



Clare Public Participation Network
Clonroad Business Park
Clonroad
Ennis
Co. Clare
086-1617375

www.clareppn.ie

Clare Public Participation Network/Clare Environmental Network submission to the Southern Region Waste Management Office in respect of the pre-drafting of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy

May 5th, 2021

Clare PPN (CPPN) is a network of 314 community, voluntary, environmental and social inclusion groups from Clare. It exists to facilitate the formal participation by the community sector in Clare Co Co's policy making structures and to support communication and information sharing in the community and voluntary sector in Clare. It is funded jointly by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Clare Co Co but is autonomous and its activities are directed by its members through an elected secretariat. Clare PPN's website is www.clareppn.ie and we are on twitter @clare_ppn and <https://facebook.com/clareppn/>

Clare Environmental Network is both a member group of Clare PPN and a network of environmental groups, individuals and organisations in the County. It exists to facilitate those working on diverse aspects of Climate and Biodiversity Emergency mitigation, environmental sustainability, biodiversity enhancement, sustainable farming and tourism to communicate and collaborate with each other.

We welcome this opportunity to provide input on the pre-draft consultation process for the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (NWMPCE).

Clare PPN has been consulting with the member groups of its Environmental College and with Clare Environmental Network for more than two years on environmental matters, including waste management. These consultation workshops have been held for the purposes of drafting submissions as part of public consultation processes held by Clare County Council and other bodies, and also for the purpose of drafting Clare PPN's 'Vision for Community Wellbeing'.

The points made in this submission represent the views of those of our members who participated in these workshops.

Clare Public Participation Network and Clare Environmental Network (CPPN/CEN) would like to request on behalf of those consulted that the following actions are taken and while these suggestions relate to County Clare our members feel they have value in each Local Authority Area:

- A. That as part of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (NWMPCE), a Clare-specific report on "How waste is currently being disposed of" by private operators and by the Clare Co Council should be commissioned. This report will demonstrate whether opportunities exist to repurpose, recycle and minimise waste in County Clare and will establish if Clare Co Co or other operators can create the conditions for this to happen.
- B. That Clare Co Council undertake a county-wide programme of provision of well-managed compost bins in public areas. This programme should include promotion and training in their use and management. The Council has the ability to lead the way in this regard and such a project would have a variety of benefits in minimising waste and methane emissions, in supplying organic fertiliser for council-owned landscapes and in reducing the costs of waste disposal for householders. This would be especially welcome in light of the discontinuation by Bord na Mona of peat production for compost. It would also provide employment opportunities in the training, management and sale of compost should it be rolled out successfully.
- C. The NWMPCE should include an awareness campaign about how to legally dump large items.
- D. The Local Authority (LA) should commit to the publication in January each year of a schedule of collection days for:

- Large household items
- Paint/Chemicals/Hazardous waste
- Electrical Goods

The needs of communities living in poverty and without transport should be taken into account in such plans.

- E. Some members are in favour of waste services being taken back into direct operation by Local Authorities. (It should be noted that whilst this option was suggested by several people at our workshops, the opposing view was also put forward by one individual who wished to see the current system with private operators properly regulated and with suppliers tendering for complete 'routes' rather than the current situation of several companies collecting in one area.)
- L. The NWMPCE should include a commitment to education, incentive and finally sanctions regarding plastic waste, including the pollution of trees and hedgerows by farm plastics such as silage packaging
- M. CPPN/CEN recommend that a commitment be made to roll out 'Zero Waste Strategies' in County Clare and to seek buy-in from State bodies, industry, farmers and retail outlets. As part of the commitment to Zero Waste, Clare Co Co could:
- Pilot an award scheme for Clare's first Zero Waste community.
 - Begin to pilot and implement 'Community Responsibility Plans' for refuse with communities being challenged and supported to produce zero waste.
 - Commit Clare Co Co to the installation of public drinking water fountains / bottle filling stations at convenient locations in all urban settlements and ensure that they are installed in all local authority buildings.
 - Include a commitment by Clare Co Co to pilot compost toilets in national parks, forests and other outdoor amenity settings and lead by example. Work to ensure that planning permission is available for use of compost toilets in suitable privately-owned premises or homes.
 - Clare Co Co itself, as part of zero waste, could commit (post-Covid-19) to using no plastic bottles/disposable coffee cups or food implements at any council organised event or in its day-to-day work.

Appendix:

Members of the following groups participated in the workshops that informed this submission:

1. Clare Public Participation Network
2. Fridays for Future
3. Green Schools
4. Ennis Tidy Towns
5. An Taisce
6. Kulyana
7. Green Party
8. CELT
9. Futureproof Clare
10. Clare Women's Network
11. Moonbear Catering
12. Talamh Beo
13. FH Wetland Systems
14. Scarriff Community Gardens
15. Extinction Rebellion Clare
16. Wild About Milltown Malbay
17. Three for the Sea
18. Transition Towns
19. Killone Water Scheme
20. Ennis and environs Zero Waste
21. Clare Leader Forum
22. Fridays for Future Limerick
23. Limerick Women's Network
24. Fracking Free Clare
25. East Clare Community Co-op
26. Operation De-Plastification