



Offaly County Council
Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí



Laois County Council
Comhairle Chontae Laoise



Longford County Council
Comhairle Chontae Longfoirt



North Tipperary County Council
Comhairle Chontae Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh



Westmeath County Council
Comhairle Chontae Na h-Iarmhí



Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Replacement Midlands Waste Management Plan 2005-2010



SEA STATEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | INTRODUCTION..... | 1 |
| 2 | SEA STATEMENT | 2 |
| 3 | TAKING ACCOUNT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE WASTE PLAN..... | 3 |
| 4 | CONSULTATIONS..... | 6 |
| 5 | REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE PLAN..... | 10 |
| 6 | MONITORING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PLAN..... | 12 |
| 7 | SOURCES OF INFORMATION | 15 |

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

This document forms part of the pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region (2005-2010). This is the SEA Statement stage of the process as required under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations, S.I. No. 435 of 2004.

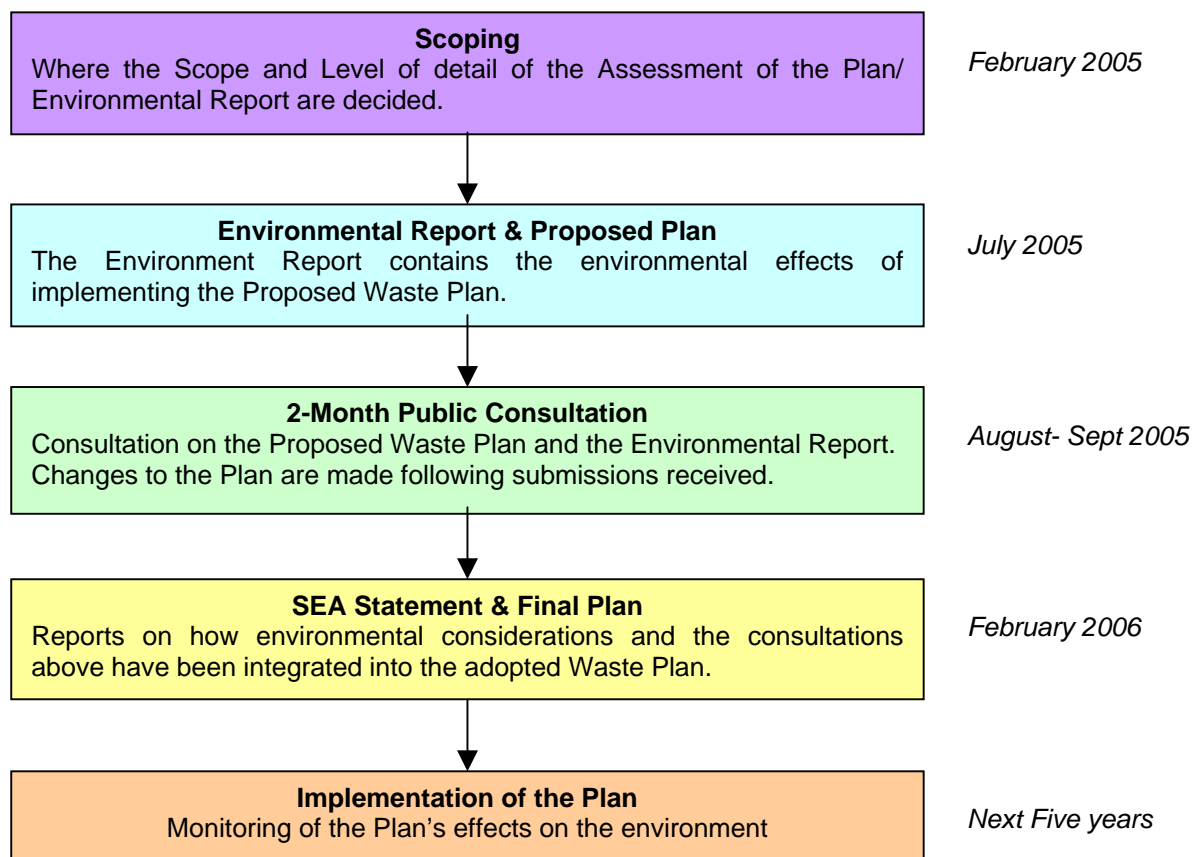
This was the first SEA to be carried out in Ireland on a Waste Management Plan. However as the Midlands Waste Plan process commenced before the Regulations came into force the SEA is non-statutory. The SEA has been carried out with funding from, and under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

It is a process for evaluating the environmental quality and consequences of plans or programmes. The purpose is to ensure that any environmental impacts of implementing a Plan are assessed before they are adopted. Where negative impacts on the environment are likely to arise, measures can be proposed to alleviate these impacts. The process also gives interested parties an opportunity to comment and to be kept informed on decisions that may impact on the environment.

1.2 SUMMARY OF SEA PROCESS

The SEA process was carried out in tandem with the preparation of the Waste Plan and comprised the following outputs and future implementation:



2 SEA STATEMENT

2.1 PURPOSE OF THE STATEMENT

The main purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide information on the decision-making process and to document how environmental considerations, the views of consultees and the recommendations of the Environmental Report have been taken into account in the adopted Waste Management Plan. It illustrates how decisions were taken, making the process more transparent. It must be made available to the public to accompany the adopted Plan.

The SEA Statement includes the following information:

1. Summary of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
2. Summary of how the Environmental Report has been taken into account;
3. How consultation responses have been taken into account;
4. Reasons for choosing the Plan, in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
5. Measures that are to be undertaken to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

2.2 PROJECT TEAM

The SEA has been carried out by environmental scientists and waste management engineers in RPS in conjunction with SEA and waste management experts in COWI (Denmark). This was done under the guidance of the EPA. The Midlands Local Authorities are Offaly Co. Co., Laois Co. Co., Westmeath Co. Co., Longford Co. Co. and Tipperary North Co. Co.

2.3 INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

The SEA Regulations state that the SEA Statement should be made available as soon as is practical after the Plan has been made, i.e. after the decision- making stage.

It is proposed to publish an advertisement/notice in the local papers in the Midlands Region and one National Paper announcing that the Plan and Statement are available for viewing. The reports will also be available to view or download on Local Authority websites and in Local Authority offices

The documents produced to date relating to the SEA of the Midlands Waste Plan can be accessed on the Local Authority websites or on the EPA website (see links below).

www.offaly.ie

www.longfordcoco.ie

www.westmeathcoco.ie

www.tipperarynorth.ie

www.laois.ie

www.epa.ie

3 TAKING ACCOUNT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE WASTE PLAN

3.1 INTRODUCTION

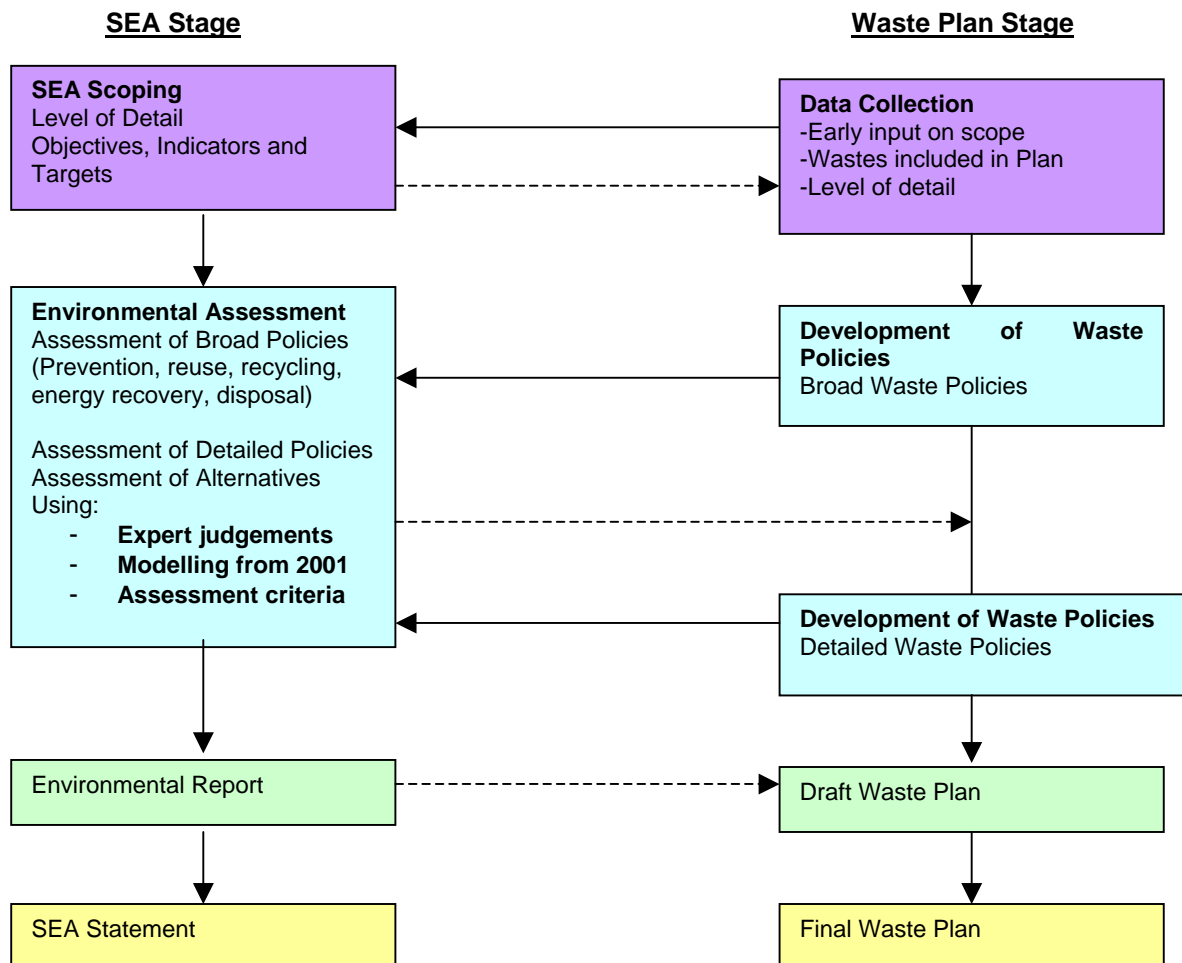
The main aim of SEA is to improve the Regional Waste Management Plan in terms of sustainability and its impact on the environment. This section outlines how the Plan evolved and at what stages the SEA influenced the Plan. This is also illustrated as a flowchart in **Figure 1**.

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLAN

The Plan addresses all aspects of the waste management hierarchy including prevention, minimisation, collection, transport, recovery, recycling, treatment and disposal. The SEA is applicable to the overall Plan but also to individual policies. Therefore two different levels of assessment were used; one for a broad overall objective as above (using pros and cons approach) and one for detailed waste policies (more detailed matrix approach).

The process involved a series of workshops, discussions and meetings attended by members of the SEA and Waste Plan team. There was continued feedback between the two processes to check on and improve the Plan. Also with the changing Plan, any new impacts were evaluated.

Figure 1: Integration of Environmental Considerations with Development of Waste Plan



3.3 INFLUENCE OF THE SEA PROCESS - DURING PLAN PREPARATION

The underlying policy of the Waste Plan was developed in the Midlands Waste Management Strategy in 1999 and the preferred option (Best Practicable Option or BPEO) set out an integrated approach to achieve regional targets. As a consequence the SEA was limited in its scope for assessment of alternatives, occurring after the regional waste strategy has been adopted. It was agreed at an early stage that the alternative scenarios identified in the Midlands Strategy would not be revisited. However, where possible, alternatives were examined within the BPEO; for example continuing the two bin collection system against the proposed three bin system. In other cases waste policies emerged gradually rather than a choice between clear alternatives and selection of one over another.

The key environmental issues in relation to waste management in the Midlands and nationally are illegal dumping, illegal 'backyard burning', historical and closed landfills and poorly designed or managed waste facilities (in particular landfill and composting facilities). The following issues were also raised during the Plan making process:

- Overall policies at the higher end of the waste hierarchy tended to have positive to no negative impacts. Waste prevention and minimisation were identified as key areas for improvement during the life of the Plan as there are no negative impacts if waste is not generated;
- The importance of maximum collection of waste was highlighted, which minimises the risk of illegal dumping/burning and the associated impacts on the environment;
- Expanding waste collection services will result in higher recovery/recycling rates and therefore greater diversion from landfill, however there are also negative impacts associated with recycling.
- Thermal treatment had less of a general impact than landfill, which was predicted to be unsustainable in the long term. Therefore the SEA has further justified the decisions made in the Midlands Waste Strategy 1999 when the alternative solutions were assessed.

Key Influence of SEA:

The process has led to an increased awareness among Waste Planners of the potential environmental impacts (both positive and negative) associated with stages of the waste hierarchy. This indirectly influenced decisions on waste policy therefore improving the Plan.

Potential environmental impacts due to proposed waste facilities depend on both the number and location of these facilities. It was established early in the SEA process that the Waste Plan policies would be at a strategic rather than a site specific level. The Plan provides a general policy position on the development of facilities and in the case of certain facilities e.g. Civic Amenity Facilities, it details the number of facilities that will be developed. However locations for waste facilities are not determined.

As a measure to minimise impacts of new waste facilities on the environment the use of siting criteria was recommended during the SEA process. With implementation of these criteria it is expected that these would avoid or reduce the potential for negative environmental impacts in particular on aspects such as biodiversity and cultural heritage. As proposed, Siting Guidelines have been included in the Plan for the facilities listed below.

Key Influence: Inclusion of Environmental Siting Guidelines for new waste facilities as a Waste Plan Policy. Guidelines have been developed for Civic Amenity Facilities, Material Recovery, Biological Treatment, Landfill and Waste to Energy Facilities.

The larger waste disposal and recovery facilities (which have an intake of greater than 5,000 tonnes/year) require a waste licence issued by the EPA. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must also be carried out for facilities that accept greater than 25,000 tonnes of waste/year. EIA involves a detailed examination of the likely impacts of the specific development on the environment.

3.4 INFLUENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

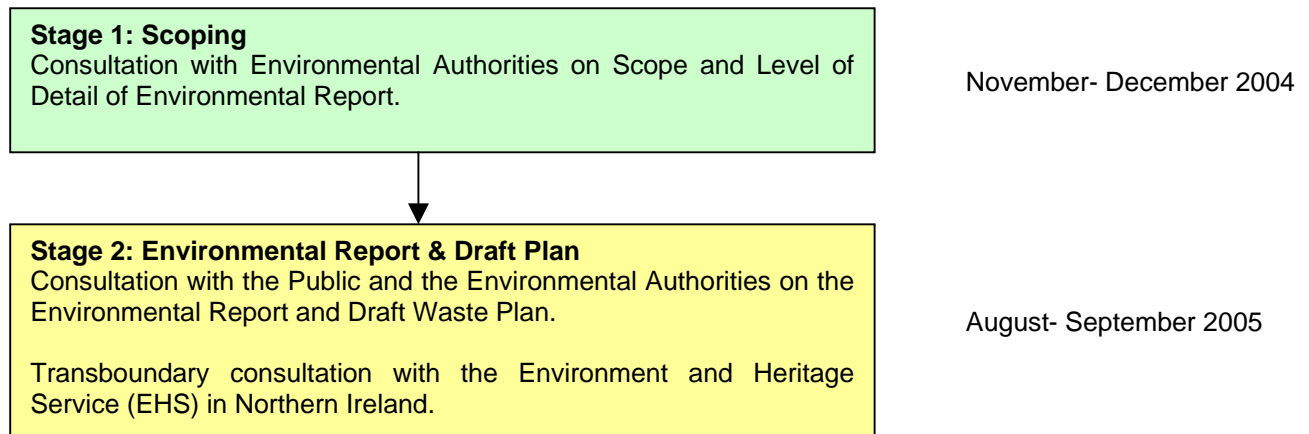
The recommendations made in the Environmental Report (July 2005) have been assessed and dealt with in a similar way to other consultations made in relation to the Plan. The majority of the issues raised had already been taken into account in the Draft Plan. A selection of the key recommendations and responses are outlined in the following table:

| Recommendation of Environmental Report | Response in relation to Waste Plan |
|--|--|
| <p>Waste Prevention/Minimisation: It is recommended that there be major emphasis on waste prevention, minimisation and reuse policies in the Waste Plan, as these generally do not have an environmental impact. It is further recommended that an indicator of waste reduction/minimisation be identified in the Plan.</p> | <p>Policies relating to prevention, minimisation and reuse of waste are given priority in the Plan in line with the EU waste hierarchy and National policy.</p> |
| <p>Recycling: An audit of the current routing, destinations and processing of recyclables collected in the Midlands be undertaken. National objectives should be set for the establishment of national recycling process facilities where they can be sustainable.</p> | <p>It is recognised that it would be preferable for recyclables to be recycled in this country. However it is recognised there are not sufficient economies of scale for most waste stream, and Ireland will continue to be dependant on global markets and outlets in the short term. The development of all Ireland recycling facilities is an issue of National importance and falls under the remit of the Market Development Group. An audit of the Midlands Region could be of benefit to the Market Development Group in assessing options for developing indigenous recycling markets.</p> |
| <p>Plan Change: The following objective will be added to Section 16.4.1. “An indicative audit of the current routing and destination of recyclables will be carried out in one county over the life of the Plan.”</p> | |
| <p>The undertaking of a National/Inter-Regional study to identify markets for the end products of biological treatment</p> | <p>This a National issue.</p> |
| <p>The introduction of a deposit-refund scheme for glass bottles.</p> | <p>This scheme would only be possible on a National level.</p> |
| <p>Polices on the collection of wastes for recycling and disposal identified in the original Waste Plan for the region have been implemented although the need for continued implementation of policy and treatment capacities for the Region remains. Waste management infrastructure including biological and thermal treatment needs to be put in place as a matter of urgency.</p> | <p>The Plan recognises that progress in some areas of the first Midlands Plan has been slower than intended. However the proposed Replacement Plan sets out an implementation timetable for the development of an integrated waste management system including the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in achieving the aims of the Plan</p> |

4 CONSULTATIONS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The following are the key stages of consultation within the SEA process:



4.2 CONSULTATION - SCOPING

Under SEA Regulations SI No. 435 of 2004, designated environmental authorities must be consulted in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report. The following authorities are identified in the Regulations:

- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG)
- Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DoCMNR)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

At the scoping stage an SEA Workshop was held in November 2004 to determine the SEA Methodology, Objectives, Indicators and Targets, and the level of scope and level of detail to be included in the SEA. The workshop included members of the SEA study team, the Waste Plan review team, and representatives from the Environmental Authorities and the Local Authorities. In addition there was ongoing liaison between the SEA team and the EPA during the SEA process.

4.3 CONSULTATION - DRAFT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

In accordance with statutory requirements, the Draft Waste Management Plan was available for inspection from 25th July 2005 to 30th September 2005. The Environmental Report was also on display in each of the Local Authority Offices together with the Waste Plan. It was also available on each of the Local Authority websites and the EPA website to read or download. Notices advertising the public consultation period and inviting members of the public for written comments and submission were placed in a selection of newspapers in the Region.

The environmental authorities were sent a copy of the Draft Waste Plan and Environmental Report at the start of the consultation period and written submissions were requested. As part of the Transboundary Consultations the Environment and Heritage Service of Northern Ireland were also issued both reports for their comment.



Following the consultation period, the submissions and comments submitted were compiled and reviewed. A Report on Consultation was produced outlining responses to the key issues raised and changes to the Plan as necessary. This was presented to the Elected Members in each Local Authority.

4.4 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A selection of the key issues raised during the public consultation period and the proposed change to the Plan are outlined in the following table:

| Issues Raised (Summary) | Response (Summary) / Plan Change |
|---|---|
| <p>Prevention and Minimisation</p> <p>Concern that prevention and minimisation not adequately acknowledged. Targets required for prevention, minimisation, reuse and repair.</p> | <p>Prevention and Minimisation is thoroughly dealt with in the Plan setting out clear objectives and targets for the Plan period. A minor change was added to the policy on Construction and Demolition (C & D) waste. 'a C&D waste management Plan is prepared by the developer and that the maximum amount of waste material generated on site is <i>prevented</i>, reused and recycled.'</p> |
| <p>Awareness and Communication Schools</p> <p>More emphasis on communication with schools.</p> | <p>New objectives were added to the Plan regarding Green Schools, community groups and community-led recycling initiatives.</p> |
| <p>Community Involvement</p> <p>Local communities should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own wastes and undertake reuse, repair and recycling initiatives.</p> | <p>A number of initiatives will continue to be supported by the Local Authorities. No Plan change required.</p> |

| Issues Raised (Summary) | Response (Summary) / Plan Change |
|---|--|
| <p>Zero Waste</p> <p>Zero Waste should be a policy of the Plan as it encompasses waste elimination at source through product design and producer responsibility.</p> | <p>A Local Authority policy position on Zero Waste has been added to the Plan.</p> |
| <p>Recycling</p> <p>Implementing a dry recycling programme, frequency of emptying bring banks, increased materials accepted at recycling banks and extended opening hours. Assistance to firms providing a local market for recycled materials, 'Ecoparks' as replacement facilities for landfills, creation of a market for recyclable materials and 'differentiated taxation' e.g. for European eco-label.</p> | <p>In general it is felt that recycling is adequately addressed in the Plan. The following additional objective was added:</p> <p>"The opening hours of Civic Amenity Facilities will be extended to cover weekends/outside normal work hours where local conditions allow."</p> |
| <p>Hazardous Waste</p> <p>Employ services with a broader reach, such as segregated kerbside collection services.</p> | <p>With respect to Hazardous Waste the following changes were added to the Plan</p> <p>"The Midlands Local Authorities will investigate the provision of a yearly collection of household hazardous waste."</p> <p>"The Midlands Plan will continue to have regard to the recommendations of the replacement NHWMP Plan."</p> |
| <p>Organic Waste</p> <p>A number of submissions support the implementation of the brown-bin collection of organic waste and performance indicators to demonstrate how successful these units actually are.</p> | <p>The plan proposes to provide a third bin for the collection of kitchen and garden waste from households and businesses and the collected material will be treated at a Licensed or Permitted facility. Those households without a collection service or with additional garden waste can deliver their material to selected Civic Amenity Facilities.</p> <p>No change in the Plan is required.</p> |
| <p>Agricultural Waste</p> <p>Agricultural waste should be anaerobically digested, with the methane used to provide heat or energy and resulting liquids and solids returned to the soil.</p> | <p>The Local Authorities agreed with the submission and the following change was added to the Plan:</p> <p>"Support the development of biological treatment facilities for the co-treatment of agricultural wastes and municipal organic waste."</p> |
| <p>Waste to Energy</p> <p>Urgency for the building of a thermal treatment plant within the Midlands region. This should be accompanied by an informed public consultation and information campaign</p> <p>A number of submissions disagreed with the proposal for 37% of waste to be thermally treated.</p> | <p>Waste to Energy is addressed in detail in the Plan and the Local Authorities felt that no change was required. In response to the issue of awareness on this issue, the Local Authorities agreed that public consultation would be a major component in the development of any proposed facility.</p> |

| Issues Raised (Summary) | Response (Summary) / Plan Change |
|--|--|
| <p>Landfill</p> <p>Impose increasingly strict criteria for materials which will be allowed into the Local Authority landfills so as to encourage diversion.</p> <p>Concern over the excess landfill capacity in the Region and in Ireland and the impact this will have on the successful implementation of the integrated waste management system outlined in the Plan.</p> <p>There should also be a level playing field for households and private waste contractors in terms of landfill gate fees.</p> | <p>In response to the issue of limiting the acceptance of certain waste materials at landfill facilities the following objective was added to the Plan:</p> <p>“The Local Authorities will continue to ensure they are compliant with all relevant legislation and regulation with respect to landfill disposal.”</p> <p>By 2011 three out of the four operational landfills in the Region will have reached licence capacity. In the short term landfill will remain the main residual waste management option provided the landfills adhere to their mandatory Biodegradable Municipal Waste targets.</p> <p>Any significant increase in the landfill gate fees could lead to a further increase in illegal disposal/backyard burning.</p> <p>No Plan Change</p> |
| <p>Contingency</p> <p>Concern that the Plan does not outline a contingency plan if there is a delay in the delivery of key infrastructure, which could result in a failure to deliver on the proposed targets.</p> | <p>The failure to deliver key infrastructure will affect the achievement of the adopted targets and in meeting the requirements of the EU Landfill Directive.</p> <p>A section has been added to the Plan in relation to contingencies in the event of delays or failure to implement the Waste Plan.</p> |

5 REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE PLAN

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The SEA Statement is required to provide reasons for adopting the Waste Plan in light of the reasonable alternatives considered. The Environmental Report has set out the alternatives considered, and reasons for selection of the preferred option. This is summarised below.

The Preferred Option for managing waste generated in the Midlands was examined during the development of the Waste Management Strategy for the region in 1998. This preferred option or Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) was selected based on European and National waste management policy. As this policy has not changed and as the effects were modelled on a 15-year life span (1998-2013) the options/alternatives were not re-examined in the preparation of the replacement Waste Plan. However options were looked at in relation to implementation of the Plan including the 2 bin against the 3 bin collection system, assessment of prevention, minimisation, recycling, treatment and disposal options e.g. biological treatment, mechanical biological treatment (MBT), thermal treatment and landfill disposal.

5.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Midlands Waste Management Strategy 1999 considered a number of alternative waste management scenarios, which included waste management with and without thermal treatment and with a number of different recycling targets. The scenarios considered and modelled were:

- **Scenario 1** - *Achieve maximum realistic recycling, continue with landfill disposal.*
A comprehensive recycling infrastructure in terms of both collection and materials recovery would be set up to achieve maximum recycling rates for all waste streams. There is no energy recovery by thermal treatment. Disposal of all residual and non-recyclable waste would be by landfilling.
- **Scenario 2** - *Achieve national and EU targets for recycling and introduce energy recovery by thermal treatment of combustible wastes.*
Under this scenario thermal treatment with energy recovery would be provided with a need for residual landfill only. Recycling infrastructure would be developed to the extent at which mandatory National targets (35% of municipal waste) would be met.
- **Scenario 3** - *Achieve maximum landfill diversion through implementation of maximum realistic recycling, and thermal treatment of combustible wastes.*
Recycling efforts would be maximised as in Scenario 1, and energy recovery by thermal treatment would be provided with residual landfill only.

5.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

The environmental assessment can be summarised under the following environmental factors:

- Global warming potential
- Acidification
- Eutrophication

- Photochemical ozone formation

Scenario 3, which combines maximum recycling with thermal treatment is predicted to reduce emissions of global warming gasses and photochemical ozone production compared to the other scenarios. This is due to reduced landfill gas emissions such as methane which contributes to global warming. There is also potential for energy and heat production saving on use of fossil fuels. Therefore Scenario 3 has the lowest environmental load and was selected as the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO).



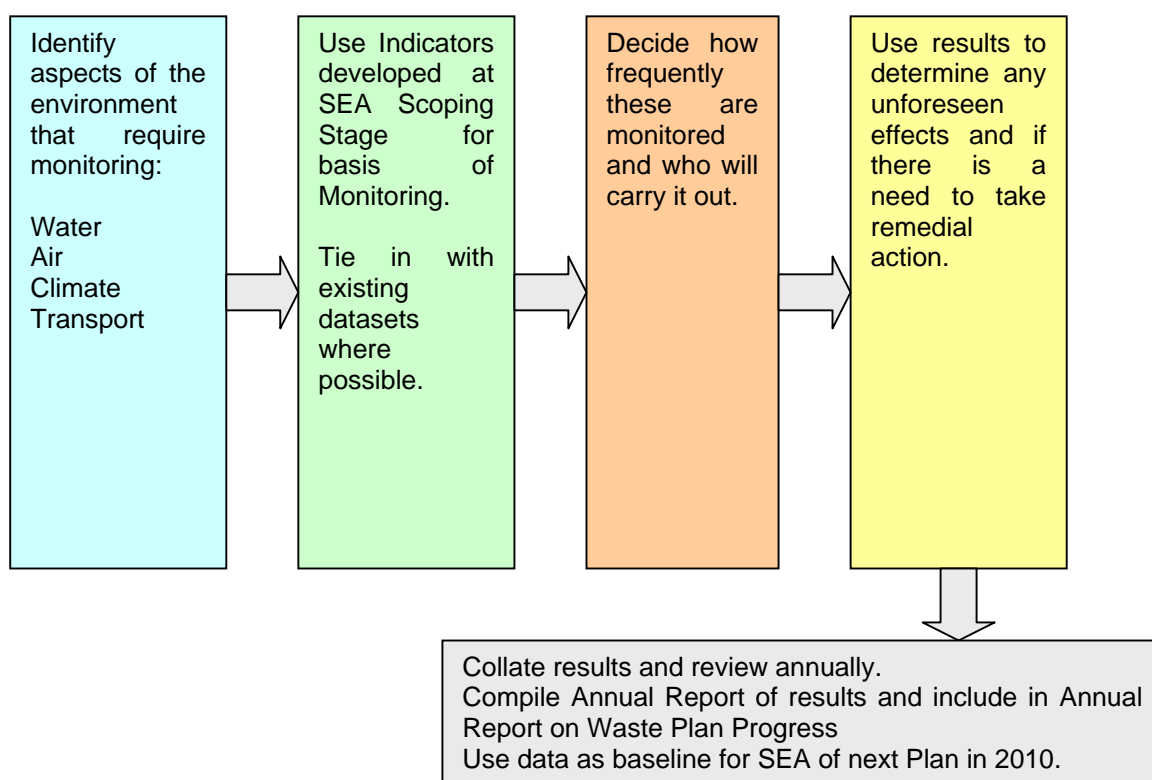
Bring Bank Recycling Facility in County Offaly

6 MONITORING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PLAN

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The SEA Directive (Article 10) and associated Irish Regulations (Article 17) require that the significant environment effects predicted to occur due to implementing the Plan must be monitored by the competent authority. This allows any unforeseen adverse effects, to be identified at an early stage and remedial action can be taken if required. Also the effects predicted can be compared with effects, which are found to occur during the implementation of the Plan. Existing monitoring arrangements should be used where possible to avoid duplication.

Summary of Monitoring Process:



6.2 PURPOSE OF MONITORING

The final stage of the process is the development and implementation of a monitoring programme.

The main purposes of monitoring are:

- To show changes to the environment that would be attributable to implementation of the Plan, and to allow *Actual* impacts to be tested against *Predicted* impacts.
- To suggest possible actions to reduce the effects of unforeseen events, if they occur.

- To collect good baseline information for the next Plan and other plans requiring SEA.

Objectives, Indicators and Targets were developed at the scoping stage in consultation with the Environmental Authorities and were refined during the process. The Objectives used to assess the Plan have associated indicators and those considered to be significant are Water Quality, Air Quality, Climate and Transport.

6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations in relation to Monitoring are:

- Although this Pilot SEA is non-statutory it is recommended in this case that the indicators set down be monitored and reported on. This information can also feed into the baseline for the next Plan.
- Avoid duplication of effort; the majority of the indicators are based on existing data. Therefore information is only required to be collated and reported on.
- The indicators should be collated and produced annually and integrated with the Waste Plan Annual Report.
- Monitoring is a continuous process and indicators should be improved or added to over time if required (See overleaf re: Primary and Secondary Indicators).
- There should be commitment on behalf of the Authorities to make resources available to carry out the monitoring for the duration of the Plan.
- A Local Authority could be nominated to report on SEA indicators on behalf of the Region.
- Opportunities should be investigated for co-ordinating with data managers, GIS and SEA experts in relation to available data sets in usable formats.
- The results should contribute to the next review of the Plan and the next SEA to be undertaken in 5 years, which will be statutory.
- The SEA indicators include a number relating to waste including tonnes of uncollected waste and the occurrence of fly tipping and backyard burning. A set of indicators has also been outlined in the Waste Plan, which Local Authorities are obligated to report annually. These will form the basis for reporting on progress/performance of the Plan. It is recommended that the SEA indicators be monitored in conjunction with the waste indicators.

6.4 MONITORING PROGRAMME

A monitoring programme has been developed including frequency of monitoring, reporting and responsibilities. In relation to licenced facilities the emphasis is on larger facilities, i.e. those which have a Waste Licence issued by the EPA as these are considered to have a greater potential for environmental impact. These are facilities that accept greater than 5,000 tonnes of waste per year.

- The key indicators (6.4.1 Primary Indicators) are set out below for Water, Air Quality, Climate and Transport. These are aspects of the environment, which are likely to be significantly impacted by the Plan. It is recommended that these indicators be reviewed, prioritised and revised if necessary during the Plan to improve reporting.
- A supplementary set of indicators (6.4.2 Secondary Indicators) were identified in the Environmental Report, in relation to aspects of the environment not considered to be significantly impacted. These relate to biodiversity, cultural heritage, landuse, energy, material assets etc. These could be considered during the course of the Plan and taken on board if required.

6.4.1 Primary (Key) Indicators

| Objective | What to Monitor (Indicator) | Source of data | Frequency of Monitoring/ Collation of existing data | When is additional action required |
|--|--|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Water Quality Limit pollution to levels that do not adversely impact on water quality. | 1. Number of exceedances of licence conditions for emissions to surface and groundwater (for waste licensed facilities). | AER* | Annual | 10% increase in licence exceedances |
| | 2. Q rating up and downstream of licenced facilities (for waste licensed facilities). | AER | Annual | Decrease downstream rating by 1 Q value |
| | 3. Number of reported water pollution incidences (fish kills, drinking, surface or ground contamination) due to waste management facilities. | Reported to Local Authority | Annual | 10% increase in reported incidences |
| Air Quality Limit emissions to levels that do not impact on air quality and the noise environment. | 4. Number of complaints due to noise, air pollution, dust or odour from waste management facilities. | See Waste Indicators | Annual | 10% increase in complaints |
| | 5. Estimated tonnes of uncollected waste. | Waste Plan Review | Annual | Increase in tonnes of uncollected waste |
| Climate Reduce greenhouse gas emission. | 6. Estimate of landfill gases (CO ₂ and methane) emitted. | AER | Annual | No reduction in landfill gases emitted. |
| | 7. Tonnes of waste generated, recycled, landfilled. | Waste Plan Review | Annual | Lack of progress towards Plan targets |
| Transport Minimise the impacts of transport associated with waste. | 8. No. of waste generated journeys or km travelled. | May not be available | Every 2 years | Set target when first data is collected. |
| | 9. No. of households with home composting. | Waste Plan Review | Annual | Less than 5% increase in households. |
| Waste | 10. No. of reported incidents of a) fly-tipping b) Backyard burning and c) other unauthorised waste activities. | Local Authority records | Annual | 10% increase in reported incidences |

*AER: Annual Environmental Report prepared annually for each licenced waste facility.

6.4.2 Secondary Indicators

- Number of sites / settings of cultural importance at risk due to waste facilities
- Area of designated habitat damaged due to waste activities
- Number of visual amenity areas impacted by waste activities
- No. of reported accidental releases from licenced waste facilities
- Amount of energy captured from licenced waste facilities
- Area of land occupied by historical and existing waste activities
- Area of land restored for beneficial use

6.5 SERVICE (WASTE) INDICATORS

The Waste Plan contains a set of service indicators relating to waste management, litter prevention and environmental enforcement. Local Authorities are obligated to report annually on these indicators, which will form the basis for progress on the implementation of the Plan and to establish whether targets are being met.

| Waste Management |
|--|
| Percentage of households provided with segregated waste collection |
| Percentage of household waste recycled |
| Percentage of household waste going to landfill |
| <u>Recycling Facilities:</u> |
| - No. of Bring sites, Civic Amenity Sites (Recycling Centres) per 5,000 population |
| - Tonnage of waste per 5,000 population collected for recycling |
| Environmental Enforcement |
| No. of Complaints (waste, litter, water, noise and air pollution) |
| No. of complaints investigated |
| No. of complaints dismissed |
| No. of enforcement procedures taken |
| Implementation of Environmental Campaigns in primary and secondary schools |

7 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Association of London Government (2005) C4S. Strategic Environmental Assessment of Local Implementation Plans: SEA Statement (Unpublished Project Report UPR SE/146/04

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2004b) Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities.

EPA (2003c) Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland.

RPS (2005) Report on Consultation. Proposed Replacement Midlands Waste Management Plan.

RPS Consulting Engineers (2005) (Draft) Proposed Replacement Midlands Waste Management Plan 2005-2010.

Thérivel *et al.*, (1992). Strategic Environmental Assessment, London, Earthscan Publications.

Websites:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

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

www.offaly.ie

www.westmeathcoco.ie

www.laois.ie

www.longfordcoco.ie

www.tipperarynorth.ie

www.epa.ie