework Directive (Regulation 27 in national legislation).

Significant progress is also anticipated from the end of waste process, Article 28 of the Waste Framework Directive (Regulation 28), which will contribute to national circularity and recycling rates.

WASTE TREATMENT CAPACITY

With increasing waste generation and the challenges with the national recycling rate, the need for waste treatment capacity including thermal recovery, biological treatment, landfill disposal and export is predicted to grow. Existing waste treatment capacity is largely static and will reduce in the medium term.

This Plan provides for continued and expanded residual waste treatment capacity within the State to move towards self-sufficiency and reduce the reliance on the export of waste materials.

Future development of waste treatment capacity must ensure that circular policies including prevention, reuse/repair and recycling are not compromised by the provision of new recovery infrastructure.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE

There is a national capacity deficit for non-hazardous construction and demolition waste (including Brownfield soil/stone). While this waste can be managed at landfills, it is an ineffective use of landfill space.

Dedicated facilities are required and supported by this Plan to address short to medium term capacity issues and to encourage longer-term high-level waste and resource infrastructure.

RESOURCES

€40M

**Minimum Additional Expenditure Required On:
Communications Engagement
Regulation Investment**

PART B of the Delivery Roadmap sets out key organisational, engagement and resource deliverables required to unlock and supplement the potential of existing arrangements in support the ambition of this Plan.

The Local Authority Sector invests over €280M annually in the provision of waste related services and meeting environmental obligations. Combined income across the sector, including government support, amounts to €64M leaving a net annual liability of €217M.

This deficit is not sustainable for the sector and this Plan commits to measures and strategies to mitigate the deficits in each of the waste functions identified. Where these measures have an impact on targets, circularity or climate action, additional support will be sought for their implementation.

This Plan identifies additional resources, human and financial, required to accelerate the transition to a circular economy in key areas such as communications, engagement, regulation and investment. At least €6.6M will be required each year or in excess of €40M over the lifetime of the Plan to achieve this outcome.

ORGANISATION

The move to a singular national plan requires an appropriate organisational response and this Plan includes recommended internal and external organisational arrangements to enable delivery.

A **Local Authority Waste Programme Coordinating Group** will be established to coordinate waste functions. This arrangement will ultimately inform the process of review of shared services internally within the local authority sector which will determine the preferred organisational structure to maintain the sectors response to the waste and circularity challenge.

The recommended organisational arrangements presented will enable consistent and continued engagement with key partners and stakeholders to ensure ongoing collaboration on the targets policies and actions contained in this Plan.

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION

The establishment of a **National Coordinating Group for Waste and the Circular Economy** consisting of the key partners for the delivery of waste policy is recommended for the alignment of annual work plans, projects and resources.

A key role of this group will be to determine the enabling groups required, consistent with the focus areas in the Plan, to deliver on shared programmes and the Plan ambition.

PART C of the Delivery Roadmap sets out key work planning, monitoring and oversight deliverables to underpin the successful delivery of the plan ambition.

WORK PLANNING

Work planning is critical to the achievement of the objectives of the key partners for the delivery of waste policy and this Plan recommends a hierarchy of work plans to provide clarity and consistency in the implementation of policy.

Strategic multiannual work planning will be undertaken by the key partners at national level and this will provide direction to the local authority sector in the formulation of annual work plans.

DYNAMIC AND ADAPTABLE

The delivery of the targets, policies and actions in this Plan will be embedded in annual work plans while retaining the flexibility to respond to changing priorities, markets and unforeseen events. This dynamic approach will allow for early interventions to resolve emerging issues during the life of the Plan.

TIERED APPROACH

Work plans will be devised using a tiered approach with the strategic plan for the **National Coordinating Group for Waste and the Circular Economy** informing the priorities and actions for the **Local Authority Waste Programme Coordinating Group** work plans.

In turn, this work plan will then inform the development of the annual work plans for the two implementation pillars.

This tiered approach will ensure that annual implementation is consistent and coordinated with key partners and other stakeholders.

MONITORING

This Plan sets out a robust and timely monitoring regime and key outputs will include quarterly capacity reports and annual reports on the status of the Plan ambition targets policies and actions.

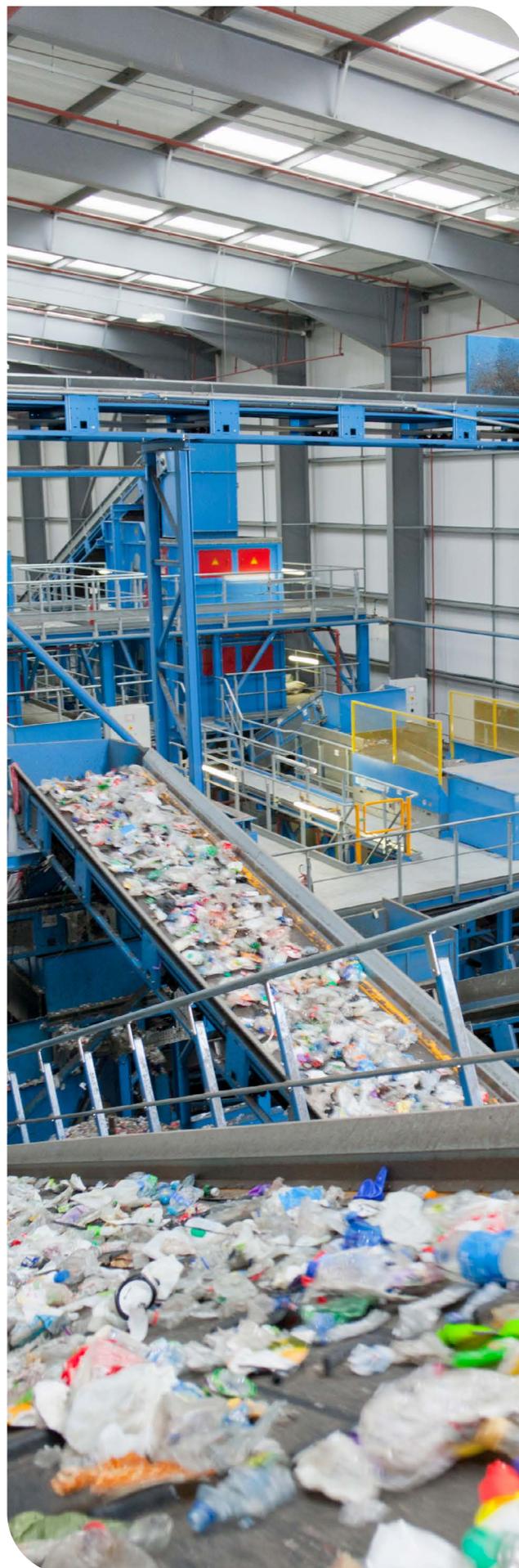
A key feature of annual reporting will be the evaluation of the impact of the Plan on circularity and climate action.



This Plan commits to maintain the links between National Regional and Local Waste Management Activities and to support individual local authorities.

Oversight of the delivery of the Plan will be provided by the County and City Management Association on behalf of the Local Authority Sector and by the National Coordinating Group for Waste and the Circular Economy on behalf of the key partners.

Regional oversight will be provided by established regional waste steering committees consisting of representatives from each local authority area.





ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Volume V of the Plan

SEA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment of Ireland's first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of European Union and national legislation on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

The purpose of the SEA is to:

- Inform the development of the Plan;
- Identify describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the implementation of the Plan and its reasonable alternatives; and
- Provide an early opportunity for the statutory authorities and the public to offer views on any aspect of this environmental report and accompanying Plan documentation, through consultation

Part A of Volume V of the Plan includes the SEA Statement which documents how this process has informed the development of the Plan.

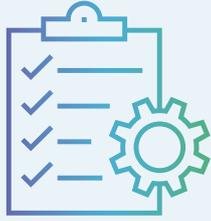
NIS

Natura Impact Statement

A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared for this Plan which considers the likely and possible impacts of the Plan on Natura 2000 Sites. This Natura Impact Statement is included in Part B of Volume V of the Plan.

The implementation of the ambition, targets, policies and actions of this Plan will take account of mitigation measures proposed in the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Natura Impact Statement.





THIS PLAN

This Plan has reviewed the current waste management situation in Ireland and used key drivers and policy proposals to project future trends to identify a range of challenges to be managed over the lifetime of the Plan. The Plan now sets out policy responses and actions to address the current and future challenges identified and provides a delivery roadmap to help navigate the Plan period.

‘Waste generation continues to grow and the State does not have adequate infrastructure to respond with a continued dependence on export. Waste prevention remains a priority while increasing recycling, reuse and repair activities. New resources will be needed to drive material management and use in ways that minimise waste and maximise circularity. The transition to a more circular economy will improve sustainability however big interventions are required to achieve the ambition of this Plan. This Plan offers collaboration as the key to the achievement of our ambition’

Local Government of Ireland



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland