

Resource Efficiency News For Industry & Business

INSIDE:

Focus on single use plastics.....	2
EPA Infographic on commercial municipal waste	3
Book launch – 'The Enterprising Community'	4
Case Study: Renew Enterprises.....	4

mywaste.ie

Ireland's guide to waste
mywaste

*Launched at Irish Waste Management Conference 29th
November 2018.*

A new official online service designed as the one-stop-shop for all matters relating to domestic waste and recycling has been launched by Ireland's three regional waste management offices (Eastern/ Midlands, Southern, Connacht/Ulster).

mywaste.ie – is the ultimate information point for all questions relating to the segregation of household waste. This definitive waste management resource will help the public in addressing the need to manage waste and protect the environment.

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) sponsored site is also designed to help progress Ireland's waste targets. This includes a targeted household recycling and reuse rate of 65% by 2035.



Image: Pixabay

Focus on Single Use Plastics

*Minister Bruton Announces Government will
Lead the Way in Reducing Single Use Plastics*

From the date of the announcement on 4th January 2019, no government department or agency will buy single-use plastic cups, cutlery or straws for use within their offices

- Green procurement advanced
- All government departments and agencies to develop resource efficiency plans

cont on page 2...



See inside case study on Renew Enterprises

Focus on Single Use Plastics



... cont from page 1

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Minister Richard Bruton T.D. announced on 4th January 2019 that government departments, public bodies, and schools will lead the way in the response to cutting down on single use plastics, with a number of measures, including no longer purchasing single-use plastic cups, cutlery and straws for use within their offices.

From the date of the announcement on 4th January:

- No government department will purchase single-use plastic cups, cutlery and straws for use within their offices.
- All government departments will develop resource efficiency action plans by the end of June this year. These plans will help staff make savings in energy and water use as well as preventing food waste and maximising recycling.
- The Department will work with the Office of Government Procurement to bring forward proposals on how national public procurement policy can take account more fully of environmental matters. This will ensure state contracts include the full life cycle cost of our purchases. These proposals are to be finalised by the end of March 2019.

In addition, all public bodies including state agencies and schools will not purchase single-use plastic beverage cups, cutlery and drinking straws after 31st March 2019, except where specific public health/hygiene or safety issues arise.

Every public body is required to report to its respective Minister by end-November 2019 on the measures it is taking to minimise waste generation and maximise recycling.

Minister Bruton said, *"Ireland is way off course in our response to climate disruption. It is practical steps like these that put us on a sustainable path which is essential if we are to achieve our ambition to become a leader. I am committed to putting us on the right trajectory to meet our obligations."*

The Government is implementing these measures ahead of broader proposals relating to single-use plastic items being negotiated at EU level. Draft EU legislation proposes new rules targeting the 10 most prevalent single-use plastic products found on Europe's beaches and seas, as well as lost and abandoned fishing gear, which together account for 70% of all marine litter. The proposal includes a ban on certain single use plastic products such as plastic straws, cutlery, cotton buds and balloon sticks.

Source: www.dccae.ie

European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

In January of 2018, the European Commission adopted the first-ever Europe-wide strategy on plastics. The European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy envisages that all plastic packaging on the EU market will be recyclable by 2030, the consumption of single-use plastics will be reduced and the intentional use of micro plastics will be restricted. This strategy will transform the way products are designed, produced, used, and recycled in the EU. One of the first key legislative proposals to emerge on foot of the EU Plastics Strategy is the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, which was published on 28th May 2018. This draft legislation proposes new EU-wide rules to target the 10 most prevalent single-use plastic (SUP) products found on Europe's beaches and seas. Ireland has supported the ambition of this proposal throughout all the negotiations.

More information on the European Strategy can be found at

- <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/plastics-strategy.pdf>
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/single-use_plastics_proposal.pdf

Source: www.dccae.ie

What is in a Commercial Bin?

EPA municipal waste characterisation study 2018

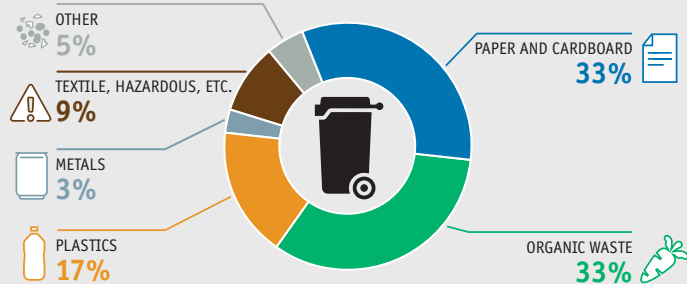


General Waste

Approx. 70% of material in the black bin could be diverted to recycling or composting.

Organic waste is one third of all waste in the black bin. Businesses must divert this to the brown bin.

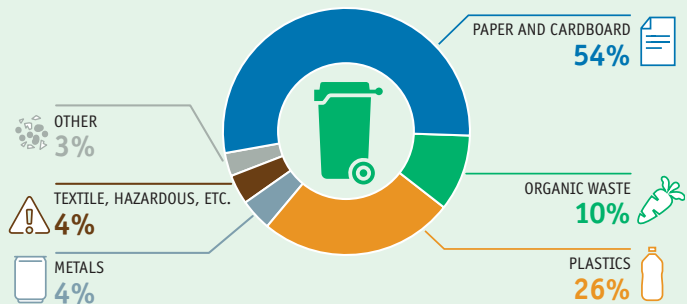
The share of plastic waste in the black bin has almost doubled over the last ten years. Approximately 4% of commercial black bin waste is made up of coffee cups.



Recyclable Waste

Packaging material in the green bin is less clean now than it was ten years ago.

The share of cardboard in commercial bins has declined substantially in the past ten years.



Organic Waste

Over 95% of the commercial brown bin waste is biodegradable;

but **25%** of this organic waste is unused packaged food, that could be managed differently.



Total Kerbside Waste

Organic waste

remains the largest component of commercial waste.



Tissue paper

accounted for **10%** of commercial waste.



Key Messages

The successful separate collection of cardboard

is a model that could be applied to other waste streams. This will increase recycling rates.



Use your bins correctly

Businesses must improve segregation: 70% of the material currently in the black could be recycled or composted.



Present your recyclables **clean, dry, loose.**



Say NO to the throwaway culture

avoid single use products.



Stop food waste

improved management of stock can prevent avoidable food waste.





Image: At an information event in Thomond Park, left to right: Seamus Goggin, Membership Officer, CCJ; Donal Traynor, Associate Director (CFI) Community Finance (Ireland); Dr. Senan Cooke, Chairman of CCJ and author of 'The Enterprising Community', and Linda Ledger, Manager St. Munchins Enterprise Centre Limerick

Launch of Book "The Enterprising Community"

Author: Dr. Senan Cooke, Chairman of
'Communities Creating Jobs' (CCJ)

"The Enterprising Community" written by Dr. Senan Cooke, Chairman of CCJ, was launched in 2018, first in St Patricks, Drumcondra, DCU Campus and at a later date in Dunhill Ecopark, Co. Waterford at which circa 100 and 300 people attended the two celebratory events.

Early feedback from book readers is very positive and includes community project leaders with third level academics including DCU, the university of enterprise and LIT. The book may in time become a reference book for social enterprise development at this critical time of recognition. It is pitching to become part of mainstream economic sector. There is no other available text that articulates a bottom up perspective of its massive potential, which strongly encourages people, organisations, third level institutions and state agencies to engage in its development.

For further details on where to purchase a copy of the book, please check the Communities Creating Jobs website www.ccj.ie. For news on social and community enterprises around the country, check out the latest CCJ Newsletter available on www.ccj.ie/ccj-newsletter.

One good example is Renew Enterprises www.renew.ie, based in Kilbarry Waterford – this enterprise operates successfully within the whole sustainable theme of Reuse and Repair and Upcycling, as the separate article on Renew demonstrates.



Case Study: Renew Enterprises

Renew is a Social Enterprise originally operated by Treo Port Lairge CLG, with whom it shares a premises in Lacken Road Business Park, Kilbarry, Waterford. Renew expanded on skills and programmes developed by Treo and began trading under the name "Renew Enterprises" in March of 2018.

The social enterprise was set up to create full-time employment for people that have been most distant from the labour market, so that they can learn, train and practice new skills while working in an operating business. A social enterprise is a business that has a social mission. Social, environmental and economic issues are fundamental and drive the business' core philosophy.

At Renew, they undertake to provide saleable products, with the purpose of benefiting the local community at large, and creating employment. They believe people have the right to participate fully in life from an economic, social and cultural perspective. They also support creating a sustainable future for every member of society and for societies as a whole. They are committed to social inclusion and social justice.

What they do:

- Lawnmower and small engine repair and servicing
- Bicycle repair and servicing
- Wheelchair repair and servicing
- Bicycle sales (at community prices)
- Kindling Production
- Pallet furniture (indoor and outdoor)
- Custom made furniture and woodcraft items
- Delivering QQI and City & Guilds accredited bicycle mechanics programmes.
- Delivering QQI Level 3 four stroke engine repair programmes

The Renew Enterprises team were delighted to be short listed as a finalist in the Waterford Chamber of Commerce Business Awards in the Community and Social Enterprise category for 2018/2019.

Renew's Social Enterprise manager is Nicola Tull, contact her on manager@renewenterprises.ie or 089-2436006.



**Published by the
Southern Region Waste Management Office**

Our new address is 7/8 Patrick Street, Limerick
Tel 061 556596 • Email info@srwmo.ie
Web www.southernwasteregion.ie • Twitter @preventwaste