



**Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí**  
**Cork City Council**



**Cork**  
**Environmental**  
**Forum**

# **Community Climate Action Programme**

## **Waste**



# Waste Learning outcomes

## **Participants will be able to;**

- Explain linear approach to waste and its issues
- Describe the scale of the waste problem globally
- Identify the best alternatives to landfill
- Explain the circular economy
- Explore actions to support their local community reduce waste.

# Waste-related SDGs



## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Reduce adverse impact of solid waste from cities



## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

- Halve food waste
- Sound management of chemicals
- Substantially reduce waste generation



## 14 LIFE BELOW WATER

- Significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds



THE GLOBAL “MATERIAL FOOTPRINT”

INCREASED BY 70%

BETWEEN 2000 AND 2017



1 MILLION

PLASTIC DRINKING BOTTLES

ARE PURCHASED

EVERY MINUTE

5 TRILLION

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS

ARE THROWN AWAY

EACH YEAR

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

STILL HAVE VAST UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

NEW RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY CAPACITY



ELECTRONIC WASTE

CONTINUES TO PROLIFERATE

AND IS NOT DISPOSED OF RESPONSIBLY

EACH PERSON

GENERATED ABOUT

7.3 KILOGRAMS

OF E-WASTE



[2019]

BUT ONLY

1.7 KILOGRAMS

WAS RECYCLED



DESPITE PROGRESS,

FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES CONTINUE

TO THREATEN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF

THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND

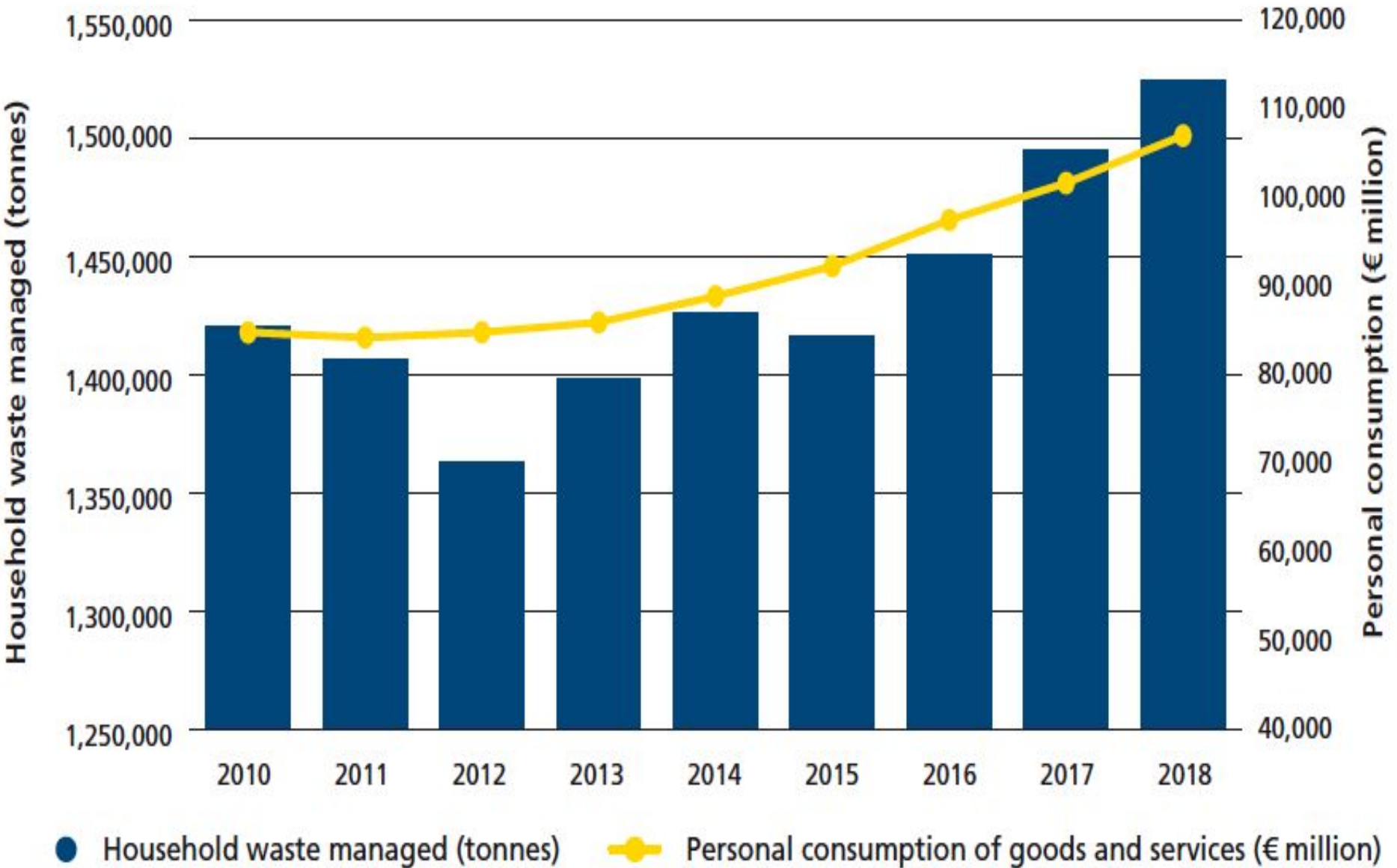
2030 AGENDA



\$432 BILLION IN 2019

A DECLINE OF 21% FROM 2018

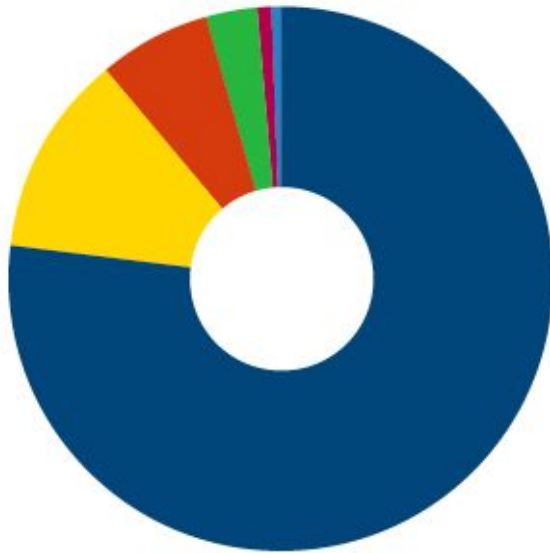
Figure 9.8 Household waste managed and personal consumption of goods and services, 2010-2018 (Sources: EPA, Central Statistics Office)





# Ireland - Total of 14 million tonnes of waste

Figure 9.4 Construction and demolition waste collected, 2018 (Source: EPA)



- Waste soil and stone and dredging spoil (77.0%)
- Concrete, brick, tile and gypsum waste (12.1%)
- Mixed C&D waste (6.7%)
- Metal waste (2.9%)
- Waste bituminous mixtures (1.0%)
- Segregated wood, glass and plastic waste (0.4%)

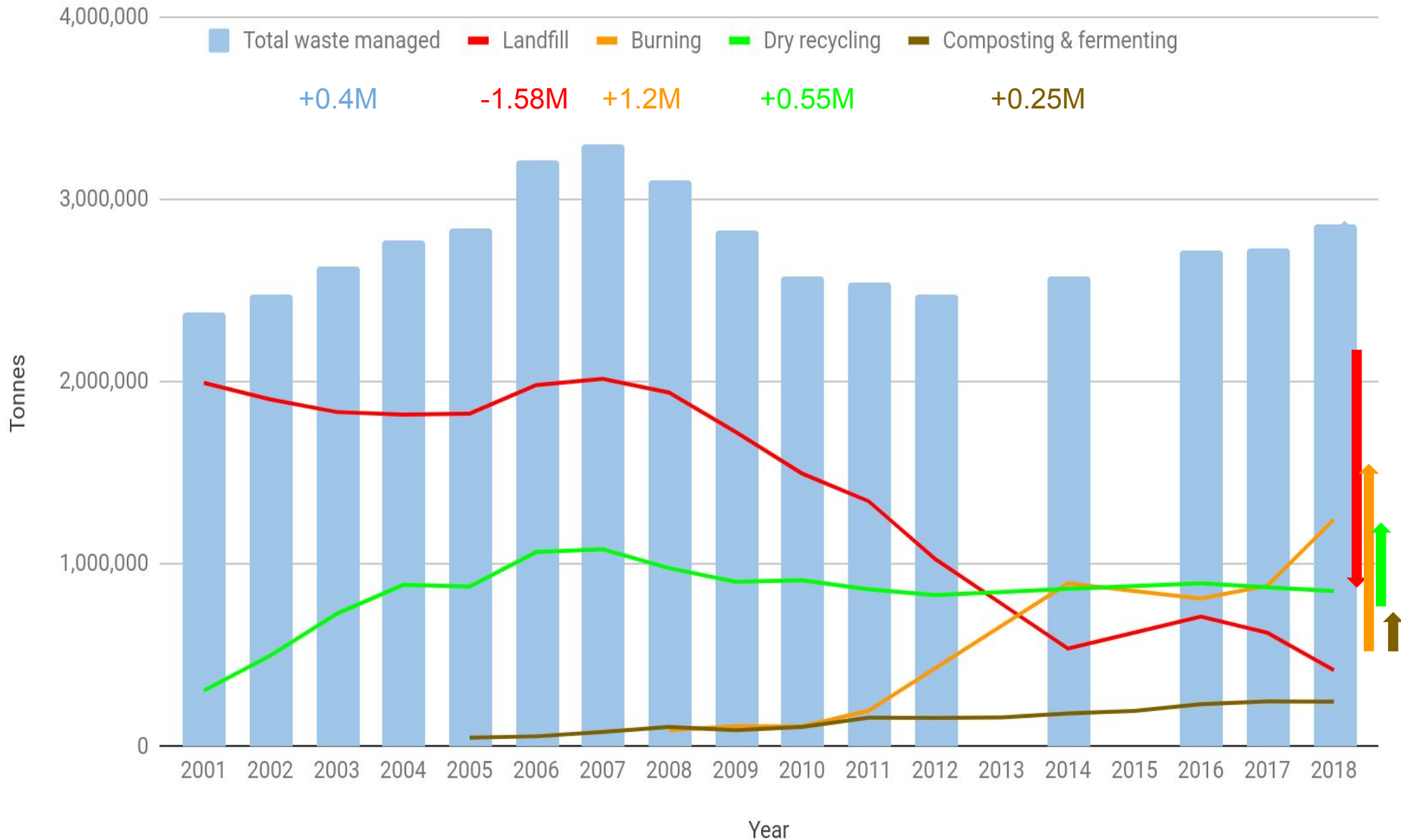
Goal of 70% material recovery of C&D waste by 2020.

In 2018, recovery rate was 78%

C&D 6.2 Mt/yr

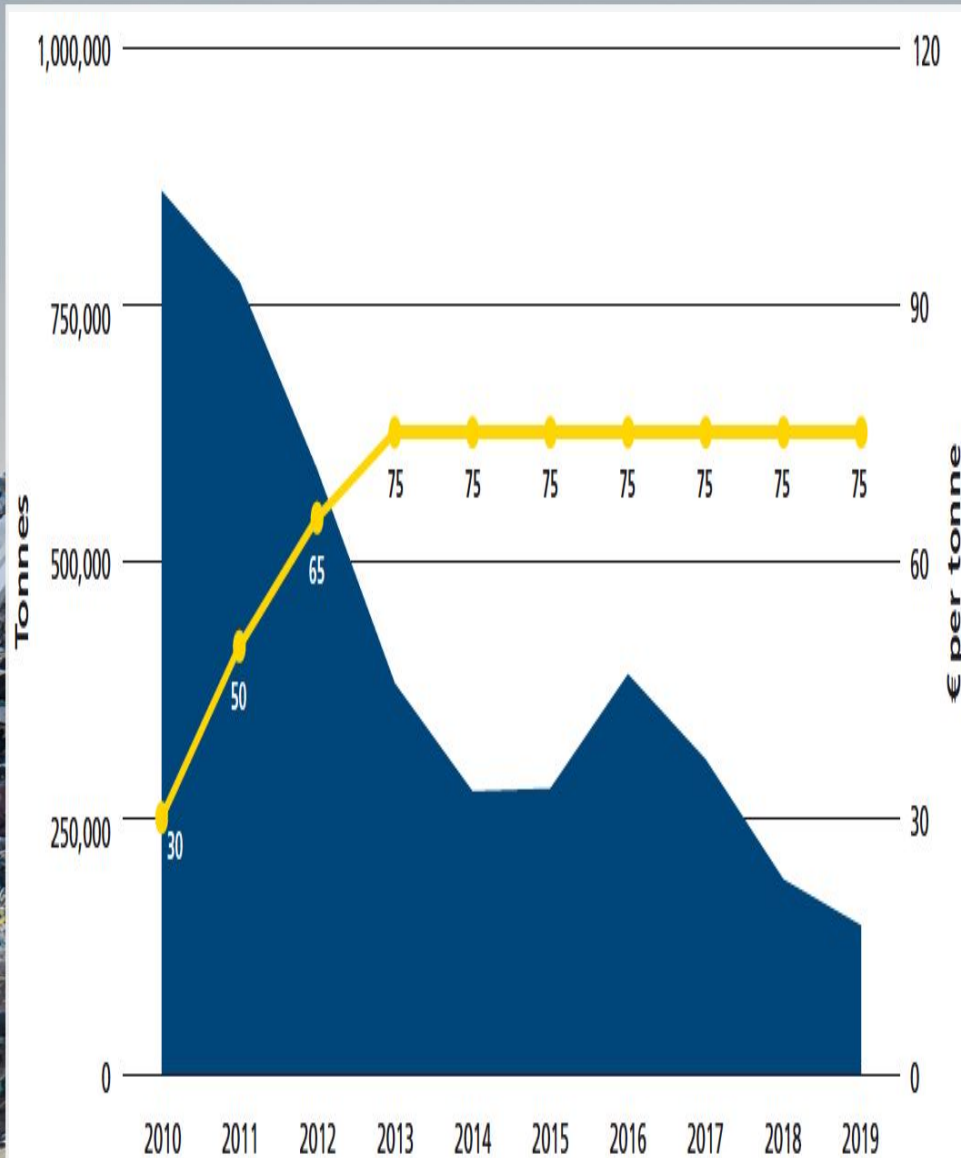
# Ireland's Municipal Waste (homes and business)

Municipal waste and landfill, burning, recycling & composting 2001-2018





# Biodegradable Waste to Landfill

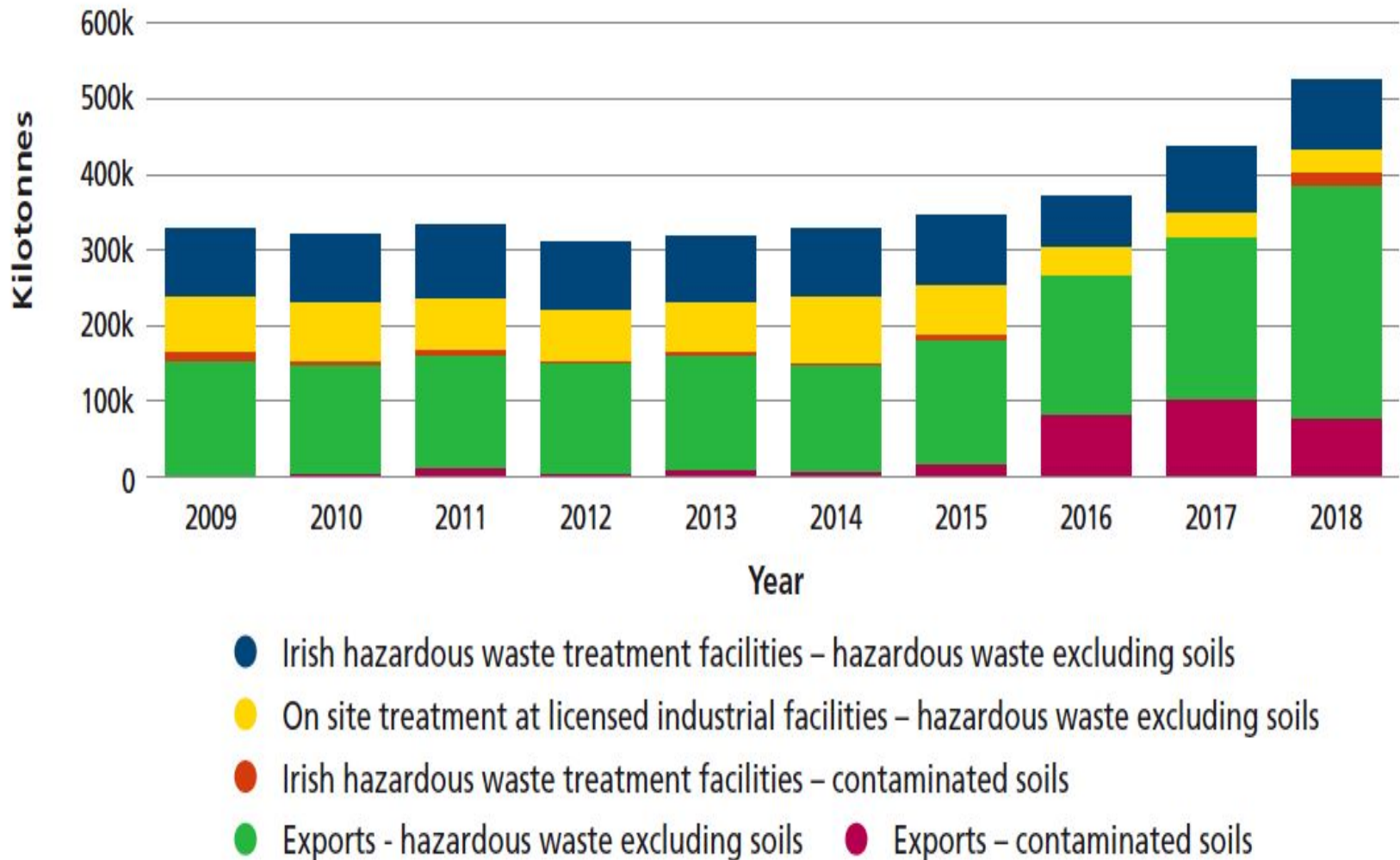


60% of home organic waste is in Black/Blue bin  
33% of the commercial black bin is organic  
30% of food businesses have no compost bin  
43% of homes had no compost bin



# Hazardous Waste Increasing

Figure 9.5 Hazardous waste generation and location of treatment, 2009-2018 (Source: EPA)



# Ireland produces 1 Mt of packaging

## Ireland is the EU's top producer of plastic waste

Plastic waste per inhabitant in 2015 (kg)\*

Europe's top five plastic waste offenders (per inhabitant)



Kg of plastic waste per inhabitant



\* Values from Denmark, Cyprus, Malta and Romania are from 2014

@StatistaCharts

Source: Eurostat

thejournal.ie

statista



The background of the slide is a photograph of a massive landfill. In the foreground, there is a dense layer of various types of trash, including plastic bottles, food waste, and other debris. In the background, a large yellow excavator is visible, working on a higher level of the waste pile. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. Overlaid on this image is a large, green, cloud-like thought bubble with a black outline. Inside the bubble, there is white text.

**What are your own  
waste challenges?**

**Five minutes - type  
in chat box**

# What's still in our general waste bins?



**2018**

**19%** Plastics

**16%** Organic Waste (Food & Garden)

**15%** Paper, Card & Beverage Containers

**11%** Fines

**10%** Textiles

**10%** Nappies

**9%** Metals, Glass and Wood

**2%** Hazardous Wastes



**2008**

**14%**

**24%**

**17%**

**12%**

**7%**

**8%**

**8%**

**1%**



# Ireland's Climate action plan 2019



## Waste and the Circular Economy



**Reduce**  
the percentage of  
municipal waste  
sent to landfill to

**10%**  
by 2035

**Reduce food waste by  
50% by 2030**



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**By 2030**

**Recycle  
70% of  
packaging  
waste**



**Recycle  
55% of plastic  
packaging  
waste**

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**Eliminate non-recyclable plastic** and impose  
higher fees on the production of materials  
that are difficult to recycle

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**Ban specific single-use  
plastic convenience items**

including polystyrene food,  
cup, and drink containers





# Ireland actions

**2002:** Plastic Bag Levy  
introduced  
→ 90% drop in use



**2017:** Recycling List Ireland:  
clear recycling advice  
brought in nationwide



**2022** Deposit Return Scheme

Also keep an eye out for:  
Right to Repair



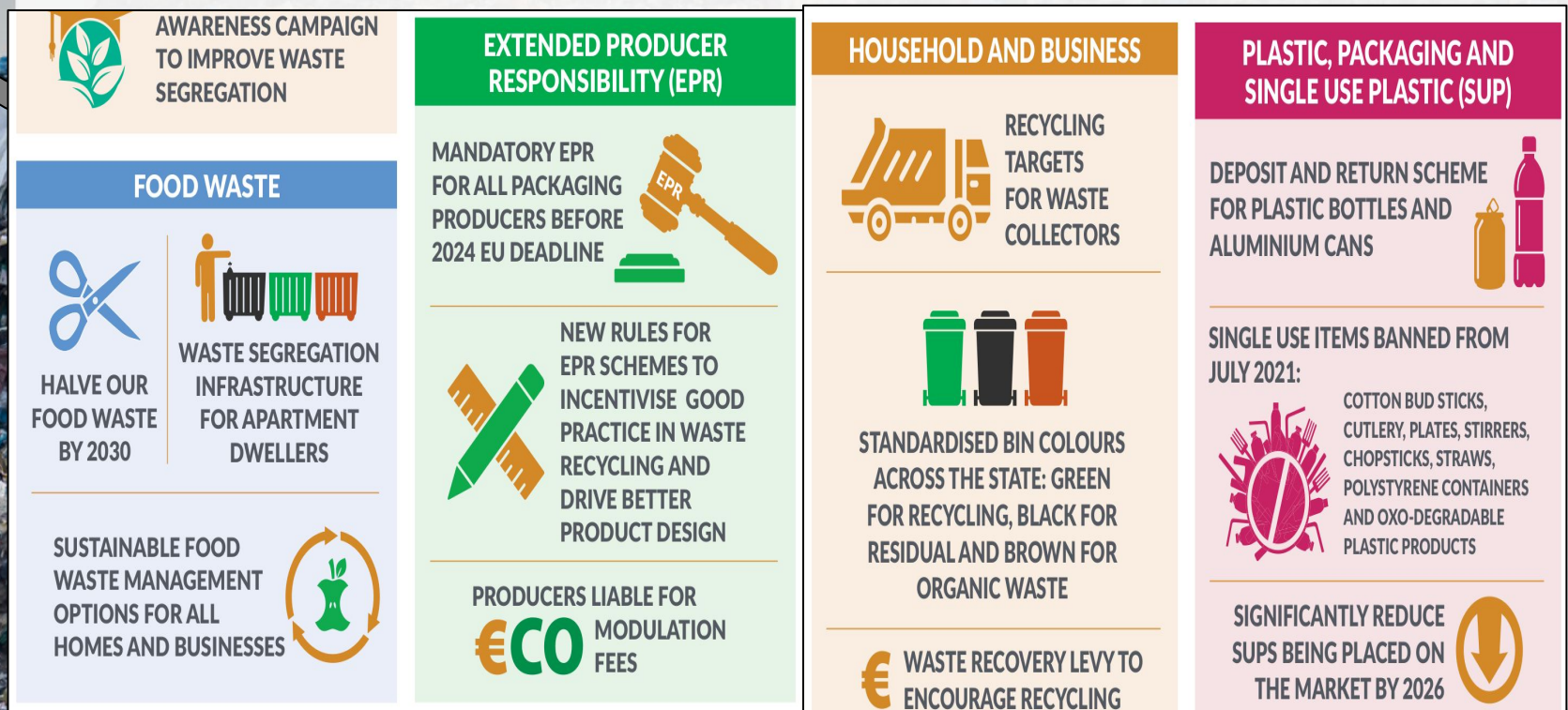
# National plans

## National & Regional

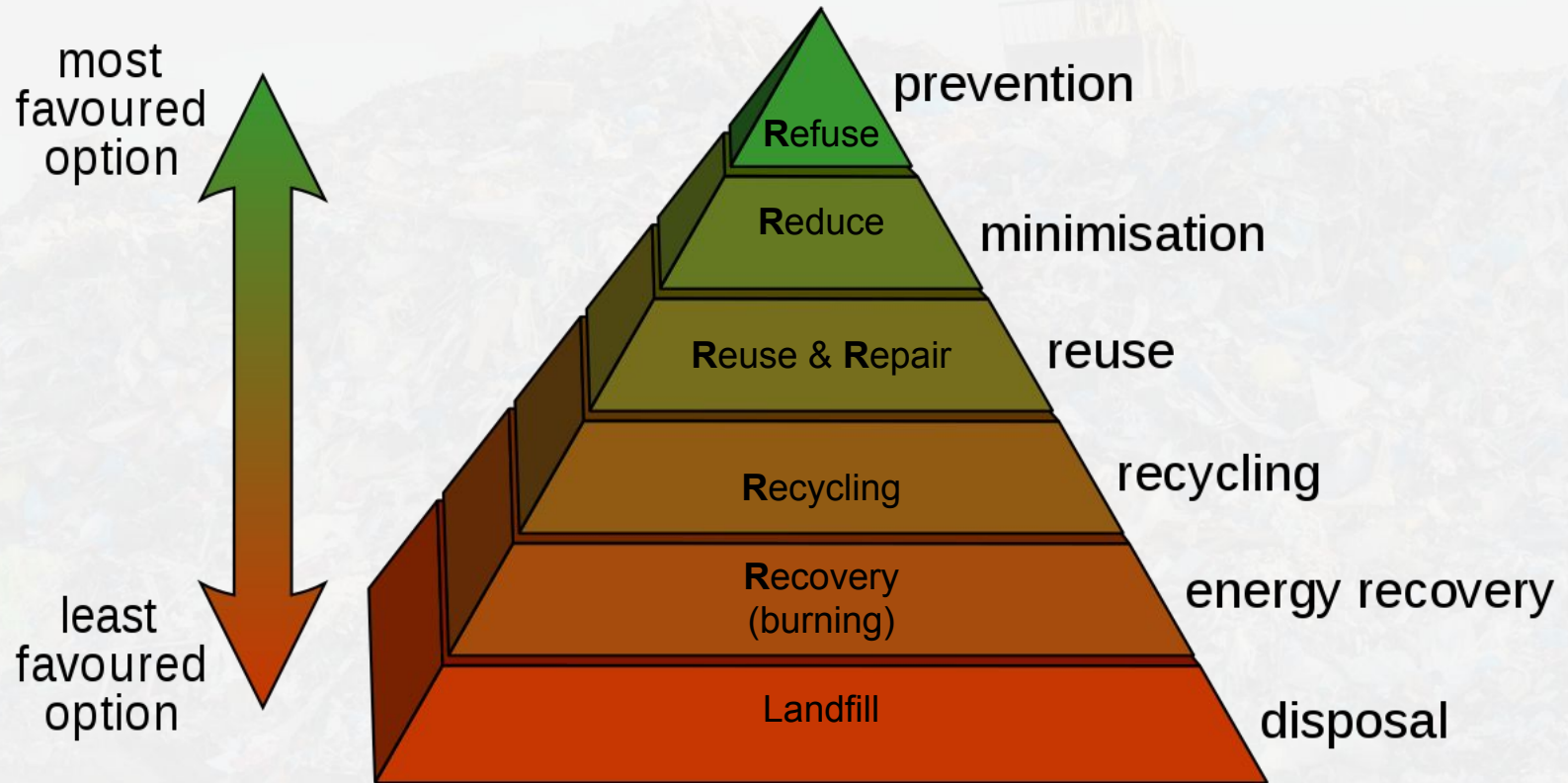
- A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy [2020 - 2025]
- Government Circular Economy Strategy 2021 - 2022 [consultation 2021]
- Deposit Return Scheme [consultation 2021]
- National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027 [draft]

## Local

- Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021



# Waste hierarchy





RECYCLING MADE EASY

**PAPER &  
CARDBOARD**

**ALL PLASTIC  
PACKAGING**

**TINS  
& CANS**



Ireland's guide to waste  
**mywaste**



# Recycling & reducing – Every bit helps

- Each tonne of paper recycled can save 17 trees and 26,000 litres of water
- 1 glass jar recycled saves enough energy to run a TV for almost half an hour
- Around 75% of the aluminium ever produced is still in circulation today.
- Recycling just 1 tonne of plastics saves 3,000–7,000 litres of crude oil.
- Irish households waste between €400 and €1000 per year on food waste.
- A baby uses about 4,000 nappies. You can save up to €1500 with washable nappies.



# Our linear economy

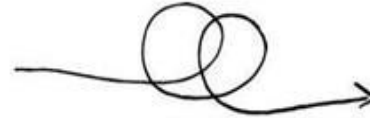
In nature there is no such thing as waste. In nature nothing is wasted; everything is recycled.

David Suzuki

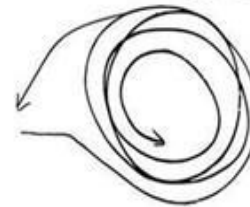
LINEAR ECONOMY



RECYCLING ECONOMY



CIRCULAR ECONOMY



## LINEAR ECONOMY



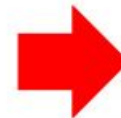
RESOURCES



MANUFACTURING



CONSUMPTION



WASTE

# Problems with the linear economy

- Take, make, waste
- Overuse of precious global resources, many are finite
- Climate Change impact of energy use, CO<sub>2</sub> and methane
- Pollution of air, water and land from disposal *and* extraction.
- Landfill space running out
- Costs of landfill increased
- Health impact of extraction and disposal, especially in Global South







# The overarching objectives of Ireland's Waste action plan are to;

1. Move from waste disposal to a circular economy
2. A policy framework that discourages waste and rewards circularity;
3. Make producers accountable for their products
4. Support the use of recycled over virgin materials
5. Harness the reach and influence of all sectors
6. Clear and robust institutional arrangements for the waste sector.





# Some circular economy questions

## Materials

Can we use recycled?

Can they remain recyclable/compostable?

## Product

How long will it last?

How can it be repaired?

## End of life

How can it be collected?

How useful will it be when recycled/composted?

## Ownership

Community sharing of tools, books, toys, etc.

As-A-Service ways of using cars, heating boilers, clothes, etc.





**What can we do as  
individuals?**

# Individual actions



“Reducing also results in a simplified lifestyle that allows you to focus on quality versus quantity and experiences versus stuff.”

- Bea Johnson



# Individual actions

- Talk to others about today
- Buy a reusable cup or drinks bottle
- Buy loose fruit & veg e.g. market
- Switch to packaging-free toiletries
- Make waste free lunchboxes
- Avoid snack packs or foods with excessive packaging
- Switch to recycled paper toilet tissues and cloth kitchen towels
- Think before you buy cheap fashion clothes





**What examples of  
community resources  
are we aware of locally?**

**Break into regional  
groups for 10 minutes**



# Local options and support



Cork ZeroWaste



Cobh Zero Waste



QUAY CO-OP

Natural Choice

TWIG REFILL SHOP



DEAF  
ENTERPRISES

Employment & Skills Development

REVIVE PAINT

QUALITY REMIXED PAINT, MADE IN CORK.

THE  
FILLING  
STATION

EarthWay

REFILL SHOP



Cork  
Repair  
Café



- Campaign groups: <https://www.corkzerowaste.ie/> and <https://cobhzerowaste.com/>
- Zero Waste Shops: <https://theolivebranch.ie/twig-refill/> and <http://earthwayrefill.ie/> and <https://www.facebook.com/The-Filling-Station-1666158166976600/>
- Refills: <https://quaycoop.com/> and <http://www.natural-choice.com/>
- Revive Paint: <https://www.nce.ie/community-enterprise-cork/enterprises/revive-paint->
- Zero waste shops: Midleton; Clonakilty; Markets: Clonakilty, Kinsale, Skibereen



- Fresh and seasonal fruit and veg without packaging are available at markets, and also for veg box deliveries, such as Organic Republic ( <https://www.organicrepublic.ie/> ), and The Cottage Garden ( <https://thecottagegardenvegbox.com/> )
- Refill Ireland: <https://refill.ie/>
- National Spring Clean: <https://nationalspringclean.org/>
- Cork Repair Cafe: <https://www.facebook.com/Cork-Repair-Caf%C3%A9-112505396957714/>
- Cork Community Bikes: <https://corkcommunitybikes.com/>


The background of the image is a photograph of a massive landfill, with a dense layer of various types of trash including plastic bottles, food waste, and other debris. In the center of the image, there is a large, green, cartoon-style thought bubble. Inside the bubble, the text "What actions could our community take to reduce waste?" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The bubble has a main oval body and several smaller circles leading to it from the left side.

**What actions could our community take to reduce waste?**



# Community actions

- Connect with waste action groups / litter picking groups
- Participate in residents' association looking after your street
- Ask local retailers and cafes to offer refills
- Organise swap shops, repair cafes
- Allotment / composting groups - train up people in related skills
- Participate in National Spring Clean litter campaign
- Engage with Reuse Month (November)
- Can disused community spaces be put to better use?

The background of the image is a photograph of a massive landfill or illegal dumpsite. It is filled with a dense, chaotic pile of various types of waste, including plastic bottles, food scraps, and other debris. In the distance, a yellow excavator is visible, working on the pile. Overlaid on this background is a large, light green speech bubble with a black outline. The speech bubble has a tail pointing towards the bottom left. Inside the bubble, there is text in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**What other actions are  
already being taken in  
Ireland?  
Who do we know who  
could support our  
actions?**



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- The background of the slide is a photograph of a large, sprawling pile of waste and debris. The trash is composed of various materials, including plastic bottles, food waste, and other unidentifiable refuse, all piled together in a disorganized manner. The colors of the trash are muted and earthy, with some brighter spots of plastic or paper. The overall scene conveys a sense of environmental neglect and the volume of waste generated.
- Council Waste Prevention Grant of up to €1,000, available early in the year for award in April.
  - Reuse Month (October). Funding could be available for events from Cork City Council.
  - Circular Economy Grants: €1,000 to 10,000 through The Community Foundation of Ireland:
  - Circular Economy Innovation Grant Scheme (CEIGS) - first round awarded August 2021: Green Enterprise funding, annual, €50k - 100k: