

BACKGROUND

Construction and demolition waste, i.e. C&D waste, is a significant waste issue nationally. It is estimated that Ireland produced over 6 million tonnes of C&D waste in 2019 which amounts to almost one third of the total waste generated by the country. C&D has been identified as a priority waste stream in national policies and plans, such as the National Waste Prevention Programme, Regional Waste Management Plans and the government's 2020 Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.



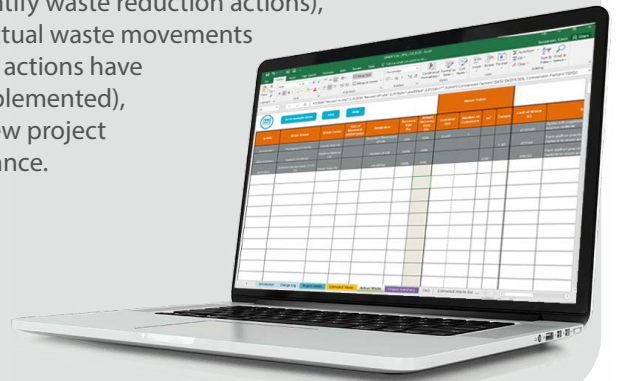
Ireland's National Planning Framework - Project Ireland 2040 - supports the circular economy Principles. While there is a desire to develop sustainable resource efficient construction projects, it has been identified that a lack of skills were available to carry out efficient procurement, understand how to design out waste either at procurement or project management stage and, most importantly, how to set and measure performance targets in this regard.

DELIVERY

In 2019, local authorities in Limerick City & County, Clare, Mayo and Dublin City initiated a LAPN (Local Authority Prevention Network) project to train local authority staff on designing out waste and efficient procurement for construction projects. Staff targeted by the training included architects/technicians, project managers, quantity surveyors, engineers, and procurement staff. The training, developed by Resources Futures, Scotland was presented at 7 training events attended by 67 local authority personnel. The course, which was approved for CPD points by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, was based around the following principles:

- Waste-efficient procurement
- Materials optimisation
- Off-site construction
- Re-use and recovery
- Deconstruction and flexibility

As part of the training, attendees were introduced to the Site Waste Management Plan 'Lite' tool. This tool, designed by Zero Waste Scotland for use by clients, designers and contractors on all C&D projects, is particularly well suited for small projects. The tool can be used to estimate waste (and identify waste reduction actions), record actual waste movements (record if actions have been implemented), and review project performance.



RESULTS AND FEEDBACK

In addition to the training, Resource Futures provided a number of follow-up support days to the participating local authorities. Limerick engaged with Resource Futures and GMIT in relation to the Opera Construction and Demolition Project.

As a follow on, the Southern Region Waste Management Office, working with GMIT on two EPA funded research projects, adapted the Zero Waste Scotland & WRAP tools into a number of support materials most suitable to the Irish situation.

These included specific guidance documents for: clients, contractors, producers, designers and Quantity Surveyors (QS).



For more information please contact: nwpp@epa.ie

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