

# Local Authority Environmental Enforcement Performance Report 2023



# Key Messages

Local authorities are responsible for enforcing much of Ireland’s environmental protection legislation, playing a vital role in protecting our environment. Enforcement of environmental law is fundamental to the protection of the environment, to identify polluters and non-compliant operators, and to hold them to account.

The EPA has a supervisory role over local authorities and assesses their environmental inspection and enforcement performance under the EPA’s Local Authority Performance Framework. This framework measures and reports on performance against the delivery of environmental outcomes under 20 National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) across waste, water, air and noise.

As part of the Local Authority Performance Framework, the EPA also carries out audits of local authorities to examine their environmental enforcement activities in greater detail, with a focus on implementation of the NEPs.


## What did local authorities do well in 2023:

- ▲ Performance in waste enforcement improved. There was an increase in targeted inspections of waste operators and businesses, to drive compliance.
- ▲ Resources were allocated to waste enforcement which delivered positive environmental outcomes. This was demonstrated in the detection and cessation of illegal waste activities.
- ▲ Eight local authorities achieved a Strong or Excellent score in 17 or more of the 20 National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs). These were Kildare, Meath, Dublin City, Monaghan, Carlow, Cork County, Donegal and Wicklow County Councils.

## What did local authorities not do well in 2023:

- ▲ Performance in water, air and noise enforcement was unsatisfactory, with not enough risk-based inspections and follow up enforcement of farms and businesses that impact water and air quality.
- ▲ Resources were not adequately prioritised to water, air and noise enforcement.
- ▲ Six local authorities failed to achieve a Strong or Excellent score in 10 or more of the 20 NEPs. These were Westmeath, Galway City, Waterford, Wexford, Sligo and Kilkenny County Councils.

## What local authorities need to do:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Prioritise and resource the delivery of the National Enforcement Priorities to improve air and water quality and increase waste recycling.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Carry out more farm inspections and follow-up enforcement to reach the National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP) target of 4,500 in 2025, to drive compliance and improve water quality.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Maintain the inspection campaign of solid fuel producers and retailers, to make sure only approved solid fuels are available for sale and to protect public health from harmful air pollutants.</li> <li>▲ Fully implement their Noise Action Plans to reduce people’s exposure to transport noise.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Target waste enforcement actions to drive compliance with the new national by-product criteria for greenfield soil &amp; stone and waste recovery levy regulations, to reduce construction and demolition (C&amp;D) waste.</li> </ul>

# Introduction

This report sets out the results of the EPA's assessment of local authority environmental enforcement performance for 2023. This assessment is based on the EPA's *Local Authority Performance Framework* (LAPF) where performance is measured and reported against National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs), focused on improving environmental compliance and achieving positive outcomes for waste, water, air and noise. The LAPF operates on a three-year cycle. This report relates to the mid-year of the 2022-2024 cycle.

The recent *EPA State of the Environment Report* outlined the key environmental challenges facing Ireland, which include:

- ▲ Water quality is not meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and nutrient trends in water are not improving.
- ▲ Waste recycling rates are not keeping pace with the increasing rate of material resource consumption, making it likely Ireland will not comply with EU targets.
- ▲ Exposure to air and noise pollution is harmful to our health and wellbeing and our environment.
- ▲ Serious deficits remain in Ireland's implementation of environmental legislation and related plans and programmes.

Local authorities are responsible for enforcing much of Ireland's environmental protection legislation, playing a vital role in protecting our environment. Enforcement of environmental law is fundamental to the protection of the environment, to identify polluters and non-compliant operators, and to hold them to account.

## NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES (NEPs)

- ▲ There are 20 NEPs under four themes: Waste, Water, Air & Noise, and Governance Processes. These are reviewed and agreed annually by the environmental regulatory bodies, including the EPA. [Find out more about the NEPs here.](#)
- ▲ Each NEP is assessed against a set of **specified criteria** (see page 27).
- ▲ Each NEP is scored according to a four-point scale: Excellent, Strong, Moderate or Limited (see page 28).
- ▲ To achieve a Strong or Excellent score, local authorities need to provide evidence of satisfactory risk-based selection of inspections and appropriate follow-up of issues, focused on improving compliance and environmental outcomes.
- ▲ The objective is that all local authorities should be performing at a Strong or Excellent level across all NEPs by the end of the three-year cycle, 2022-2024.





WASTE	WATER
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Tackling Illegal Waste Activity and Multi-Agency Sites / Operators of Concern</li> <li>▲ Construction and Demolition Waste</li> <li>▲ End of Life Vehicles</li> <li>▲ Household and Commercial Waste</li> <li>▲ Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Pressure from Agriculture (Farm Yards) slurry/soiled water collection and storage</li> <li>▲ Pressure from Agriculture (Farmland) slurry and fertiliser spreading</li> <li>▲ DWWTs / Septic Tanks</li> <li>▲ Discharge Licences / Misconnections</li> <li>▲ Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring</li> </ul>
AIR & NOISE	GOVERNANCE PROCESSES
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Soild Fuel</li> <li>▲ Air Quality Monitoring and Data Use</li> <li>▲ Environmental Noise Directive (ENDs)</li> <li>▲ Air and Noise Control (including planning)</li> <li>▲ Ongoing Air and Noise Enforcement Work</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ RMCEI Plan: Planning for NEPs</li> <li>▲ RMCEI Plan: Environmental Resource Planning</li> <li>▲ RMCEI Plan: Environmental Outcomes</li> <li>▲ RMCEI Plan: Review and Reporting</li> <li>▲ Environmental Complaint Handling</li> </ul>

Figure 1: National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) 2023

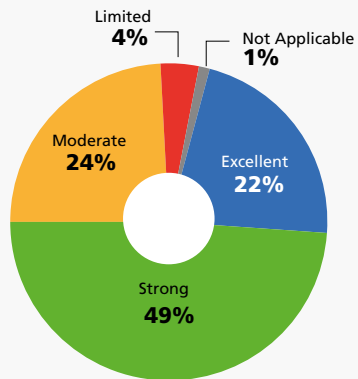
# Environmental Enforcement Activity & Performance

The scale of environmental inspection and enforcement work carried out by local authorities in 2023 involved:

**Table 1:** RMCEI data<sup>1</sup>

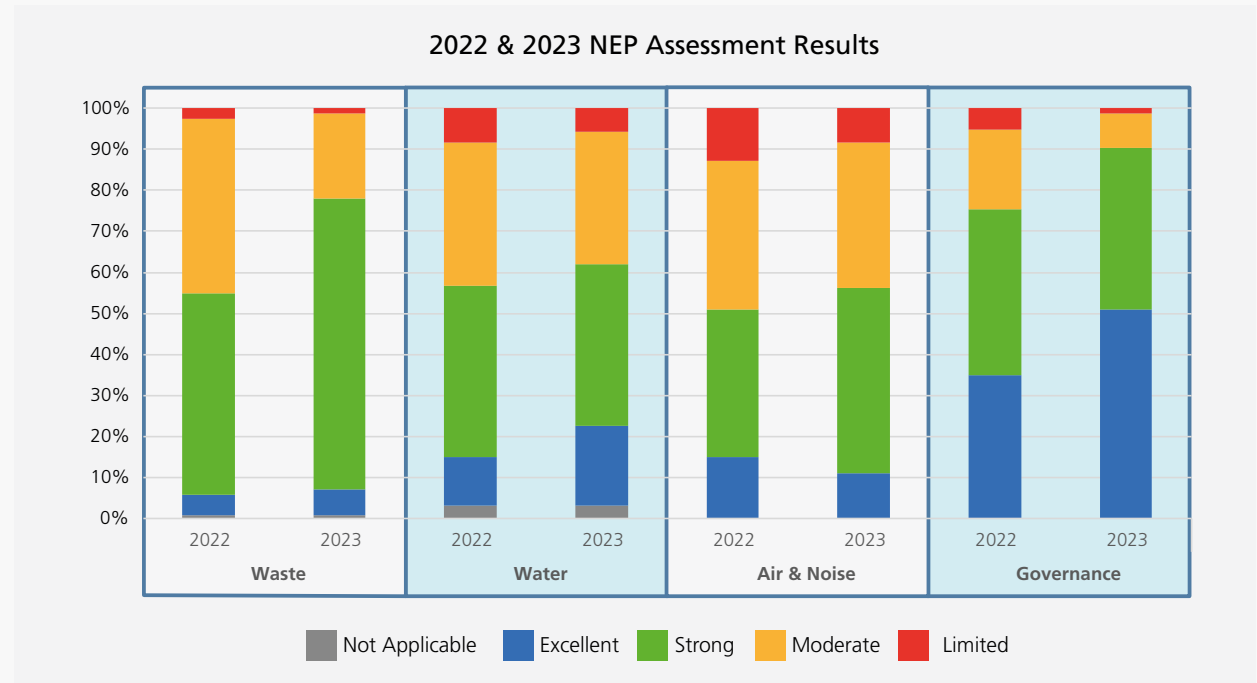
TOTAL NUMBER	2022	2023
Environmental Staff	522	547
Licences/Permits/Certificates	14,500	13,800
Inspections Undertaken	197,300	212,100
Environmental Complaints Received	69,700	70,300
Enforcement Actions Taken	17,700	17,800
Prosecution Actions Initiated	621	470

Local authorities, on average, achieved a Strong or Excellent score in 14 of the 20 National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) in 2023. This is an increase from 12 in 2022. Local authorities are expected to achieve a Strong or Excellent score in all 20 NEPs by the end of 2024.



**Figure 2:** Overall Performance Scores for Local Authorities 2023 (n=620 (20 NEP assessments across 31 local authorities))

The breakdown of NEP assessment results shows there was a significant improvement in local authority performance in Waste in 2023, in comparison to 2022. Performance in Water, Air and Noise improved marginally but remains too low.



**Figure 3:** National Enforcement Priority Results, 2022 & 2023

<sup>1</sup> Recommendation 2001/331/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, providing for minimum criteria for environmental inspections in Member States (RMCEI)

# Environmental Enforcement Activity & Performance

## National Environmental Enforcement and Inspection Data, 2022 - 2023.

This list is non-exhaustive but covers the main activities reported under the Local Authority RMCEI data returns.

TOTAL NUMBER	2022	2023
Licences/Permits/Certificates	14,500	13,800
Inspections Undertaken	197,300	212,100
Environmental Complaints Received	69,700	70,300
Enforcement Actions Taken	17,700	17,800
Prosecution Actions Initiated	621	470
<b>Waste</b>		
Waste & Litter Complaints Received	62,400	62,800
Illegal Dumping Inspections	17,900	16,000
Multi-agency Inspections	280	410
Household Waste Surveys	7,830	8,130
Commercial Food Waste Inspections	1,100	1,270
C&D Handling Inspections	1,500	1,450
Litter Patrols	48,730	47,220
Waste Collection Permit Inspections	2,500	1,690
Producer Responsibility Initiatives Inspections (WEEE, Batteries, Tyres, ELV, Packaging, Farm Plastic and Plastic Bags)	2,850	2,690
<b>Water</b>		
Water/Wastewater Complaints Received	2,800	3,100
WFD Monitoring & Investigations <sup>1</sup>	17,480	16,300
Water Pollution Incidents/Complaints Investigations	3,080	2,900
Farm Inspections – initial GAP Inspections undertaken by local authorities	1,041	1,137
Other types of farm inspections undertaken by local authorities (in response to planning applications, incidents and complaints)	879	1,474

TOTAL NUMBER	2022	2023
Inspections required in Septic Tank National Inspection Plan	1,140	1,275
Discharge Licences (S4) Inspections	2,090	2,400
<b>Air</b>		
Air/Odour & Noise Complaints Received	4,600	4,500
Solid Fuel Regulation Inspections	1,160	1,690
Decorative Paint Regulation Inspections	470	480
Petroleum Vapour Regulation Inspections	440	470
Solvent Regulation Inspections	200	170
<b>Enforcement Actions Initiated</b>		
Waste Enforcement Actions	14,400	14,000
Water/Wastewater Enforcement Actions	1,660	2,130
Air Enforcement Actions	980	1,210
Noise Enforcement Actions	650	410
PRI Enforcement Actions	10	4
<b>Total Enforcement Actions Initiated</b>	<b>17,700</b>	<b>17,754</b>
<b>Prosecution Actions Initiated</b>		
Waste Prosecution Actions <sup>2</sup>	580	423
Water/Wastewater Prosecution Actions	35	39
Air Prosecution Actions	5	2
Noise Prosecution Actions	1	6
<b>Total Prosecutions Initiated</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>470</b>

<sup>1</sup> This includes Water Framework Directive (WFD) operational, surveillance, and investigative sampling programmes undertaken by local authorities.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include litter prosecution.

# Environmental Enforcement Activity & Performance

Table 2 shows the Local Authority Performance Results for the 20 NEPs. Eight local authorities achieved a Strong or Excellent score in 17 or more of the 20 National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs). These were Kildare, Meath, Dublin City, Monaghan, Carlow, Cork County, Donegal and Wicklow County Councils. For the second consecutive year, Kildare County Council were the only local authority that achieved a Strong or Excellent score across all 20 NEPs. Meath County Council achieved an Excellent score in 15 of the 20 NEPs and a Strong score in 4 more NEPs, which was the highest level of excellent scores of all local authorities. Dublin City Council achieved a Strong or Excellent score in 16 of the 17 NEPs that apply to their functional area.

The most notable improvers compared to 2022 results were Galway County, Wicklow, Offaly and Roscommon County Councils.

Six local authorities failed to achieve a Strong or Excellent score in 10 or more of the 20 NEPs. These were Westmeath, Galway City, Waterford, Wexford, Sligo and Kilkenny County Councils. This level of performance is not good enough and needs to improve.

The most notable decliners compared to 2022 results were Leitrim, Galway City, Fingal and Westmeath County Councils.

**See 2023 Performance Scores for each Local Authority on the next page.**

A detailed breakdown of each local authority's enforcement performance is available on the EPA website 'Environmental Enforcement Individual Local Authority Performance Results 2023'.

**Table 2: Local Authority Performance Results for the 20 NEPs**

LOCAL AUTHORITY	2023 NEPS ACHIEVING STRONG OR EXCELLENT	2022 NEPS ACHIEVING STRONG OR EXCELLENT
Kildare	20	20
Meath	19	18
Dublin City*	16	13
Monaghan	18	17
Carlow	17	14
Cork County	17	14
Donegal	17	16
Wicklow	17	8
Cavan	16	15
Galway County	16	7
Kerry	16	13
Limerick	16	12
Longford	16	11
South Dublin	16	12
Laois	15	12
Roscommon	15	7

LOCAL AUTHORITY	2023 NEPS ACHIEVING STRONG OR EXCELLENT	2022 NEPS ACHIEVING STRONG OR EXCELLENT
Tipperary	15	9
Clare	14	11
Louth	14	13
Fingal	13	17
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown**	12	11
Cork City	12	13
Leitrim	12	17
Mayo	12	12
Offaly	12	4
Kilkenny	10	6
Sligo	10	9
Wexford	10	6
Waterford	9	3
Galway City***	8	12
Westmeath	8	11

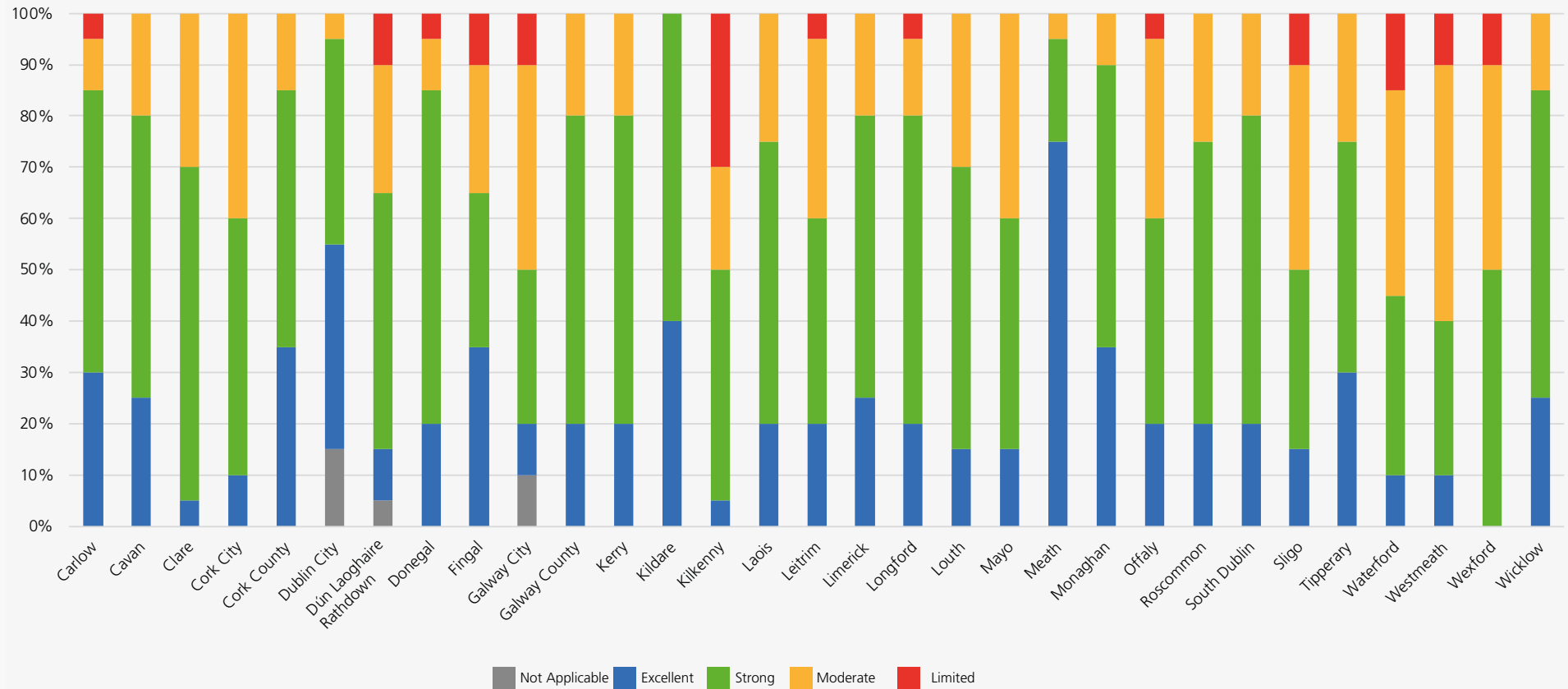
\* Three of the NEPs are not applicable to this local authority

\*\* One of the NEPs is not applicable to this local authority

\*\*\* Two of the NEPs are not applicable to this local authority

# Environmental Enforcement Activity & Performance

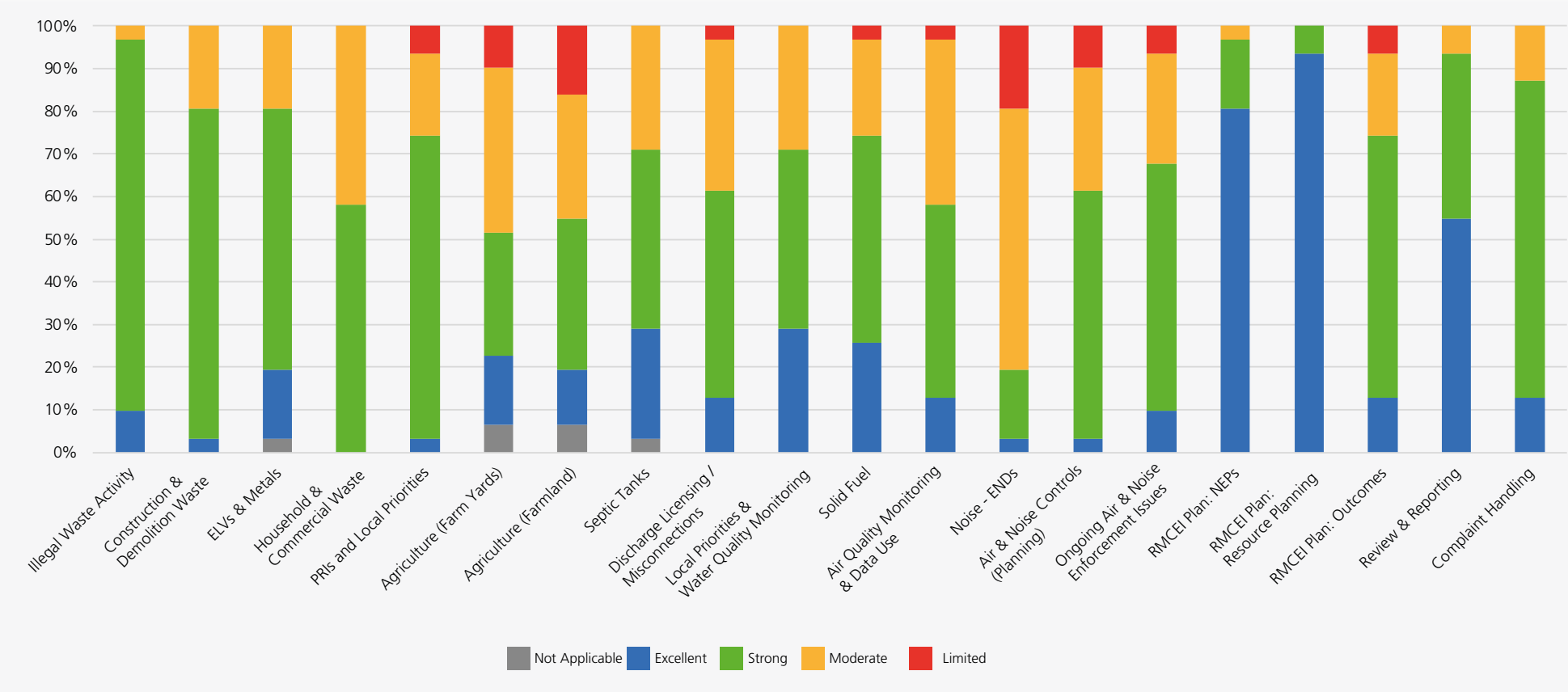
Figure 4: 2023 Performance scores for each Local Authority



# Environmental Enforcement Activity & Performance

This graph shows the breakdown of performance results for all 20 NEPs. The results are considered in the following sections, along with a comparison to the previous year (2022) to analyse the performance trends.

**Figure 5:** 2023 Results for each National Enforcement Priority

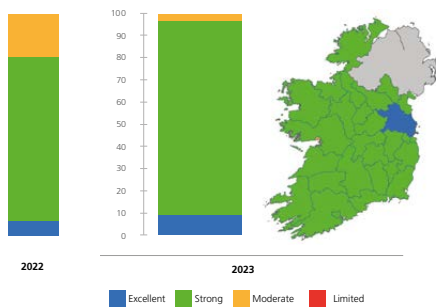




# Waste Enforcement

The EPA State of the Environment Report 2024 notes that waste generation continues to grow and recycling rates for municipal and plastic packaging waste streams need to increase urgently to achieve 2025 targets. Recent interventions, such as the Deposit Return Scheme, statutory roll-out of the organic waste collection service, recovery levy and national end-of waste and by-product decisions, are positive developments that need to be fully implemented in the transition to a circular economy.

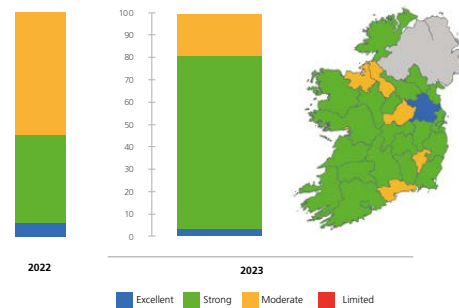
## 1. Illegal Waste Activities and Multi-Agency Sites/ Operators of Concern:



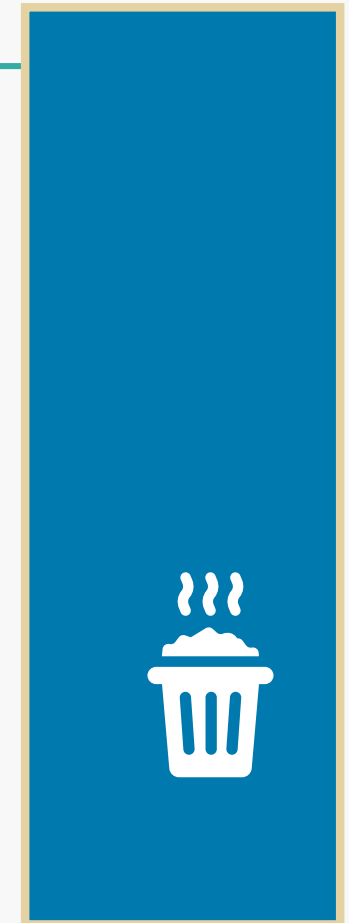
The objective is the detection and cessation of unauthorised waste collection and dumping activities and remediation of polluted sites. In 2023, there was proactive and challenging enforcement work undertaken by all local authorities. However, there were some variations in the level of enforcement and legal action taken across the local authorities. Initiatives around the country have pushed high value wastes, such as End of Life vehicles (ELVs) and metals, away from illegal operators into the authorised system.

**Fingal County Council identified and closed down a significant number of unauthorised ELV sites (see next page).**

## 2. Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste:



The objective is effective and authorised management, movement and disposal of C&D waste. In 2023, local authorities demonstrated enforcement action at different stages of the cradle-to-grave C&D waste cycle. However, the broad scope of this NEP made it difficult for local authorities to fully address all elements, such as the assessment of resource and waste management plans, inspections of development sites, site inspection and data validation of authorised facilities and collectors. Enforcement activities need to focus on C&D waste management, recycling and disposal, due to legislative changes such as the introduction of the *national by-product criteria for greenfield soil & stone*, the recovery levy and removal of exemptions to the landfill levy.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> S.I. No. 441/2024 - Circular Economy (Waste Recovery Levy) Regulations 2024 and S.I. No. 442/2024 - Waste Management (Landfill Levy) (Amendment) Regulations 2024

# Waste Enforcement

## Fingal County Council (End-of-Life Vehicle Project)

Fingal County Council initiated a multi-year End-of-life Vehicle (ELV) Project to identify and clear unauthorised ELV sites in their catchment area. From 2021-2023 over 80 illegal sites were identified and inspected, with multi-agency collaboration with An Garda Síochána, WERLA, Revenue, Customs, Social Protection, TFS Office and the Road Safety Authority. Enforcement action, ranging from Waste Management Act Section Notices to legal action, were taken by Fingal County Council.

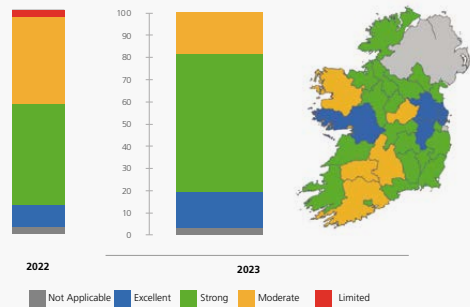
All sites were closed down and cleared with over 1,700 ELVS removed and brought to permitted Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATFs) for recovery and disposal. This project had a significant impact in terms of improving metal traceability and preventing illegal car breaking activities throughout Fingal. ELV acceptance at ATFs was also improved as a direct result of the ELV project.

The Waste Enforcement Section worked in close co-operation with the Planning Department to ensure that sites previously cleared remained closed and that all illegal car breaking activities ceased on a permanent basis. Regular patrols continue to be undertaken to ensure that sites previously closed remain closed.



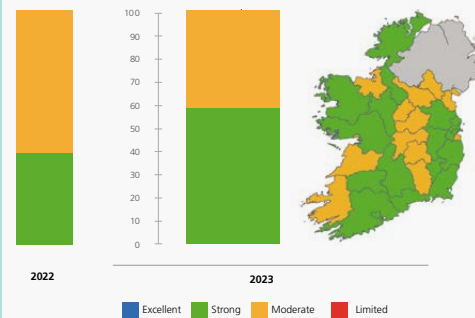
# Waste Enforcement

## 3. End of Life Vehicles (ELVs) and Metals:



The objective is that all relevant ELV facilities are authorised and maintain a high level of compliance for acceptance, classification, segregation, recycling and disposal of ELVs. In 2023, waste traceability was driven by local authorities with collaborative action taken with the NTFSO<sup>3</sup>, WERLA<sup>4</sup> and the RWMPO<sup>5</sup>. However, there was a lack of consistency across local authorities on the frequency of risk-based inspections at the authorised facilities.

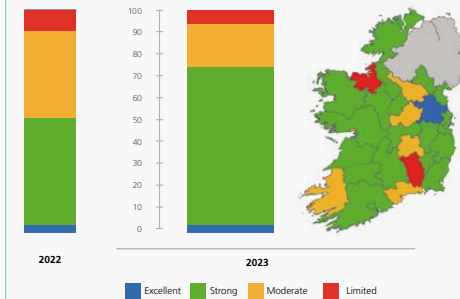
## 4. Household & Commercial Waste:



The objective is to maximise segregation and recycling of municipal waste. In 2023, there was more targeted activity in the commercial waste sector, guided by WERLA. New regulations<sup>6</sup> require focused enforcement of the national roll-out of the 3-bin system. To support local authorities, WERLA have developed a programme to monitor and enforce household waste kerbside collectors for this national roll-out of the brown bin in 2024, in collaboration with the local authorities and the NWCPO. Local authorities must target areas with low use of the household and commercial waste segregation service (3-bin system) to maximise waste recovery.

**Donegal County Council significantly improved the waste collector roll out of the household 3-bin service (see next page).**

## 5. Producer Responsibility Initiatives (PRI) & Local Priorities:



The objective is that all PRI<sup>7</sup> operators register with appropriate organisations and achieve good regulatory compliance at all waste facilities, including those owned by local authorities. This is a broad NEP area with good work undertaken in some PRIs, however consistent enforcement action should be taken by all local authorities, to continue to promote registration and compliance under the various PRI schemes. The specific PRIs for focus are reviewed annually. More focused action is expected under the WEEE Regulations, the Waste Management Packaging Regulations and the Separate Collection (Deposit Return Scheme) Regulations.

<sup>3</sup> National Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Office

<sup>4</sup> Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities

<sup>5</sup> Regional Waste Management Planning Office

<sup>6</sup> Mandatory national separate collection of household biowaste from January 2024 under S.I. No. 679/2023 - European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio - Waste) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 and incentivised charging for waste collection in the commercial sector since July 2023 (Waste Management (Collection Permit) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2023)

<sup>7</sup> PRI regulations for enforcement by the local authorities include WEEE, Batteries, Suspected Vehicle Importers, Farm Plastics, Plastic Bag Levy, Suspected Major Packaging Producers, Tyres and the Deposit Return Scheme.

# Waste Enforcement

## Donegal County Council - Household Waste Project

At the end of 2018 only approx. **1,600** households in Donegal had a 3-bin waste segregation service. Donegal County Council prioritised this as a key work area and a food waste strategy was agreed with the Connaught Ulster WERLA and 'Operation Uniform' was initiated.

Donegal County Council carried out inspections of the permitted household waste collectors, where they validated the waste collection data and promoted the collectors obligations to provide a 3-bin service and the number of households that refused the service. Notices under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act were used to collect relevant data from the six household waste collectors on the number of households serviced and supplied with a 3-bin service. Donegal County Council carried out monthly reviews of this data. Back-office inspections were carried out at the collectors with WERLA and RWMPO, to identify waste reporting anomalies and to further validate the data. From this data Donegal County Council identified a high number of the households refusing the 3-bin service. In 2022 an Anti-Dumping Initiative funded engagement, communications and awareness project was carried out where approximately 500 households were visited by VOICE Ireland to provide Reduce Reuse Recycle pocket guides and to capture information about waste management practices.

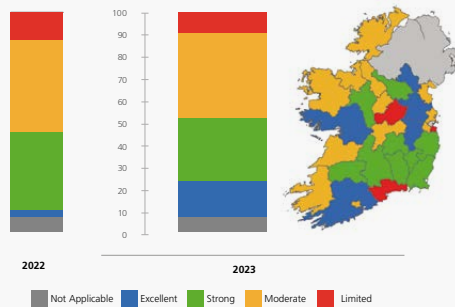
An improvement in the roll-out of the 3-bin service was observed annually. By the end of 2023, through the engagement with the waste collectors, awareness raising with households and enforcement on unauthorised activities over **17,500** households in Donegal were provided with a 3-bin service. This represents the majority of households in agglomerations of greater than 500 population equivalent. Donegal County Council teamed up with the RWMPO in 2024 to participate in the National Food Waste Recycling Project. Through this project Donegal household waste collectors were provided with thousands of kitchen caddy packs to distribute to their customers. In September 2024 environment staff went door to door again to further develop this work area. The national roll out of the 3-bin service is in place since the start of 2024 so the county wide use of 3-bin systems will be an ongoing focus for all local authorities.



# Water Enforcement

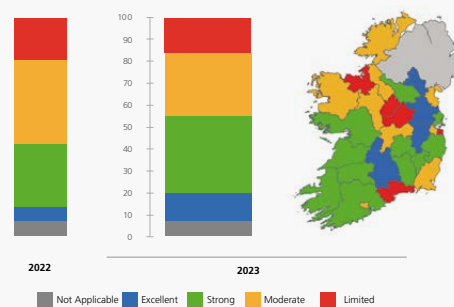
The EPA State of the Environment Report 2024 notes that water quality trends remain mixed, with no net improvement in river or lake water quality in recent years, and a sharp decline in the number of monitored estuaries in satisfactory ecological condition. Significant challenges remain for achieving full compliance with relevant EU obligations and national policy objectives.

## 1. Pressures from Agriculture (Farm Yards) - slurry/soiled water collection and storage:

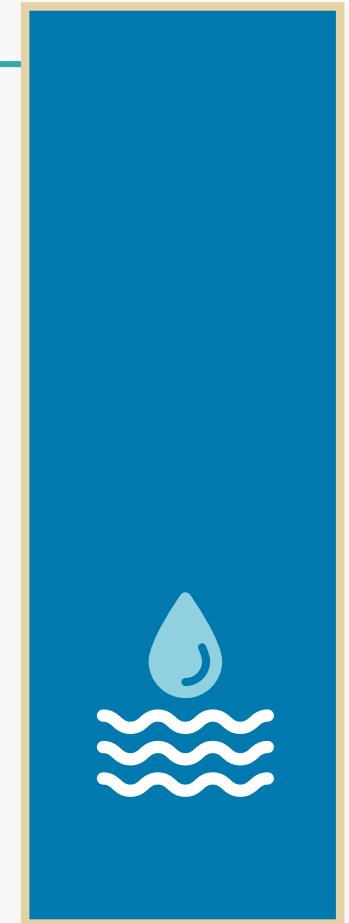


The objective is to reduce the impact of agricultural activities on water quality. There was a slight increase (9%) in the number of initial inspections under the Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Regulations undertaken by local authorities in 2023 (1,137) when compared to 2022. The rate of non-compliance for GAP inspections was approximately 31% in 2022 and 37% in 2023. The main reasons for non-compliance were storage/management of soiled water, farmyard manure and slurry, and discharges with potential to impact water quality. Local authorities must significantly increase their farm inspection numbers in accordance with the allocations under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP), proactively assess compliance, and take appropriate enforcement action where required. Significant improvements are expected in the two Agriculture NEPs in 2024/2025 given the additional staff resources allocated to local authorities for farm inspections.

## 2. Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) - slurry and fertiliser spreading:

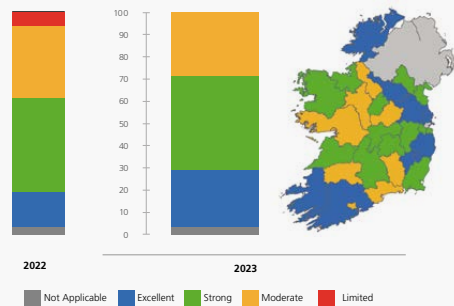


The objective is to reduce the impact of agricultural activities on water quality. Based on the 2023 assessment more inspection activities of farmlands are required throughout the year especially during the closed season for landspreading and in response to complaints. Local authorities should focus their inspections on slurry storage capacity issues, landspreading practices and target areas of higher relative risk to water quality. Local authorities should increase the number of initial and follow-up inspections in farmlands along with their compliance promotion and awareness-raising activities with the farming community, to ensure a continued focus on improving water quality and positive environmental outcomes for agriculture.



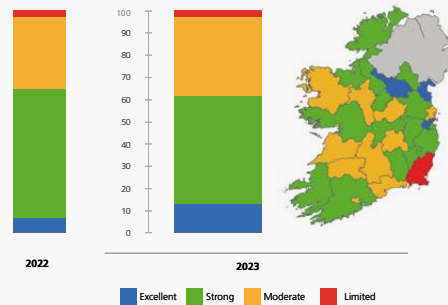
# Water Enforcement

## 3. Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS)/ Septic Tanks:



The objective is to reduce the impact of domestic waste water discharges on water quality through implementation of the [National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2022-2026](#) (NIP). In 2023, the NIP inspection programme was well implemented across local authorities. Some local authorities reported concerted efforts to tackle open advisory notices for DWWTS failures open more than two years. Local authorities need to continue to focus their efforts on closure of open advisory notices. Local authorities should also encourage homeowners to take up [grants](#) that are available to have DWWTS repaired, upgraded or replaced. The EPA Domestic Waste Water Treatment System Inspections 2023 report can be read [here](#).

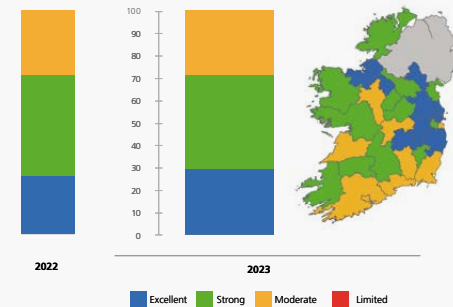
## 4. Discharge Licences / Misconnections:



The objective is to reduce the impact of licensed discharges on water quality by ensuring compliance with discharge licence conditions, and to reduce the impact of misconnections on water quality by ensuring remediation works are undertaken by property owners and businesses. In 2023, local authorities did not take sufficient actions to address the Section 4<sup>8</sup> discharges to waterbodies identified as significant pressures. There was variable activity on misconnections, with proactive work by some of the Dublin local authorities and reactive work by other local authorities in response to complaints or incidents.

**South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council's misconnections work under the Dublin Urban Rivers Life (DURL) project resulted in local water quality improvements (see next page).**

## 5. Local Priorities & Water Quality Monitoring:



The objective is to deliver the Water Framework Directive (WFD) monitoring programme and ensure that any local water quality issues are addressed. In 2023, local authorities completed their statutory monitoring programmes for WFD and Bathing Waters, however investigative monitoring (to examine local water quality issues) was inconsistent across local authorities. Local authorities need to continue to identify and investigate local issues affecting water quality including all significant pressure referrals from LAWPRO<sup>9</sup>.

Enforcement work on private water supplies also varied across local authorities. The total number of small private supplies remained unknown as not all supplies are registered. Local authorities need to identify, register and monitor all private drinking water supplies to protect public health. The EPA report on Drinking Water Quality in Private Group Schemes and small Private Water Supplies 2023 can be read [here](#).

<sup>8</sup> Section 4 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977: Licensing of trade and sewage effluents

<sup>9</sup> Local Authority Waters Programme

# Water Enforcement

## Misconnections investigations - DURL Project

The Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE (DURL) Project is a collaboration between South Dublin County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, with South Dublin as the project lead. The project aims to address water pollution from domestic misconnections in the River Griffeen in South Dublin and the Carrickmines Stream in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. A misconnection is where a foul (wastewater) pipe from a house, e.g. toilet or washing machine, is mistakenly connected to the stormwater drainage pipe, thereby causing pollution to enter the local river.



*Outfall pipe to the river Griffeen before and after removal of domestic misconnections*

More than 16,300 residential properties have been assessed for misconnections in the two catchments since 2021. The project identified 1,000 misconnection appliances, of which 86% had been fixed by householders by the end of 2023. The results of this work are enhanced river water quality, improved stormwater outfalls and positive community engagement and participation which will positively impact the environment.

The DURL project team liaised with other local authorities to share the methodology and templates used to investigate and address misconnections. The project team developed a support tool for water quality / policy managers to use when deciding river water quality improvement options in urban areas. This tool will assist other local authorities in their misconnections work to deliver positive outcomes for water quality and the aquatic environment. Further information on the DURL Project can be viewed at [www.dublinriverlife.ie](http://www.dublinriverlife.ie)



*Cell 1 of the Griffeen ICW, October 2022*



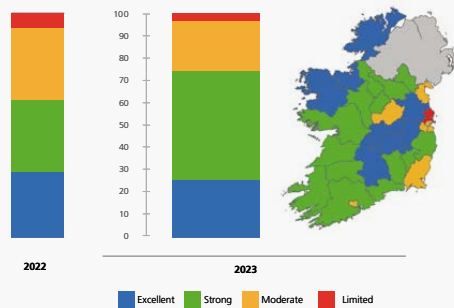
*Cell 1 of the Griffeen ICW, August 2024*

Also under the DURL project, three integrated constructed wetlands (ICWs) have been put in place, one in the Griffeen and two in the Dodder catchment. ICW cells have been planted with specific plants that treat water to take out nutrients and harmful impurities. Sample results taken at ICW inlets and outlets show significant improvement in water quality, with 90% reduction in *E. coli* and approximately 70% reduction in ammonia and phosphate.

# Air & Noise Enforcement

The EPA State of the Environment Report 2024 notes that Ireland is compliant with current air quality standards for many air pollutants, however we are not meeting the WHO guidelines for multiple pollutants, including fine particulate matter. Achieving the ambitions of the Clean Air Strategy will be challenging but will have a significant and positive impact on health.

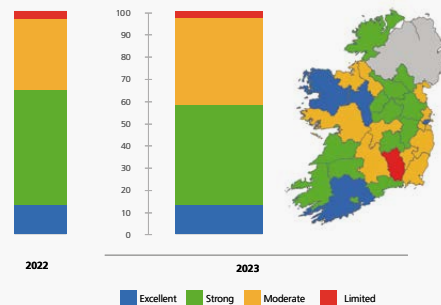
## 1. Solid Fuels:



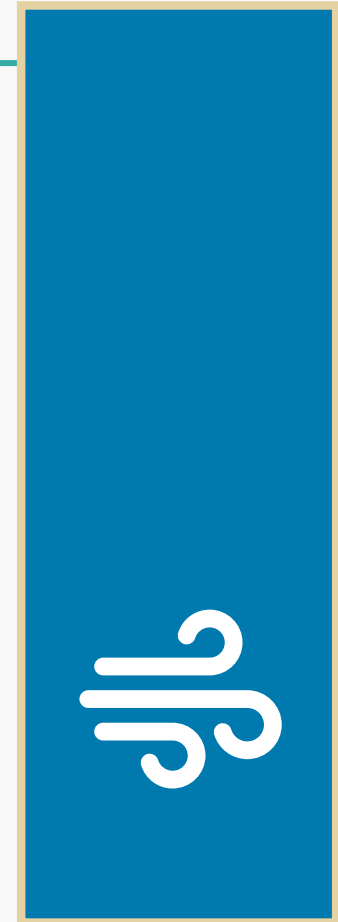
The objective is that only approved solid fuel products are available for purchase by homeowners. In 2023, there was an increase across all local authorities in the number of inspections of solid fuel retailers and producers, multi-agency operations investigating the sale of unapproved fuels, and awareness raising activities to promote compliance with the Solid Fuel Regulations. Many local authorities carried out solid fuel sampling programmes. The inspection campaign of solid fuel producers and retailers needs to continue to make sure only approved solid fuels are available for sale, to protect public health from harmful air pollutants.

**Local authorities demonstrated good practices and enforcement work in tackling the sale and distribution of unapproved solid fuels (see next page).**

## 2. Air Quality Monitoring & Data Use:



The objective is to deliver enhanced real-time information to improve air quality forecasting and identification of priority sites/areas for action, and to encourage greater understanding and involvement of the public in air quality issues. In 2023, most local authority websites provided public access to real-time local air quality information via weblink to [www.airquality.ie](http://www.airquality.ie). However, many local authorities failed to demonstrate the use of ambient air quality data to target solid fuel inspections and raise awareness of local air quality issues.





# Air & Noise Enforcement

## Solid Fuel Investigations

In 2023, local authorities carried out solid fuel sampling programmes, funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. The aim was to assess compliance of coal products available on the market and to check if products matched the labelling (which indicated compliance).. The Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 529 of 2022) requires that coal products and manufactured solid fuels must have less than 2% sulphur content. Local authorities purchased bags of coal from retailers and arranged for laboratory testing. Preliminary results showed a low rate of compliance, with only approximately 33% of samples below the 2% sulphur limit, despite the coal bags being labelled as an approved solid fuel under the regulations.

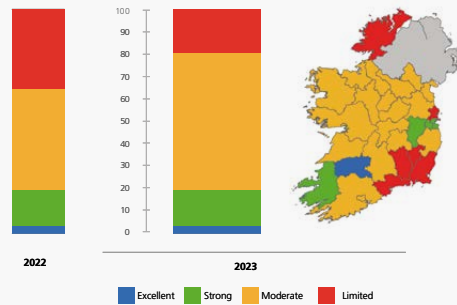


Local authorities also carried out investigative work involving the surveillance of operators suspected to be trading in unapproved fuels, including tracking delivery vehicles. This work uncovered breaches of the regulations including the bagging of bituminous (smoky) coal in bags labelled as approved low smoke coal. The evidence gathered is being used to target follow-up investigations and enforcement action. This work will reassure consumers that they are purchasing compliant solid fuels. The ultimate environmental outcome will be a reduction in pollution from solid fuel burning and better air quality, in line with the [Clean Air Strategy for Ireland](#).



# Air & Noise Enforcement

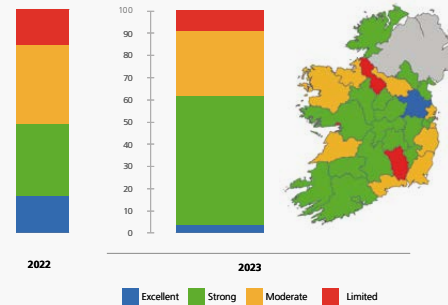
## 3. Environmental Noise Directive (ENDs):



The objective is to reduce the share of people chronically disturbed by transport noise as well as preserve environmental noise quality where it is good. In 2023, many local authorities made little progress on implementing their Noise Action Plans (NAPs). Some local authorities made NAP progress through actions related to the use of low noise road surfaces, traffic calming measures to reduce speeds, noise monitoring at residential locations and the identification of potential quiet areas. Local authorities, in collaboration with transport infrastructure bodies, need to focus implementation of NAPs on the priority areas identified using strategic noise mapping. This requires collaborative effort between the Environment, Roads and Planning Sections within local authorities.

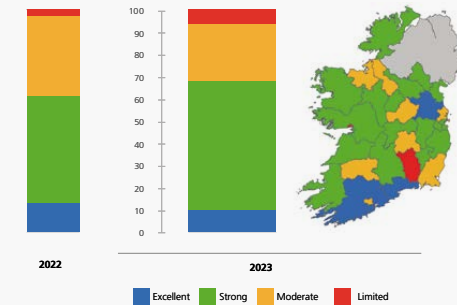
**Limerick City & County Council made good progress implementing their Noise Action Plan which reduced traffic-related noise exposure (see next page).**

## 4. Air & Noise Controls (including Planning):



The objective is that appropriate air and noise controls are in place. In 2023, most local authorities demonstrated that their Environment Section liaised with their Planning Section to assess air and noise impacts of developments, and set appropriate air and noise controls in planning permissions. However, they need to better demonstrate how activities causing local issues (such as quarries, industrial developments or construction activities) are controlled through planning.

## 5. Ongoing Air & Noise Enforcement Work:



The objective is to ensure appropriate controls are in place to minimise, reduce or prevent air and noise emissions that may be harmful to the environment or to human health. Local authorities assess compliance through inspections under the Solvents, Decorative Paints, Petroleum Vapours Regulations, and sites licensed under the Air Pollution Act. They also investigate air and noise incidents or complaints reported by the public. In 2023, there was a good level of inspection and enforcement activity of certified operators under the Solvents, Decorative Paints and Petroleum Vapours Regulations, however continued effort is needed to identify and target unauthorised operators.

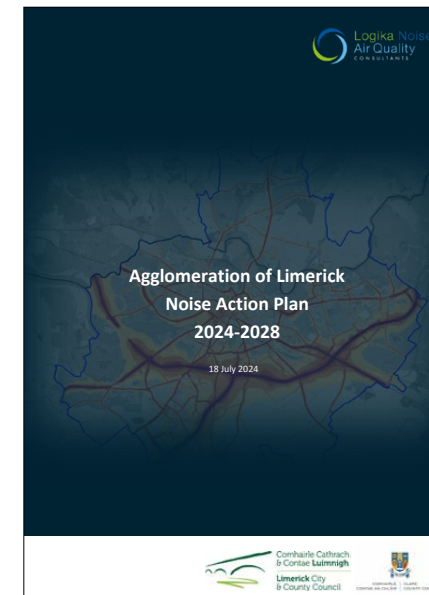
# Air & Noise Enforcement

## Limerick City and County Council: Noise Action Plan Implementation

Limerick City & County Council achieved an excellent performance score under the Noise NEP in 2022 and 2023. The work they undertook during the implementation of their Noise Action Plan focussed on a range of measures related primarily to:

- ▲ Developing the Council's noise modelling capability for the investigation of Hotspots (termed Priority Important Areas in the Noise Action Plan 2024 - 2028);
- ▲ Developing and implementing a method to assess the cost benefit of noise mitigation works to reduce the potential harmful health effects of traffic-related noise for three Hotspots along sections of major national roads in Limerick (Monaleen, Glencairin and Patrickswell);
- ▲ Preventing additional members of the community being exposed to undesirable road noise levels at new residential developments by developing a policy in the Limerick Development Plan 2022 - 2028 and reviewing and reporting on planning applications;
- ▲ Aiding the preparation of national planning guidance for the consideration of proposed new residential developments near major roads;
- ▲ Sound pressure level monitoring to confirm road noise levels in Limerick City and the investigation of sound pressure levels at Lough Gur, an area for potential designation as a Quiet Area;
- ▲ Public engagement through a number of webinars and moderator-led soundwalks (listening walks) to raise awareness of the health benefit of quiet areas and the use of a citizen science and soundscape approach to identify and investigate them;
- ▲ Expanding the network of noise monitoring in the City and Environs to the Go Green Routes Castletroy Greenway Project and Active Travel programme of works.

The new Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028 for the Limerick Agglomeration is available [here](#).



# Governance Processes

The governance process NEPs measure how local authorities plan their environmental inspections and enforcement duties. Each local authority prepares a RMCEI plan in accordance with European Parliament and Council Recommendation 2001/331/EC, on the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) in member states. The governance process NEPs do not reflect the effectiveness of the environmental enforcement activities, which are assessed under the relevant waste, water, air & noise NEPs.

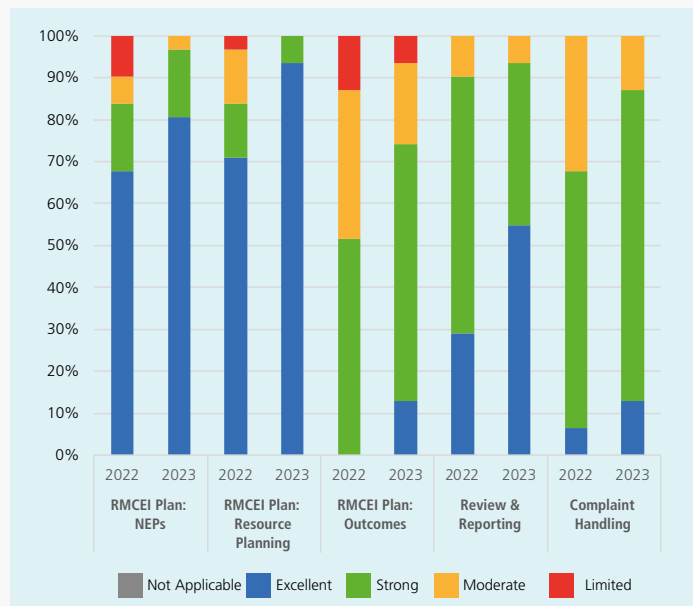


Figure 6: National Governance Processes NEP Results, 2022 & 2023

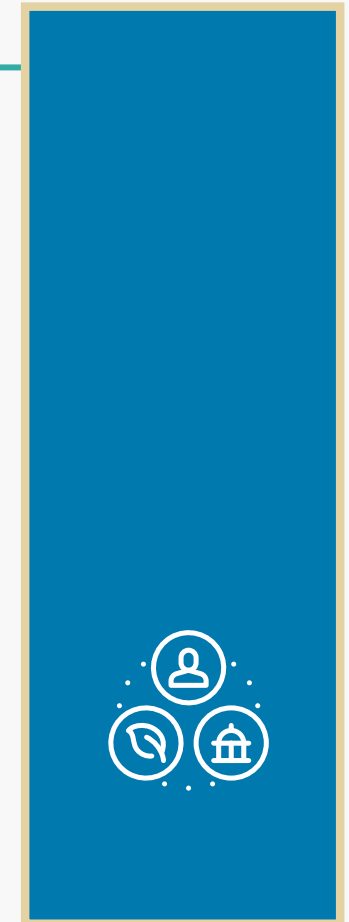
## 1. RMCEI Plan: Planning for the NEPs, Environmental Resource Planning, Environmental Outcomes and Review & Reporting:

Local authorities have developed annual enforcement plans (RMCEI Plans) since 2006 to improve the organisation and effectiveness of environmental inspections and enforcement. These RMCEI plans are well embedded within the local authorities and have integrated the NEPs into the enforcement and resource planning.

## 2. Environmental Complaint Handling:

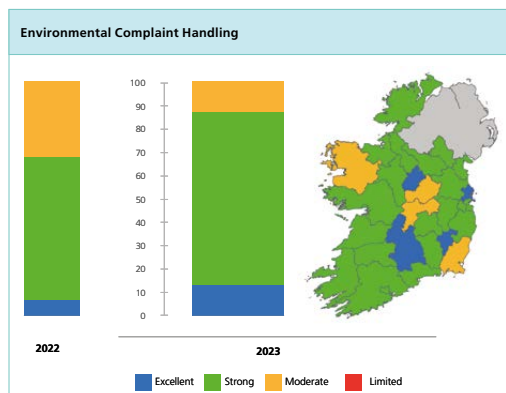
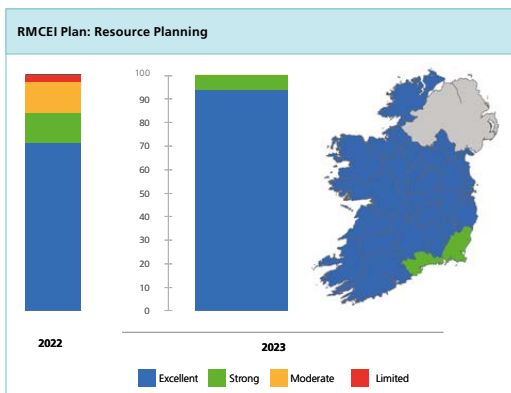
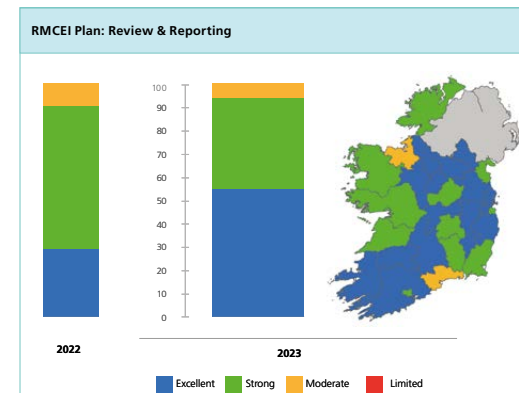
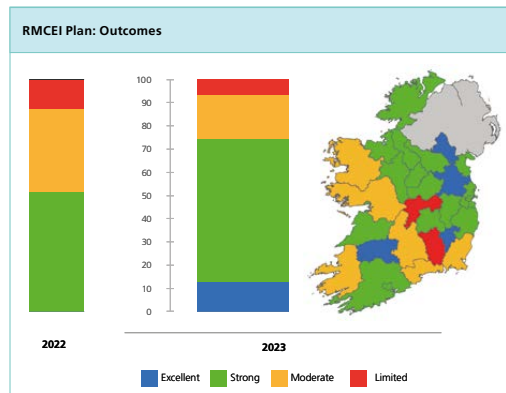
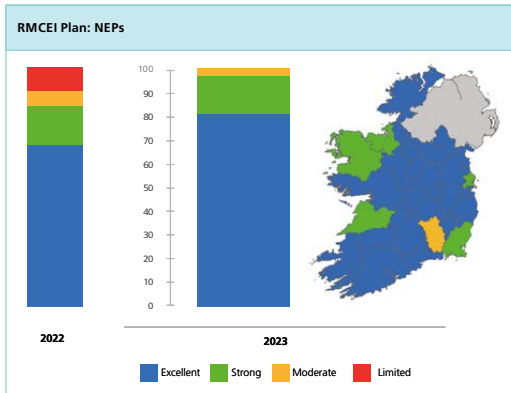
This priority relates to local authority processes and systems in place to manage environmental complaints. Local authorities receive a large volume of environmental complaints from the public each year, with approximately 70,000 environmental complaints in 2023, a similar level to 2022. Complaints from the public are a key source of intelligence for local authorities to identify illegal or unauthorised activities which are potentially damaging the environment. In 2023, most local authorities had good complaint handling systems. Local authorities must ensure that complaints are investigated in a timely manner and that complaints open from previous years are resolved. The introduction of the new NEMIS<sup>10</sup> complaints system will further drive consistency in this area.

<sup>10</sup> The objectives of the National Environmental Management Information System (NEMIS) include streamlining and standardising inspections, improved data quality and enhanced data management across all local authorities.



# Governance Processes

## Governance Processes NEP Results



# EPA Audits of Local Authority Performance

The EPA carries out audits of local authorities under the Local Authority Performance Framework. These audits focus on implementation of the NEPs and provide an opportunity for the EPA to offer advice and support to help improve statutory performance. The audits allow the EPA to examine the nature, scope and impacts of the local authority enforcement activities in greater detail. The audits engage with senior management in local authorities, as well as operational staff. The audits are carried out in accordance with Section 63(2) of the Environmental Protection Agency Acts 1992 and 2003.

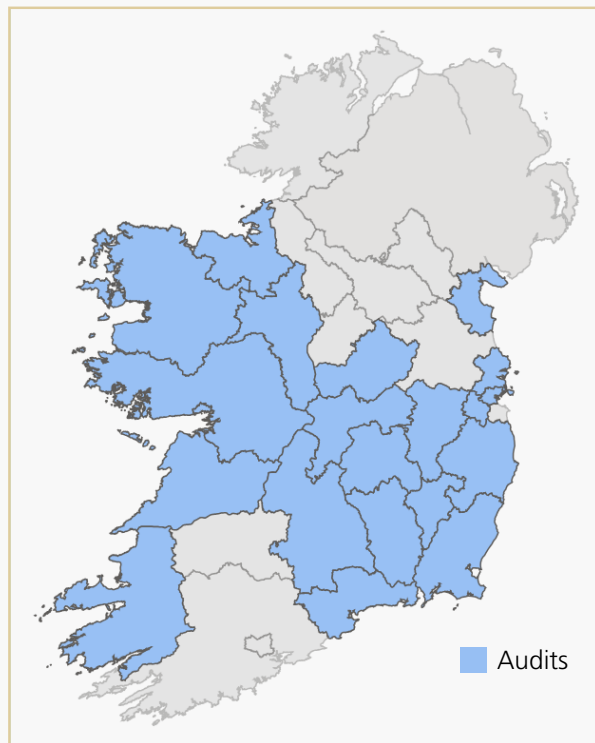


Figure 7: EPA Audits of Local Authorities in 2023 and 2024

The EPA has audited 21 local authorities in the current cycle of the Local Authority Performance Framework (2022 – 2024), with the aim of auditing all 31 local authorities over a three-year cycle. The local authorities audited in 2023 and 2024 are identified in Figure 7.

The audits carried out to date have identified the need for greater consistency in the following areas:

- ▲ Use of approved inspection templates;
- ▲ Frequency of site inspections per year, based on risk-rating of sites;
- ▲ Determination of compliant and non-compliant sites;
- ▲ Record keeping and recording systems for inspections and enforcement actions.

The issues identified during the audits are followed up by the EPA to ensure the necessary actions are undertaken.

Recent EPA Audit Reports on Local Authority Performance can be found [here](#).

# National Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 - Waste

NEP (2022 -2024)	OBJECTIVE (2022 – 2024)	OUTCOME (2022 -2024)	ACTIVITIES FOR FOCUS IN 2023
<b>Tackling illegal waste activities and Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern</b>	Detection and cessation of unauthorised collection and dumping activities and remediation of polluted sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Unauthorised collectors detected and closed down.</li> <li>▲ Active list of unauthorised sites/operators in place.</li> <li>▲ Consistent policy agreed and implemented for dealing with illegal waste deposits in the ground.</li> <li>▲ Authorised (permitted &amp; licensed) facilities should not facilitate the unauthorised treatment of waste.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Targeted inspections and follow up enforcement actions of unauthorised collectors and site operators using intelligence from waste data flows, complaints and other available data.</li> <li>▲ Co-ordination with, and input from Revenue/Social Protection/An Garda Síochána in relation to unauthorised activity and identified sites/operators of concern in line with the Garda Multi-Agency forums.</li> <li>▲ Multi-agency investigations for sites/operators of concern.</li> <li>▲ Roadside check points.</li> <li>▲ Relevant Anti-Dumping Initiatives implemented.</li> <li>▲ Traceability requirements to be enforced at Permitted/Licensed sites.</li> <li>▲ Focus on those who are facilitating the unauthorised treatment of waste.</li> <li>▲ Create an active list or register of unauthorised sites/operators.</li> <li>▲ Local Authorities to keep the Convictions Register up to date</li> </ul>
<b>Construction and Demolition Waste</b>	Effective and authorised management, movement and disposal of C&D waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Authorised waste treatment facilities accepting waste from authorised collectors/sources only.</li> <li>▲ Compliance of construction sites with inspection template checks including waste classification, segregation and waste movement, Art 27.</li> <li>▲ Accurate waste classification and quantification of waste data in AERs from WCP/WFP and licensed operators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Risk based inspections of construction sites using WERLA intelligence and inspection templates.</li> <li>▲ Inspection of Article 27 sites of origin and destination to include material notified under Article 27 being accepted at WFP/Licensed sites.</li> <li>▲ Inspection of soil recovery sites to ensure only appropriate materials accepted.</li> <li>▲ Validation and inspection of WCP/WFP and licensed sites dealing with C&amp;D waste.</li> <li>▲ Take all necessary steps to resolve non-compliant issues including the selling of crushed concrete from WFPs/Licensed sites without EoW decision.</li> <li>▲ Tracking of waste delivered to Licensed sites.</li> <li>▲ Based on researched data and local knowledge, identify authorised operators for further investigation and/or enforcement action.</li> <li>▲ Focused monitoring of the resources and systems available for gathering and reporting waste data to be carried out as part of site audits at waste facilities/waste collectors.</li> </ul>
<b>ELV and Metals</b>	All relevant ELV facilities are authorised and maintain a high level of compliance for acceptance, classification, segregation, recycling and disposal of ELVs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Authorised (permitted &amp; licensed) waste treatment facilities to accept waste from authorised collectors/ sources only.</li> <li>▲ Accurate waste classification and quantification of waste data in AERs from WCP/WFP and licensed operators.</li> <li>▲ Hazardous components and WEEE are adequately segregated and transferred to appropriate recycling/ treatment facility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Risk based inspections of Authorised Treatment Facilities and other ELV sites using WERLA intelligence and inspection templates (at least one inspection per annum of permitted sites). Multiagency inspections to be carried out as identified by WERLAs and the EPA.</li> <li>▲ Validation and inspection of records for WCP/WFP and licensed operators dealing with ELV and metal waste.</li> <li>▲ Take all necessary steps to resolve non-compliant issues.</li> </ul>

# National Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 - Waste

NEP (2022 -2024)	OBJECTIVE (2022 – 2024)	OUTCOME (2022 -2024)	ACTIVITIES FOR FOCUS IN 2023
<b>Household and Commercial Waste</b>	Maximise segregation, and recycling of municipal waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ 3 bin systems are in place and being utilised i.e. separation of dry recyclables and organic materials at all commercial sites.</li> <li>▲ Accurate waste classification and quantification of waste data in AERs from WCP and WFP operators of municipal waste.</li> <li>▲ High level of compliance amongst households availing of a door-to-door waste collection service or a suitable alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Inspection of WCP operators for provision of 3 bin system.</li> <li>▲ Surveys of retail, hospitality and industrial sectors to ensure proper use of 3 bin system, segregation and use of authorised collectors.</li> <li>▲ Sampling/analysis of treated waste outputs.</li> <li>▲ AER Validations on WCP and WFP priority lists.</li> <li>▲ Maintenance of register of households with/without a waste collection service and targeted inspections in areas with low compliance.</li> <li>▲ Focused monitoring of the resources and systems available for gathering and reporting waste data to be carried out as part of site audits at waste facilities/waste collectors.</li> <li>▲ Monitoring of waste acceptance criteria at authorised sites e.g. WFP, Waste Transfer Sites, Landfills and Waste to Energy Plant.</li> </ul>
<b>Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities</b>	<p>All operators subject to producer responsibility initiatives registered with appropriate organisation(s).</p> <p>Good regulatory compliance at all waste facilities including those owned by local authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ All suspected producers under WEEE, Packaging, Farm Plastics, Tyres, Batteries and ELV Regulations, including vehicle importers, requiring registration to be registered.</li> <li>▲ Consistent approach to enforcement of Extended Producer Responsibility requirements.</li> <li>▲ All local authority owned waste facilities in compliance with authorisations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Identification and inspection of all suspected producers who require registration.</li> <li>▲ Examination of potential for information exchange between Local Government Sector and other Agencies, where appropriate.</li> <li>▲ Inspection and follow up on site and operators of local concern not covered by the other waste NEPs.</li> </ul>



# National Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 - Water

NEP (2022 -2024)	OBJECTIVE (2022 – 2024)	OUTCOME (2022 -2024)	ACTIVITIES FOR FOCUS IN 2023
<b>Pressures from Agriculture (Farm Yards) - slurry/soiled water collection and storage</b>	Reduce the impact of agricultural activities on water quality. Issues at farm level are identified and resolved through farm inspections both in areas identified with agriculture as a significant pressure with a small percentage in areas where agriculture has not been identified as a significant pressure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Adequate slurry collection and storage.</li> <li>▲ Adequate soiled water collection and storage.</li> <li>▲ Local issues identified and resolved through the National Agriculture Inspection Programme (NAIP).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Inspections of farmyards in areas where agriculture is identified as a significant pressure, with a small percentage in other areas, as defined in the National Agriculture Inspection Programme for local authorities.</li> <li>▲ Undertake targeted agricultural inspections specific to the pollutants of concerns (P, N and organics), using the EPA Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps and EPAs Targeting Agriculture Measures map.</li> <li>▲ Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances.</li> <li>▲ Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM.</li> <li>▲ Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA.</li> </ul>
<b>Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) - slurry and fertiliser spreading</b>	Reduce the impact of agricultural activities on water quality. Issues at farm level are identified and resolved through farm inspections in areas identified with agriculture as a significant pressure with a small percentage in areas where agriculture has not been identified as a significant pressure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Spreading of slurry and fertilisers must not take place in the closed season or under unsuitable weather and/or soil conditions.</li> <li>▲ Local issues identified and resolved through the National Agriculture Inspection Programme (NAIP).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Inspections of farmlands in areas where agriculture is identified as a significant pressure, with a small percentage in other areas as defined in the National Agriculture Inspection Programme for local authorities.</li> <li>▲ Undertake targeted agricultural inspections specific to the pollutants of concerns (P, N and organics), using the EPA Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps and EPAs Targeting Agriculture Measures map.</li> <li>▲ Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances. - Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM.</li> <li>▲ Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA.</li> </ul>
<b>DWWTS/Septic Tanks</b>	Reduce the impact of domestic waste water discharges on water quality through implementation of the National Inspection Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Non-compliant systems are identified via risk-based inspections, and subsequently followed up and resolved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Undertake the allocated number of DWWTS/Septic Tanks inspections under the National Inspection Plan.</li> <li>▲ Take all necessary steps to follow up and ensure advisory notices are closed out.</li> <li>▲ When selecting households for inspection, consider areas where LAWPRO have issued letters of grant eligibility and homeowners have not taken action.</li> </ul>
<b>Discharge licences/ Misconnections</b>	<p>Reduce the impact of licensed discharges on water quality by ensuring compliance with discharge licence conditions.</p> <p>Reduce the impact of misconnections on water quality by ensuring remediation works are undertaken by property owners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ All Section 4 licenses associated with significant pressures are compliant with emission values.</li> <li>▲ Misconnections impacting on water quality are followed up and remediated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Ensure all licence conditions are consistent with the requirements of the Surface Waters and Groundwater regulations.</li> <li>▲ Undertake risk based inspections/monitoring of Section 4 licences. Inspect all licences in areas where discharge licensing is a significant pressure.</li> <li>▲ Ensure that all licensable discharges are authorised by a Section 4 licence.</li> <li>▲ Ensure compliance with discharge licence conditions and follow up and close out non-compliances and LAWPRO referrals on Section 4s and misconnections.</li> <li>▲ Follow up on misconnections that have been identified as impacting on water quality to ensure that works are undertaken by property owners to remediate such misconnections.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring</b>	Deliver the WFD monitoring programme and ensure that any local water quality issues (not covered by other NEPs) are addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ The monitoring data is available for characterisation and to support targeting of local authority inspections and enforcement actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Complete statutory monitoring for WFD surveillance and operational monitoring, investigative monitoring and bathing water monitoring.</li> <li>▲ Inspect and follow up any local issues (not covered by other NEPs), including non-compliances with water quality standards and LAWPRO referrals.</li> <li>▲ Address any climate related water quality issues e.g. impacts due to extreme weather events.</li> <li>▲ Monitoring and enforcement of private drinking water supplies.</li> <li>▲ Engage with LAWPRO and Regional Committees on the implementation of the RBMP Actions.</li> </ul>

# National Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 - Air & Noise

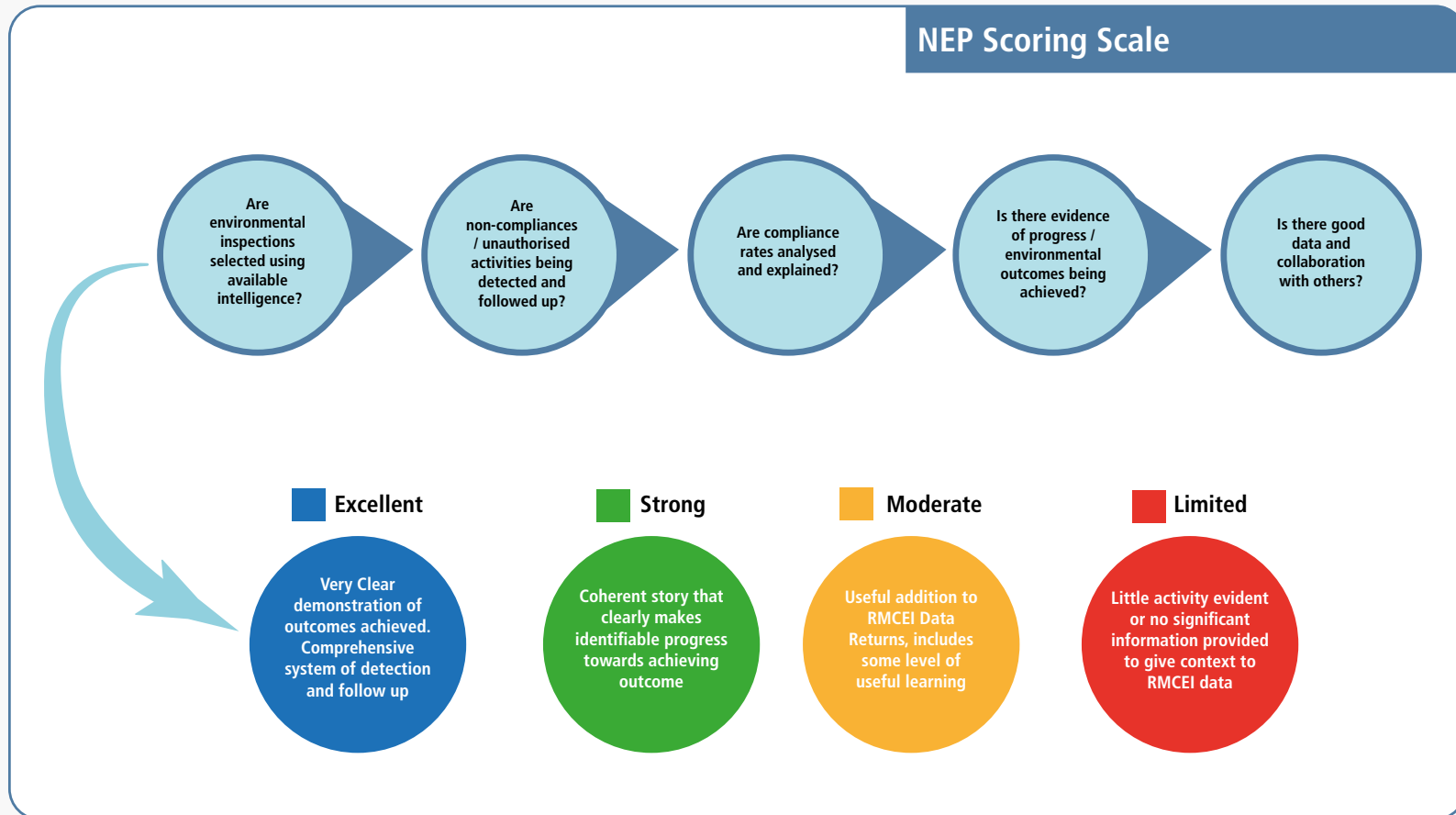
NEP (2022 -2024)	OBJECTIVE (2022 – 2024)	OUTCOME (2022 -2024)	ACTIVITIES FOR FOCUS IN 2023
<b>Solid Fuel</b>	Only compliant fuel products are available for purchase by the end-user.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuel products used by the end-user comply with standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tackle the sale of non-compliant fuel (including online sales) and its use via compliance promotion, inspection and enforcement of fuel merchants and retailers.</li> <li>Participate in multi-agency operations investigating the sale of non-compliant fuels.</li> <li>Carry out awareness programme to promote compliance by increasing the awareness of how the choices people make in heating their homes impacts on their air quality and health and legal obligations.</li> <li>Establish and/or maintain a list including the number and profile of solid-fuel merchants operating in each local authority area including those using social media platforms to market solid fuels.</li> <li>Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other Local Authorities via networks and working groups and participating in training events.</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality Monitoring and Data Use</b>	<p>Deliver enhanced real-time information to improve air quality forecasting and identification of priority sites/ areas for action.</p> <p>Encourage greater understanding and involvement of the public in air quality issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air quality data to be used to identify priority sites/areas for action.</li> <li>All Local Authorities to display real-time data on local air quality via their websites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the EPA National Ambient Air Quality Unit to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist EPA to troubleshoot issues at existing air quality monitoring station including the nomination and notification to the EPA of a primary and secondary contact person.</li> <li>Assist (where possible, to the best extent possible) EPA to maintain existing and new air quality monitoring stations.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Review air quality data within the local authority functional area to identify areas for action due to poor air quality and to prioritise sites/areas for action.</li> <li>Maintain availability of air quality data within the local authority functional area including a map to the general public for each local authority. As a minimum, a link to the relevant page(s) of the EPA site should be placed on each Local Authority website.</li> <li>Awareness raising campaigns or information on LA websites or social media campaigns.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Noise Directive (ENDs)</b>	Reduce the share of people chronically disturbed by transport noise as well as preserve environmental noise quality where it is good.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory compliance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish noise maps on Local Authorities' websites to communicate information to the public.</li> <li>Prepare and submit the Annual Noise Action Plan Progress Report for Round 3 of Action Plans to the EPA by the 28th of February.</li> <li>Annual Noise Action Plan Progress Report should demonstrate progress on the key issues and priority areas for action.</li> </ul>
<b>Air and Noise Control (including Planning)</b>	Appropriate Air and Noise controls are in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment staff assessing environmental impacts from air and noise emissions and liaising with planning staff on appropriate air and noise controls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preplanning assessments of air and noise impacts.</li> <li>Environment staff assist in follow up of air and noise issues including use of Sections 107 and 108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, the Air Pollution Act and liaising with planners where planning enforcement is more appropriate.</li> <li>Increased public awareness of noise induced health impacts.</li> </ul>
<b>Ongoing Air and Noise Enforcement Work</b>	Appropriate controls in place to minimise, reduce or prevent air and noise emissions that may be harmful to the environment or to human health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory compliance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions of facilities/activities as specified in the RMCEI template and/or as otherwise determined by the Local Authority.</li> <li>Make available on their websites, the EPA Vehicle Refinishers video and use appropriate channels to promote it.</li> <li>Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions under Sections 107 and 108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 in order to limit noise nuisance.</li> <li>Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other Local Authorities via networks and working</li> </ul>

# National Enforcement Priorities - Assessment Criteria

## NEP Assessment Criteria

<b>CORE</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>For authorised sites, a compliance rate</b> documented and compared over the previous years, and analysed or explained;
	<b>B</b>	Demonstrate appropriate <b>site selection</b> methodology and inspection implementation and/or early interventions;
	<b>C</b>	Demonstration that <b>non-compliances/unauthorised activities</b> are being detected and are being followed up – and some progress in the NEP is shown.
	<b>D</b>	Clear example of a positive <b>environmental outcome</b> – something was achieved to improve the environment (not simply reached a target of inspections);
<b>Complementary</b>	<b>E</b>	Clear <b>useful learning in a NEP area</b> (positive or negative e.g. what to do, or what not to do, or identification of illegal sites or unauthorised operators);
	<b>F</b>	<b>Collaborative work</b> with WERLA, NTFSO, RWMPO, LAWPRO, EPA, Catchment Care Projects, inter-departmental within the local authority or with other local authorities; cross cutting NEP collaboration.
	<b>G</b>	Demonstration of a <b>proactive approach</b> , or <b>innovation</b> in dealing with a problem or demonstration of an <b>enforcement curiosity</b> .
	<b>H</b>	<b>Compliance promotion and awareness</b> raising activities;
	<b>I</b>	Activities on <b>data validation, data analysis, systems development, website development</b> ;
	<b>J</b>	<b>Significant enforcement actions/prosecutions</b> and the outcomes such as remediation, sharing of lessons learnt to aid national consistency of enforcement;
	<b>K</b>	<b>Case studies written up and shared</b> that encompass any of the above properties.

# National Enforcement Priorities - Scoring Scale



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