

# MANAGING FOOD WASTE

## The Food Waste Regulations (NI) 2014

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# Food Waste in Northern Ireland

- 56% of food waste is sent to landfill – 154kt per annum
- Food waste accounts for 1/3 of all household waste sent to landfill
- 41% of Households do not have a food waste collection service
- 36kt of commercial food waste is sent to landfill



# European Context

- Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)
- Revision of the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)
- EC's proposals – landfill ban on biodegradable waste by 2025
- Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe



# Why Intervene in Food Waste?

- Waste Management Strategy: Delivering Resource Efficiency
- Reduce food waste arising
- Maximise recycling levels
- Meet 2020 Landfill Directive Target for Biodegradable Waste
- Support the Green Economy
- Reduce carbon emissions



# Tackling Food Waste

- Landfill Bans: Feasibility Research by WRAP/Eunomia
- Consultation on the Introduction of Restrictions on the Landfilling of Certain Wastes
- Re-think Waste
- What are other jurisdictions doing?
  - Scotland: Zero Waste Regulation 2012
  - Wales: Environment Bill White Paper 2013
  - Ireland: Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009
  - EU (Household Food Waste and Bio-Waste) Regulations 2013



# Summary of Proposed Regulatory Measures

- Separate collection of food waste
  - Businesses
  - District Councils
- Ban on mixing separately collected food waste
- Ban on landfilling separately collected food waste
- Ban on the non-domestic discharge of food waste into public sewer network



# Food Waste Produced by Businesses

- Requirement on all food waste producers to present food waste for separate collection
- Includes food manufacturers, canteens, kitchens, schools, restaurants, supermarkets, shops, offices, factories and hospitals
- Does not apply to premises where no food is produced on, prepared on or sold from the premises



# Food Waste Produced by Businesses

- Phased approach
  - 1 April 2016 - businesses producing >50kg food waste per week
  - 1 April 2017 - businesses producing >5kg food waste per week
- Exemptions
  - Businesses producing <5kg food waste per week
  - Food waste that has arisen from international transportation





# Household Food Waste

- District Councils to provide householders with receptacle for separate collection of food waste
- Exemption to this obligation on district councils may be applied under Article 20 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997.
- Allow mixed biowaste collection where the amount of food waste collected is not significantly less than would be expected from a separate food waste collection
- 1 April 2017



# Mixing Separately Collected Food Waste

- Ban on mixing separately collected food waste
- Once food waste has been segregated, it must be managed in a way which does not compromise its quality
- Ensures that separately collected food waste is not mixed with other wastes or materials in such a way as to hinder future recycling
- 1 April 2015



# Landfill Ban

- Ban on the landfilling of separately collected food waste
- It will be an offence for landfill operators to accept separately collected food waste for disposal at their landfill sites
- 1 April 2015



# Discharge of Food Waste into Public Sewer Network

- Ban on the non-domestic discharge of food waste into public sewer network
- 1 April 2017
- Rationale
  - food waste is managed in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy
  - the resource value of food waste is realised
  - in response to detrimental effect food waste is having on public sewer network



## 1 April 2015

- Ban on landfilling separately collected food waste
- Ban on mixing separately collected food waste



## 1 April 2016

- Businesses (medium to large producers) to present food waste for separate collection



## 1 April 2017

- Businesses (small producers) to present food waste for separate collection
- Hospitals to present food waste for separate collection
- District Councils to separately collect from households
- Ban on food waste being discharged in public sewers



# Where Will the Food Waste Go?

- Large proportion of food waste avoidable
  - separate collection will emphasise this
  - encourage behavioural change
- Support the Green Economy
  - In-Vessel Composting (IVC)
  - Anaerobic digestion (AD)



# Other Issues

- Enforcement
  - Environmental Health Officers
  - NIEA
- Financial Support
- Communication and Education

