

# Appendix

Chronology: Major Developments 1990 - 2002

## 1990

- *Environment Action Programme* includes commitments to invest €1.27 billion in environmental infrastructure by 2000 and to establish an Environmental Protection Agency.
- Sale of bituminous solid fuel prohibited in Dublin following episodes of severe winter smog.
- *Dublin Declaration*, a European Community policy statement on global environmental issues, adopted by European Council.
- Local Government (Water Pollution) (Amendment) Act strengthens water pollution legislation.
- Local Government (Planning and Development) Act consolidates planning legislation in relation to compensation.
- Derelict Sites Act strengthens powers to prevent dereliction.
- Environmental information centre (ENFO) established to provide authoritative public information on the environment.

## 1991

- Temple Bar designated as Dublin's cultural quarter.
- *Plan for Social Housing* to control construction of estates on peripheral greenfield sites.
- First comprehensive report on *Quality of Drinking Water* in Ireland published by DOELG.
- Sea Pollution Act strengthens protection of marine environment against pollution from ships, allowing Ireland to become a contracting party to 2 international treaties.
- Creation of National Parks and Wildlife Service under Office of Public Works.
- Creation of Burren and Wicklow Mountain National Parks.
- Creation of a Whale and Dolphin Sanctuary – the first in Europe.
- Establishment of the Irish Marine Emergency Service, later renamed as the Irish Coast Guard, with responsibility for marine emergency management in the Irish Search and Rescue Region and the Irish Pollution Response Zone.

## 1992

- Environmental Protection Agency Act.
- UN Conference on Water and the Environment in Dublin, as part of UNCED preparations.
- Ireland's National Report to UNCED published by DOELG.
- Creation of Marine Institute to provide research support to relevant Government Departments.
- A suite of 3 environmental guidelines covering archaeology, fisheries, and landscape published by the Forest Service.
- Creation of Radiological Protection Institute to address risks associated with radioactive materials.
- *National Emergency Plan for Nuclear Accidents* published by Department of Energy.
- *Studies on Implications of Climate Change for Ireland* published by DOELG.

## 1993

- Creation of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to perform integrated licensing of certain industrial and other activities, monitor and report on environmental quality, assist public authorities with environmental protection functions, and promote and co-ordinate environmental research.
- Comprehensive report on *Water Quality in Ireland 1987-1990* published by DOELG.
- CAP Forestry Grant and Premium Scheme launched.
- Green 2000 Advisory Group stresses relationship between environmental protection and economic and social development.
- Access to Information on the Environment Regulations give the public new statutory rights to obtain environmental information held by Irish public authorities, giving effect to EU Directive 90/313/EEC.
- Local Government (Planning and Development) Act applies physical planning requirements to State authorities, except in limited cases in relation to public safety, national security etc.
- Ireland's first commercial windfarm at Bellacorrick, Co. Mayo, with capacity of 6.45MW.
- Commissioning of natural gas interconnector between Ireland and the UK.
- *National Climate Change/CO<sub>2</sub> Abatement Strategy* published.

## 1994

- Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licensing by EPA starts.
- *National Development Plan 1994 - 1999* includes commitments to invest €768 million in water and waste water services. The second *Community Support Framework for Ireland* sets out joint Irish-EU development priorities for 1994-1999.
- *Environmental Services Operational Programme 1994 - 1999* provides for investment in water services, waste management, coastal protection, group water schemes and research and development.
- Ireland receives aid under EU Cohesion Fund, for the first time, to assist in developing water and waste water infrastructure.
- *Operational Programme for Transport 1994 - 1999*.
- New schemes for Control of Farmyard Pollution and Rural Environmental Protection (REPS) introduced.
- *Shaping a Healthier Future - A Strategy for Effective Healthcare in the 1990s* published by the Department of Health.
- Urban Renewal Scheme 1994-1997 marks a major shift away from office and commercial development towards refurbishment and conservation.
- Creation of Irish Energy Centre to co-ordinate national energy efficiency and renewable energy policy.
- Creation of Green (later called Environmental) Network of Government Departments, chaired by DOELG, to improve co-ordination between environment units.
- *Recycling for Ireland*, national strategy for recycling municipal waste, published by DOELG.

## 1995

- *Moving Towards Sustainability*, a review of recent environmental policy and developments, published by DOELG.
- Local Agenda 21 launched by DOELG with publication of *Local Authorities and Sustainable Development: Guidelines on Local Agenda 21*.
- Dublin Transportation Initiative (DTI) report on integrated transport policy.
- EPA co-ordinates major investigation of animal health problems on 2 farms in County Limerick.
- EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) launched in Ireland.
- Ban on the sale of bituminous solid fuel extended to Cork.
- Ministerial Committee on Nuclear Safety co-ordinates actions on Sellafield and the Irish Sea.
- Erne Nutrient Management Scheme introduced.
- Car scrappage scheme introduced, allowing €1270 of new vehicle registration tax to be refunded when cars over 10 years old are scrapped.
- Heritage Council created under the Heritage Act.
- Details of proposed Natural Heritage Areas published.
- Ratification by Ireland of the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe.

## 1996

- Dumping at Sea Act 1996.
- Waste Management Act extends EPA functions to include licensing of new and existing large-scale waste disposal facilities. The Act also requires farmers to prepare nutrient management plans in the interests of water quality protection.
- EPA publishes first *National Waste Database Report* and first *State of Environment Report*.
- *Green Government Guide* published by DOELG to advise Government Departments and Agencies on best environmental management practices.
- Crude oil washed up on south and south-east coasts from the Sea Empress.
- *Code of Good Agricultural Practice to Protect Waters from Pollution by Nitrates* published by DOELG and Department of Agriculture and Food.
- *National Biodiversity Plan* published by Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (DAHGI) as a discussion paper.
- *Growing for the Future* (a strategic plan for the development of forestry in Ireland) launched.
- Interated Pollution Control (IPC) licensing for new intensive agricultural activities by EPA.
- Grant schemes to promote recycling infrastructure and development of waste management strategies by private sector and local authorities.
- Ireland ratifies the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- Ireland signs the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.
- *Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Wind Farm Development* published by DOELG.
- Interdepartmental report published on proposals for strengthening protection of the architectural heritage.

## 1997

- Publication of *Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland*.
- Freedom of Information Act 1997.
- Environmental Partnership Fund launched by DOELG - initial budget €127,000.
- Litter Pollution Act strengthens powers of local authorities.
- EPA publishes *Water Quality in Ireland 1991-94*.
- EPA publishes *Air Quality Monitoring Report 1996*.
- DOELG launches *Managing Ireland's Rivers and Lakes - A Catchment-Based Strategy against Eutrophication* in response to increasing eutrophication in rivers and lakes.
- *Lough Derg and Lough Ree Catchment Monitoring and Management System* launched as part of a major investment programme in waste water infrastructure.
- *Water Quality Management Strategy Reports for the Erne and Foyle Catchments* published by DOELG and the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland, under EU INTERREG initiative.
- *Coastal Zone Management - a Draft Policy for Ireland* published as a discussion document.
- Ireland ratified the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention).
- *Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland in 1994 and 1995*, first report on waste water treatment facilities in Ireland, published by EPA.
- Dublin Docklands Development Authority (DDDA) established for dockland redevelopment.
- European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations initiate process of designating Special Areas of Conservation.
- Packaging Waste Regulations and Farm Plastics Regulations require producers of packaging/farm plastics to take steps to recover/recycle these waste streams. Two voluntary initiatives introduced: REPAK scheme for packaging waste recovery, and Farm Plastic Films Recovery Scheme involving industry and farmers.
- Aer Rianta (Dublin Airport) meets international environmental management standard ISO 14001, becoming the first airport in the world to do so.
- Grant schemes to assist provision of hazardous waste infrastructure by the private sector.
- Publication of *National Anti-Poverty Strategy: Sharing in Progress*.
- Process to prepare the National Heritage Plan, including public consultation, initiated by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.

## 1998

- *Limitation and Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and other Greenhouse Gases in Ireland* published by DOELG and the Department of Public Enterprise, followed by workshop on development of National Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy.
- Ban on sale of bituminous solid fuel extended to 5 additional towns/cities.
- Creation of national and regional networks of Local Agenda 21 officers.
- Creation of Mayo National Park.
- EPA publishes *Air Quality Monitoring Report 1999*.
- *Short-term Action Plan* published by Dublin Transportation Office (DTO) to ease traffic congestion, pending completion of major infrastructure projects.
- *Nutrient Management Guidelines* for local authorities issued by DOELG.
- Monitoring and management system for Lough Leane catchment (Co. Kerry) to address severe algal bloom problems.
- Quality of Bathing Waters (Amendment) Regulations to cover 130 bathing areas.
- Environmental cross-compliance introduced by Department of Agriculture and Food in granting ewe premia to farmers using common lands in Counties Kerry, Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal.
- Tax relief for corporate investments to encourage development of renewable energy sources such as wind energy and biomass.
- *Genetically Modified Organisms and the Environment* issued by DOELG as public consultation paper.
- Transport, treatment and disposal of hazardous clinical/healthcare waste organised through contractor appointed jointly by health authorities in Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- *Changing our Ways*, policy statement on waste management, published by DOELG.
- Ireland signs new UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention) and Protocols on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Heavy Metals to the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution.
- Minister of State, Department of the Marine and Natural Resources, signs the Lisbon Resolution which commits Ireland to implementing Sustainable Forest Management.
- Ireland ratified the Second Sulphur Protocol (the Oslo Protocol).
- Phosphorus Regulations introduced which, for the first time, prescribe water quality standards for this nutrient, underpinning the overall strategy to tackle eutrophication in rivers and lakes.
- EPA Act 1992 (Established Activities) Order 1998 completes the introduction of IPC licensing under the current Act.
- The Waste Management (Permit) Regulations 1998 provide for a formal system of waste permitting by local authorities for certain non-licensable waste activities.
- Contract awarded for car testing system in Ireland.
- Ireland's First *National Biodiversity Report* produced by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.

## 1999

- The *National Development Plan 2000-2006* involves an investment of over €52 billion of public, private and EU funds in health services, social housing, education, roads, public transport, rural development, industry and water and waste services.
- Creation of National Sustainable Development Partnership (Comhar) with broad representation from across Irish society, as forum for national consultation and dialogue on all issues surrounding pursuit of sustainable development.
- EPA publishes discussion document *Measuring Progress Towards Sustainable Development*, followed by first national report on a key set of environmental indicators - *Environment in Focus*.
- Budget includes tax concessions in transport sector to promote construction of park and ride facilities in urban areas, provision of bus and rail passes to employees and purchase of smaller cars.
- Local Government (Planning and Development) Act extends planning control system to protect architectural heritage
- Planning and Development Bill published to revise and consolidate planning legislation and formally introduce sustainable development as an objective in the Irish planning system.
- *Strategic Planning Guidelines for Greater Dublin Area* published jointly by local and regional authorities and DOELG.
- *Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Residential Density* published by DOELG to increase supply of housing from existing land and infrastructure, to make more economical use of infrastructure, and to improve environment and quality of life by reducing need to travel.
- EPA publishes *Water Quality in Ireland 1995-97*.
- EPA publishes *Air Quality Monitoring Report 1998*.
- Three Rivers Project (Rivers Boyne, Liffey and Suir) launched, providing major catchment based water quality monitoring and management initiative supported by EU Cohesion Fund.
- Guidelines to assist local authorities developing Groundwater Protection Schemes jointly prepared by EPA, Geological Survey of Ireland and DOELG.
- Ireland's *Marine and Coastal Areas and Adjacent Seas: An Environmental Assessment* published by the Marine Institute.
- The Sea Pollution (Amendment) Act 1999 gives effect in Irish law to the International Maritime Organisation's Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) Convention.
- Wildlife (Amendment) Bill published by Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to improve national wildlife legislation and bring it in line with international conservation practice.
- New Sustainable Building Awards Scheme launched by DOELG.
- Urban Renewal Scheme includes Integrated Area Plan with time horizon of 2002.
- Proposed *National Hazardous Waste Management Plan* published by EPA for public consultation.
- Public investment of €89 million to upgrade Whitegate Refinery to meet EU Auto Oil programme fuel specifications.
- National policy position on *Genetically Modified Organisms and the Environment* issued by DOELG following public consultation debate.
- *Green Paper on Sustainable Energy* published by Department of Public Enterprise.

- Eco-audit system for Government plans/policies introduced on a pilot basis.
- Major environmental awareness campaign, *It's easy to make a difference*, launched by DOELG.
- Publication of *White Paper on Rural Development, Ensuring the Future*.
- Department of Health publishes *Proposal for a National Environmental Health Action Plan* for comments.
- Agricultural Bye-laws brought in to give additional powers to local authorities with regard to pollution from agricultural sources.
- DOELG signs voluntary agreement with Irish Cosmetics and Detergents Association (ICDA) for phase-out of phosphate-based laundry detergents (ICDA represents over 90% of the Irish laundry detergents market).
- *Best Health for Children* published by Department of Health and Children and involved a co-ordinated partnership approach by the health boards in protecting and promoting children's health.
- Regulations made to reduce benzene and aromatics content in petrol and diesel.

## 2000

- The *Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (PPF)* is the fifth national agreement between the social partners, and aims to keep the economy competitive in a rapidly changing world, provide a strong basis for further economic prosperity, improve the quality of life and living standards for all and bring about a fairer and more inclusive Ireland.
- *Our Children-Their Lives, The National Children's Strategy* launched setting out 3 national goals for children and proposing a more holistic way of thinking about children, a 'whole child' perspective, to reflect contemporary understanding of childhood.
- *The National Health Promotion Strategy 2000-2005* launched by Department of Health and Children, recognising the need to improve the health and social gain of those who are disadvantaged or from lower socio-economic groups by developing sensitive and appropriate health promotion programmes to meet their needs.
- Leaded petrol phased out completely from January.
- National vehicle testing system introduced from January.
- *National Climate Change Strategy* published by DOELG.
- *Report of the Consultation Group on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading* published by DOELG.
- The *National Spatial Strategy - What are the Issues? Consultation Paper No. 1* issued by DOELG.
- *The National Spatial Strategy - Scope and Delivery*, published by DOELG.
- *A Shared Vision for County/City Development Boards: Guidelines on the CDB Strategies for Economic, Social and Cultural Development* published by DOELG.
- EPA publishes *Ireland's Environment - A Millennium Report*.
- EPA publishes *Air Quality Monitoring Report 1999*.
- EPA publishes *Emissions to Air 1990-1998: Estimation Methods, Trends and Challenges*.
- *Environmental Performance Review: Ireland* published by OECD.
- Ban on sale of bituminous coal extended to a further 5 urban areas.

- The Waste Management (Licensing) Regulations 2000 further consolidate the waste management licensing system operated by EPA.
- Environment Co-ordinating Committee for the National Development Plan established with a remit to promote integration of environmental concerns across all programmes.
- EPA publishes report on *Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland in 1998 and 1999*.
- Concept of sustainable development enshrined in planning law for the first time, following enactment of the Planning and Development Act 2000.
- Strategic Policy Committees and County/City Development Boards established to provide for meaningful consultation on policy issues and increased participation in strategy development and decision-making by elected members, sectoral interests and community groups.
- Publication of *White Paper on A Framework for Supporting Voluntary Activity and for Developing the Relationship between the State and the Community and Voluntary Sector*.
- Establishment of National Rural Development Forum.
- Agreement reached with EU on *Economic and Social Infrastructure Operational Programme 2000-2006*, providing for the highest level of investment in infrastructure, including roads, public transport, water and waste water infrastructure, housing, sustainable energy and health facilities.
- *Attitudes and Actions: A National Survey on the Environment* published by DOELG.
- EPA publishes *National Waste Database Report 1998*.
- 10th anniversary of ENFO; UNEP INFOTERRA Global Conference on Access to Environmental Education and Information held in Dublin to coincide with the anniversary (ENFO is national INFOTERRA focal point).
- Renewable Energy Strategy Group presents report, *Strategy for Intensifying Wind Energy Deployment*.
- *Sustainable Forest Management Programme* launched, including a new National Forest Standard supported by a Code of Best Forest Practice and a suite of 5 environmental guidelines (covering water quality, landscape, archaeology, biodiversity and forest harvesting).
- Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 enacted.
- EPA publishes *1999 Report on the Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland*.
- European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2000 made.
- The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) adopted and came into force.
- *CAP Rural Development Plan 2000-2006* including revised Rural Environment Protection Scheme.
- *Heritage Appraisal of Development Plans: A Methodology for Planning Authorities* published by the Heritage Council.

## 2001

- Dublin Transportation Office publishes *A Platform for Change - Strategy 2000-2016*.
- *Towards Sustainable Local Communities*, revised guidelines on Local Agenda 21, published by DOELG.
- Cross-Departmental Climate Change Team established following publication of the *National Climate Change Strategy*.
- EPA publishes *A Survey of Dangerous Substances in Surface Freshwaters 1999-2000*.

- DOELG agrees the principle of core funding for environmental NGOs to fund awareness raising activities and debate on environmental issues of national concern.
- €12.7 million scheme for Energy Efficiency in Public Sector Buildings launched.
- *Consultation Paper on National Ban on Bituminous Coal and Petcoke* published by DOELG.
- New Regulations on Farm Plastics Waste made to assist the increased recycling of farm plastics waste.
- EPA publishes *National Hazardous Waste Management Plan*.
- EPA publishes *Air Quality Monitoring Report 2000*.
- EPA publishes *Preliminary Assessment of National Air Quality* under Article 5 of EU Council Directive 96/62/EC.
- Consultation paper on the National Spatial Strategy, *Indications for the Way Ahead*, published by DOELG.
- EPA publishes *Report on Drinking Water Quality for 2000*.
- Publication of *National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion* (NAPincl).
- EPA publishes *National Implementation Report on the Phosphorus Regulations*.
- EPA publishes *An Assessment of the Trophic Status of Estuaries and Bays*.
- Final Report of the *Lough Derg Lough Ree Catchment Monitoring and Management Systems* published.
- Broadleaf afforestation target increased to 30% of total afforestation by end 2006 under *National Development Plan 2000-2006* (1999).
- DAFRD publishes *Code of Good Farming Practice* which attaches greater environmental conditions to participation in agricultural schemes.
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 designate a further 30 "sensitive areas" under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) which now require nutrient removal facilities.
- The Waste Management (Amendment) Act 2001 enacted.
- *Second Annual Report* of the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Children published arguing for a greater emphasis on prevention and health promotion in the approach taken to children's health.
- *Get Connected - Developing an Adolescent Friendly Health Service* launched following the deliberations of a sub-committee of the National Conjoint Child Health Committee.
- Ireland's contribution to UNEP increased to €254,000
- Ireland's *Second National Biodiversity Report*, and 2 thematic reports on *Forests and Biological Diversity* and on *Alien Species* submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.
- Regulations made to lower the sulphur content of heavy fuel oil from start 2003 and halve the sulphur content of gas oil from start 2008.
- Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations 2001 provide for a system of permitting, by local authorities, of waste collection activities.
- Introduction of the Farm Waste Management Scheme.

- Introduction of the scheme of grant aid for the development of the organic sector.
- DOELG published *Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Retail Planning* – a comprehensive framework for the preparation of retail policies in development plans and for assessing retail development proposals.
- Draft *Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Architectural Heritage Protection* published by DOELG and the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.
- Legal action against the Sellafield MOX Plant initiated by the Irish Government.
- *Health Strategy - Quality and Fairness: A Health System for You* published by the Department of Health and Children.

## 2002

- Signing of agreement between Ireland Aid and UNEP to establish the Ireland Aid Multilateral Environmental Fund for Africa, a 3-year package with an initial commitment of €1 million in 2002.
- DOELG contribution to UNEP increased to €317,000.
- EPA publishes *Report on Water Quality in Ireland 1998-2000*.
- Introduction of environmental levy on plastic shopping bags.
- *Preventing and Recycling Waste: Delivering Change* published by DOELG.
- Sustainable Energy Act 2002 establishes the Irish Energy Centre as an independent statutory body under the title, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.
- Forest Service launched *Forestry and Aerial Fertilisation Guidelines*.
- DSCFA publishes revised NAPS, *Building an Inclusive Society*.
- Progress report, *Implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy*, published by DOELG.
- *Investing in Parenthood - To Achieve Best Health For Children* launched following deliberations by a sub-committee of the National Conjoint Child Health Committee.
- EPA publishes new *Environment in Focus* report.
- Environment Awareness Campaign extended to include awareness of climate change issues and waste recycling.
- Environment Partnership Fund amended to encourage projects which raise awareness about issues under consideration by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in August/September, 2002.
- Ireland ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- *National Biodiversity Plan* adopted by Government and published.
- *National Heritage Plan* adopted by Government and published.
- Budgetary measure to incentivise low sulphur diesel implemented.
- Introduction of levy on the disposal of waste at landfill.

- Full effect given to the terms of the Planning and Development Act 2000 with the commencement of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 in January and March 2002.
- Report on Sustainable Development agreed by Sub-Committee of Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Environment and Local Government.
- Signing of voluntary agreement with the solid fuel industry minimising sulphur levels of solid fuels, extending the ban on the sale of bituminous coal to a further 4 urban areas from October 2003, and increasing penetration of smokeless fuels in a further 4 urban areas by 2005.
- Air Quality Standards Regulations made for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, lead, carbon monoxide and benzene.
- *Principles for Sustainable Development* published by Comhar