

## **APPENDIX I**

### **Siting Guidelines for Waste Facilities**

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With the exception of the EPA Landfill Manuals 'Draft Module on Landfill Site Selection' published in 1995, formal siting guidelines for Waste Facilities have not been issued by either the EPA or the DEHLG.

In this Plan, the Dublin Local Authorities have outlined general guidelines for the siting of future waste facilities in the Region. Facilities include:

- Materials Recovery Facilities
- Recycling Centres
- Biological Treatment Facilities
- Waste to Energy Facilities
- Landfill

### **Policy**

The Local Authorities will ensure that the development of new Waste Facilities in the Dublin Region will adhere to good siting principles as set down in the Waste Plan.

### **Siting Guidelines**

#### **Recycling Centres and Materials Recovery Facilities**

There are no National or International guidelines on the siting of such facilities but the siting of such facilities should have regard to the following site selection criteria:

- The facility to be placed within an urban area or as near as possible.
- Where practical, consideration should be given to locating the facility in proximity to a strategic transport route
- If development zoning exists an area zoned as industrial is preferable.
- Location of facility to be convenient to majority of householders.
- Particular regard to be had to traffic considerations

#### **Biological Treatment Facilities**

The siting of future Biological Treatment Facilities in the Region will need to have regard to the requirements set down in the:

- Draft EU Council Directive on the Biological Treatment of Biowaste
- Animal By-products Regulation (1774/2002/EC)

The Draft Directive on the Biological Treatment of Biowaste – Annex V sets out the following criteria that should be considered when selecting a suitable site:

- Location, taking into account requirements relating to the feedstock waste and technology used
- Distance to such things as residential and recreational areas
- The proximity of waterways, waterbodies and other agricultural and urban sites
- The existence of protection zones in the area and the protection of the local environment

The Animal By-products Regulation has come into force and includes criteria for siting of composting and biogas (Anaerobic Digestion) plants that treat animal by-products. Food waste from municipal sources is designated as a 'Category III' animal by-product. Siting restrictions for composting and biogas facilities in the Regulation mainly refer to interaction with agriculture, and should be taken into account in the siting process. The Regulation will also have implications for the type treatment technology applied at a facility. The following piece of Irish legislation - Prohibition on the Use of Swill Order, 2001 (S.I. 597 of 2001) – should also be taken into consideration.

Any party preparing proposals for new biological treatment facilities should refer to the Department of Agriculture who will inform of the current Irish Guidelines in relation to implementation of the EU Regulation.

### **Waste-To-Energy Facilities**

In Ireland there are no National guidelines regarding the selection of areas suitable for the location of WTE facilities. Exclusionary factors, which may preclude the siting of a Thermal Treatment plant, should be considered. Typical factors include:

- Proposed Natural Heritage Areas or Special Areas of Conservation
- Airport Exclusionary Areas
- Areas of High Amenity or Archaeological Interest
- Appropriate zoning based on the County Development Plans

Having identified areas which are not suitable to locate a facility, a more detailed assessment can be carried out having regard to the following criteria:

- General Planning and Environmental Considerations
- Site Size and Current Land Use
- Proximity to Residential Areas
- End-Market Use
- Road Access
- Traffic

### **Landfills**

The siting of a Landfill Facility in the Region will be carried out having regard to the Draft EPA Manual on Landfill Site Selection (1995) and best practice.

The Draft Manual outlines a staged process encompassing a desk study, mapping exclusionary factors, selecting siting criteria, and shortlisting generally suitable areas using siting criteria. Shortlisted sites are assessed in detail before a final selection is made. Consultation with the public is an important aspect of the process and should be planned accordingly.