

National factsheet on separate collection

Ireland

Note: This ‘National factsheet’ has been prepared within the EC study “**Assessment of separate collection schemes in the 28 capitals of the EU**”. The document represents the status-quo of the EU Member State (MS) in September 2015. The information included in this document has been elaborated for all 28 EU-MS based on publically available documents, i.e. national legislation, Waste Management Plans, Waste Prevention Programmes, strategies, implementation reports, and statistics. All information is cited in the factsheet, a complete list of information sources can be found at the end of this document.

For quality assurance purposes the ‘National factsheet’ has been sent to the EU Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members on waste for verification and commenting, the comments received are included in this final version.

1 General requirements on separate collection based on national legislation

The Irish Regulation European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 126/2011) implemented in 2011 transpose the requirements of the WFD into domestic law. In addition, the Irish Regulation European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-waste) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 71/2013) implemented in 2013, provides additional regulation on bio-waste related to the WFD, this demands that food waste be separately collected, with the implementation timetable guided by the size of urban area.

All of the requirements of the FD have been transposed one to one in Irish legislation. **Additional requirements** are included in [IE S.I. No. 126 2011] that not only encourages the **separate collection of bio-waste** with a view to composting and digestion but also encourages that its treatment shall fulfil high level of environmental protection and the use of environmental safe materials produced from bio-waste. Special requirements are also made for the implementation of separate food-waste collection; nevertheless they are deviating since they are not related bio-waste in general.

Table 1: Overview of national law(s) that implement separate collection

Year and Abbreviation	Title of the law
[IE S.I. No. 126 2011]	Regulation European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011
[IE S.I. No. 71 2013]	Regulation European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-waste) Regulations 2013
[IE S.I. No. 508 2009]	Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009

Table 2: Overview on evaluation categories

Evaluation	Explanation
additional	The requirements of the WFD have been transposed and additional information or requirements are set out in the national legal requirement, i.e. additional definition, precision of requirement that goes beyond the text of the WFD
one:one	The requirement of the WFD has been transposed exactly / literally or transposed analogously. No additional requirements or explanations are set out.
deviating	The requirements of the WFD have been implemented into national legal requirements but have been adjusted, left out or deviated
not included	The requirement of the WFD is not transposed into national law

Table 3: Assessment on national transpositions

Law & Article	Evaluation	English text	Original text
1. Article 3 (11) WFD: Definition separate collection: "separate collection' means the collection where a waste stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate a specific treatment"			
[IE S.I. No. 126 2011] Article 5	one:one		5 'separate collection' means the collection where a waste stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate a specific treatment;
2. Article 10 (2) WFD: "waste shall not be mixed with other waste/material with other properties"			
[IE S.I. No. 126 2011] Article 14 (2B)	one:one		14 (2B) Where necessary to comply with subsection (2A) and to facilitate or improve recovery, waste shall be collected separately if technically, environmentally and economically practicable and shall not be mixed with other waste or other material with different properties."
3. Article 11 (1) WFD: "measures to promote high quality recycling"			
[IE S.I. No. 126 2011] Article 31 (b)	one:one		31 (b) The Minister or any Minister of the Government concerned, the Agency or the local authorities shall, in carrying out their respective functions under the Act of 1996, take measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.
4. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) "separate collection if technically practicable"			
[IE S.I. No. 126 2011] Article 31 (b)	one:one		31 (b) The Minister or any Minister of the Government concerned, the Agency or the local authorities shall, in carrying out their respective functions under the Act of 1996, take measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.
5. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) separate collection if economically practicable			
[IE S.I. No. 126 2011] Article 31 (b)	one:one		31 (b) The Minister or any Minister of the Government concerned, the Agency or the local authorities shall, in carrying out their respective functions under the Act of 1996, take measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.

6. Requirement WFD: 11 (1) “separate collection if environmentally practicable”			
[IE S.I. No. 126 2011] Article 31 (b)	one:one		31 (b) The Minister or any Minister of the Government concerned, the Agency or the local authorities shall, in carrying out their respective functions under the Act of 1996, take measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.
7. Article 11 (1) WFD: “separate collections (...) appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors”			
[IE S.I. No. 126 2011] Article 31 (b)	one:one		31 (b) The Minister or any Minister of the Government concerned, the Agency or the local authorities shall, in carrying out their respective functions under the Act of 1996, take measures to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, shall set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors.
8. Article 11 (1) WFD “by 2015 separate collection shall be set up for at least the following: paper, metal, plastic and glass”			
[IE S.I. No. 126 2011] Article 31 (c)	one:one		31 (c) Subject to section 29 (2B) of the Act of 1996, by 2015 separate collection shall be set up for at least the following waste: (i) paper; (ii) metal; (iii) plastic; and (iv) glass.
9. Article 22 WFD: Bio-waste - Member states shall take measures, as appropriate (...) to encourage: “a) the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the composting a digestion of bio-waste”			
[IE S.I. No. 126 2011] Article 38	additional		38 The Minister shall take measures, as appropriate, and in accordance with sections 21A and 32(1) of the Act of 1996 and Regulation 32, to encourage— (a) the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the composting and digestion of bio-waste, (b) the treatment of bio-waste in a way that fulfils a high level of environmental protection, and (c) the use of environmentally safe materials produced from bio-waste
[IE S.I. No. 508 2009] Part 2 Article 9 (1)	deviating		9 (1) Where a source segregated waste collection service is available to producers of food waste and without prejudice to the conditions of a discharge licence or a waste collection permit, a person shall not— (a) deposit food waste in the residual waste collection, nor (b) use purpose built mechanical devices to shred or hydrate or otherwise alter the structure of food waste for the purposes of facilitating its discharge in waste water to a service connection, drain or sewer.

Law & Article	Evaluation	English text	Original text
[IE S.I. No. 71 2013] Article 5	deviating		<p>5 Duty on waste collectors to have a separate collection of household food waste</p> <p>(1) Without prejudice to the power of any local authority to provide for additional policy objectives under a relevant waste management plan or to apply more onerous conditions under a waste collection permit or under a waste presentation bye-law, authorised waste collectors shall ensure, as a minimum, that they provide or arrange for the provision of a separate collection service for food waste from households for population agglomerations in accordance with the time schedule set out in Regulation 4.</p> <p>(2) Where an authorised waste collector provides or arranges for the provision of a service in accordance with paragraph (1), such a separate collection service-</p> <p>(a) shall be provided at least once a fortnight; or</p> <p>(i) more frequently according to the necessity of collection of such food waste as may be determined by the relevant local authority; or</p> <p>(ii) at the same frequency as a residual waste collection service provided on a more frequent basis unless the waste collector can clearly demonstrate to the satisfaction of the relevant local authority that the collection arrangements are subject to a pay-by-use charging system which incentivises the presentation and segregation of food waste for separate collection; and</p> <p>(b) may form part of the services provided for the segregated collection of garden and/or other suitable bio-waste.</p> <p>(3) Food waste collected by an authorised waste collector in accordance with this Regulation shall be transferred to an authorised facility for the purposes of an authorised treatment process.</p>
[IE S.I. No. 71 2013] Article 6.	deviating		<p>6 Producers' duty to source segregate food waste arising as household waste</p> <p>(1) Subject to paragraph (2) and without prejudice to the power of any local authority to provide for additional policy objectives under a relevant waste management plan or to apply more onerous conditions under a waste collection permit or under a waste presentation bye-law, an original producer of food waste arising as part of household waste shall ensure, as a minimum, that—</p> <p>(a) food waste arising on the producer's premises is source segregated and kept separate from non-biodegradable materials, other waste and contaminants; and</p> <p>(c) source segregated food waste arising on the producer's premises is collected by an authorised</p>

Law & Article	Evaluation	English text	Original text
			<p>waste collector.</p> <p>(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply where an original food waste producer—</p> <p>(a) subjects the food waste to a home composting process on the premises where the food waste is produced; or</p> <p>(b) brings the food waste to an authorised facility with a view to its composting or anaerobic digestion or treatment in a way which fulfils a high level of environmental protection.</p> <p>(3) Where an original food waste producer undertakes a home composting process he or she shall minimise the creation of odours and nuisance, and shall take all reasonable steps to achieve this objective.</p>

2 General requirements on separate collection based on main strategies

IRELAND	587 kg MSW/capita 36.63% recycling
<p>Definition of Municipal solid waste (MSW): In Ireland, municipal waste is made up of household waste, commercial waste (including non-process industrial waste) and cleansing waste such as street sweepings and municipal parks and cemeteries maintenance waste. This includes biodegradable waste [IE EPA 2015].</p>	
<p>Main strategies implementing separate collection</p>	
<p>The main strategies for the implementation of separate collection in Ireland are described in the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 that reflects a range of EU waste-related directives, primarily the WFD [IE WMP 2012, p.15], the Regulation European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-waste) Regulations 2013 [IE S.I. No. 71/2013] and in the regional Waste Management Plans (WMPs).</p> <p>Ireland does not have a National WMP. Instead, regions must submit individual plans. The regions have recently been consolidated into three distinct regions: Southern Region, Eastern and Midlands Region, and the Connacht Ulster Region. The three RWMPs governing the period 2015 to 2021 were available for public consultation in draft version from November 2014 to January 2015. As of May 2015, they have not been published in a final version. The local authorities responsible for the preparation of the plans are supported by the National Waste Management Planning Coordination Committee [IE WMP 2012, p.5]. These plans are expected to have provisions implementing the national policy targets for separate collection, particularly of bio-waste, which is not covered by a producer responsibility schemes.</p> <p>In general the plans aim for 50% of preparing for re-use and recovery of municipal waste by 2020 (including material recycling and composting), which is a broader national performance target than the EU target which covers only the paper, metal, plastics and glass fractions. The long-term objective of the plan is 60-70% preparation for re-use and recycling rate of Municipal Waste by the end of 2030 [IE SWP 2015, p.43, 46-47].</p> <p>The [IE S.I. No. 508/2009] require all commercial enterprises that produce food waste to source separate the food waste, which must then be subjected to an authorised treatment process on the premises, collected by an authorised waste collector and transferred for an authorised treatment process, or transferred directly by the producer for the purposes of an authorised treatment process.</p> <p>In 2013, Regulation European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-waste) Regulations 2013 [IE S.I. No. 71/2013] demand the separate collection of food waste from households in brown bins. The timetable for implementation depends on the size of urban area from 1st July 2013 to 1st July 2016. By July 2016, brown bins will be rolled out to most towns and villages. Only very small population areas, or small islands, will be exempt, because it is not technically, environmentally or economically practical to separately collect such waste in these areas. Most recently, a resource opportunity Waste Management Policy in Ireland points toward strengthened demands on the provision of household waste collection. Waste collection companies will have to adhere to improved standards of service, incentivise households to segregate waste and be much more transparent about their charging structures, while at the same time there will be an onus placed on households to show how they manage their waste in an environmentally acceptable manner. [IE WMP 2012] This has yet to make it into law.</p>	

3 Implementation of separate collection

Overview on separate collection systems in place

According to Eurostat, the amount of waste treated by material recycling increased from 1998 and peaked with 246 kg/cap in 2007, after which it dropped significantly and kept at lower levels until 2012, when it reached 181 kg/cap. In the same period, the amount of waste composted and digested increased almost every year from 0-2 kg/cap to 24 kg/cap in 2008, followed by a drop and an increase again until 34 kg/cap in 2012 [IE Eurostat 2014, 1]. The recycling rate has increased more or less steadily since 1998, when it was 8.1%, to 2012, when it reached 36.6% [IE Eurostat 2014, 2].

However, [IE NWR 2014, p.5] reports a higher rate of municipal waste recycling of 40% in 2012. According to this source, most of this waste was exported for recycling due to the absence of Irish recycling infrastructure.






Door to door collection is the primary collection route for household waste in Ireland [IE NWR 2014, p.24], primarily undertaken by private contractors, collecting dry recyclables (plastic, paper and metal; glass is sometimes separated), bio-waste and mixed residual waste [IE NWR 2014, p.25]. A 2012 review of the Regional Waste Management Plans found out that **besides separate door-to-door collection** in the urban areas, the RWMPs included **bring points in rural areas and civic amenity sites** [IE ENV 2015].

Waste collection from households is undertaken by **waste collectors obtaining permits from the Irish Environment Protection Agency (EPA)**. They are required to manage the collected waste according to the official national waste hierarchy which is in accordance with the WFD [IE WMP 2012, p.6]. Households have to either participate in an authorised waste collection scheme, or deal with their waste in an environmentally appropriate manner, e.g. through civic amenity sites or composting of bio-waste [IE WMP 2012, p.7, 10].

The **separate door-to-door collection system uses colour-differentiated bins**: a green bin is used for recyclables, a brown bin for bio-waste and a black bin for the residual MSW. Depending on whether organics are included in the black bin or collected separately, either two or three of the bins are collected from households. A **fourth bin is sometimes available for glass** [IE NWR 2014, p.ii].

Repak is the only packaging compliance scheme for recovery and recycling of packaging materials produced or supplied to the Irish market. These packaging materials (paper, plastic, glass, steel, aluminium and wood) are collected from households in green bins, together with other dry recyclables, instead of a deposit-refund system [IE REP 2015]. Repak is an industry-funded organisation that aims to facilitate and grow packaging recycling. Based on the principle of producer responsibility, Repak was established to help businesses meet their legal obligations to fund the recovery and recycling of the packaging on the goods or services they supply, as set out in the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 2007.

Table 4: Overview of main separate collection systems in Ireland

Collection type	Paper	Glass	Plastic	Metal	Bio-waste
Door-to-door collection 		Very rare			Primary
Co-mingled (door-to-door) 	Primary	Very rare	Primary	Primary	
Bring points 	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary
Civic amenities 	Secondary				
Producer/retail take-back 	None. However, the Repak producer responsibility scheme partially funds the separate collection of packaging waste from homes				

4 Information sources

- [IE ECLM 2014] Review of the Producer Responsibility Initiative Model in Ireland, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, <http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Waste/ProducerResponsibilityObligations/>, accessed March 2015.
- [IE ENV 2015] Department of Environment, Community and Local Government of Ireland webpage, <http://www.environ.ie/en>, accessed on February 12th, 2015.
- [IE EPA 2015] Irish EPA webpage, www.epa.ie, accessed on February 12th, 2015.
- [IE Eurostat 2014, 1] Eurostat – Municipal waste generation and treatment, by type of treatment method, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tsdpc240&plugip=1>, accessed on February 12th, 2015.
- [IE Eurostat 2014, 2] Eurostat - Recycling rate of municipal waste, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=t2020_rt120&pppplu=1, accessed on February 12th, 2015.
- [IE MSW 2013] Watson, D. – Municipal waste management in Ireland. European Environment Agency, Copenhagen, 2013. <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/managing-municipal-solid-waste/ireland-municipal-waste-management>
- [IE NWR 2014] EPA – National Waste Report 2012. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford, 2014. ISBN: 978-1-84095-550-7. <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/stats/nationalwastereport2012.html#.VUt3C5MYPNk>
- [IE REP 2015] Repak Ltd. Webpage, <http://www.repak.ie>, accessed on February 12th, 2015.
- [IE S.I. No. 126 2011] Regulation European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011, <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/2011/en.si.2011.0126.pdf>, accessed March 2015.
- [IE S.I. No. 508 2009] Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009: S.I. No. 508 of 2009, <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/2009/en.si.2009.0508.pdf>, accessed March 2015.
- [IE S.I. No. 71 2013] Regulation European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-waste) Regulations 2013, <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/2013/en.si.2013.0071.pdf>, accessed March 2015.
- [IE S.I. No. 798 2007] Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 2007, <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/2007/en.si.2007.0798.pdf>, accessed March 2015.
- [IE SWP, n.d.] SRWMO – Southern Draft Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021. SRWMO, Limerick, not dated (unpublished).
- [IE WMP 2012] Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government – A Resource Opportunity, Waste Management Policy in Ireland, <http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Waste/PublicationsDocuments/FileDownload,30729,en.pdf>, accessed March 2015.