



2022 Annual Report on the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027





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Acronyms

The following acronyms are utilised in this report:

CLP	Classification, Labelling and Packaging
CoR	Certificate of Registration
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
DoH	Department of Health
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
EEA	European Economic Area
ELV	End-of-Life Vehicle
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GPP	Green Public Procurement
HSE	Health Service Executive
IWMA	Irish Waste Management Association
LA	Local Authority
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NHWMP	National Hazardous Waste Management Plan
NIECE	Network for Ireland's Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
NTFSO	National TFS Office
NWMP	National Waste Management Plan
OGP	Office of Government Procurement
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RAPEX	Rapid Exchange of Information System – EU rapid alert system for unsafe consumer products and consumer protection
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
RMCEI	Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections
RoHS	Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment
RWMPO	Regional Waste Management Planning Office
SVHC	Substance of Very High Concern
WFD	Waste Framework Directive
WFP	Waste Facility Permit
WTF	Waste transfer

1. Introduction

The implementation of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP) is coordinated and driven by the EPA's Circular Economy Programme Regulation team. This team also fulfils a number of other important roles, including the regulation of end-of-waste and by-products, supporting stakeholders to realise their circular economy ambitions through guidance and advice, and influencing legislative improvements to support the transition to a circular economy.

This annual report presents an update on implementation during the first year of the Plan, as described in more detail below.

In December 2021, the EPA published the [National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027](#). This is the fourth NHWMP and is made under Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996. The purpose of this plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes through the following objectives:

1. Support and drive priority prevention actions by industry and the public to reduce the generation of hazardous waste;
2. Support the identification of adequate and appropriate collection infrastructure for all hazardous wastes with a view to mitigating environmental and health impacts;
3. Endorse the proximity principle such that hazardous wastes are treated as close to the point of production as possible – including within Ireland, taking into account the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste;
4. Support effective regulation of the movement and management of hazardous wastes in line with national policy priorities;
5. Promotion of safe reuse and recycling pathways in support of the circular economy.

The plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the term of the plan to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste. The plan takes account of the progress made since the previous revised plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous revised plan was published.

2. Plan Recommendations

The plan priorities are set out in 20 recommendations which are grouped into the following categories: Policy and Regulation; Prevention; Collection and Treatment; and Implementation. Each recommendation is accompanied by an 'owner' and specific key actions required to be implemented. Recommendation 19 of the plan requires the following:

Provide leadership on achievement of NHWMP objectives; with regular progress reports on implementation of the plan recommendations.

The EPA are owners or 'Lead Organisation' for all the key actions of recommendation 19, including 19.2 as follows:

Provide an annual update on progress of plan recommendations.

As a result, this report sets out to achieve key action 19.2 of the plan and accordingly Section 3 of this report provides an update on all recommendations and key actions with a timeframe of 2021, 2022, 'ongoing' and 'annually'. The NHWMP was devised with the intention of implementing key actions in the first half of the plan period with a midterm review set out in key action 19.3 to review progress and update actions for the second half of the plan period. However, many recommendations and key actions required timeframes to be extended to allow for teams and resources to be established following publication of the NHWMP in December 2021. For this reason, a revised timeframe is also provided in Section 3 of this report.

3. Progress Report on NHWMP Recommendations and Associated Key Actions

No.	Recommendation	Lead Org(s)	Key Action No.	Key Actions	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe	Status
	Policy and Regulation	Target objectives: Collection; Proximity; Regulation; Circular Economy.					
1	Ensure a coordinated national approach on hazardous waste in the context of the Circular Economy, with focus on prevention.	DECC/EPA	1.1	Incorporate prevention and management of hazardous waste into the national Circular Economy Programme.	Q1-2022	Complete	Complete: In 2020, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) launched a new national waste policy, Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy. The plan recognises the importance of appropriate management of hazardous wastes and notes the position of the NHWMP within the hierarchy of statutory plans and programmes for the waste area. In December 2021, the EPA launched a new Circular Economy Programme which has been devised to support the Government’s circular economy policy agenda. It incorporates the previous National Waste Prevention Programme and will be the driving force for Ireland’s move to a circular economy by businesses, householders and the public sector. The implementation of the NHWMP is a part of the EPA’s Circular Economy Programme.
			1.2	Incorporation of relevant NHWMP objectives (including reference to environmental protection objectives and the mitigation from the NHWMP) in national waste management planning.	Q1-2022	Q3-2023	Progressed: Relevant objectives of the NHWMP have been incorporated into the draft NWMP by the RWMPOs. The draft plan is due for publication in Q3 2023 along with a period of public consultation. Following consideration of submissions, the final NWMP will be published.

No.	Recommendation	Lead Org(s)	Key Action No.	Key Actions	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe	Status
			1.3	Support HSA-led implementation of the EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-Free Environment as it relates to hazardous waste management.	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p>Ongoing: Under the EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, DECC and HSA are nominated members of the 'One Substance, One Assessment (1S1A)' Expert Group which is tasked with guiding work on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing coordination mechanism (extension of ACT/PACT and expert working group). • CLP and REACH Revision (the former of which may impact on EU Hazardous Waste classification). • Horizontal legislative proposal for reallocation of technical and scientific work to Agencies. • Proposal for ECHA's founding regulation. • Data, tools and platforms. • Horizontal legislative proposal on data. <p>Additionally, DECC and EPA actively participate and/contribute to a number of National and EU/International level working groups and forums which aim to reduce the harmful impact from chemicals and hazardous wastes. In 2022, these included; DETE's Chemicals Interdepartmental/Agency Group, EU REACH Regulation Committee, EU POPs Competent Authority Group, National POPs Forum, Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Triple Conference of the Parties to the Basel (COP 15), Rotterdam (COP 10) and Stockholm (COP 10) Conventions.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Lead Org(s)	Key Action No.	Key Actions	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe	Status
2	Deliver strong and collaborative enforcement of hazardous waste legislation to ensure protection of human health and the environment.	EPA/National Waste Enforcement Committee, Local Authorities, NTFSO	2.1	Agree and implement annual enforcement priorities for the storage, movement and treatment of hazardous waste.	Annual	Annual	<p>Progressed: There are five National Waste Enforcement Priorities established for a three-year cycle (2022-2024) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling significant illegal waste activity. • Construction and Demolition Waste. • ELV and the Waste Metal Industry. • Waste collection – Household and Commercial. • Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities. <p>Activities relating to the priorities are incorporated into the RMCEI system for local government enforcement which cover waste storage, movement and treatment aspects during inspections. Hazardous waste inspections are carried out in a number of sectors including WTF sites, garages, mini-labs, industrial and healthcare. Potential hazardous waste types identified in inspections can include ELVs, asbestos, diesel laundering wastes, catalytic converters, contaminated farm plastics, waste batteries and WEEE.</p>
			2.2	Initiate an annual regulatory forum on legislative and regulatory developments, sharing best practice and emerging hazardous waste issues.	Q1-2022	Q1-2024	<p>To be Progressed: Due to staff changes during 2022, it was not possible to implement this key action to-date. Going forward, it is considered that it will be beneficial to incorporate the action into an existing forum, if possible, given the Lead Organisations involved. A NIECE Workshop/Conference is generally held annually which has the potential for addressing hazardous waste regulation and enforcement issues and case studies.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Lead Org(s)	Key Action No.	Key Actions	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe	Status
			2.3	Determine annual market surveillance priorities to prevent unauthorised use of hazardous chemicals in mixtures and products.	Annual	Annual	<p>Ongoing: Market surveillance and the annual priorities for the surveillance are carried out by different bodies within their legislative scope. More details on market surveillance can be found on the EPA website at this link. During 2022, the EPA Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring carried out product market surveillance in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the EEA-wide market surveillance enforcement project, known as REACH-EN-FORCE-10 (REF-10), 59 samples of exercise equipment and accessories were tested for SVHC and POPs. • Follow-up investigations for non-compliances under the RoHS Directive and POPs Regulation - REACH surveillance identified in 2020 and 2021. Although the majority of investigations were closed out in 2022, follow up investigations into two products first identified in these campaigns is on-going. • The Safety Gate system (formerly known as RAPEX) for non-food dangerous products allows coordination of market surveillance activities throughout the EEA regarding serious non-compliances. System alerts must be followed up by relevant authorities to determine if the same product was/is available on their domestic markets. A campaign was completed in Q4 of 2022 to investigate whether products notified through the Safety Gate system were available on the market within Ireland. 67 product notifications were targeted during this campaign with 105 economic operator sites within the supply chain inspected. None of non-compliant products the subjects of the alerts were found during this campaign.
3	Provide for all-island approaches on hazardous waste issues.	DECC	3	Establish a working group with Northern Ireland authorities to maximise opportunities for co-ordinated management and enforcement of hazardous waste activities.	Q2-2022	To be determined pending status outcome	<p>To be Progressed: DECC have raised this recommendation for inclusion in a review of North South Environment priorities and work programme which is due to be discussed at the next meeting of the North South Ministerial Council Environmental meeting in Q2 2023.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Lead Org(s)	Key Action No.	Key Actions	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe	Status
4	Strengthen systemic resilience for management of hazardous waste.	EPA, RWMPO, NTFSO	4.1	Commission a review of hazardous waste management during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Q1-2022	Q3-2023	Progressed: The RWMPO produced an Interim Report on the Performance of the Waste Sector in Ireland during COVID-19 – Initial Restrictions Phase. This report will be built on when reviewing hazardous waste management during the COVID-19 pandemic.
			4.2	Conduct a business continuity assessment for Ireland's hazardous waste management system to identify at-risk waste streams and associated infrastructure.	Q3-2022	Q4-2023	Progressed: A scoping document in relation to this Key Action was established with the intent of procuring third party assistance to complete the assessment. During January 2023 a third party was engaged but it was not possible to agree on contract terms and conditions at that time. The EPA will continue to seek third party assistance in relation to this action.
	Prevention	Target objectives: Prevention; Circular Economy.					
5	Promote reduced consumption of hazardous substances in household settings.	RWMPOs	5.1	Conduct awareness raising campaigns to highlight best-practices and alternatives, with initial focus on paints, cleaning products and gardening chemicals.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing: Campaigns continue on social media promoting the greener living guides and a social media campaign ran during Spring 2022 and will continue in Spring 2023. For further details, see the following link: https://www.mywaste.ie/your-greener-living-guides/ RWMPOs are working with the Paint Reuse Network and 10 donation points for paint waste have been generated across the country. https://www.paintreuse.network/ A video was also prepared during reuse month 2022 on paint reuse tips with Rosin Murphy Architect and TV Presenter. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6611sJXFEc&t=3s
			5.2	Develop new coherent information on household hazardous waste and guidance on disposal of hazardous waste; and disseminate via targeted and national campaigns; and through the EPA website, www.mywaste.ie and waste operators.	Q3-2022	Q1-2024	To be Progressed: In early 2024 the greener living guides will be updated and will be accompanied by a special guide on preventing and handling hazardous waste at home.

No.	Recommendation	Lead Org(s)	Key Action No.	Key Actions	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe	Status
			5.3	Conduct national survey on householder awareness and behaviours regarding hazardous substances to inform prevention initiatives and measures.	Q2-2022	Q4-2023	To be Progressed: A brief for the survey on householder awareness and behaviours regarding hazardous substances to inform prevention initiatives and measures will be prepared in Q4 2023.
			5.4	Examine potential of product and in-store labelling of hazardous substances to inform consumer purchasing and waste management decisions.	Q4-2022	Q1-2024	To be Progressed: This will be considered for inclusion in the special guide on preventing and handling hazardous waste at home, as outlined in Key Action 5.2.
6	Prevent hazardous waste in industrial sectors and support a safe circular economy.	EPA/DECC	6.1	Utilise the regulatory regime to encourage usage of 'non-/less-toxic' alternatives in production and processing steps.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Progressed: A preliminary review of mechanisms available through the licenses and authorisations issued by the EPA were considered in relation to this key action. Further work is required to identify toxic substances being utilised and the options to encourage the usage of 'non-/less-toxic' alternatives, taking into account legislation relating to chemicals, SVHC and waste.
			6.2	Review the environmental regulatory framework as a means to promote circularity in industrial processes and reduce industrial waste generation.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Progressed: By-products play an important role in achieving a circular economy by avoiding unnecessary waste generation and allowing the use of materials as a resource. The concept of a by-product was established by the European WFD and has been transposed into Irish law through Regulation 27 of the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011, as amended. Throughout 2021 and 2022, a number of materials were determined by the EPA to satisfy the by-product test. This means that the production residue in question has been determined as a by-product and not a waste and can therefore be utilised further as a raw material. The by-product register can be viewed to see all by-product determinations. Of particular note in 2022 are two determinations in relation to hazardous solvents (ART27-2664 and ART27-2666) which satisfied the by-product test and are now classified as by-product residues. This enables the materials to be further utilised as raw materials resulting in a significant reduction in annual hazardous waste exports for solvents.

No.	Recommendation	Lead Org(s)	Key Action No.	Key Actions	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe	Status
7	Support applied research to inform policy and industry on hazardous waste prevention.	EPA	7.1	Provide research funding focussed on reducing use of hazardous substances in commercial operations.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Progressed: 10 awards were granted in the 2022 Green Enterprise research call under the category of “Facilitating a Green and Circular Economy” to the value of over €1.7 million. In relation to hazardous waste, an award was granted to ELV Environmental Services to Investigate the Key Components of an electric ELV and potential for their reuse and recycling in Ireland. The findings of this investigation have the potential to impact how ELVs are processed by recycling organisations involved in this work.
			7.2	Support research and surveys to develop behavioural insights regarding public attitudes and actions on hazardous waste.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Progressed: In 2022 waste characterisation studies were carried out on household and non-household bins, the results of which are due for publication by the end of Q2 2023. A characterisation of municipal skip waste was also carried out in 2022. These characterisation studies provide data on the waste disposed by households and businesses and provide important behavioural insights into how waste is managed from these sources. The report on municipal skip waste shows that hazardous waste was found in non-household MSW skips (WEEE, paint and aerosol cans) and accounted for 10% in total.
8	Use Green Public Procurement (GPP) to specify products and services that reduce the use of hazardous substances and generation of associated hazardous wastes.	OGP/EPA	8.1	Implementation of GPP criteria and practices.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing: Implementation of GPP criteria and practices is on-going through training supports for public sector and suppliers. The first report of GPP implementation by Government Departments was also published in 2022 by the EPA. To facilitate use of the GPP criteria, the OGP also launched the GPP Criteria Search in 2022. This online search tool allows the user to rapidly find, select, and download the GPP criteria relevant to a specific procurement.
			8.2	Establish supports for the transition to greener purchasing through guidance, and training for purchasers and suppliers.	Q4-2021	Complete	Complete: In 2021 the EPA published the Green Public Procurement Guidance and 10 accompanying criteria which aim to support the inclusion of sustainable and green procurement practices into public sector procurement procedures. The guide and criteria may also be utilised by private companies in responding to tenders or applying green criteria in their own procurement. Training was also carried out for the public sector in relation to the guide and criteria.

No.	Recommendation	Lead Org(s)	Key Action No.	Key Actions	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe	Status
	Collection and Treatment	Target objectives: Collection; Proximity; Regulation; Circular Economy.					
9	Strengthen knowledge of national hazardous waste capacity to inform infrastructure development and contingency planning, in accordance with application of the proximity principle.	EPA, DECC	9.1	Update and maintain inventory of national capacity for storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes. An economic study/cost-benefit analysis should be considered as part of this review process to examine the economic viability of managing various waste streams in Ireland. Emerging issues should be included to inform any capacity/infrastructure needs e.g. trends in healthcare risk waste generation and management, the growing uptake in EVs and recycling needs for lithium batteries etc.	Q2-2022	Q4-2024	Progressed: An inventory of the national capacity for storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste has been established by the EPA. A scoping document was further established to review the economic viability of managing various waste streams in Ireland, with the intent of procuring third party assistance to complete the review. During January 2023 a third party was engaged but it was not possible to agree on contract terms and conditions at that time. The EPA will continue to seek third party assistance in relation to this aspect of the Action.
			9.2	Examine legislation and procedures for development of waste management infrastructure, as stated in the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing: The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy contains over 200 measures which will be delivered on a phased basis over the lifetime of the Plan, a number of which relate specifically to the development of indigenous waste treatment capacity. The revised Waste Shipments Regulations are currently under negotiation at an EU level. The outcome of these negotiations will have an impact on requirements for all waste infrastructure, including hazardous waste. Progress on this action will accelerate when the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy, which will highlight critical infrastructure requirements, is published by the local authority sector.

No.	Recommendation	Lead Org(s)	Key Action No.	Key Actions	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe	Status
10	Prepare for separate collection of hazardous waste fractions produced by households.	DECC, NTFSO	10.1	Carry out a review of relevant legislation to facilitate take-back, transport and temporary storage of certain hazardous wastes from small sources.	Q2-2022	Q2-2023	Progressed: A preliminary review of this action by DECC and NTFSO identified a legislative review scope around temporary storage regarding the WFP/CoR Regulations. Work conducted by the NTFSO regarding key action 10.2 (establish collection of household and small-scale hazardous waste through civic amenity sites and/or via special collections) will also guide the legislative review.
11	Establish nationwide collection and transfer of farm hazardous wastes, including unused veterinary products.	DECC/DAFM	11.1	Develop and agree a plan for a suitable national collection scheme, having regard to findings from the 2013-2017 pilot scheme.	Q2-2022	Q4-2023	Progressed: DAFM have developed a draft plan for the proposed collection options for farm hazardous wastes in consultation with DECC and EPA. The plan will be reviewed for approval within DAFM and DECC following which stakeholder engagement will be carried out in order to finalise a detailed design plan.
			11.3	Establish a national cross-agency forum to focus on the appropriate management of spent sheep dip to prevent environmental pollution.	Q1-2022	Q3-2023	Progressed: A number of meetings have taken place involving representatives from DAFM, DECC, EPA and Donegal County Council. The purpose of the meetings to-date has been to establish an understanding of the issues related to spent sheep dip which are set out in the EPA Water Quality in Ireland 2016-2021 Report (see Box 5.1 on pg. 75 and map on pg. 77 for details) and to establish the roles and information available from each group regarding; farm inspections, surface water monitoring, sheep dipping practices, products utilised, move to prescription veterinary products, disposal methods and guidance available and issues encountered in relation to all aspects. The representatives, including additional relevant groups, will continue to meet in 2023 with the objective of forming a forum to address the appropriate management of spent sheep dip.
12	By 2023 establish national collection of surplus and out-of-date medicines from household waste stream.	DECC/Dept of Health	12.1	Develop a proposal with options, building on experience with DUMP project; EPA characterisation report; and stakeholder input.	Q2-2022	Q4-2023	Progressed: A preliminary review of the existing DUMP projects run annually in Cork/Kerry was carried out. Currently these are jointly funded by the HSE/LAs. Community pharmacies who participate (250 out of 275) host the collection bin for a particular period of time. The main difficulty has been getting adequate funding to ensure these projects run each year. Funding also needs to be reviewed in relation to a national project.

No.	Recommendation	Lead Org(s)	Key Action No.	Key Actions	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe	Status
14	Promote best practice in the management of commercial hazardous wastes streams.	EPA	14.1	Publish Smart Garage guide and promote responsible management of waste oils and other wastes from vehicle maintenance operations.	Q1-2022	Complete	Complete: The Smart Garage Guide was published in 2022 and has been promoted through auto trade publications and through the Local Authority network who carry out enforcement inspections within the sector. The guide is available from the EPA website at the following link Smart Garage Guide .
			14.2	Prepare and publish guidelines for the safe storage of Lithium-ion batteries at waste handling facilities.	Q4-2022	Q3-2023	Progressed: A scoping of this key action was completed by the EPA and a third-party service provider was contracted to produce the guideline for the safe storage of Lithium-ion batteries at waste handling facilities. The guide is due for publication by Q3 2023.
			14.3	Develop training to promote awareness on identification and proper management of hazardous fractions in C&D waste.	Q4-2022	Q4-2023	Progressed: Following the scoping of this key action the EPA contracted a third-party service provider who will produce a guideline for the identification and proper management of hazardous fractions in C&D waste. This guideline is due for publication in Q4 2023, following which training will be provided.
15	Promote best practice in the management of asbestos contaminated waste	EPA, DECC, RWMPOs and Local Authorities	15.1	Produce best-practice guide for handling asbestos waste; and identify options for collection of asbestos and asbestos contaminated wastes.	Q2-2022	Q2-2023	Progressed: A guidance for handling asbestos waste has been drafted by the RWMPOs. This guidance is due for publication by the RWMPOs by the end of Q2 2023.
16	Put in place arrangements for temporary storage of orphan radioactive sources.	DECC	16	Identify options for the temporary safe and secure storage of orphan radioactive wastes, pending disposal.	Q2-2022	Q4-2023	Progressed: Currently a temporary operational protocol is in place for making safe and managing orphaned or seized radioactive sources and this is available at the following link: RPII_Temp_Op_Protocol_13.pdf (epa.ie) . Work is also ongoing with DECC, EPA and other organisations to source end destinations for orphaned radioactive waste with the intent to establish service level agreements where possible.

No.	Recommendation	Lead Org(s)	Key Action No.	Key Actions	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe	Status
17	Remediate identified legacy waste disposal sites containing hazardous waste.	Local Authorities	17	Continued remediation of sites, in line with EPA Code of Practice and appropriate authorisations.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing: The EPA continues to process applications from local authorities in relation to 'closed landfills' in accordance with the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations, 2008. If and where hazardous waste is identified within these closed or historic landfills, this is recorded in the assessment carried out in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice (Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites) and taken into account as appropriate in the remediation plans proposed by the relevant Local Authority. Applications submitted to the EPA by Local Authorities and issued Certificates of Authorisation issued by the Agency for remediation of these sites can be found on the EPA website at this link .
	Implementation	Target objectives: Prevention; Collection; Proximity; Regulation; Circular Economy.					
18	Report annually on hazardous waste generation and treatment in Ireland, with a breakdown by category/sector.	EPA	18.1	Expand reporting protocols to provide more detailed data to inform measures and policy options for best practice on hazardous waste management.	Annually	Annually	Progressed: The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy, recognises that the current use of multiple systems across different regulatory bodies is time consuming and inefficient. It recognises that 'Efficiencies in waste data can be improved by national authorities continuing to work closely together and improving alignment/integration between organisations' IT systems and databases and the associated validation work carried out by different organisations'. The EPA established a network of public authorities involved in waste data collection and reporting to progress this shared goal. Additionally, in 2022, the NTFISO carried out a significant upgrade to their data system which incorporated the use of common Group IDs. In recent years the use of common Group IDs has facilitated the very close alignment of the EPA's and the NWCPO's waste databases; their further adoption by the National TFS Office will be a significant step forward and enable systems to be aligned across the three organisations. This will facilitate much more efficient, streamlined and timely data validation and cross-checking nationally, which in turn will inform policy options on the management of hazardous waste.

No.	Recommendation	Lead Org(s)	Key Action No.	Key Actions	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe	Status
			18.2	Conduct hazardous waste characterisation studies from household and commercial bins.	Q2-2022	Q2-2023	<p>Progressed: Hazardous waste characterisation studies were carried out in 2022 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household municipal waste including spring and autumn sampling. Non-household municipal waste with sampling and profiling completed by Dec 2022. <p>Both final reports are due for publication at the end of Q2 2023. Hazardous waste categories will include: paints and associated products, batteries and accumulators, electronic equipment, fluorescent tubes and other mercury containing wastes, medicines and drugs and detergents.</p>
19	Provide leadership on achievement of NHWMP objectives; with regular progress reports on implementation of the plan recommendations.	EPA	19.1	Establish a working group to support implementation of plan recommendations.	Q1-2022	Complete	<p>Complete: The Working Group was established in 2022 and is currently made up of representatives from the EPA, DECC, DAFM, DoH, OGP, NTFSO, RWMPOs, LAs, LGMA, IBEC, HSE and the IWMA. Terms of Reference have been established and the Working Group met in person in May and October. Working Group meetings are chaired by the EPA and will continue on a bi-annual basis in the initial stages of the plan implementation.</p>
			19.2	Provide an annual update on progress of plan recommendations.	Annually	Annually	<p>Complete: This report is produced in relation to this key action.</p>

