

# STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESMENT (SEA) STATEMENT FOR THE REVIEW OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

March 2015





# **Strategic Environmental Assessment of the North West Region Waste Management Group**

## **Waste Management Plan 2013 - 2020**

### **SEA Statement**

|                            |  |     |      |                |                 |                      |
|----------------------------|--|-----|------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Client                     | North West Region Waste Management Group   |     |      |                |                 |                      |
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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 THE SEA STATEMENT**

This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement has been prepared as part of the North West Region Waste Management Group Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020, in accordance with national and EU legislation. This document provides information on the decision-making process documenting how environmental considerations, the views of consultees and the recommendations of the Environmental Report have been taken into account by, and influenced, the Plan.

The North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG) works on behalf of the 7 member councils in the north western region of Northern Ireland to guide, support and help them meet their legal requirements and drive forward innovative waste management programmes.

This SEA Statement has been carried out in accordance with Regulation 15(4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 (S.R. 280/2004). The adopted NWRWMG Waste Management Plan (WMP) 2013 – 2020, the Final SEA Environmental Report and the SEA Statement are available for download on the NWRWMG website:

<http://www.northwestwaste.org.uk/>.

### **1.2 FINAL NWRWMG WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013 - 2020**

The final Waste Management Plan has been altered from the previous two draft Plans released in October 2013 and January 2015 to include more of the recommendations from statutory consultees, non-statutory consultees, the public and the SEA Environmental Report. The final NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020 was adopted in January 2015, and was available on the NWRWMG website from March 2015.

## 2.0 SUMMARY OF KEY FACTS

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Title of Plan</b>          | NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020.  |
| <b>Purpose of Plan</b>        | <p>The NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013-2020 is a review of the previous NWRWMG Waste Management Plan from 2006. This revised Plan sets to continue the progress of waste management within the NWRWMG region of Northern Ireland to guide, support and help them meet their legal requirements and drive forward innovative waste management programmes, with an aim to implement environmentally sound waste management programmes based on the principles of 'Reduce, Re-use and Recycle'.</p> |
| <b>Subject</b>                | Waste Management   |
| <b>Competent Authority</b>    | <p>NWRWMG represents 7 Local Authorities in the north west of Northern Ireland - Ballymoney Borough Council, Coleraine Borough Council, Derry City Council, Limavady Borough Council, Magherafelt District Council, Moyle District Council and Strabane District Council.</p>  |
| <b>What prompted the Plan</b> | <p>The NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013-2020 is a review of the previous NWRWMG Waste Management Plan from 2006, required to reflect updated European EU Directives, UK wide legislation and National legislation.</p>  |
| <b>Area of Plan</b>           | <p>The NWRWMG region consists of the administrative areas of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Derry / Londonderry, Limavady, Magherafelt, Moyle and Strabane.</p>  |
| <b>Period covered</b>         | 2013 - 2020  |

**Frequency of Update**

Every 5 years.

**Summary of Plan Content**

The NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013-2020 sets out the previously existing and new or revised waste management legislation that the NWRWMG local authorities must adhere to, including any new targets to be met. The Plan describes the various waste streams within the NWRWMG region, their changing tonnages and characteristics since the previous Plan implementation.

**Date Plan Implemented**

January 2015

**Main Contact**

North West Region Waste Management Group  
Derry City Council Offices  
98 Strand Road  
Derry  
BT48 7NN  
E-mail: [info@northwestwest.org.uk](mailto:info@northwestwest.org.uk)

### **3.0 SUMMARY OF THE SEA PROCESS**

The NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020 has been subject to a process of SEA, as required under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 (S.R. 280/2004).

#### **3.1 SCOPING AND STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

The main objective of the scoping process was to identify key issues of concern that should be addressed in the assessment of the draft Plan and the appropriate level of detail to which they should be considered. The scoping process included consultations with the Northern Ireland statutory consultee:

- Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

Due to the border location of several of the NWRWMG councils the statutory consultees for SEA in Ireland were also consulted for transboundary issues:

- Environmental Protection Agency (Ireland)
- Department of Environmental, Community and Local Government (Ireland)
- Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Ireland)
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Ireland)

The list of consultees in the scoping process was expanded to include non-statutory consultees that it was believed could have important inputs into the SEA and preparation of the Plan, such the SWaMP2008 Waste Management Group and the arc21 Waste Management Group.

#### **3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

The preparation of an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects on the environment of the NWRWMG Waste Management Plan included consideration of:

- Baseline data relating to the current state of the environment;
- Links between the Waste Management Plan and other relevant Strategies, Policies, Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives;
- Key environmental issues in the area of the Plan;
- Alternatives available;
- The likely significant positive and negative effects of a number of reasonable alternatives on the environment;
- Measures envisaged for the prevention, reduction and mitigation of any significant adverse effects;

- Monitoring measures to ensure that positive and negative environmental effects will be identified, allowing for appropriate remedial action to be taken if necessary.

### **3.3 SEA STATEMENT**

The main purpose of this SEA Statement is to ensure there is transparency in the decision making process for the Plan. The SEA Statement documents how the recommendations of the Environmental Report, as well as the views of the statutory, non-statutory, and public consultees have influenced the preparation of the Final NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020. The SEA Statement also provides information on the proposed mitigation and monitoring.

The SEA Statement includes the following information:

- Summary of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- Summary of how submissions received during consultation have been taken into account in the Plan;
- Reasons for choosing the recommended option(s), in light of the other reasonable alternatives considered; and
- Measures that are to be undertaken to monitor and mitigate the potential significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

### **3.4 ADOPTION OF THE PLAN**

The NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020 was adopted by the NWRWMG Councils in January 2015. NWRWMG now proposes to implement this revised Plan and set to continue the progress of waste management within the NWRWMG region of Northern Ireland in meeting the requirements from European EU Directives, UK wide legislation and National legislation to drive forward innovative waste management programmes, with an aim to implement environmentally sound waste management programmes based on the principles of 'Reduce, Re-use and Recycle'.

## 4.0 CONSULTATION

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 (S.R. 280/2004), consultation is specifically required at the scoping stage with the nominated environmental authorities, and then the authorities and the wider public when the draft Plan and Environmental Report are put on public display. The final adopted Plan and SEA Statement are required to go on public display at the end of the Plan-making process. This section describes the statutory and non-statutory consultation that has taken place over the course of the SEA process.

### 4.2 SCOPING CONSULTATIONS

To begin the process of scoping the SEA for the NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020 an initial consultation was held with the Statutory Authorities, as designated by the relevant SEA legislation and listed in **Table 4.1**. This step also included the transboundary consultations. Following the statutory consultation, it was considered best practice to include a number of relevant non-statutory consultees in the scoping process; these are also listed in **Table 4.1**. In addition, the draft Scoping Report was published on the NWRWMG website to encourage further participation by stakeholders and the public in the consultation process.

**Table 4.1 Consultees in the SEA Scoping Process**

| Consultee  | Statutory / Non-Statutory |
|--|---------------------------|
| Northern Ireland Environment Agency                                | Statutory                 |
| Environmental Protection Agency                                    | Statutory (Transboundary) |
| Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG)              | Statutory (Transboundary) |
| Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG)  | Statutory (Transboundary) |
| Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) | Statutory (Transboundary) |
| SWaMP2008 Waste Management Group                                   | Non-Statutory             |
| Arc21  | Non-Statutory             |

The written comments received on the draft Scoping Report generally consisted of:

- Comments on the proposed SEA objectives;
- Environmental baseline information;
- Sources of baseline information;
- Updates to relevant legislation, and
- Potential impacts that need to be considered and issues to be assessed.

All comments received were included in Appendix A of the Environmental Report, which can be viewed at: <http://www.northwestwaste.org.uk/downloads-3/strategic-environmental-assessment/>

### 4.3 PLAN AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Statutory consultations on the draft Plan and Environmental Report took place between the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 and the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013, as required under Regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 (S.R. 280/2004). Advertisements were posted in national, regional and local newspapers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 detailing the release of the draft Waste Management Plan and SEA Environmental Report of the Plan. The advertisements detailed the availability of the documents, the consultation time period and have asked the public for any comments they may have. The locations of these advertisements were as shown in **Table 4.2**.

**Table 4.2 Paper Advertisements**

| Area                         | Paper   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Northern Ireland             | Belfast Telegraph   |
| Ireland                      | Irish Times   |
| Ballymoney Borough Council   | Ballymoney Chronicle & Ballymena Guardian   |
| Coleraine Borough Council    | Coleraine Chronicle & Coleraine Times   |
| Derry City Council           | Derry Journal, Londonderry Sentinel & NW Telegraph  |
| Limavady Borough Council     | County Derry Post, Derry Journal, Londonderry Sentinel, Limavady Constitution & Chronicle |
| Magherafelt District Council | Mid Ulster Mail & the Derry Post  |
| Moyle District Council       | Ballymoney & Coleraine Times  |
| Strabane District Council    | Strabane Chronicle, Strabane Weekly, Tyrone Constitution & Ulster Herald                  |

**Section 5** contains an overview of the key issues raised in the written submissions received during the consultation period. A list of the individuals and organisations that submitted responses is given below in **Table 4.3**.

**Table 4.3 Submissions Received from Draft Plans**

| Submission Number | Date Received                  | Submitted by | Status                       |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 1                 | 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2013 | NIEA         | Statutory                    |
| 2                 | 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2013 | EPA          | Statutory<br>(Transboundary) |
| 3                 | 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2015  | NIEA         | Statutory                    |
| 4                 | 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2015  | EPA          | Statutory<br>(Transboundary) |

Following comments received during these consultations the Plan was revised slightly and an SEA Environment Report Review was completed to take account of these amendments. This revised Plan and SEA Environmental Report Review were sent to the NIEA and EPA for comment on the 5<sup>th</sup>

January 2015. Further submissions were then received by the NIEA and the EPA on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015. These comments are also addressed in **Section 5**.

## 5.0 ISSUES RAISED IN SUBMISSIONS

In general there were very few submissions received on the Plan and SEA Environmental Report. The majority of comments received were from the statutory and transboundary consultees. The lack of responses on the Plan reflects that this is a review of an existing Plan, which is not proposing significant alterations to any existing waste management or waste treatment regimes.

### 5.1 KEY ISSUES AND RESPONSES

#### Baseline Environmental Information

**Key Issue:** Various comments were supplied by the statutory consultees on updated and more detailed baseline environmental information and sources of information.

**Response:** Within the Final Environmental Report the baseline environmental information has been updated as advised by the statutory consultees. This updated environmental baseline information will be used in the monitoring of the Waste Management Plan and in the next review of the Plan. None of the alterations made to the baseline environmental information would influence the assessment of the alternatives.

#### Additional Plans, Programmes & Policies

**Key Issue:** Comments were supplied by the statutory consultees on Plans, Programmes & Policies, which may have been updated or overlooked, to be incorporated within the SEA Environmental Report.

**Response:** The recommendations made in the consultation submissions on additional or updated Plans, Programmes and Policies have been researched and incorporated into the SEA Environmental Report where appropriate. This updated information will be used in the monitoring of the Waste Management Plan and in the next review of the Plan. None of the alterations made would influence the outcome of the assessment of the alternatives.

### 5.2 SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Specific comments were received during the consultation process that did not come under any of the above Key Issue headings. These specific comments are addressed in **Table 5.1** and **Table 5.2**.

**Table 5.1 Specific Plan Comments**

| Comment  | Response  |
|--|---|
| No mention of the Marine environment within the Plan. This Plan covers a significant coastal region and it would be expected that mention of the treatment of processed fish and the management of | These wastes are not specifically covered in the WMP however as they may be classified as Commercial and Industrial Wastes they would be covered in the measures and actions set out in Section 9 of the WMP. |

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| decommissioning of boats. There is also no mention of waste handling facilities at ports and harbours.   |   |
| Executive Summary ES2 states that the defined Objectives of the Plan remain unchanged. In relation to Objective 8 "To identify and manage risks (financial, planning and contractual) in a systematic manner, to ensure that risks lie with those parties best placed to manage them effectively." We could not see where this Objective was adequately or directly covered. | The management of financial, planning and contractual risks are outside the remit of the NWRWMG WMP.  |
| Page 5-22, 5.107 – this text should be amended as further legislation to increase the levy on plastic bags has been put on hold.   | This text has been amended in the revised NWRWMG WMP.   |
| Page 6-6, para 633 – PAS 100 text should be updated.   | This will be updated to the PAS100:2011 standard in the next revision of the WMP.   |
| Page 7-3, 7.16 – Provides very little information on the "Residual Waste Treatment Project". As this forms a major part of the updated Plan we are of the opinion that more detail needs to be provided.   | The NWRWMG Residual Waste Treatment Project is no longer progressing; therefore all references to this project have been removed in the revised NWRWMG WMP.   |
| Page 7-15, 7.60 & 7.61 – Treatment of Residual Wastes – there is very little detail and there is broad text. We are of the opinion that more detail needs to be provided to adequately cover this important topic (Waste hierarchy, contracts etc)   | Chapter 7 of the NWRWMG WMP has been updated in the revised version and details of Residual Waste Treatment and Energy Recovery have been included in this revised version.   |
| Page 7-22, 7.92 states that the Residual Waste Treatment Project will result in 16,000 tonnes (13% of the input residual waste) being recycled through MBT process. We couldn't find this detail or how figures were arrived at. We are of the opinion that more detail should be provided.  | These figures relate to the NWRWMG Residual Waste Treatment Project which is no longer progressing, therefore references to these figures have been removed.  |
| Page 7-24, 7.101 – In relation to the proposed 60% recycling target, the draft Plan states to "ask Department to examine how resources can be made available." We consider that the draft Plan should be addressing this new target and putting forward means of meeting this target.  | Paragraphs 7.91-7.97 of the NWRWMG WMP set out how the group plan to meet the proposed 60% recycling rate. However, it should be noted that that is a proposed rate that as yet has not been incorporated into legislation.                                     |
| Page 7-29, 7.125 – Independent Auditing – "Councils are to investigate and facilitate an independent audit of recycling and recovery performance..." We don't believe this covers Objective 8.   | In undertaking an independent audit of recycling and recovery performance, Councils are ensuring that they meet both the targets and commitments identified within the WMP are being achieved.  |
| Page 7.30, 7.126 – "Commit resources to data collection and management to monitor and assess performance. This includes the development of a systematic mechanism that can be used by all councils in contracts." We think this should be more fully addressed.  | Resources will continue to be made available to monitor and assess performance through data collection and monitoring.  |
| Page 8-19, 8.90, Illegal Dumping – there is a very brief one sentence which talks about education and awareness campaigns. This is an important issue that we feel warrants more detail.   | Measures and Actions in relation to Fly-Tipping and Illegal Dumping are included in Chapter 7 of the NWRWMG WMP.  |
| Page 9-2, 9.9 – the revisions should also include the inclusion of the 2007 SIC code.  | Paragraph 9.9 sets out the purposes of the revised Controlled Waste and Duty of Care Regulations. As the provision of a SIC Code is a requirement of Waste Transfer Notes under these revised Regulations this is assumed to be included in this text.          |
| Section 12, 12-11, 12.37 – we couldn't find any involvement of the Group or Councils in the management and control of C, D & E wastes. Most of the roles and responsibilities are placed upon the NIEA.  | C, D and E wastes are defined as a Controlled Waste and therefore this waste stream is required to be included in the WMP. However, given the nature of the waste stream the majority is managed through the industry.  |
| Para 13-6, Tyres on Farms – some of the text needs to be amended as it doesn't fully cover exemption criteria and the Single Farm Payment registration approach.   | Paragraph 13.6 provides a definition of agriculture and therefore this comment is not considered relevant.  |
| Page 15-1, 15.6 & 15.7 – these sections talk about monitoring and review. This needs to be expanded in light of recent issues and discussions with Group Councils.   | This section refers to the use of WasteDataFlow for the ongoing reporting of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste returns. As WasteDataFlow is currently being still being utilised for LACMW returns and for the generation of KPI reports, as set out in |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | paragraphs 15.6 and 15.7, no amendment to the text is required.  |
| Page 15-2, 15.9 – “Group will consider management information, collected from the individual Councils..” Should the Group not be applying more of an overseeing role?   | This information will be reviewed, on a quarterly basis, in an overseeing role to ensure that progress and performance against projections is monitored regularly and to pick up as early as possible any areas of under-performance.  |
| The Environmental Report suggests that these mitigation measures have been incorporated into Section 12.19 of the Final Plan. We note that these mitigation measures were not included in section 12.19 the document that accompanied the SEA ER in this consultation: ‘A Review of the Waste Management Plan 2006-2020: Draft for Determination – November 2014’.<br>We would like the SEA adoption statement for the plan to clarify/confirm whether or not these mitigation measures have been incorporated into the adopted plan.   | Unfortunately due to time constraints on the approval process for the Plan, the mitigation table did not make it into the Final Plan, as was originally proposed. The NWRWMG Plan team are however fully aware of these measures following the SEA process.  |
| 3.14 The NI Executive Programme for Government has set an ambitious target of working towards a reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of at least 35% by 2025 <u>against a 1990 baseline</u> . In order to drive this forward <u>a GHG Action Plan has been agreed by all NICS Departments to reduce emissions across all sectors</u> . The most recent projections are for a <u>33.3% reduction in GHG emissions by 2025</u> . The waste and resources management industry can help minimise climate change impacts through a reduction of carbon footprints.                      | Each of the Alternatives set out in the NWRWMG WMP aims to maximise recycling and composting and minimise waste disposed of to landfill. These measures and actions will contribute towards a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and therefore climate change impacts through a reduction of carbon footprints.   |
| In relation to references in the Waste Management Plan regarding Hazardous Waste in 4.44 and again in 5.71, reference has been made to the Hazardous Waste Directive. This is no longer applicable as the requirements are now in the Waste Framework Directive (although this is recognised later in the document - it may be advisable to make the changes in these two paras as well).   | This is noted and will be updated in the next revision of the WMP.   |
| The inclusion of the SEA Monitoring and Review section in Chapter 15 Implementation, Monitoring and Review is noted. Consideration should however, be given to highlighting how the various environmental vulnerabilities included in Table 15.1 Environmental Monitoring are afforded protection in the objectives in the Plan. Consideration should be given to including specific measures to protect environmental vulnerabilities within and adjacent to the Plan area.  | One of the objectives of the NWRWMG Waste Management Plan is to ‘To minimise environmental impacts’, this demonstrates that NWRWMG are committed to protecting the environment through the proposed waste management measures. <b>Table 15.1</b> of the Waste Management Plan also sets out the environmental monitoring that will take place and the environmental vulnerabilities highlighted will be monitored and therefore protected. |
| Your attention is brought to the Irish National Waste Report (EPA, 2013) which should be taken into account in particular in relation to information on repatriated waste from historical dumping, wastes exports etc.). There would be merits in a transboundary perspective to integrating this as appropriate in the relevant tables and statistics in the Plan.   | Validated and published waste management data from NIEA was used in the preparation of the NWRWMG WMP 2013-2020.   |
| The Irish Governmental Policy document “A Resource Opportunity – Waste Management Policy in Ireland” (DECLG, 2012) promotes measures to ensure that the storage and export of waste material is strictly policed so that:<br>- no environmental damage arises from the storage of such materials prior to export;<br>- any exports taking place fully respect the requirements of the transfrontier shipment regulations, avoiding both the environmental and reputational damage which a breach of the regulations would cause; and<br>- exports are managed in an environmentally sound | The Waste Management Plan does not detail any proposed exports. However, the Waste Management Plan team will take this report into consideration in the next review of the Waste Management Plan.  |

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| manner in the country of destination.<br>There would be merits in reflecting these specific measures, where relevant and appropriate in the Policy Document have been taken into account, where relevant and appropriate in the Plan.  |  |
| There would also be merits in incorporating as appropriate, the relevant transboundary aspects of the National Difficult Waste Facility Study (EPA, 2010). It should be noted that an all-island approach was taken in the preparation of the Study in collaboration with Waste Authorities in Northern Ireland. | No new measures for the management of Hazardous waste in the NWRWMG Region are set out in the Waste Management Plan. Measures are only proposed for Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (LACMW) in the NWRWMG Waste Management Plan. However, the Waste Management Plan team will take this report into consideration in the next review of the Waste Management Plan. |

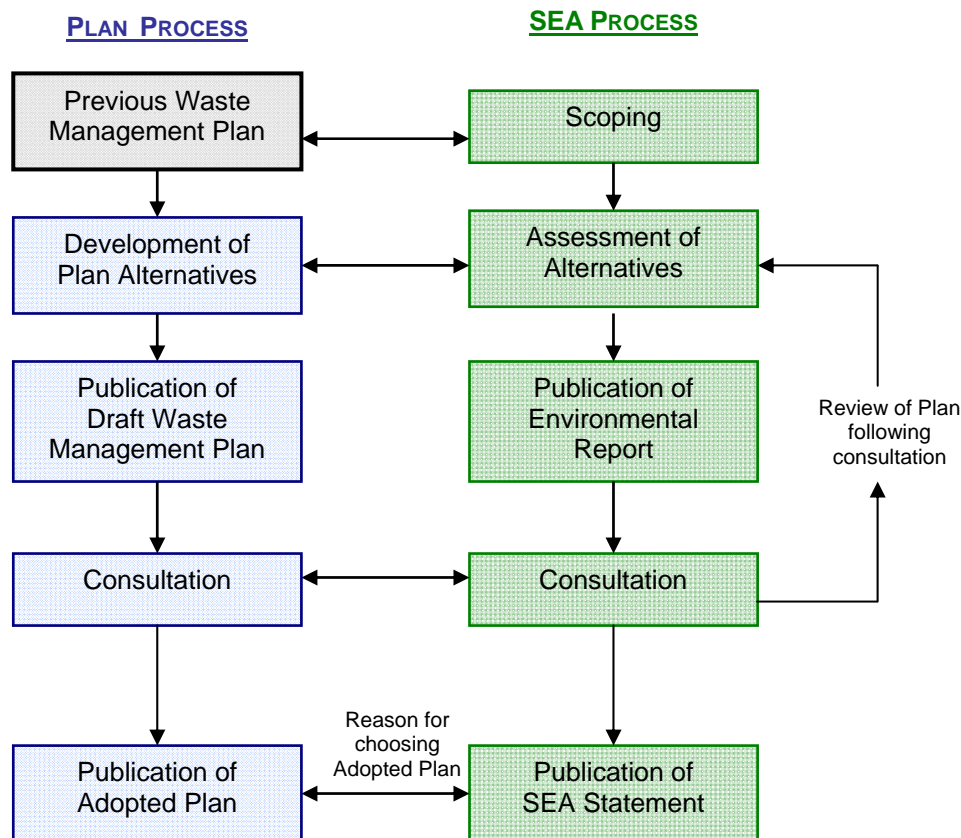
**Table 5.2 Specific Environmental Assessment Comments**

| Comment   | Response  |
|---|---|
| Section 5.3 – This section highlights the evolution of the environment in the absence of the Plan. Under this scenario it is assessed that there are no likely significant effects. However this does not recognise the potential for significant effects through the siting of facilities on or near sensitive priority habitats. This was recognised in the previous environmental report. It should still be recognised and mitigated.   | This final version of the NWRWMG WMP 2013 - 2020 is not proposing the siting of any new facilities, only the potential for enhancement to existing facilities. <b>Table 10.1</b> of the SEA Environmental Report does however provide general mitigation for this, if it were to occur. |
| Section 10 – Mitigation. The potential for significant effects on landscape from the siting of new facilities is recognised. However the potential cumulative significant effects on habitat, directly and indirectly has not been recognised within this table. There is also the potential for implications with the Habitats Directive if facilities were located on or near a designated site that was sensitive to nitrogen deposition. There is also the potential for significant effects on biodiversity if new facilities were located on priority habitats. This effect should be recognised within the final plan / SEA Adoption Statement and mitigation highlighted. | This final version of the NWRWMG WMP 2013 - 2020 is not proposing the siting of any new facilities, only the potential for enhancement to existing facilities. <b>Table 10.1</b> of the SEA Environmental Report does however provide general mitigation for this, if it were to occur. |
| More detailed account could have been taken of potential effects on air quality of certain waste treatment processes which may form part of any future strategy, such as anaerobic digestion, biomass combustion and waste incineration. We suggest that this be addressed in the final Plan / SEA Adoption Statement.  | These technologies are not being proposed by this current WMP and have therefore not been assessed within the SEA Environmental Report. These technologies were however assessed via BPEO following the previous NWRWMG WMP.  |
| We would recommend that Assessment of Air Quality Impacts, <b>Table 10.1</b> should include some consideration of local councils' Air Quality Management Plans and a consideration of the presence of, and potential effects on, any nearby AQMAs.  | We believe these have been taken into account as Indicators in <b>Table 7.1</b> and for Monitoring in <b>Table 10.2</b> of the SEA Environmental Report.  |
| There would be merits in providing relevant maps showing the location of both environmental sensitivities within the Plan and adjacent to the Plan area, in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland. This is of relevance in the context of potential transboundary effects.  | <b>Figures 5.1</b> and <b>5.2</b> were added to the Final Environmental Report showing International, European and National environmental designations in the NWRWMG region and across the border into the Republic of Ireland.   |
| The potential for cumulative transboundary effects in combination with other relevant Plans/ Programmes and Projects, should be considered and described where relevant and appropriate.  | Section 9.5 Alternative Summary, Comparison and Conclusions of the Final Environmental Report has been amended to reflect this.   |
| There would be merits in including the Irish National Waste Report 2011 (EPA, 2013) and the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012 (EPA, 2008) (and any revisions) as potential data sources for monitoring waste activities in the Rol.  | These have been included within <b>Table 8.1</b> of the Final Environmental Report, which has been brought into the Final WMP as <b>Table 15.1</b> .  |

## 6.0 INCORPORATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSULTATION ISSUES INTO THE PLAN

### 6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The SEA process took place in parallel to the preparation of the Waste Management Plan, therefore from the beginning of the Plan process the environmental consequences of implementing the Plan via the alternatives available have been taken into account. Aside from the day to day interactions there were also formal meetings and workshops for the Plan and SEA teams, and also statutory and non-statutory consultations with other stakeholders, authorities and organisations. This iterative approach ensured that the SEA and the preparation of the Plan were well integrated in order to best meet the environmental objectives and the Waste Management of the Plan. The interaction of the teams and processes is shown in the below diagram:



## 6.2 SUMMARY OF THE SEA ASSESSMENT

A baseline led assessment approach was used for this SEA, using the existing baseline environmental conditions as a starting point from which the potential impacts of the Plan Alternatives could be assessed. The SEA environmental objectives proposed for the Plan were incorporated into the assessment process by becoming the guideline for the grading of potential impacts and their severity. These environmental objectives for the Final Waste Management Plan are given in **Table 6.1**. Each of the alternatives considered was assessed against each of the SEA environmental objectives.

**Table 6.1 SEA Environmental Objectives**

| SEA Topic  | SEA Objective  |
|--|--|
| <b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna</b>                           | <b>Objective 1</b><br>To reduce the environmental impacts  |
| <b>Population</b>  | <b>Objective 2</b><br>To provide opportunities for participation through recycling and composting schemes    |
| <b>Human Health</b>  | <b>Objective 3</b><br>To reduce risks to health  |
| <b>Soils</b>   | <b>Objective 4</b><br>To reduce the environmental impacts – soils  |
| <b>Water</b>   | <b>Objective 5</b><br>To reduce the environmental impacts – groundwater and surface water                    |
| <b>Air</b>   | <b>Objective 6</b><br>To reduce the environmental impacts – air pollution and noise.                         |
| <b>Climatic Factors</b>  | <b>Objective 7</b><br>To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to potential climatic change.             |
| <b>Material Assets</b>   | <b>Objective 8</b><br>Provide sustainable waste management solutions for the NWRWMG.                         |
| <b>Cultural Heritage (inc. Architectural and Archaeological)</b> | <b>Objective 9</b><br>To reduce the environmental impacts on the historic environment and cultural heritage. |
| <b>Landscape</b>   | <b>Objective 10</b><br>To reduce the environmental impacts on landscape.                                     |

Section 7 of the NWRWMG WMP 2013 – 2020 (Section 7.44 onwards) outlines the current arrangements in place within the region for the management of local authority collected municipal waste, which are based on the BPEO defined for the region when the Waste Plan was prepared in 2002. These arrangements are made up of four main components:

- Education and Awareness Programme;
- Materials Recovery – Recycling and Composting;
- Treatment of Residual Wastes, and
- Landfilling of Residual Wastes.

Within Section 7 of the WMP (7.114 onwards – Measures and Actions) the assessment of the requirements for the future management of municipal waste within the region identified three main elements. These elements focused on maximising, as far as is practicable, Waste Prevention first and foremost, followed by Material Recovery - Recycling and Composting, with the aim being to minimise the amount of material requiring residual treatment and hence ensure that waste within the region is managed in the most sustainable way possible.

All the measures for implementation in the WMP are relatively benign and unobtrusive, serving to enable the continuation of or implementation of measures from the previous WMP, rather than introduce new waste management or treatment alternatives. Most of these measures as a stand alone alternative cannot be assessed either quantitatively or qualitatively for impacts upon the environment and therefore may be grouped under the one heading for the purposes of assessment. The measures for assessment are therefore as follows:

**Alternative 1** – This is the “Do Nothing” alternative, whereas this review of the WMP is not implemented and the WMP (2006) remains as the Plan guiding the waste management activities of the constituent councils up to 2020.

**Alternative 2** – This alternative is to implement the **Waste Prevention** measures. This will be assessed as one overall measure that implements the waste prevention initiatives, as set out in the Waste Prevention Plan, and continues to deliver sustained education and awareness of waste prevention such as the supply of home composting units.

**Alternative 3** – This alternative is to implement the **Material Recovery - Recycling and Composting** measures. This will be assessed as one overall measure that continues (or expands as appropriate) the kerbside collection of compostable materials and mixed dry recyclables, continues to maintain or procures suitable contracts and implements the enhancement of household waste recycling centres as appropriate.

**Alternative 4** – This alternative is to implement the **Residual Waste Treatment and Energy Recovery** measures. This will be assessed as one overall Residual Waste Treatment measure that implements the contracts for the procurement, delivery and operation of residual waste treatment for the NWRWMG.

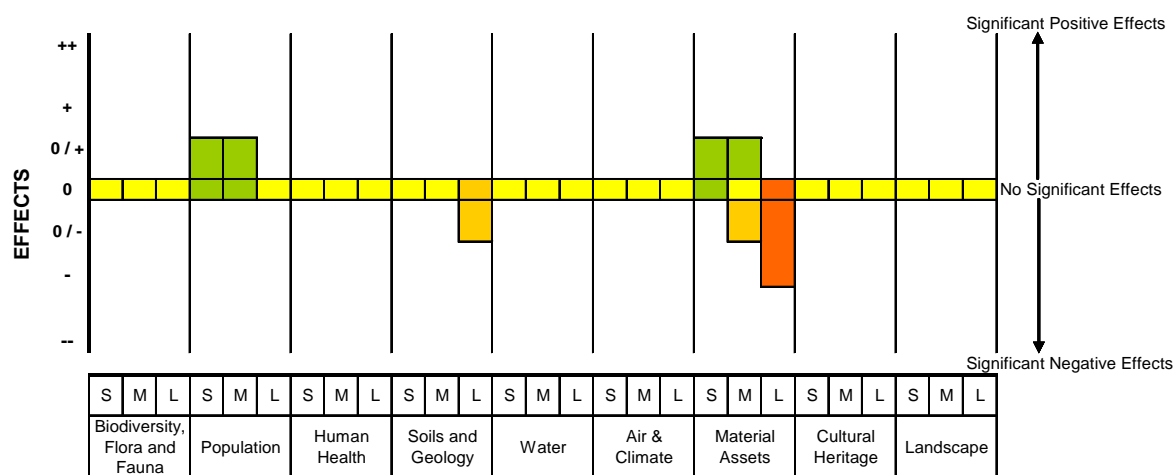
The draft and final Waste Management Plans adopt a slightly different nomenclature for the Plan Alternatives, as the Plan would not include a Do Nothing Option, as this would be contrary to the NWRWMG remit.

For each alternative the assessment output was a graphic bar chart showing the relative potential positive and negative impacts, in the short, medium and long term, against each of the SEA Topics. These assessment outputs are given in **Figure 6.1 to Figure 6.4**.

### Alternative 1 – Do Nothing Option

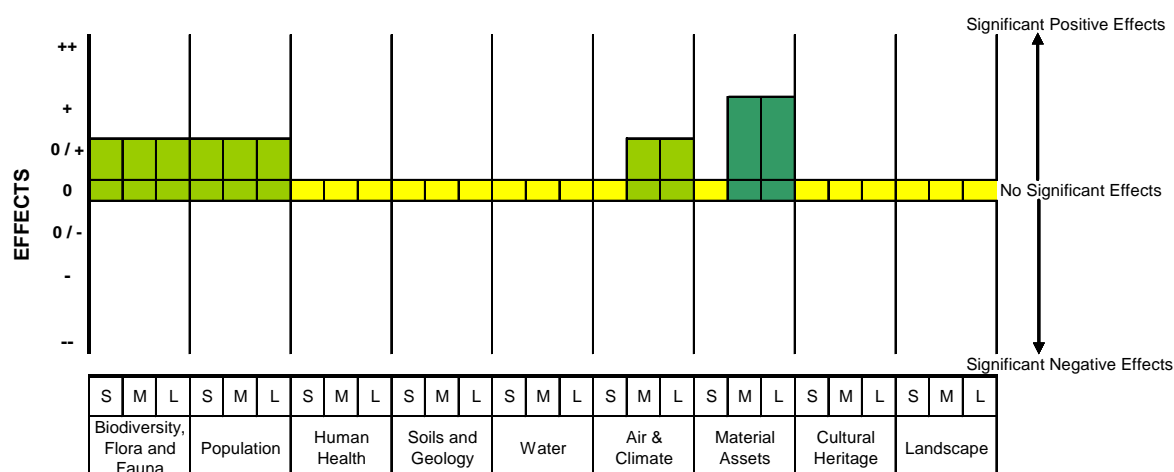
Not implementing the NWRWMG WMP 2013 – 2020 is only likely to have significant negative environmental impacts on material assets in the long term, whereas the previous Plan may not provide sufficient material recovery and recycling to meet the new targets. It should also be noted that not implementing the WMP will also mean not implementing a Plan that has been assessed by an SEA and the environmental objectives, mitigation measures and monitoring proposals from the SEA will not be incorporated into the future tracking of the environmental impacts and progress of the Plan. Any future assessment of Plan progress will therefore still be relying solely on data on waste prevention and material reuse, recovery, recycling and disposal, and not any impacts on the wider environment. A summary figure of the impacts, and their significance, of not implementing the Plan is given below in **Figure 6.1**.

**Figure 6.1: Assessment Alternative 1 – Do Nothing**

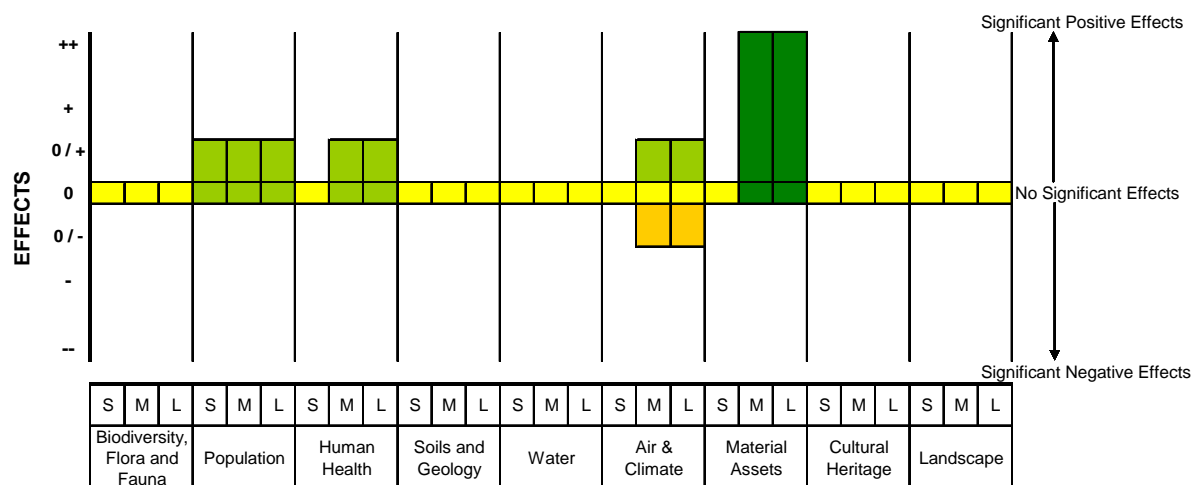


### Alternative 2 – Waste Prevention

The implementation of the Waste Prevention measures may provide slight positive impacts on a local or regional scale on biodiversity, flora, fauna, population, air and climate, and moderate positive impacts on material assets. A summary of the assessment for Alternative 2 is given in **Figure 6.2**.

**Figure 6.2: Assessment Alternative 2 – Waste Prevention****Alternative 3 – Material Recovery - Recycling and Composting**

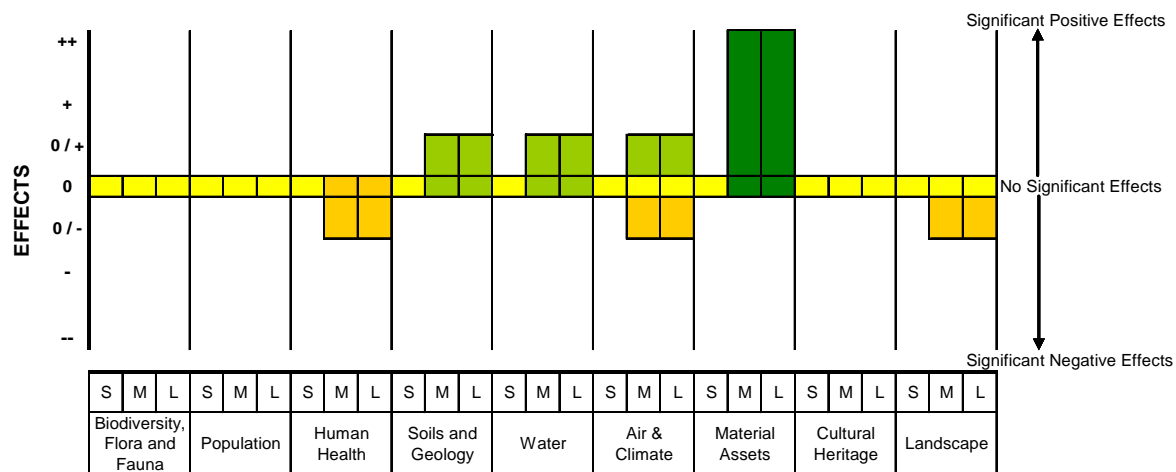
The implementation of the Material Recovery measures may provide slight positive impacts on a local or regional scale on population, human health, air and climate, and significant positive impacts on material assets. The implementation of the measure however also has the potential for slight negative impacts on air from emissions. A summary of the assessment for Alternative 3 is given in **Figure 6.3**.

**Figure 6.3: Assessment Alternative 3 – Material Recovery - Recycling and Composting****Alternative 4 – Residual Waste Treatment**

The implementation of the Residual Waste Treatment measure may provide slight positive impacts on soils and geology, water, air and climate. The measure has the potential to provide significant positive impacts on material assets, as there will be greater recovery of materials and less disposal to landfill. The measure however has the potential for slight negative impacts on human health, air and landscape. All impacts are in the medium and long term as there is unlikely to be any significant

implementation of this measure in the immediate short term. A summary of the assessment for Alternative 4 is given in **Figure 6.4**.

**Figure 6.4: Assessment Alternative 4 – Residual Waste Treatment**



## Summary of Impacts

As can be seen summarised in **Figures 6.2 to 6.4**, the implementation of the Plan is likely to provide slight, moderate and significant positive environmental impacts. There is however the potential for some slight negative impacts in implementation of Alternatives 3 and 4; however these can be mitigated for. Implementation of any of these three sets of alternatives would be beneficial to the environment, over Alternative 1 – Do Nothing, particularly in the medium to long term.

The Interactions of and the interrelationships between Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 is likely to lead to the greatest positive cumulative impacts. Although Alternative 2 could be considered as a more stand alone option, there is far more interdependence between Alternatives 3 and 4, whereas if there is more material collected and recovered by the local authorities there is the need for greater capacity to process the material. It would be most environmentally beneficial to ensure that Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 are fully implemented, with appropriate mitigation measures in place as require, as this would provide the greatest cumulative benefit that neither option can provide by itself. There are unlikely to be any significant negative cumulative impacts from implementation of any Alternative or combination of Alternatives. There are also unlikely to be any transboundary negative impacts or transboundary cumulative negative impacts from implementing Alternatives 2, 3 and 4, or combinations of these Alternatives.

## Mitigation Required

As part of the Environmental Report a list of mitigation measures have been proposed for each potential impact. The NWRWMG and the constituent councils are aware of these proposed mitigation measures. These potential impact / problems and the mitigation measures are given in **Table 6.2**. The

mitigation measures proposed are strategic and quite generic; however this reflects the generic nature of the Plan and the benign nature of the alternatives available.

**Table 6.2 Potential Impacts and Mitigation**

| Topic  | Alternative | Impact / Problem   | Mitigation   |
|--------|-------------|--|--|
| A / C  | 3 / 4       | Increased air emissions from increased waste management activity.  | Cleaner fuels to be used. Well maintained waste management fleet and plant. Adoption of renewable energies (for example solar and wind) in powering waste management activities. Optimising of waste management collections.   |
| A / C  | 4           | Emissions from waste treatment facilities.   | Ensure all emissions meet relevant European and National standards, with adequate emission abatement technology employed in design of plant. Air quality modelling and assessment undertaken for residual waste treatment facilities to model impacts. Assess new / enhanced facilities for potential nitrogen deposition impacts on sensitive habitats. |
| BFF    | 4           | Potential for impacts on Natura 2000 sites, protected habitats and/or species if waste treatment facilities are sited in or in close proximity to a designated SPA, SAC, Ramsar site or nationally designated areas. | Adequate planning not to allow waste treatment facilities in or close to a Natura 2000 site, Ramsar Site or ASSI. Habitats Regulation Screening Assessment may be required at the project level to assist in planning for waste treatment facilities. Planning to not to allow waste treatment facilities in a SLNCI or Nature Reserve.                  |
| C      | 3           | Adaptation to climate change in enhancement of recycling centres.  | Take potential climatic change and increased weather variability into account in planning and design of enhancement works. Future proofing of recycling centres.   |
| C      | 4           | Adaptation to climate change in new waste treatment facilities.  | Take potential climatic change and increased weather variability into account in planning and operation of any residual waste treatment facilities.  |
| L      | 3           | Potential for impacts on local vistas and landscape setting from recycling centres.  | Aesthetic enhancement of recycling centres to fit with local setting, as well as functional enhancement.   |
| HH / A | 4           | Potential for nuisance dust and odours from waste treatment facilities.  | Good plant and site design alongside good site management should be able to minimise nuisance dust and odours. Dust and odour management plans to be developed for the plant. Odour abatement technology to be incorporated into waste treatment facilities. Odour modelling and assessment undertaken for waste treatment facilities to model impacts.  |
| W      | 4           | Potential for runoff and leachate from waste treatment facilities.   | Good plant and site design alongside good site management should be able to manage any potential site runoff or leachate.  |

BFF- Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna. HH - Human Health. A – Air Quality. C – Climate. L – Landscape W – Water

### 6.3 INFLUENCE OF THE SEA IN PLAN PREPARATION

The study team for the SEA of the NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020 comprises of engineering, environmental and planning team members from the NWRWMG, Local Authorities and RPS (Environmental and Engineering Consultancy). Throughout the Plan and SEA processes, the relevant team members from NWRWMG, Local Authorities and RPS have worked closely together, with constant contact, team workshops and regular meetings to ensure complete integration. The following are a list of the planning and environmental issues workshops / meetings that have taken place throughout the Plan and SEA processes (excluding consultations):

- 07/03/13 – NWRWMG & RPS – SEA commencement meeting.
- 15/03/13 – NWRWMG & RPS – SEA Scoping meeting.
- 16/05/13 – NWRWMG & RPS – Plan / SEA development workshop Version 1.
- 30/09/14 – NWRWMG & RPS – Plan and Environmental Report Version 1 comments analysis meeting, and Plan / SEA development workshop Version 2.
- 04/12/14 – NWRWMG & RPS – Plan / SEA finalisation meeting.
- 27/02/15 – NWRWMG & RPS – Plan and Environmental Report Version 2 comments analysis meeting.

The SEA team has been involved in:

- Early identification of environmental sensitivities in the Plan area to help highlight potential impacts on the environment and to aid decision making in the draft Plan.
- Recommendation of mitigation measures to address the potential impacts arising from the alternatives considered in the draft Plan.
- Development of a monitoring Plan to help assess the environmental performance of implementing the final Waste Management Plan.
- Dissemination and screening of all proposed alterations to the final Waste Management Plan to determine if any significant environmental effects are likely to arise.

The SEA process has ensured that potential environmental impacts (both positive and negative) associated with the implementation of the NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020 have been given due consideration in the preparation of the Plan.

### 6.4 CHANGES TO THE PLAN DUE TO CONSULTATIONS

The changes made to the Plan and SEA Environmental Report due to statutory consultations are given in **Section 5** of this SEA Statement. During public consultations on the draft Waste Management Plan the following issues were raised and alterations were made:

- The majority of respondents supported the overall aim of the NWRWMG's WMP;
- The majority of respondents supported the Waste Hierarchy as a priority for action in the review of the Plan;
- The majority of respondents agreed that specific actions could be undertaken by Councils to encourage waste prevention by householders. These included: home composting, separate collection of recyclable waste streams and education and awareness initiatives;
- The majority of respondents supported the Proximity Principle, that is, an emphasis on the need to treat or dispose of waste as close as practicable to the point of generation to minimise the environmental impact of waste;
- The majority of respondents believe that the NWRWMG can meet the recycling rate of 50% as outlined in the Plan; and
- The majority of respondents believed that the actions outlined in the Plan can assist the Councils in meeting the proposed 60% recycling target.

## 7.0 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

**Section 7 – Proposed Arrangements for the Management of LACMW (7.64 Onwards) and Measures and Actions (7.114 Onwards)** of the final Waste Management Plan runs through the Alternatives available to the Plan. It should be noted however that the Waste Management Plan does not propose new alternatives, only extensions of those already in operation through the previous incarnation of the Plan. There is no specific preferred alternative in this Plan, however the local authorities that make up the NWRWMG region have the option to choose between, or combinations of, the alternatives available in the Plan. With the SEA of the Waste Management Plan, the local authorities are aware of the strategic environmental issues with implementing these alternatives, or combinations of alternatives, and are aware of the proposed mitigation measures they may implement to reduce the potential for negative impacts on the wider environment.

## 8.0 MEASURES TO MONITOR SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADOPTED PLAN

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that monitoring should be carried out in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects due to implementation of the Plan, with the view to taking remedial action where adverse effects are identified through monitoring. A monitoring programme is developed based on the indicators selected to track progress towards achieving strategic environmental objectives and reaching targets, enabling positive and negative impacts on the environment to be measured. The environmental indicators have been developed to show changes that would be attributable to implementation of the Plan. **Table 8.1** shows the Targets and Indicators for monitoring and who would potentially be the responsible body or organisation, from which NWRWMG may obtain information for collation and comparison. These Targets and Indicators for monitoring have been included within the Final Waste Management Plan as **Table 15.1 Environmental Monitoring** under **Section 15 Implementation, Monitoring and Review**. Within this section of the Plan, NWRWMG have quoted that “*Table 15.1 sets out the proposed environmental monitoring programme for the Waste Management Plan*”.

**Table 8.1: Environmental Monitoring**

| SEA Target   | SEA Indicators   | Potential Responsible Authority                              | Possible Data Availability, Source and Frequency   |
|--|--|--|--|
| No damage to protected sites in the NWRWMG region (BFF)                              | Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species and status of national Priority Species and Habitats.<br><br>Condition of Selection Features in sites designated for nature conservation (SACs, SPAs and ASSIs). | NIEA   | UK Report on Implementation of Habitats Directive (every 6 years). Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report (Annual). UK Biodiversity Action Plan (every 3 years). Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy (every 3 years). Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report (Annual). WANE Act 2011 Reporting (every 5 years). |
| No damage to or displacement of protected species in the NWRWMG region (BFF)         |  |  |  |
| No negative transboundary impacts on biodiversity, flora and fauna (BFF)             |  | NPWS   | NPWS Species Action Plan. Status of Protected Sites and Species in Ireland Report (Every 6 years).   |
| Year on year reduction of kerbside collected recyclables contamination levels (P).   | Recorded contamination levels of kerbside collected recyclables.   | Local Authority / NWRWMG                                     | Local Authority / NWRWMG contamination studies – As required.  |
| Year on year reduction in waste management costs per head population (P).            | Waste management costs per head population.  |  | Local Authority / NWRWMG economic studies – As required.   |
| Increase in number of recycling facilities per head population (P).                  | Recycling facilities available per head population.  |  | NWRWMG Waste Management Plan review (every 6 years)  |
| Increase in recycling participation rates (P).                                       | Recycling scheme participation studies.  |  | Local Authority / NWRWMG participation studies – As required.  |
| Provide safe waste management sites and working conditions (HH)                      | Number of accidents associated with waste management activities and facilities   | HSENI / Local Authority Environmental Health Department      | Data collected as reported. Can be sourced on request.   |
| Prevent nuisance dust and odours emanating from waste facilities and activities (HH) | Health issues and nuisance complaints associated with waste management activities  | Local Authority Environmental Health Department / NIEA       | Data collected as reported. Can be sourced on request.   |
| Prevent illegal movement and dumping of waste (including transboundary) (HH).        | Volumes of illegal waste dumped (including transboundary).   | Local Authority Environmental Health Department / NIEA / EPA | Data collected as reported. Fly Tipping Framework. Irish National Waste Reports.   |
| No soil contamination due to waste management activities (S)                         | Area of land contaminated or impacted due to waste activities, and the location of new facilities.<br><br>Contamination statistics and reports   | Local Authority Environmental Health Department / NIEA       | Local Authorities collect information of potentially contaminated site within their council areas. Can be sourced on request.<br>Data collected as reported from spills. Can be sourced on request.<br>Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report (Annual).  |

| SEA Target  | SEA Indicators   | Potential Responsible Authority                        | Possible Data Availability, Source and Frequency   |
|---|--|--|--|
| No deterioration of water status up or downstream of NWRWMG waste management facilities, due to development or operation (W). | WFD water status of surface and groundwaters in the area.  | NIEA   | WFD Water Status Reports (2015).<br>Revised River Basin Management Plans.<br>WFD Local Management Area Plans.<br>DARD Rivers Agency Flood Risk Management Plans (2015) |
| No negative impacts on water supplies (W)   |  | NIEA / NI Water  |  |
| No negative impacts on flood defences, floodplains or local flooding characteristics (W).                                     |  | NIEA / DARD Rivers Agency / OPW                        |  |
| No negative transboundary impacts on water resources (NWRWMG within international RBD) (W)                                    |  | EPA / RoI Local Authorities                            |  |
| Reduce air emissions from waste management activities (A)   | Periodic dust, gas and noise monitoring in the vicinity of waste management facilities.              | Local Authority Environmental Health Department / NIEA | Data collected as reported. Can be sourced on request.<br>Air Quality management Plans<br>PPC reporting  |
| Reduce noise emissions from waste management activities (A)   | Status of air quality near waste management facilities.  |  |  |
| Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from NWRWMG waste management activities (C)   | Estimated GHG emissions<br><br>CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from energy recovery, e.g. landfill flares. | NIEA / NWRWMG  | GHG Emissions Data Reporting and National (GHG) Inventory Reports  |
| Provide waste management facilities that are adapted to potential climatic change (C)   | Facilities designed with potential climatic change taken into consideration.                         | NWRWMG   | Planning applications and As-built drawings.   |
| Reduce the quantity of waste produced (MA)  | Waste production statistics  | Local Authority / NWRWMG / EPA                         | WasteDataFlow Reporting.<br>Irish National Waste Report (Annual)<br>Ireland National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (5 yearly)  |
| Increase recycling and composting rates (MA)  | Material recovery and recycling statistics   |  |  |
| Recovery of residual waste (percentage recovered) (MA)  |  |  |  |
| Reduce the quantity of materials Landfilled (MA)  | Landfill statistics  |  |  |

| SEA Target  | SEA Indicators   | Potential Responsible Authority | Possible Data Availability, Source and Frequency  |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Avoid damage to any cultural heritage features in development and/or operation of NWRWMG waste management facilities (CH) | <p>Number of heritage features restored due to NWRWMG activities.</p> <p>Number of new heritage features discovered due to NWRWMG activities.</p> <p>Number of heritage features lost or destroyed due to NWRWMG activities.</p> | NIEA                            | NIEA Heritage Datasets and Reporting – Updated on ongoing basis.  |
| No damage to local vistas and landscape in the area of NWRWMG waste management facilities (L)                             | Significant negative changes in landscape quality and land cover types.  | NIEA / Local Authorities/ GSNI  | Landscape Character Areas. Northern Ireland Countryside Surveys (every 10 years). Landcover Mapping. Local Area Plans |
| Enhance the local vistas and landscape where possible, with sensitive and sustainable development practices (L)           | <p>Percentage changes in land cover types in areas with a high sensitivity to change.</p> <p>Changes in landscape character definitions.</p>   |                                 |   |

BFF- Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna. P – Population. HH - Human Health. S – Soils. W – Water. A – Air Quality. C – Climate. MA – Material Assets. CH – Cultural Heritage. L – Landscape.

## 9.0 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The SEA process carried out during the preparation of the NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020 has attempted to ensure that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Plan have been identified and that they have been given appropriate consideration. Consultation on the two versions of the draft Plan and Environmental Report has further contributed to the development and finalisation of the adopted Waste Management Plan.

With the implementation of the NWRWMG Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020 the constituent Councils will be able to continue the progress of waste management within the NWRWMG region of Northern Ireland in meeting the requirements from European EU Directives, UK wide legislation and National legislation to drive forward innovative waste management programmes, with an aim to implement environmentally sound waste management programmes based on the principles of 'Reduce, Re-use and Recycle'.

It is envisaged that monitoring of the potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, will continue throughout the Plan period of to 2020.

It has been recommended by the Statutory Consultees that where amendments to the Plan are proposed in the future, these should be screened for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria as set out in Annex I of the SEA Directive and should be subject to the same method of assessment applied in the “environmental assessment” of the Draft Plan.