

# Revision of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan

## Context For the Plan Review

### 1. Introduction

Ireland's policy for managing hazardous waste is set out in the first National Hazardous Waste Management Plan, which was adopted in 2001. The policy covers all hazardous waste from household hazardous waste right through to industrial hazardous waste. Implementation has been ongoing over the last five years, including actions by government agencies, local authorities, waste producers and private sector waste management companies.

Under the Waste Management Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to review the Plan every five years. The Second Plan will be prepared during 2006 with publication due in the spring of 2007. The EPA has engaged a team of international consultants, led by RPS Consulting Engineers, to assist in the Plan review.

This document provides some background information on the current situation regarding hazardous waste, progress in implementing the first plan, and how the review process will be carried out.

### 2. Overview of the Plan Review Process

The process of preparing the Second Plan comprises two main elements, namely a Strategy Study and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). An outline of the project programme is presented below.

TASK NAME	2006												2007			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Background Research																
First Consultation																
Strategic Assessment and Environmental Report																
Draft Second Plan																
Second Consultation																
Plan and SEA Statement Published																

The Strategy Study will involve a review of existing policy on hazardous waste in order to improve its content and implementability, taking into account best practice in Ireland and internationally. It will provide all the information and technical analysis necessary to assist the EPA in completing the Second Plan. The strategy shall address hazardous waste management in terms of four main themes:

- prevention and minimisation
- recovery
- collection and movement
- disposal

Aspects of the Strategy Study will include a review of the implementation barriers and opportunities and also a review of Northern Ireland policies for hazardous waste, to examine if there are benefits from managing waste on an-island basis. Policy Options will be identified for each of the four main themes and the preferred strategic options will then be brought together as an integrated strategy.

Combining these studies with the feedback from consultation, the project team will make recommendations as to the changes or revisions required for the Second National Hazardous Waste Management Plan.

### 3. Progress in implementation of the First Plan

The following table summarises the progress achieved since 2001 on the main priorities set out in the first Plan.

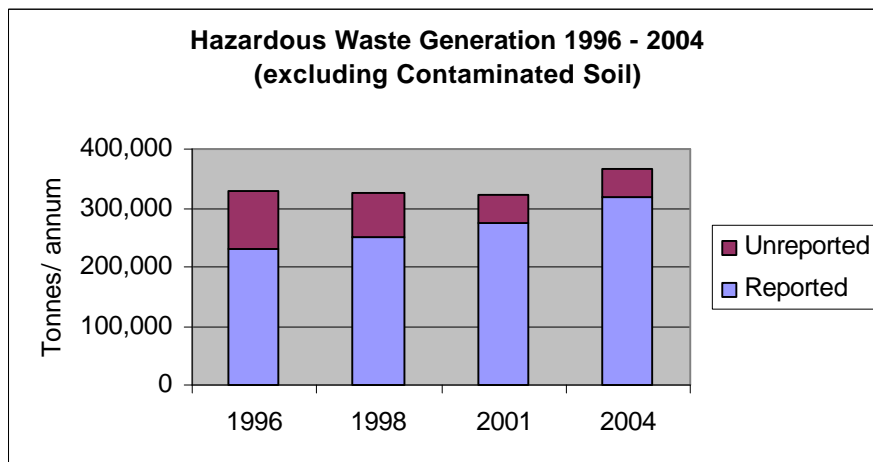
**Table 1 – Priorities of the First NHWMP and Summary of Progress to Date**

Priorities 2001-2006	Progress Summary
1. The establishment of an Implementation Committee by the Department of the Environment and Local Government, responsible for guiding the overall implementation of the Plan.	Committee established in July 2003. This role now served by the National Waste Prevention Committee since April 2004.
2. The establishment of a Prevention Team to implement the Prevention Programme, responsible for the development of the Programme, for the setting of priorities within the Programme itself and for their initiation.	Core Prevention Team established within the EPA in 2004. Programmes now underway.
3. The identification and elimination of unreported hazardous waste to prevent its uncontrolled disposal and resultant emissions to the environment.	The amount of unreported hazardous waste decreased significantly between 1998 and 2001. In 2004 there was still an estimated 47,011 tonnes uncollected.
4. The identification, preliminary evaluation and prioritisation of sites at which hazardous waste disposal has taken place and the implementation of remedial works at priority sites.	Pilot scheme carried out (County Laois). Limited progress in a handful of locations. Not prioritized at local authority level.
5. Establishment of an improved collection infrastructure for hazardous household, agricultural and SME waste.	Gradually Improving facilities at recycling centres for householders. Limited use of a mobile collection service in some areas. Still a deficit in this area.
6. The allocation of financial and technical assistance for the development of facilities for the recovery and disposal of hazardous waste where existing capacity is unsatisfactory.	Not progressed.
7. The development of hazardous waste landfill capacity and thermal treatment for hazardous wastes requiring disposal to achieve self sufficiency and reduce our reliance on export.	Private sector proposal for thermal treatment well advanced. No progress in relation to hazardous waste disposal cells. Continued reliance on export for both thermal treatment and landfill.
8. Improved public awareness of the impacts of hazardous wastes.	Although not measured, it is assumed that public awareness is improving. Programmes run by local authorities and government (Race Against Waste) have had positive results.
9. Build on on-going prevention, research and demonstration initiatives.	Programmes have continued in this regard – e.g. EPA Cleaner Greener Production Programme - with positive results. Enterprise Ireland also offering support to business/ industry.
Long Term Objectives	Progress Summary
10. The achievement of self sufficiency in hazardous waste management.	Despite some increases in treatment capacity in Ireland, the quantity of hazardous waste exported for treatment is increasing.
11. No increase in hazardous waste disposed of over 1996 quantities.	The amount of hazardous waste disposed of has almost doubled since 1996. The amount of contaminated soil requiring disposal is also increasing.
12. The qualitative reduction (i.e. reduction in the degree of hazard) of hazardous waste.	No indicators of progress available.

#### 4. Current Practice in Hazardous Waste Management

##### Generation

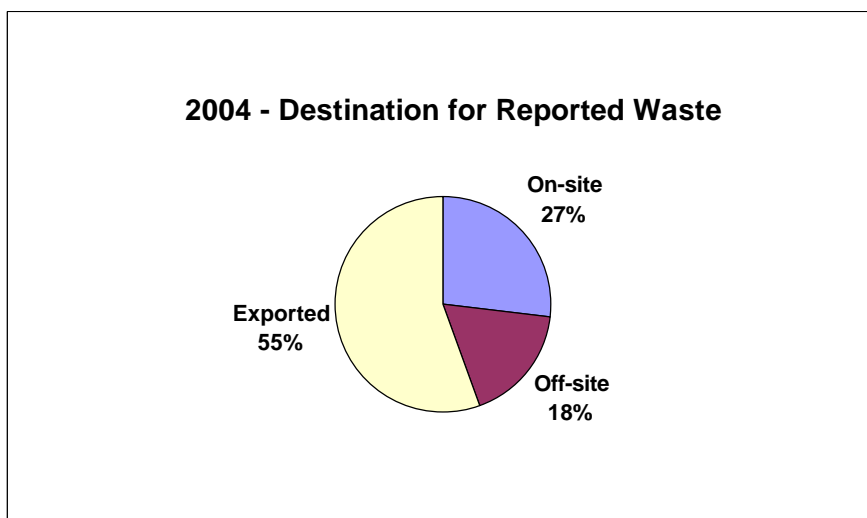
The quantity of hazardous waste generated in the country has risen gradually over the past decades indicated in the figure below. With improving regulation and better reporting of waste, the proportion of waste estimated to be 'un-reported' is falling. There were over 300,000 tonnes of contaminated soil generated in 2004, meaning the total generation of hazardous waste exceeded 670,000 tonnes.



##### Management Methods

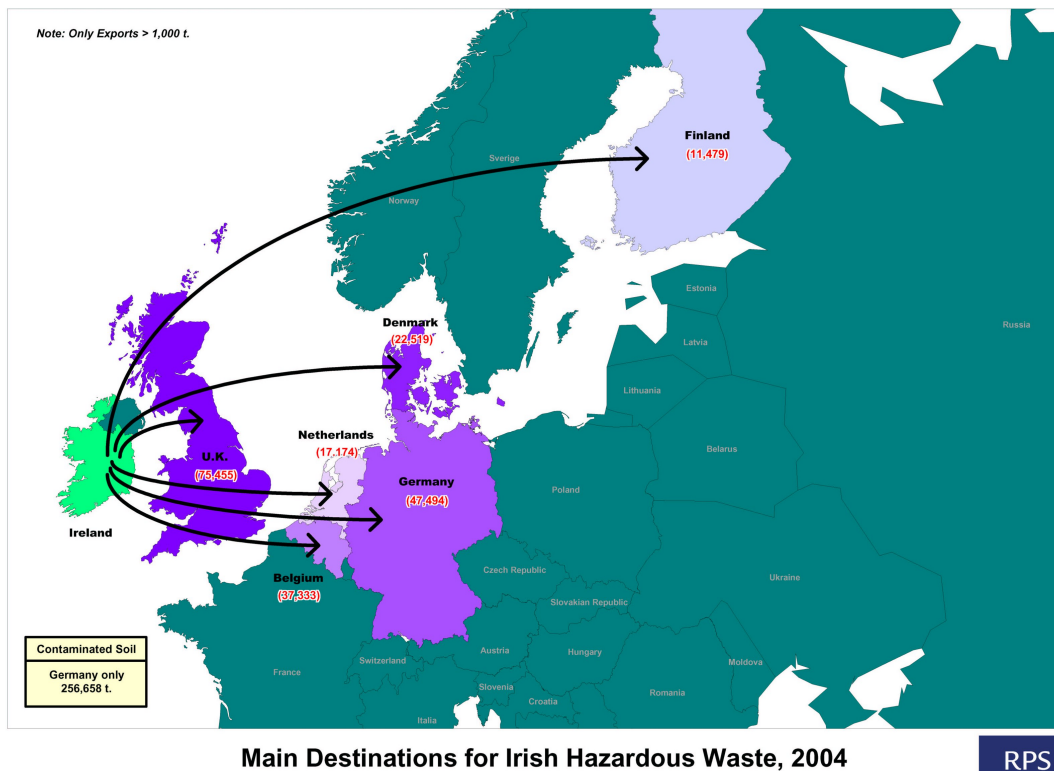
Some companies manage hazardous waste on-site in accordance with their Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control (IPPC) Licence: this accounts for 27% of hazardous waste. Dedicated off-site hazardous waste facilities manage 18% of the waste stream, but the majority of Irish hazardous waste (55%) is exported for treatment.

When all on-site and off-site treatment methods are combined, just under 50% of Irish hazardous waste is recovered (including both material recovery and energy recovery options) and the balance is disposed of.



##### Export Destinations

The following map outlines the main destinations for Irish hazardous waste in 2004, namely the UK, Germany, Denmark, Holland, Netherlands and Finland. Germany was the treatment destination for the 250,000 tonnes of contaminated soil exported.



## 5. Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a new statutory process for evaluating the environmental effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The overall aim of the SEA process is to integrate environmental and sustainability considerations into the preparation of the Second National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. The process gives the public and other interested parties an opportunity to comment and to be integrated into the decision-making process. Also it ensures transparency on decisions and how they were made.

The SEA comprises of the following stages:

- Scoping
- Environmental Report, which sets out the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Plan. A number of strategic options identified for managing hazardous waste will be assessed.
- Consultation on the Draft National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and Environmental Report.
- SEA Statement, which identifies how environmental considerations and outcome of consultations have been integrated into the Final Plan.

### SEA Scoping Consultations

Scoping has been carried out through a series of meetings and consultations with the statutory environmental authorities as follows; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG); and the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DoCMNR). This has been done prior to making a decision on the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report.

Transboundary consultations have also been carried out whereby EU Member States receiving hazardous waste from Ireland have been notified that the Plan and SEA are being carried out and submissions have been requested.

The aspects of the environment, which shall be considered include: biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape, energy and transport. These broadly follow the European Directive on SEA (2001/42/EC) and Irish Legislation in the form of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment Of Certain Plans And Programmes) Regulations 2004.

## 6. Call for Public Consultation

A key element of the Strategy Study is consultation with stakeholders and the public on hazardous waste policy. This requires two-way communications with producers, collectors, exporters of hazardous waste, the local authorities and the general public, so that the policy that emerges reflects a balanced input.

The initial consultation takes place at an early stage in the project and prior to the development of the Draft Second Plan. A notice announcing commencement of the process of preparing the second National Hazardous Waste Plan and calling for public input was published in the national press on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2006.

Inputs and comments can be forwarded to:

**National Hazardous Waste Management Plan, Environmental Protection Agency, PO Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**

Or by email to [wasteinfo@epa.ie](mailto:wasteinfo@epa.ie)

Comments regarding the first consultation period are invited before 4 p.m. on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006.

All correspondence should be headed "Review of National Hazardous Waste Management Plan". All submissions will be made publicly available.

Once a Draft Second Plan is published, this will form the basis for a second phase of consultation.

## 7. More Information

The first National Hazardous Waste Management Plan is available to download from the EPA website. Also available on the EPA website is a section on Strategic Environmental Assessment. Further information on the review process will be published on the EPA website as the review proceeds. The links to the websites are:

<http://www.epa.ie/OurEnvironment/Waste/HazardousWasteManagement/>.

<http://www.epa.ie/TechnicalGuidanceandAdvice/StrategicEnvironmentalAssessment/>

