
Inter Region and Cross Border Cooperation

The North West Region Waste Management Group represents one of the three sub-regions of Northern Ireland formed to prepare waste management plans. The others are the Eastern Region (arc21) and the Southern Waste Management Partnership.

The North West Region includes County Donegal, however County Donegal has not been included in this Waste Management Plan as the Plan is intended to meet Northern Ireland statutory obligations. Notwithstanding the above, co-operation with Donegal County Council in the management of wastes is an important consideration for the implementation of the Plan.

Inter region interaction and cross border co-operation are both discussed below.

Eastern Region Waste Management Group (arc 21) and Southern Waste Management Partnership (SWaMP)

In preparing this plan, the North West Group has consulted with the two other sub-regional groups, arc21 and SWaMP, through an inter-group forum to ensure that potential areas of cooperation can be developed.

Eastern Region Waste Management Group (arc21)

The arc21 grouping comprises the following eleven councils:

- Antrim Borough Council
- Ards Borough Council
- Ballymena Borough Council
- Belfast City Council
- Carrickfergus Borough Council
- Castlereagh Borough Council
- Down District Council
- Larne Borough Council
- Lisburn Borough Council
- Newtownabbey Borough Council
- North Down Borough Council



The arc21 councils signed a Collaboration Agreement in February 2000 and published a Sub-Regional Municipal Draft in December 2000.

Southern Waste Management Partnership

SWaMP comprises the following eight councils:

- Armagh City and District Council
- Banbridge District Council
- Cookstown District Council
- Craigavon Borough Council
- Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council
- Fermanagh District Council
- Newry and Mourne District Council
- Omagh District Council

SWaMP submitted a draft Waste Management Plan to the Department which has been recently revised. The revised plan is due to go out to public consultation in February 2002.

Waste Management Plan for Donegal County Council

Local authorities in the Republic of Ireland are obliged to prepare Waste Management Plans under Section 22 of the Waste Management Act 1996. Under this Act, Donegal County Council adopted a Waste Management Plan in September 2000. The Plan sets out a range of actions and objectives, including:

- Protection of existing landfill void capacity
- Provision of replacement landfill capacity
- A 'twin track' approach combining involvement in the North West Region Waste Management Group and any 'stand alone' actions required to enable compliance with policy and legislative targets
- Review of the plan after a maximum period of 5 years

Inter Region and Cross Border Opportunities

The North West Region Waste Management Group will seek to identify areas of mutual interest between inter region and cross border waste management groups. This includes seeking to establish potential opportunities for the inter region and cross border movement of wastes for recycling and disposal through discussions with the relevant authorities. The North West Region Waste Management Group supports the cross border movement of municipal wastes for the purposes of recovery and will consider the acceptance of wastes at landfill sites in its area, subject to the agreement of landfill site operators and respective councils. Likewise, the North West Region Waste Management Group will consider the transfrontier movement of waste out of the area for disposal, subject to agreement of the landfill site operatives and respective councils.