

PART 1
BACKGROUND

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Donegal County Council has prepared a replacement Waste Management Plan as required under Section 22 of the Waste Management Act 1996 and Waste Management (Planning) Regulations 1997. The previous Donegal Waste Management Plan was adopted in 2000 and based on a twenty year framework programme.

In terms of Waste Management Policy, the Plan falls into a hierarchy of policy handed down from EU and National levels and complies with national legislation on Waste Management Plans.

1.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

This review will provide opportunities for Donegal County Council to:

- Assess the impact of current policy measures, and to inform the future development of policy, as it affects waste management within the region;
- Evaluate the progress made with implementation of the Waste Management Plans, and to identify any barriers or constraints that have emerged, including any shortfall in infrastructure, capacity or services;
- Consider the implementation of innovative technologies for specific waste streams;
- Manage the flow of waste for specific treatment and disposal methods on both a regional and inter regional basis;
- Identify key drivers, at the macro- and micro-level, that affect attitudes, approaches and waste management practices;
- Understand the waste and resource management issues that affect the business sector within the region; and to identify measures that could improve competitiveness of businesses and/or create economic development opportunities;
- Engage with the business and waste management industries within the region, to develop a cross-sectoral approach for mutual benefit, optimise resource recovery, and maximise economic development opportunities.
- Undertake economic evaluation of waste management requirement

1.3 REGIONAL AND STAND-ALONE APPROACHES

The North West Region Waste Management Group consists of a voluntary grouping of seven local authorities in Northern Ireland: Ballymoney Borough Council, Coleraine Borough Council, Derry City Council, Limavady Borough Council, Magherafelt District Council, Moyle District Council, Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council. A Waste Management Plan for the Northern Ireland Councils was developed in 2002 to provide a regional approach to improving waste management

practices. This approach has mutual benefits including for example, increased opportunity with respect to meeting obligations, through economies of scale, and sharing of resources and targets.

The Waste Management Plan for the Northern Ireland group of Councils has been recently revised and adopted in June 2006. A Technical Assessment was undertaken to identify the specific requirements for the management of municipal wastes. Based on the results of this assessment, and the feedback from the public consultation undertaken as part of the review of the Plan, the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) for the Region includes three main elements:

- *Waste Prevention* - limiting annual waste growth.
- *Materials Recovery* - a three bin system for separate collection of dry recyclables, organic waste (garden and food wastes) and residual waste for all households- where practicable and as appropriate.
- *Energy Recovery and Residual Waste Treatment* - The mix of waste technologies, to include Mechanical Biological Treatment (but not mass burn incineration), with the objectives of:
 - Additional materials recovery to meet Strategy targets
 - Reduction in biodegradability to meet statutory BMW landfill diversion and NILAS targets.
 - Energy Recovery through the production of a fuel for the generation of both electricity and heat to maximise the value of the waste as a resource.

The North West Region Waste Management Group has provided County Donegal with two options, in principle, for dealing with future waste management issues within the County, these are as follows:

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Stand-Alone Option – As the name implies the ‘stand-alone’ option would entail the development of the waste management infrastructure necessary to comply with targets wholly within the county of Donegal.

Regional Options – This approach to waste management aims to achieve the economics, market presence and increased flexibility associated with having access to greater quantities of waste generated by the larger catchment area.

The cross-border element of the regional grouping option is also considered within the Waste Management Plan, as it has important implications for County Donegal, in particular:

- The local authorities within the group will be following different national policy guidance i.e. “Waste Management - Changing Our Ways” for Donegal, and the “Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy” for the other Local Authorities;

- The EU, Irish and UK Regulations on the Transfrontier Shipment of Wastes currently place a range of controls on the movement of waste across borders;
- EU regulations permit, in specific circumstances, the transfer of waste across borders for recycling or waste treatment. This must be carried out under the framework of a Waste Management Plan, and with the consent of all respective authorities.

1.4 WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Progress has been made in the last five years, however much more work is required if the county is to meet both national and EU targets on waste management. In the last five years, a number of new legislative policies and regulations have been adopted, which require implementation under the replacement plan.

1.4.1 EU Waste Management Policy

Ireland is obligated to implement EU directives as a member state. The EU Landfill Directive 1999 drove much of the previous waste management strategies. Since 2000, there have been a number of new EU directives transposed into Irish law which directly affect waste management plans. These include EU Directive Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment, EU Directive on End of Life Vehicles, The Incineration of Waste Directive, and the Animal By-Products Regulations. A number of other EU programmes will also have impacts on this and future waste management plans. These include:

- EU Sixth Environment Action Programme – “Environment 2010 Our Future”
- Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste
- 2000 Lisbon Strategy
- 2005 Review of EU Sustainable Development Strategy

1.4.2 Irish Waste Management Policy

A number of national policy documents on waste management have been published, directing waste management. The government’s ‘Changing Our Ways’ policy document was the first in a series of policies to tackle waste issues. This document has been followed up by the 2002 document ‘Delivering Change’ and 2004 ‘Taking Stock & Moving Forward’. A number of strategies have also been introduced including the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan, National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste, Voluntary Construction Industry Initiative and the National Waste Prevention Programme.

The governing legislation for waste is provided by the Waste Management Act, 1996, as amended by the Waste Management Amendment Act 2001 and the Protection of the Environment Act, 2003. The 1996 Act has been brought into effect by the making of a series of regulations, covering aspects such

as waste collection, authorisation of waste facilities, transfrontier shipment of waste and specific waste streams such as packaging and farm plastics.

1.5 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The National Spatial Strategy sets out the overall strategic framework for Ireland's development over the period 2002-2020.

Waste management planning is a key prerequisite to the provision of improved waste management facilities and services, in terms of both more sustainable practices with increased waste prevention, re-use, recycling and recovery, as well as improved environmental protection. The waste management planning context includes not only the statutory Waste Management Plan, but it will also be informed by a number of other relevant plans and strategies, including:

- Donegal County Development Plan 2005 provides the overall plan, which will lead to sustainable development in the County.
- The North West Region Waste Management Group – Waste Management Plan.
- The Donegal County Strategy 2002 – 2012.

Donegal County Council prepared County Development Plan in accordance with Section 20 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963. A Draft Replacement Development Plan was sent out for public consultation in 2005, Donegal County Council has published Material Alterations to the Draft County Donegal Development Plan 2005 under statutory obligations set out at Section 12 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 - 2004. The Material Alterations set out significant amendments that are proposed to be made to the Draft County Development Plan 2005 and if adopted shall be incorporated into the new development plan. The consultation period for Material Alterations closed on 31st March 2006. This County Development Plan provides the overall framework, which will lead to sustainable development in the County.

1.6 CROSS BORDER WASTE MANAGEMENT STUDY

The Cross-Border study builds upon the review process being undertaken on the waste management plans within the Cross Border Region and provides a platform from which to assess the key drivers, barriers and constraints being faced by local authorities and the waste industry within the Cross Border region. The study also builds upon work carried out by ICBAN, the North-West Group, the East Region and information contained within the IBEC-CBI report published in 2004.

The Study provides an overview of the contextual setting of the project, and also considers the key legislative drivers that have been adopted within Europe, highlighting the main differences in how this legislation has been implemented within Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The report also examines the key differences in national targets set for each specific waste stream and highlights the

impact that these differences will have on waste management practices and market development throughout the island of Ireland.

2. STUDY AREA

2.1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

County Donegal is situated on the North-West coast of Ireland (Figure 2.1) and is one of the largest counties with a land area of 486,091 hectares, which represents 6.9% of the total land area of the state. It is renowned for its dramatic cliffs, rough mountainous scenery, deep valleys, long scenic loughs and hectares of bog land, as well as for its fishing villages scattered along its rocky barren coastline and sweeping sandy beaches.

This section of the Waste Management Plan provides a general overall view of the topography, geology, hydrology and hydrogeology of County Donegal in addition to highlighting the present transport infrastructure and land-use within the county. This information is taken from Donegal County Profile, 2002 and the 2002 Census.

2.2 TOPOGRAPHY

The county as a whole consists largely of mountainous areas, making up approximately 45% of Donegal's land type. The main ranges are the Blue Stack Mountains near Donegal Town and the Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains laying either side of Glenveagh National Park. The locations of these can be seen in Figure 2.1. These are characterised by U-shaped valleys which have steep sides and relatively broad bottoms. The highest point within County Donegal is Mount Errigal at 752m above sea level with other major peaks of 683m in the Derryveagh Mountains and 615m on the Inishowen Peninsula. Slieve League is the highest sea cliff in Europe, ranging from 300-600m in height.

Rolling lowland accounts for approximately 43% of the county's land type and is prevalent in the Inishowen, Milford and Glenties Rural Districts.

The Donegal coastline is very complex with many peninsulas and small islands. The coastline is the longest in the country at 1,134km and totalling 17.1 % of the national coastline. Lough Swilly extends 30km inland from the north coast to Letterkenny and is the longest of the several glacially formed inlets within the county. Other inlets such as Mulroy Bay provide ideal situations for many fish farms and aquaculture processes.

Donegal is also an important fishing region with the largest fishing port in Ireland situated at Killybegs on the southwest coast of the county. The clean beaches, scenic walks and peace and quiet of County Donegal attract many visitors to this remote corner of Ireland each year.

2.3 GEOLOGY

2.3.1 Solid Geology

The geology of Donegal, which is shown in Figure 2.2, is very varied and complex. However, it can be simplified into five main subdivisions, as follows:-

Gneiss – coarsely crystalline banded metamorphic rock – these are the oldest rocks in Donegal and can only be seen on the Island of Inishtrahull, northeast of Malin Head.

Dalradian Metasedimentary Rocks - these are the most widespread rocks in Donegal and were converted to schists and quartzite during mountain forming in the Ordovician Period. Quartzite is mainly quarried northeast of Letterkenny and used in road building.

Granite Intrusions - these types of rock are commonly found on the west of the County and make up the largest upland massif in the region, including the Derryveagh Mountains and the low lying hummocky ground in the Rosses area. Major fractures running through the rocks have been exploited by erosional forces to produce long straight valleys. The most dramatic of which is the deep valley of Glenveagh that separates the Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains.

Devonian Sandstone - this sedimentary rock is only found in small localised areas of Donegal, including an area near Portsalon on Fanad Head.

Dolerite - this type of rock formed during the opening of the North Atlantic and is mainly found as intrusions within the older rocks.

2.3.2 Drift Geology

A full detailed drift geological survey has not, to date, been carried out for County Donegal. However, the current landscape of Northern Donegal reflects the widespread glaciation of the region. The effects of glaciation can be seen in the long and intricate coastline of County Donegal, with the valleys and inlets such as Lough Swilly, being gouged out along structural lines of weakness in the surrounding geology as glaciers flowed from the Donegal highlands to the sea.

The last ice age, which ended around 10,000 years ago, formed superficial glacial drift deposits in the low lying areas as the ice sheets retreated. These often comprised of either lodgement tills (boulder clay), sometimes in the form of drumlins deposited from beneath the ice sheets, or fluvio-glacial sands and gravels, washed out from the glaciers as the ice retreated. Boulder clays typically consist of boulders and cobbles held in a matrix of fine grained materials derived from the weaker underlying strata (hence the name “boulder” clay).

The fluvioglacial sands and gravels are generally medium to coarse grained deposits, often overlies the boulder clay or else lie directly on the bedrock where glacial erosion has removed any other superficial drift deposits.

Following the ice age, as sea levels rose, soft postglacial alluvial and estuarine deposits have formed above the glacial soils in some river valleys along the coast. In upland areas extensive deposits of blanket peat have formed due to the prevailing climatic conditions.

2.3.3 Soils

Since deglaciation, soil formation has occurred as a result of a number of different factors, namely: climate change; vegetation growth; erosion of parent material; breakdown of compounds by organisms; relative age; and relief. From the Soils Map of Donegal (Figure 2.3) it can be seen that the soil types vary across the county, however it is possible to classify the region into three main types: -

Gley soils - these are typically found in areas characterised by impeded drainage, either due to a high water table or the inability of the soil to cope with surface water. The waterlogging of soils inhibits the decomposition of organic matter, which then accumulates at the surface.

Within County Donegal gley soils are most commonly found in the more southern areas of the Ballyshannon and Donegal districts where drumlin development has occurred. These boulder clays, from which drumlins are formed, are so compact and impermeable that the soil often is very wet and sticky at the surface within the topsoil. This can lead to excess leaching and run-off of any products such as fertilizers, pesticides or slurry which are applied to the soil.

Podzolic Soils - these brown podzolics and peaty podzols are mainly found in the Inishowen, Letterkenny and Stranorlar Rural Districts and tend to be associated with free-draining areas, and therefore are generally suitable for arable landuse.

Blanket Peats - these occur where poor soil drainage leads to anaerobic conditions, which can only support very low populations of microorganisms and therefore organic matter is broken down very slowly. The resulting organic residues consist mainly of lignin and lignified tissues which accumulate to considerable depths to form peat.

2.4 HYDROLOGY

The hydrology of County Donegal is marked by five main catchment areas: Foyle, Lough Swilly, North Inishowen (Donagh–Moville), North-West (Gweebarra– Sheephaven), and Donegal Bay.

In accordance with EPA Ireland's Environment Report 2004 surface water quality within Donegal is generally regarded as unpolluted with approximately 87% of all rivers being classified as unpolluted 5% as slightly polluted, 7% as moderately polluted and 1% as seriously polluted.

2.4.1 Meteorology

County Donegal is the most Northerly County in the Country and its weather is dominated by Atlantic weather fronts with rainfall and average wind speed being generally high.

Rainfall data for the 56 stations within County Donegal is available from the Meteorological Office, Dublin. From this data it was calculated that County Donegal has an average rainfall of 1493mm/annum. Spatial variations in rainfall occur across the county with the highest rainfall (>2,600mm) expected to occur in the upland regions and the lowest rainfall occurring in the east of the County.

For example, 967 mm occurs at Newtowncunningham. There is also annual average potential evapotranspirative loss of 577mm per year based on data from the Malin Head Climatological Station, which suggests an average annual effective rainfall of 916mm for Donegal.

2.5 HYDROGEOLOGY

Groundwater resources provide about 25% of all drinking water supplies in Ireland. However, in Donegal it is reported that groundwater only supplies about 2% of the total water supply in the county, as most of the county is underlain by crystalline basement rocks which are poor aquifers. In general terms, groundwater within County Donegal is reported to be of potable quality except where there may be local contamination due to septic tanks, intensive agriculture or industrial pollution.

In areas underlain by gley soils or boulder clays, rainfall tends to result in surface runoff as groundwater movement within these heavily consolidated deposits is generally restricted to slow circulation through micropores and microfissures. These strata therefore represent an effective aquitard as groundwater movement is significantly hindered by the hydraulic barrier effect of the fine-grained materials. Information from the GSI groundwater vulnerability study in Donegal will be taken into consideration when it is available; this is currently in draft format.

2.6 POPULATION

Donegal at 485,951 ha accounts for 6.9% of the total landmass of Ireland and is the third largest of the seven Western counties after Galway and Mayo. The total population, as seen in Table 2.1, was approximately 137,575 in 2002, a growth of 5.8% since 1996. From this growth rate it can be projected that by 2021 the population within Donegal will be approximately 145,000. However within County Donegal the largest population densities are concentrated within a small number of towns leaving the rest of the county sparsely populated. Table 2.1 shows the population density within County Donegal.

Table 2.1 Population Density in County Donegal

	Aggregate Areas	Town	Aggregate Areas	Rural	% Pop in Aggregate Town Areas
2002	32,788		104,787		23.8%

The population of Donegal is primarily rural with Letterkenny being the only medium sized town in the County. The population of Letterkenny Urban and Rural Districts increased by 4.7% and 65.5% respectively since 1996 with a current population of approximately 15,231.

Electorally, Donegal is split into six areas comprising Letterkenny, Milford, Inishowen, Glenties, Donegal and Stranorlar, as shown in Figure 2.4. The County is also divided into eight Rural Districts – Inishowen, Milford, Letterkenny, Stranorlar, Ballyshannon, Dunfanaghy, Glenties and Donegal.

In 2002 there were a total of 44,713 private households in Donegal, Letterkenny being the only town with a population of greater than 10,000. In addition, the County also contains the three Urban District Councils of Letterkenny, Bundoran and Buncrana, which are shown in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 Population of Urban District Councils

Urban Area	Population 2002 Census
Buncrana	3420
Bundoran	1678
Letterkenny	7695

The population of Donegal Gaeltacht in 2002 was 23,728. The Gaeltacht covers an area of 1,770sq.km, which is one third of the land area of County Donegal. Donegal also has a substantial island population.

2.7 LANDUSE

Peat bogs, moors, heathland and natural grassland make up approximately 52% of the landcover in Donegal. Agriculture land accounts for approximately 37% of the total land area. Corine landcover is shown in Figure 2.5. The following section describes in more detail the principal landuses within the County.

2.8 AGRICULTURE

Agriculture provides a significant contribution to Donegal's economy both in relation to output and employment. The Census of Agriculture (2000) states that the number of farms in County Donegal is approximately 8,805, which is a decrease of around 14% on the 1991 figure. The Census also states that the average farm size increased by nearly 12%. Farming in Donegal is facing significant challenges as it seeks to respond to the reforms within the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Nitrates Directive and to compete with the larger farms in the rest of the country. Farming sectors within Donegal include beef production, dairy cattle, specialist sheep production, pig production and poultry production; however the majority of farms in Donegal are concentrated in the cattle and sheep rearing sector.

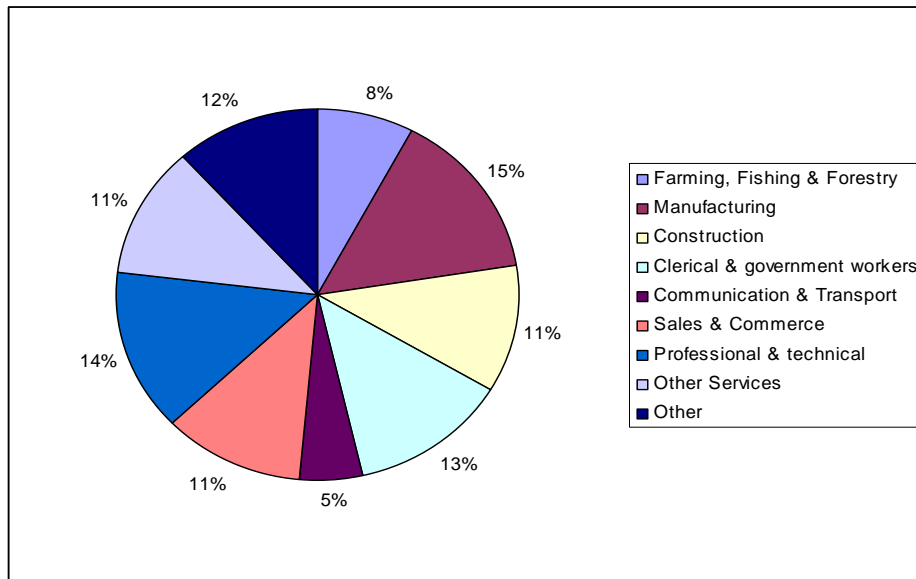
2.9 NATURE CONSERVATION SITES

Donegal is renowned worldwide for its scenic beauty and rich heritage. In recognition of this and the need to afford appropriate levels of protection, much of the peatbogs, national parks and coastline of the region have been designated as Nature Conservation Sites. The three main statutory designations within Donegal are: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Areas of Scientific Interest (ASI)/ National Heritage Areas (NHA). These are shown on Figure 2.6.

2.10 COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

Within Donegal, the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Manufacturing Sector have traditionally been the highest employers. However since 1986 there has been an increasing trend toward higher levels of employment in the services sector. Figure 2.7 illustrates the employment sectors in Donegal.

Figure 2.7 Employment sectors in Donegal (Source: CSO 2002)



2.11 TOURISM

Overseas tourist visits to Ireland in 2004 increased by 3.3% to 6.4 million, exceeding the volume of tourists arriving in Ireland in 2000, the previous record year. Tourist numbers from Britain decreased by 1%, Mainland European and North American tourists grew by 7%. However numbers from North America remain 9% below the record level achieved in 2000. Visitors from the other long haul markets increased by 28%, albeit on a small base. Numbers visiting the northwest have dropped during this period from international visitors, however domestic visits and visitors from Northern Ireland have increased.

2.12 TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

2.12.1 Roads

The National Primary network in County Donegal is 159km long. Donegal is serviced by five main national primary & secondary roads:

N3 Ballyshannon – Belleek

N13 Bridgend – Letterkenny - Stranorlar

N14 Lifford – Manorcunningham

N15 Lifford – Bundoran

N56 (Secondary Route) Donegal Town – Killybegs, Dungloe, Dunfanaghy, Letterkenny

These roads have been upgraded under the NDP programme 1996-2005. To date 40% of the non-national road network has been improved and strengthened and 51% of roads have been surface dressed. Main road networks are illustrated in Figure 2.8.

The pavements of Regional and Local Roads are being strengthened through a 10 year Restoration Programme 1996-2005 funded by the Exchequer, while more significant improvements to certain strategic routes are being funded from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for example, the Dungloe to Ballybofey route.

2.12.2 Airports

Donegal is currently served by one airport within the County, Carrickfinn Airport situated on the west coast of Donegal and two outside the County namely Sligo Airport and City of Derry Airport. Carrickfinn airport is situated in a "Special Area of Conservation" with a Blue Flag Beach bordering the edge of the airstrip. These are shown on Figure 2.9. The airport currently operates flights from Dublin and Glasgow.

REFERENCE

Donegal County Enterprise Board (2003). *Donegal County Profile 2002*

3 CONSULTATION

3.1 PRE DRAFT CONSULTATION

Public consultation is an important part of reviewing waste management planning and also as a measure to comply with section 22 of the Waste Management Act 1996. A Department of the Environment Circular WIR 06/04 stated that the review of waste management plans require a consultation period to be undertaken to allow interested parties to express their view on the future of waste management within the County.

3.2 CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.2.1 National Consultation

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government undertook a National Overview of Waste Management Plans in April 2004 and stated the review process for the plans should be commenced. Under legislative requirements an advertisement inviting written submissions was placed in the local press in 2004. Details of submissions made under this statutory requirement are provided in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Initial Consultation Responses received

Name	Responses
Green party	Received Guiding Donegal Towards a Zero Waste Community Document.
National Construction and Demolition Waste Council	Provision for the construction and demolition waste stream are met in terms of accurate quantification of C&D waste arisings and identification of facilities.
IWMA	Received Review of Donegal Regional Waste Management Plan Document. Request opportunity to meet during the review process.
IBEC	IBEC submission on the review of Donegal County Council waste management plan.

3.2.2 Local Consultation

Donegal County Council undertook a public consultation period during July & August 2005. This consultation period allowed members of the public to comment on waste management issues and to get their views on how the waste management plan should be implemented over the next five years. The following methods were utilised:

- Leaflet & Newspaper advertisements requesting written public submissions
- Consultation Days for the Public
- Consultation Day for the Waste Industry
- Requests for submissions from interested stakeholders
- Workshop for elected members of the council

3.2.3 Leaflet Drop & Newspaper Advertisements

Leaflets describing the waste management review was available in the Donegal Public Services Centres. The leaflets also gave details of the public consultation periods. A copy of the leaflet is found in Appendix A.

Advertisements requesting feedback on waste management issues in Donegal were published in the local and national papers during June/July 2005. These advertisements were part of the quarterly 'Green Piece' publication. Nineteen submissions were received through newspaper advertisement replies.

3.2.4 Consultation Days for the Public

Six consultation days were held in Donegal Electoral areas. These were advertised in the local press and on local radio. The Consultation days were held at the following locations and dates from 3.00 p.m to 7.30 p.m. Views were recorded at the public consultation days. There was a low turnout at these consultation days, with approximately 20 people attending over the six days.

Carndonagh Public Services Centre:	6 th July 2005
Dungloe Public Services Centre:	7 th July 2005
Milford Public Services Centre:	8 th July 2005
Stranorlar, Kees Hotel:	13 th July 2005
Letterkenny Public Services Centre:	14 th July 2005
Donegal Public Services Centre:	15 th July 2005

Members of the public were invited to send their views by post or by email, or alternatively to postal boxes, which were available in all Donegal County Council Offices.

3.2.5 Consultation With The Waste Industry

All companies that are invited to Waste Collection Permit meetings were contacted (15 in all) inviting their views and giving them the opportunity to meet with RPS Consulting Engineers. These meetings took place on the 20th of July. Only two companies took up the opportunity to meet with RPS. No other responses have been received. The final response date for views was the 19th August. Issues raised in these meetings are as follows:

- Development of a Materials Recovery Facility in Derry
- Perceived lack of implementation of the Waste Plan
- Transfrontier shipment of waste to Northern Ireland
- Duration of Waste Collection and Waste Permit
- Funding/Subsidy Issues
- Reporting procedures to Donegal County Council
- Illegal dumping and burning of waste by businesses

3.2.6 Other Stakeholders

All interested parties were invited to make submissions in relation to the Waste Management Plan by the 19th August. Twenty responses have been received. The issues raised are summarised below:

- Insufficient capacity within Donegal to manage waste from the industrial and commercial sector
- A combination of waste management methods (prevention, reduction, reuse, recycle, recover, landfill) are required
- Further development of the private waste industry to create a competitive waste market
- Utilise the Race Against Waste Campaign
- Lack of infrastructure for waste arising from the fishing and aquaculture industry
- Specific waste management plans for construction and demolition (C&D) waste.

3.2.7 Workshop for Council Members

A workshop for council members was held on the 7th September 2005 regarding the waste management plan review. A number of issues were raised by the Elected members at this workshop, including:

- Waste collection facilities & infrastructure
- Waste collection costs
- Incentives to recycle
- Proposed landfill site at Meenaboll

- Thermal treatment facilities
- Strategic policy
- Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

Further Workshops were held with the Elected Members as follows:

- 8 March 2006 Draft Waste Management Plan
- 10 April 2006 Comparative Financial Assessment
- 2 May 2006 Draft Waste Management Plan

3.3 KEY ISSUES RAISED

A total of 50 submissions were received from the general public via public consultation days, post, email and postal boxes in Donegal County Council Offices. The issues are summarised as follows:

- Waste Mininisation & Packaging
- Recycling
- Composting
- Landfill & Incineration
- Illegal Dumping & Litter
- Education
- Waste Collection & Charges

3.4 RESPONDING TO KEY ISSUES FROM CONSULTATION

The issues raised during the consultation period are discussed further on in this report. Table 3.2 summaries the issues addressed and those to be addressed.

Table 3.2 Issues raised during the consultation

Key Issue	Where Addressed
Waste Prevention & Minimisation	Chapter 4
Packaging Waste	Chapter 11
Biodegradable Waste/Composting	Chapter 7,14,15
Recycling Facilities	Chapter 9,14,15
Education, Awareness, Promotion	Chapter 4,5,6,15,16,18
Waste Collection	Chapter 8,14
Legal/Enforcement Issues	Chapter 13,18

3.5 POST DRAFT CONSULTATION

In accordance with statutory requirements, the Draft Replacement Waste Management Plan was made available to the public for comment from 12th May 2006 to 14th July 2006. Publicity included publication of the Draft Replacement Plan on the Donegal County Council website, advertisement in newspapers and the display of the Plan at the following locations:

- Donegal County Council Environment Section, Three Rivers Centre, Lifford
- Public Services Centre, Neil T. Blaney Road, Letterkenny
- Public Services Centre, Main Street, Milford
- Public Services Centre, Malin Road, Carndonagh
- Public Services Centre, Gweedore Road, Dungloe
- Public Services Centre, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town

A total of 4 written submissions during the consultation period. Issues raised in the submissions were assessed and amendments made to the Draft Replacement Waste Management Plan as deemed necessary following review by Donegal County Council. A copy of the report detailing the analysis of the statutory consultation responses is included in Appendix B to this report.

4. WASTE PREVENTION AND MINIMISATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Since the 2000 Waste Management Plan, there have been a number of national programmes and policies developed in order to improve waste prevention and minimisation. These initiatives have included enforcement legislation, research programmes, policy documents and development within the EPA to further prevent waste generation on a national and local level.

Much of the recommendations of the 2000 plan focused on prevention and minimisation methods for householders. To date the following waste prevention and recycling actions set out in the 2000 plan have been achieved:

- Appointment of Waste Awareness Officer, Waste Regulation Officer and Recycling Officer
- Waste Awareness Campaigns carried out by the Council for schools & householders

4.2 PROGRESS TO DATE AND INITIATIVES

Along with changes in national and European legislation, a number of national programmes and initiatives have been rolled out since the 2000 plan.

4.2.1 National Programmes and Initiatives

- Preventing & Recycling Waste: Delivering Change 2003
- The Environment Partnership Fund
- Environmental Research Technological Develop and Innovation Research Programme (ERTDI)
- Cleaner Greener Production Programme
- National Waste Prevention Programme
- Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme
- Establishment of the Core Prevention Team
- Race Against Waste

4.2.2 Race Against Waste Campaign

The Race Against Waste Campaign was launched in 2003 to raise awareness of waste issues and change behaviour among people at home and at work in order to reduce the amount of waste being produced and increase recycling and composting. There are a number of programmes within the campaign which target various sectors including households, communities and businesses.

4.2.2.1 Race Against Waste - Small Change for Business Programme

The Small Change campaign is run nationally by the Race Against Waste team and co-ordinated locally by the Waste Awareness Officer. A Small Change for Business Guidebook is available which outlines everything that a small business can do to comply with the regulations and implement an environmental management programme within their business.

4.2.2.2 Race Against Waste – Action At Work

Support is also available to Large Organisations through the Action at Work Campaign. Advice is available from the Waste Awareness Officer and presentations are made to large organisations about implementing good waste management practices in their organisations. A comprehensive guidebook 'Action At Work' is available and will inform organisations of their obligations under legislation and how to go about setting up an environmental management programme.

4.2.2.3 Race Against Waste – Waste Minimisation Club

Support is also available to businesses through Waste Minimisation Club. A Waste Minimisation Club is where businesses in a particular geographic area group together to negotiate better terms/services from waste contractors. The Club may also share facilities and equipment and exchange waste items that may be of use to another business. The focus should eventually lead to waste minimisation efforts being put in place by the businesses.

4.2.2.4 Tidy Towns - Race Against Waste Module

In 2004 a pilot module on waste management was introduced to the Tidy Towns competition. This module was run again on a pilot basis in 2005 and almost 100 applicants took part. This module can provide an outlet for collective community responsibility in relation to waste.

4.2.3 Within the Local Authority

Greater awareness of waste management has been improved in the council through the appointment of a Waste Awareness Officer, Waste Regulation Officer, Assistant Waste Regulation Officer and Recycling Officer. Donegal County Council have been involved in and promoted the Repak Green Christmas Campaign, Repak Recycling Week, Race Against Waste Action at Work campaign (large organisations) and the Small Change campaign for SME's.

A Green Purchasing Policy within the council was successfully launched focusing on stimulating markets for recycled materials. All paper purchases are now either from sustainable forests or recycled products. All photocopiers and printers within the print room now have a double sided printing option which is set on default.

The Roads Section is currently considering the option of using recycled material (e.g. glass) in road construction.

Donegal County Council is assisting with the development of alternative energy facilities in a number of projects involving a vocational school, a day centre and a public service centre.

Progress has also been made on the Internal Waste Reduction Strategy. Following the introduction of a number of measures, the waste going to landfill from the County Council Office in Lifford alone was reduced by 50%. The same measures were introduced to the regional public service centres as they developed. These measures include the widespread introduction of paper recycling bins and the introduction of reusable envelopes for internal mail. In-house recycling training seminars were also held for staff.

A collection facility for fluorescent tubes is available in-house at each public service centre in addition to ink cartridge and battery recycling facilities.

4.2.4 Community

Since the 2000 Waste Plan, 6,000 compost bins have been distributed by Donegal County Council to homeowners for the purpose of home composting. Sale days and demonstrations are held as part of the Waste Awareness Advertising campaign. Community programmes and initiatives are further discussed in Chapter 6 Community Based Waste Management.

4.2.5 Schools

Each year schools are invited to have a visit from the Waste Awareness Officer to give a talk on waste management. Between 80 - 100 schools receive a presentation each year. Competitions are also organised by Donegal County Council for schools to promote prevention and minimisation and reuse of waste materials.

In 2004 Donegal County supported the production of a Waste Guide developed by ECO UNESCO under the LA 21 Environmental Partnership Fund. This guide will be distributed to all schools and will be an important resource for teachers. The guide outlines how teachers can run their own waste workshops in a creative and interactive way.

Waste Workshops are held for secondary schools where groups such as transition year students can learn about waste issues in an interactive and creative manner.

The An Taisce green schools programme has awarded 32 schools in Donegal with green flags to date and 96 schools are actively working towards the Green Flag. It is estimated that at least 10 new schools will be awarded the green flag in 2006. The green schools programme is an international environmental education programme. The programme is designed to promote and acknowledge whole school action for the environment. Environmental issues studied in the school curriculum are then applied to the running of the school in a controlled and defined manner. Schools which receive

the green flag must have their flag renewed every two years. The renewals involve continued support from the awareness officer and further assessment.

4.2.6 Industry & Commerce

The Waste Awareness Officer supports the Waste Regulations Officer in advising businesses of the obligations under the Packaging Regulations and other relevant legislation. Advice is available to businesses on how they would implement good waste management practices, the Small Change for Business campaign is promoted with seminars being organised for SME's. A series of seminars on waste minimisation and prevention will be organised by the Waste Awareness Officer for the business community in 2006.

The Waste Awareness Officer has carried out a number of Waste Management talks for FÁS Training Schemes. These talks are currently carried out upon request by the FÁS training co-ordinators. It is intended to formalise this practise in the future by liasing with the co-ordinators to have waste management included as an option in their training scheme.

Presentations have also been made by the Waste Awareness Officer to Worklink. Worklink is a training body that enables people with mental illness to return to work.

Donegal County Council have also assisted a Kilcar based polystyrene recycler source material for its slate production business.

4.2.7 EPA Waste Prevention and Minimisation Training Programme

The EPA have launched a Waste Prevention and Minimisation Training Programme for businesses and other professionals. The programmes are designed to identify, prevent and minimise waste arisings both during industrial processing and from product/service waste. The course has been developed under the National Waste Prevention Programme.

4.2.8 EPA Office of Environmental Enforcement

The OEE also have a number of enforcement networks which reflect prevention and minimisation. Donegal County Council are represented on the Packaging Waste Enforcement Network, the Unauthorised Waste Working Group, the Farm Plastic Network and the Transfrontier Shipment of Waste. Further information is outlined in Chapter 17.

4.3 PROPOSED CHANGES/IMPROVEMENTS TO WASTE PREVENTION

Prevention is the most important aspect of any waste management plan. New national legislation such as the WEEE Directive, EOLV Directive, NHWMP and the National Waste Prevention Plan will have an important role in preventing and minimising waste through enforcement and legal obligations.

In Donegal, improvements in waste prevention and minimisation will largely depend on the uptake by householders, businesses and the waste industry with leadership and guidance provided by Donegal County Council.

4.4 REVISED TARGETS AND GOALS

Donegal County Council in its revised waste management plan will endeavour to meet the national targets and goals as set out by the various national legislation policies and documents. These are summarised in Table 4.1. Along with this, Donegal County Council will continue to work towards the existing targets and goals as set out in the 2000 plan.

Table 4.1 Targets and Goals set out by National Legislation and Policy

Hazardous Waste	C&D Waste	Packaging Waste	Biodegradable Waste	WEEE	Recycling
No increase in hazardous waste disposal above 1996 levels	50% Recycling Rate by 2003	25% recycling of packaging waste by weight by December 2005	Based on derogation. 75% Baseline BMW Generation by 2010	Separate collection of 4kg on average per inhabitant per year by January 2006.	National Recycling Rate 13%
Elimination of unreported hazardous waste	85% Recycling Rate by 2013	15% recycling of each packaging material by December 2005	50% Baseline BMW Generation by 2013	Ensure collection systems are set up and producers of electrical and electronic equipment provide for the financing of the collection, treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal by August 2005	
		60% recovery of packaging waste by weight by December 2011	35% Baseline BMW Generation by 2016- Subject to further review	80% recovery rate of the total weight of large household appliances by December 2006	
		55% recycling of packaging waste by weight by December 2011		60% rate of recovery for small household appliances, consumer equipment, electrical & electronic and toys by December 2006	
		60% recycling by weight for glass by December 2011		75% rate of recovery for IT and telecommunication equipment by December 2006	
		60% recycling by weight for paper and board by December 2011		Component, material and substance reuse & recycling must reach 80% for gas discharge, 75% for large household appliances, 75% for small household appliances, consumer equipment, electrical & electronic tools and 65% for IT and telecommunication equipment by December 2006	
		50% recycling by weight for metals by December 2011			
		22.5% recycling by weight for plastics by December 2011			