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1.1 Introduction

O'Toole Composting Ltd. (OTCL) currently operates an enclosed windrow composting facility at Ballintrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow and also a transfer facility for dry recyclables, general skip waste, household waste and construction and demolition waste.

The facility accepts various types of biodegradable waste for composting at the purpose built in vessel composting plant. Best available technology has been installed at the facility which has been operational since 2005. Various other waste streams are accepted at the facility for waste transfer. The waste transfer building accepts material for storage prior to removal offsite to approved pre-treatment, recycling, recovery or disposal facilities. Materials accepted include municipal solid waste, dry mixed recyclables, bulky waste and timber.

The facility operates under Waste Permit number WFP-CW-10-0003-01, issued by Carlow County Council. The site has been in use since the parent permit was granted in 2005. In the time that OTCL has operated at this site the company has continued to develop its operations through the introduction of new and innovative techniques which meet legislative, policy and BAT criteria and continuously seeks to improve the environmental performance of the company's activities. In 2008, OTCL upgraded the existing plant for its composting and installed the best available upgraded technology which it imported from Europe where techniques and practises are considerably advanced. OTCL view the current proposal as the next progressive step in improving and developing procedures on site.

O'Toole Composting are applying to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a Waste Licence in order to develop and expand the current operations. As part of this application an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been conducted. Enviroguide Consulting have been appointed consultants to oversee this application process and the EIA.

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared by Enviroguide Consulting on behalf of O'Toole Composting Ltd. It addresses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development and proposed mitigation measures.

1.2 Overview of the Proposed Development

O'Toole Composting Ltd. are proposing to expand, develop and upgrade their existing operations at Ballintrane Fenagh Co. Carlow to allow for the following;

- Increase in capacity of composting facility up to 40,000 tonnes with construction of new bio-filter.
- Development of waste transfer facility with capacity of 20,000 tonnes, including 1,000 tonnes from the CA Site, and installation of bio-filter on waste transfer facility.
- Installation of anaerobic digester with capacity of 30,000 tonnes per annum and associated installation of engines for electricity generation.

There are two proposed stages to this development. It is proposed that Stage 1 will include the expansion to the composting activities with an increase of permitted tonnage from 10,000 tonnes per annum to 40,000 tonnes per annum. This stage also includes the expansion of the waste transfer building for the acceptance of wastes prior to transfer offsite. A civic amenity (CA) site will be developed to allow for the acceptance of various waste streams from local residents including bulky waste, mixed recyclables, wood, metal, WEEE, batteries, textiles and others as deemed necessary. This facility will be open to members of the public. It is proposed that 20,000 tonnes per annum will be accepted at the waste transfer station, which will include 1,000 tonnes of this being accepted at the CA facility.

Phase 2 of the proposed development will be the construction and operation of an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plant. Planning permission is currently not in place for this development and will be applied for at a future date. A specified engineering works (SEW) including full specifications of the proposed plant and development will be submitted to the EPA for approval prior to any development commencing. It is proposed to accept 30,000 tonnes of waste at the AD plant per annum. Wastes will include food waste, energy crops such as maize, silage, barley and wheat. This development will be contingent on receiving planning permission for the development.

At present, the company has planning permission from Carlow County Council for the composting facility and the associated bio-filter. It also has planning permission for the current waste transfer facility and a proposed extension to the waste transfer building.

1.2.1 Need for the Proposed Development

OTCL is committed to the recycling of waste from all sources including Household, Commercial and Industrial, and Construction and Demolition. Currently there is no waste transfer facility in County Carlow for the acceptance of commercial waste. The company is particularly focussed on the recycling/composting of bio-waste, MSW Drying and MBT. With this in mind OTCL wishes to utilise its state of the art

technology to capacity and therefore requires a Waste Licence to reflect the classes of waste activity and allowable tonnages proposed. By doing this OTCL will contribute significantly to the national composting tonnage capacity available to waste operators necessary to enable the diversion of bio-waste from landfill. OTCL will also have additional capacity to process (stabilise) organic fines, this will provide waste operators with an outlet for the 'fines' arising from pre-treatment operations.

This will contribute to Ireland's efforts to meet EU targets of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) accepted at landfill for disposal as set out by the EU Landfill Directive.

The EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) requires increased diversion of bio-waste from landfill. It is now mandatory to reduce biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) going to landfill to 75% of the total amount (by weight) that was produced in 1995. By 1st January 2010 Ireland could only landfill a national maximum of 967,443t BMW. Based on the waste growth trends of the past decade, in 2010, this will equate to a requirement that approximately 50% of all BMW accepted at a landfill facility for disposal to have been biologically pre-treated.

According to the National Waste Report 2010, published by the EPA in March 2012, an estimated 880,000 tonnes of BMW was landfilled in 2010, thus achieving the first targets as set by the Landfill Directive. The more challenging targets set for 2013 and 2016 are at present far reaching. A further 250,000 t of biodegradable municipal waste will need to be diverted from landfill in order to meet the 2013 target and 433,000t diverted to meet the 2016 target. Despite this looming landfill deadline the recovery and recycling of organic waste in Ireland is currently well below par. The EPA's fourth "State of the Environment Report" (2008) addresses the issue of waste management policy and waste infrastructure in Chapter 10. It states that there is an urgent need for waste management infrastructure to enable Ireland to meet its EU and national targets on the diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill. The ESRI Mid-Term Evaluation Report of the Irish Economy published in May 2008 also addresses the problem of waste generation and management in section 5.6. The review mentions the difficulty Ireland has in meeting its targets to divert BMW wastes from landfill. It states that "unless there is a substantial shift to recycling or large scale use of incineration, it is unlikely that Ireland's targets for diverting BMW from landfill will be met".

OTCL currently have capacity for up to 40,000 tonnes of composting but are prevented from operating their facility to this capacity by the restrictions of the Waste Facility Permit. It is therefore necessary that OTCL apply to the EPA for a waste licence to operate at this capacity.

1.2.2 Alternatives Considered

Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, sets out the mandatory information that must be contained in an Environmental Impact Statement. Section 1(d) of this Schedule states that; '*an outline of the main alternatives studied by the developer and an indication of the main reasons for his or her choice, taking into account the effects on the environment*'. These main alternatives are not confined to alternative locations and for the purposes of the Regulations alternatives may be described as;

- Alternative Locations
- Alternative Designs
- Alternative Processes

There were three main alternatives considered in terms of the proposed development. These options were as follows;

- 1) A new facility on a greenfield site.
- 2) The do-nothing scenario.
- 3) The proposed development including alternative layouts.

The key considerations in choosing the alternatives were as follows:

- Guidelines for the location of waste management facilities set out in the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East 2006-2011.
- EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements and the Advice Notes on Current Practice
- Proximity & Self Sufficiency Principle (Ireland is obliged by the EU Waste Framework Directive to establish an integrated and adequate network of waste disposal installations and of installations for the recovery of mixed municipal waste collected from private households)
- Site size and current land use.
- Traffic Considerations (quality of road access).

- Other planning and environmental considerations.

The 2002 EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements provides the following advice in relation to examining alternatives which is particularly relevant to the subject site; *'The consideration of alternative routes, sites, alignments, layouts, processes, designs or strategies, is the single most effective means of avoiding environmental impacts.....while for major infrastructure projects the intrinsic suitability of the site is the principal amelioration strategy.'*

In relation to site specific issues the Guidelines further state that the consideration of alternatives needs to be set within the parameters of the availability of land as it may be the only suitable land available to the developer. The availability of land is therefore considered a material consideration in assessing the alternatives for any proposal. In the case of the subject site, not only is a suitable site available but it also has the appropriate services in place.

1.2.2.1 Option 1: A Greenfield Site

The use of a greenfield site would lead to the introduction of activities into an area where such an operation did not previously exist. The most likely location of such a plant would be somewhere close to the main source of waste i.e. in a large town or city. However, a greenfield site could not be found which was more suitable than either options 2 or 3 in terms of being centrally located and also being close to quality transport corridors.

An analysis was carried out on the basis that the most sustainable option would be that which minimised the tonne-kilometres to the greatest extent, i.e. the lower the number, the more sustainable the option is in terms of truck movements and air emissions from vehicle movements. A location close to a corridor link of cities and large towns would meet this criteria. By locating in Carlow, it is in proximity to Dublin, Waterford and Kilkenny cities, that are densely populated thus have large volumes of waste generation, thus providing a central location for the treatment of waste. Subsequently a greenfield site was not considered appropriate when the above factors were accounted for.

1.2.2.3 Option 2: The Do-Nothing Scenario

The do-nothing scenario would see OTCL continuing operations at the facility as permitted under waste permit WFP-CW-10-0003-01. OTCL would continue to accept the permitted amount 10,000 tonnes of bio waste at the site. The acceptance and composting of this volume of waste will aid Ireland in the achievement of targets for

the diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill, however the contribution will be minor due to the volume of permitted tonnages accepted on-site.

The site would continue operating at current permitted waste limits while the infrastructure in place would not be utilised to its utmost capacity. The current infrastructure in place has the capacity to process 40,000 tonnes per annum which, if utilised, would provide much needed additional waste management infrastructure. It would also address the current dilemma requiring outlets for bio-waste collected from source segregated organic bin collections and for the acceptance of organic fines that have been segregated from MSW during the mechanical pre-treatment process in order to meet EU targets, relating to biodegradable waste accepted at landfills as laid out in EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC).

There is an urgent need for waste management infrastructure to enable Ireland to meet its EU and national targets on the diversion of BMW from landfill. OTCL's proposed development will contribute towards fulfilling this requirement. The proposal will result in a significant increase in bio-waste composting and stabilisation capacity in the South East Region, in line with specific policy and objectives as set out in the Joint waste Management Plan for the South East 2006-2011.

A do-nothing alternative will result in no contribution from the proposed facility to meeting Irelands targets for the diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill. This will exacerbate the existing waste management crisis. The consequence of which for Ireland is huge financial levies.

1.2.2.4 Option 3: The Current Proposal (the preferred option)

The current proposal will increase the capacity of waste that can be accepted for composting or for waste transfer at the facility. It will assist in addressing the urgent need for waste management infrastructure to enable Ireland to meet its EU and national targets on the diversion of BMW from landfill.

The location of the proposed development in its current location adjacent to the N80 Carlow to Wexford road will have the following advantages;

- The existing land use policies for the site support the development of the subject application and subsequently there are no non-conforming land uses immediately surrounding the site. Most importantly the subject site is fundamentally suitable for the location of the proposed development.
- It is in close proximity to a large customer base, both from the South East Region and from the Greater Dublin Area. The proximity (ca. 6km) of the M9

Dublin to Waterford motorway means ease of access from significant customer base.

- Its location on the site of the existing facility will mean that existing infrastructure can be utilised to maximum capacity without the need for major structural development.
- The existing site already has good quality infrastructure in place such as roads, services (water and foul sewers), and telecommunications to support the subject development.
- Construction at the facility will be limited for phase 1. Phase 2 will require construction subject to the granting of a future planning application.

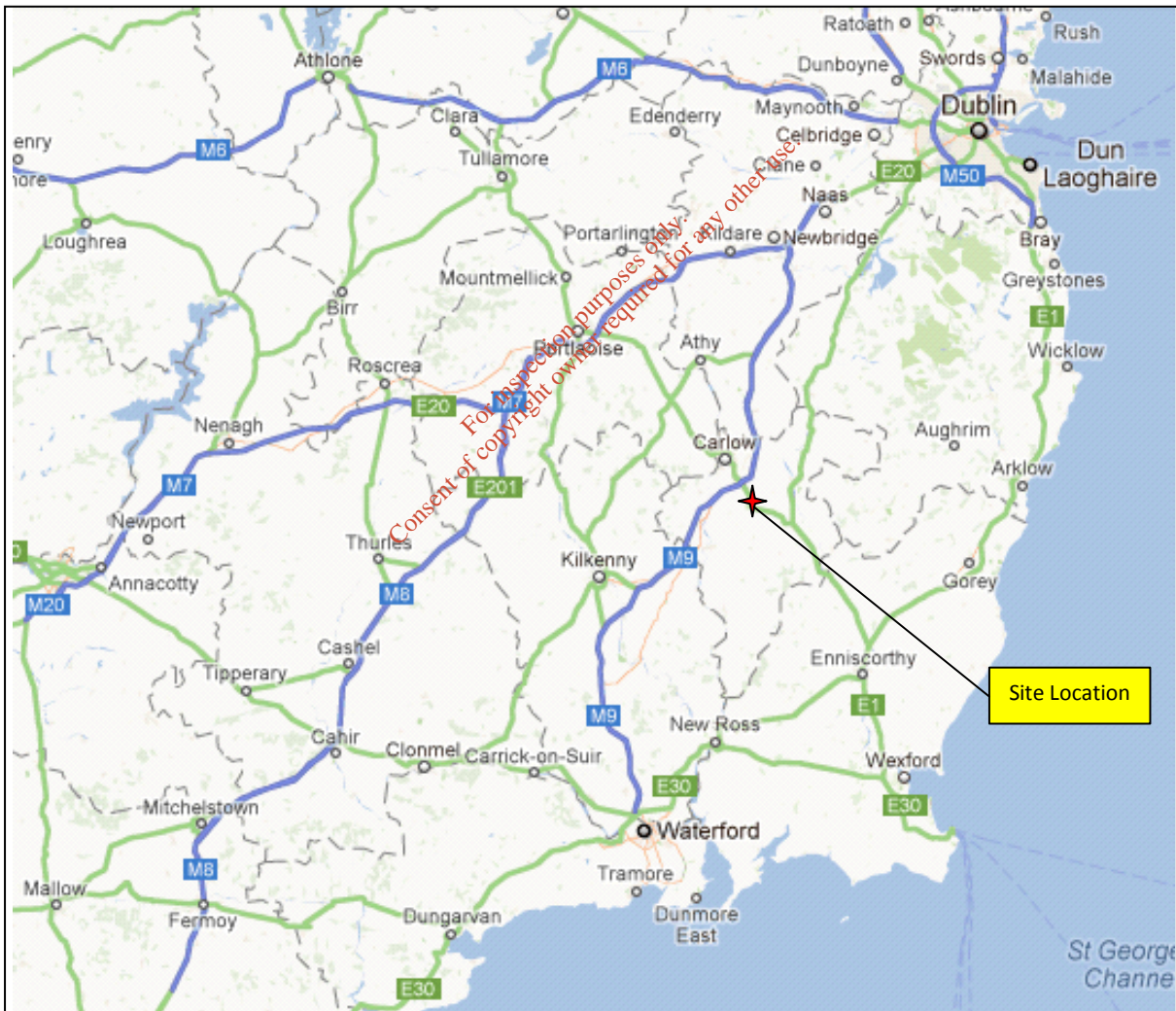


Figure 1 Site Location Map

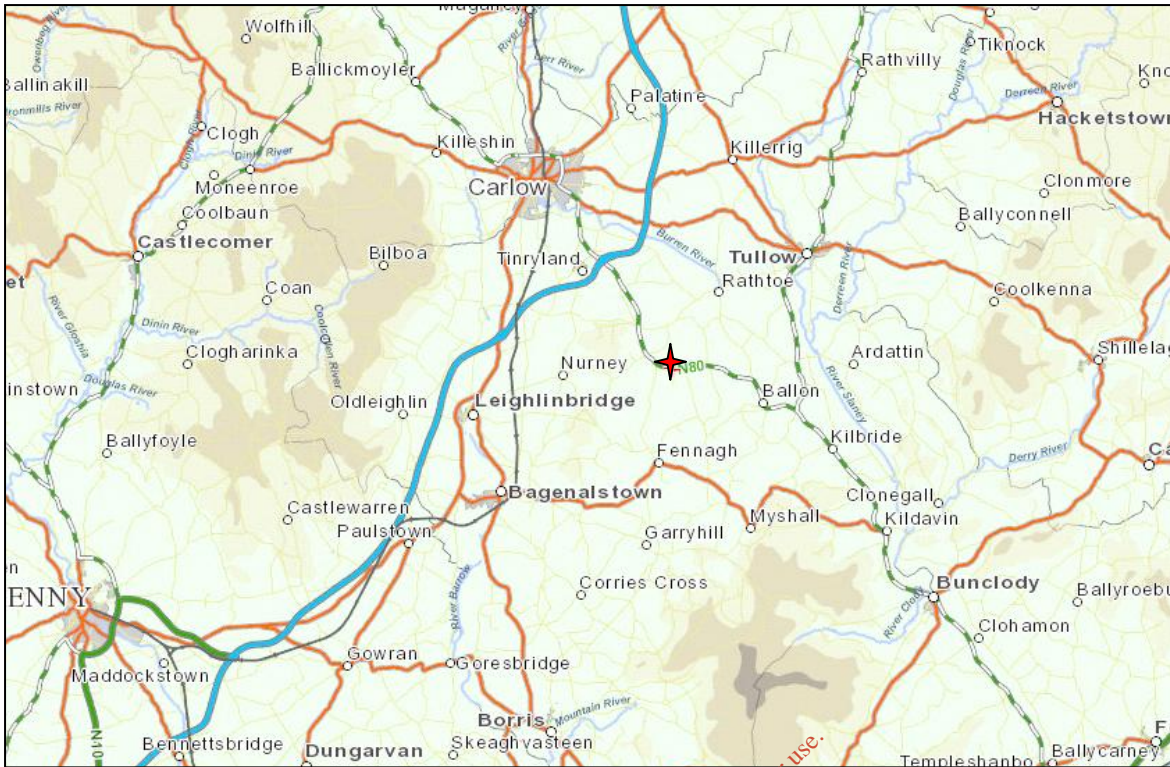


Figure 2 Detailed Site Location Map

1.3 Site Description

The subject site is located in the townland of Ballintrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow. The site which is 4.87 hectares in area is located in a rural area where the predominant land use is for agriculture. The closest dwelling located 170 meters south of the facility, Figure 3 below identifies the site boundary in red and delineates the surrounding land use and nearby residences.

The site itself was historically used as agricultural land until it was developed by O'Toole Composting as a composting facility in 2005. Currently the facility operates under Waste permit reference Number WFP-CW-1-0003-01, which was granted by Carlow County Council on the 3rd of August 2010 with a maximum permitted tonnage of 10,000 per annum. Various planning permissions have been granted for the facility as listed in Table 1.

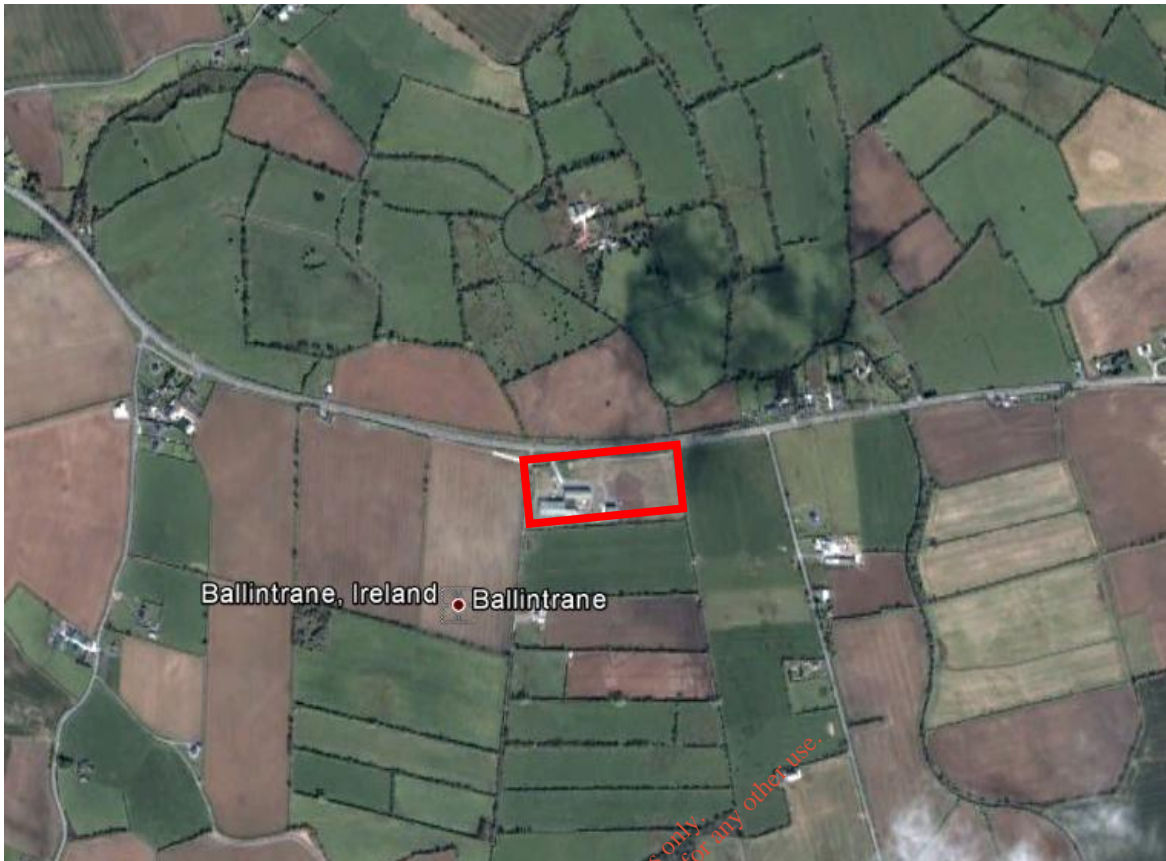


Figure 3: Site Location Demonstrating Agricultural Surrounds

The site itself is well serviced with road networks. The site is located directly off the N80 Carlow/Rosslare Road, approximately 6km south east of the M9 Dublin/Waterford Motorway. The main entrance of the facility is located at the north west corner of the site, just off a local access road Jocks Lane, which runs perpendicular to the main N80 roadway. Sufficient sightlines are at either side of the access lane for safe access and egress to the facility.

The entrance to the site is paved in concrete hard stand. Concrete hardstand extends around the waste storage and processing buildings. The perimeter of the facility is screened by hedgerows and planted berth at the north east of the site which screens the facility from surrounding dwellings and the roadway. The eastern perimeter of the site is bounded by a stream which leads into the Burren River.

To the west, the site is bounded by local access lane, Jocks Lane. The south of the facility is bounded by agricultural land with the N80 roadway bounding the north of the facility. The east of the facility is bounded by agricultural land which is detached from the facility by a local stream.

Table 1: Planning Permissions Granted

Planning File Reference	Applicant	Development	Date of Decision
03314	Patrick O'Toole	Construction of an invessel tunnel composting facility, weigh bridge, offices, site entrance, all site development infrastructure works, ancillary services & associated site works. 04/09/2003	04/09/2003
04378	Patrick O'Toole	To make limited modifications to previously granted planning permission (03/314 and A.B.P. 01.204497) to construct wheel wash, access hall, conveyor hall and to relocate plant room. The proposed development remains within the curtilage of the permitted development site.	28/07/2004
05575	Patrick O'Toole	Construction of a bio filter at existing composting facility	15/09/2005
06668	O'Toole Composting Ltd	For 1) Storage building, 2) Bio Filter, 3) Enclosed unloading bay	04/10/2006
08321	O'Toole Composting Ltd	Recycling/storage facility	21/08/2008

The bedrock in the underlying area of the facility is that of granite and other igneous intrusive rocks as shown in Figure 4 below and as detailed further in Section 3.8. Refer to key on the left hand side which denotes the Granite and Igneous Rocks in red.

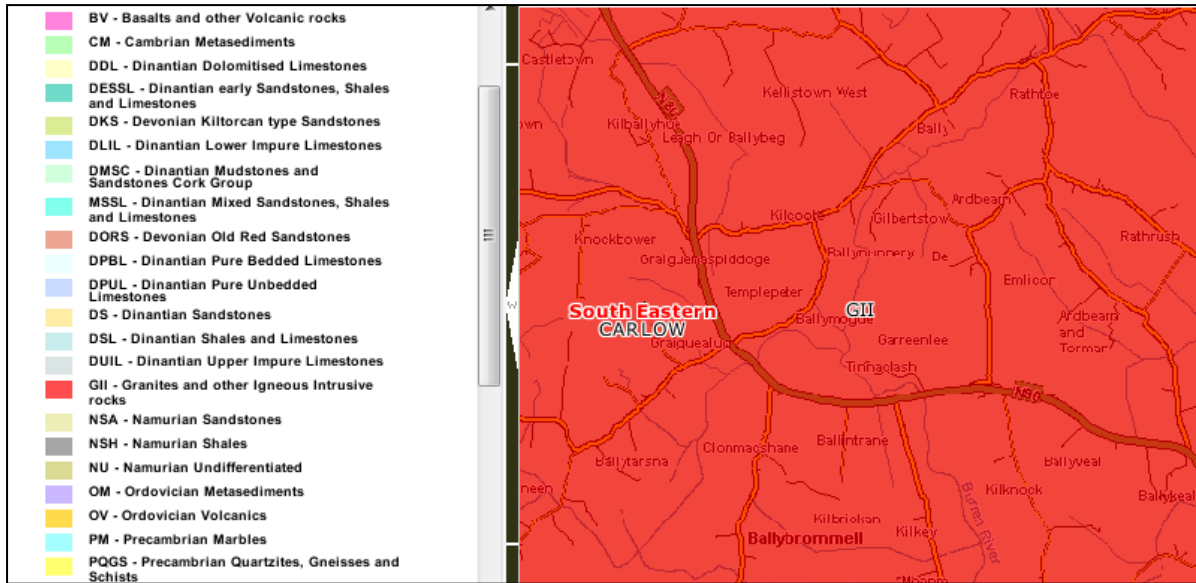


Figure 4: Bedrock Data

1.3.1 On-Site Infrastructure

Principal on-site infrastructure consists of one large industrial building and one smaller industrial building both with associated plant. The composting building is the larger of the two buildings on-site. The composting building consists of concrete walls and corrugated industrial metal sheeting to raise the overall ridge height of the building which has an apex roofing. This building houses the composting process plant.

The building itself is divided into three main sections in order to comply with Animal By-Products (ABP) Regulations. The waste acceptance area is accessed by a roller door. Waste is initially shredded using a Doppstadt 3060 slow speed shredder. Oversize from previous composting batches is stored in this building and mixed with fresh incoming waste. From the waste reception area fresh waste is loaded into the delivery bay on a daily basis. This material is removed from the delivery bay after 2-6 days by use of a Volvo L60E loading shovel.

All materials removed from the delivery tunnel are loaded in tunnel 1 or 3, depending on capacity in the tunnels, where the material is composted for 7 days. After 7 days the material is moved to tunnel 2 for a further 7 days. These tunnels make up the second section of the building.

The inside dimensions of the tunnels are 30 x 6 x 5 meters and are controlled by the GICOM Composting System which control the fresh air intake, temperature and moisture levels within the tunnels. A detailed process description is outlined in Attachments D.1 and D.2 of the main application form.

The maturation and curing area is connected to the waste reception area by the composting tunnels only. Composted material is removed from the composting tunnels via the rear door of the tunnels using a Volvo L70F loading shovel. The maturation area is the third section of the main composting building. Compost is screened in this building using a Doppstadt SM 720 trommel screen.

A negative air pressure system and bio filter bed is in operation in this building. It is proposed to construct a new bio filter at the rear of the maturation building for which planning permission is currently in place.

Leachate water from the process is diverted to an underground sump and is re-used in the tunnels once it is circulated back into the scrubber. There is no waste water surplus. In the event that there is surplus waste leachate, it is tankered offsite to a waste water treatment plant.

The waste transfer shed is the smaller of the two buildings on-site. This building is constructed with concrete walls and corrugated steel cladding which is build up as far as the apex roofing. There is planning permission to extend this building from its current size of 70ft x 80ft to 70ft x 200ft.

Currently the building contains bays for the segregated storage of waste and recyclables. once the extension to this building has been completed it is proposed to install roller doors. It is also proposed to install a biofilter in this building, for which planning permission has been granted. At a future date it is proposed to install a picking station for the pre-treatment of municipal solid waste on-site prior to landfill in order to meet the requirements of the EU Landfill Directive. A detailed proposal including the specifications of all proposed plant and equipment will be submitted to the EPA in the form of an SEW for approval prior to works commencing.

Wood is shredded at the wood bay adjacent to the waste transfer building. A Doppstadt AK300 shredder is used for this process. The perimeters of the waste buildings are paved in concrete hardstand which acts as an impermeable barrier for the protection of groundwater. It is proposed to increase the area of the concrete hardstand on a phased basis over the forthcoming years so that the entire site will be paved in concrete hardstand.

Runoff from the site is diverted to the surface water which is discharged to the stream along the eastern boundary of the site and flows into the Burren River. It is proposed to install a Class 1, full retention oil interceptor at the facility so that all runoff water will be diverted to the interceptor prior to discharge. The only foul water from the site is from the facility offices, which is diverted to the on-site septic tank.

The site is also serviced with a pit mounted weighbridge, associated offices with telecommunication and welfare facilities. The site is serviced with electricity from the

National Grid. Water for the facility is supplied from the on-site well. The water supply is sufficient to cater for peak demands of the facility without having an impact on the surrounding local water supplies. Water holding tanks have been installed at the facility in the event of water being required for the process or in the event of a fire. All firewater runoff from the composting shed can be retained in the leachate sumps and can be tankered offsite.

1.4 Current On-Site Practices

1.4.1 General Overview

O'Toole Composting currently operate a composting facility, waste transfer building and a CA site at their facility located in Ballinrane, Co. Carlow. At present this facility is permitted by Carlow County Council under waste facility permit reference number WFP-10-0003-01.

The principal activity at the facility is the reception, storage and biological treatment of bio-waste. The composting plant is approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for Animal By-Products (ABP), approval reference COMP-24.

The facility is also permitted to accept skip waste at the facility which is segregated into single waste streams or bulk loaded prior to transfer offsite to a suitable processing facility. Various types of skip waste are permitted to be accepted at the facility including paper, cardboard, plastics, timber, metals, C&D waste, soil & stones, glass, textiles, municipal waste and bulky waste.

1.4.2 Process Operations Summary

All materials entering the facility are accepted at the facility in accordance to the EMS waste Acceptance procedure (EMP005). Materials are inspected upon entry to the facility where possible and directed to the facility weighbridge. Prior to entry to the waste buildings details of the load are recorded on the Genesys weighbridge software system, including vehicle registration, waste type, EWC code, date, time, haulier, customer and the gross weight of the load. Once these details have been recorded the driver is directed to the correct tipping area for the particular waste type.

Once the waste has been tipped in the waste inspection area, has been subject to inspection and considered to be acceptable the driver is directed back onto the weighbridge for second weighing after the vehicle has been washed if necessary. Once the vehicles un-laden weight is recorded a nett weight is generated and a ticket is printed. Tickets for biowaste are printed on triplicate dockets. One copy is given to the driver, one is retained for invoicing and one is placed in the folder as

records for inspection from regulatory bodies such as the County Council; Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food or the EPA.

Skip Waste

On order of a skip, the receptionist will inform the customer of the non-acceptable waste types prior to delivery of the skip to prevent against unauthorised waste being placed in the skip. On collection of the skip the driver will briefly examine all visible materials in the skip to ensure that all wastes are acceptable. If unacceptable waste are noticed in the skip the driver will inform the customer and the items will be removed prior to collection. If all visible wastes are found to be acceptable, the skip is covered with a net and transferred back to the facility.

Upon entry the vehicle is weighed as per D.2.1 above. The driver is directed to the waste transfer building where the skip is tipped in the waste inspection area. The waste is inspected upon tipping by the Manager or by the nominated deputy that has been trained in the waste acceptance practices.

If waste is found to contain mainly unacceptable waste the material is loaded back into the skip and rejected from the facility. The driver will be diverted to an appropriately permitted or licensed facility with the skip. All rejected loads will be recorded on the EMS Waste Rejection Form (EMF017).

If the material is found to contain mild contamination with some unacceptable items that do not contaminate the whole load of waste, the unacceptable items will be segregated from the waste load and stored in the waste quarantine area on a temporary basis. The load of waste will then be accepted. After acceptance of the load at the facility the driver will be directed back to the facility weighbridge as per section D.2.1 of this attachment.

At present skip waste is bulked up on-site in the waste transfer building. Waste is loaded from the waste inspection area to the storage bay by use of a loading machine. Once there is sufficient materials on-site transport is organised by the Facility Manager and an artic load of waste is removed from the facility and consigned to an approved facility.

At present mixed waste is stored in the segregated bays in the waste transfer building including mixed municipal waste, dry mixed recyclables and mixed bulky waste. It is proposed to extend the waste transfer building in phase 1 of the development. Once this extension has been constructed additional bays can be designated for segregated waste streams including metals, wood, mixed waste, cardboard, rubble etc.

It is proposed to install a picking station at the waste transfer station at a later date after construction of the extension has been completed. This will be used for the pre-treatment of waste prior to transfer offsite. The picking station will be subject to approval from the EPA which will be requested in the form of an SEW at a future date.

Wood Waste

Wood is directed to the wood storage bay once weighed on the facility weighbridge. The wood is tipped in the waste inspection area and if found to be clean and untreated (e.g. wooden pallets) it is stored in the wood storage bay where it is shredded on-site using a Doppstadt shredder. Wood chip that is produced on-site is used in the composting process. Any treated wood is mixed with bulky waste and transferred offsite for processing.

Civic Amenity Waste

Civic amenity facilities at the facility are limited at present. Civic amenity waste is tipped in the waste transfer building where it is bulked up prior to transfer offsite. It is proposed to upgrade the existing civic amenity facilities at the site. The proposed upgrade includes a new lay out CA site which will be accessed by the public via a designated entrance which will be located after the site weighbridge. The proposed CA site layout is outlined in the site layout plan included as part of this attachment.

It is proposed to have skips on-site for the storage of source segregated waste streams such as wood, cardboard, metal, WEEE, textiles, general waste, dry mixed recyclables and batteries. Skips from the CA site will be emptied in the waste transfer building after CA site opening hours where the materials will be bulked prior to transfer to recycling or recovery facilities.

Bio Waste

If bio-waste is delivered to the facility the driver will be directed to the composting shed. Bio waste will be tipped on the waste inspection area on the floor of the intake building. Provided that the material is of acceptable quality the material the driver will return to the weighbridge for second weighing. If the load is found to be unacceptable, contaminated or not of suitable quality the material will be reloaded onto the delivery vehicle and rejected from the facility.

Acceptable bio waste is inspected prior to being loaded into the Doppstadt DW3060 Shredder. The bio0waste is then mixed with the screen area overflow and loaded into the composting tunnel via the Volvo loader.

Bio-waste is loaded into the delivery bay on a daily basis where the composting process begins. The material is moved from the delivery bay onto the composting tunnel after two to six days by use of a loading shovel. The material is primary

composted in the first composting tunnel for seven to ten days and the process is repeated in another tunnel.

After the tunnel has been filled with compost feedstock the door is closed and the tunnel climate control program is initialised. The composting tunnels will be managed with respect to temperature and moisture to optimise the process, attain pathogen reduction requirements, and meet the process objectives by use of GICOM controls system.

After tunnel filling, fresh air intake from the working area is integrated with the tunnel aeration. The fresh airstream to the tunnels is drawn from the waste reception area via an overhead ductwork system with managed controls. This system takes the air out of the building on a variable air quantity basis. Air is drawn from building space by a dedicated variable speed blower and controls. The fresh airstream is measured with an air flow transmitter and regulated with a damper.

The aeration process begins when a variable speed blower associated with the tunnel starts operating and air is pushed into the aeration floor system within the tunnel. Air is blown via the air hose, into the plenum located in the floor of each tunnel and into the floor piping system. The air is circulated through the organic material and from the head-space into the external circulation loop ductwork through the open circulation damper, back through the blower and finally back to the plenum. As the air enters the plenum, the following parameters are measured in what is referred to as the Input Airstream:

- ⊕ Air temperature
- ⊕ Oxygen concentration
- ⊕ Air pressure
- ⊕ Air quantity

The temperature of the composting matrix is measured at various points within the tunnel. Other parameters are measured directly outside of the confines of the tunnel, prior to the damper in the recirculation loop ductwork. This is referred to as the Return Airstream. At this point the air temperature and air quality of the total air stream are measured.

Air stream parameters are continuously monitored by the GICOM process computer software. The software is programmed to control certain variables at certain pre-determined times or points in the course of the tunnel cycle. The speed of the blower and the circulation rate can be manipulated to maintain the desired conditions in the sludge.

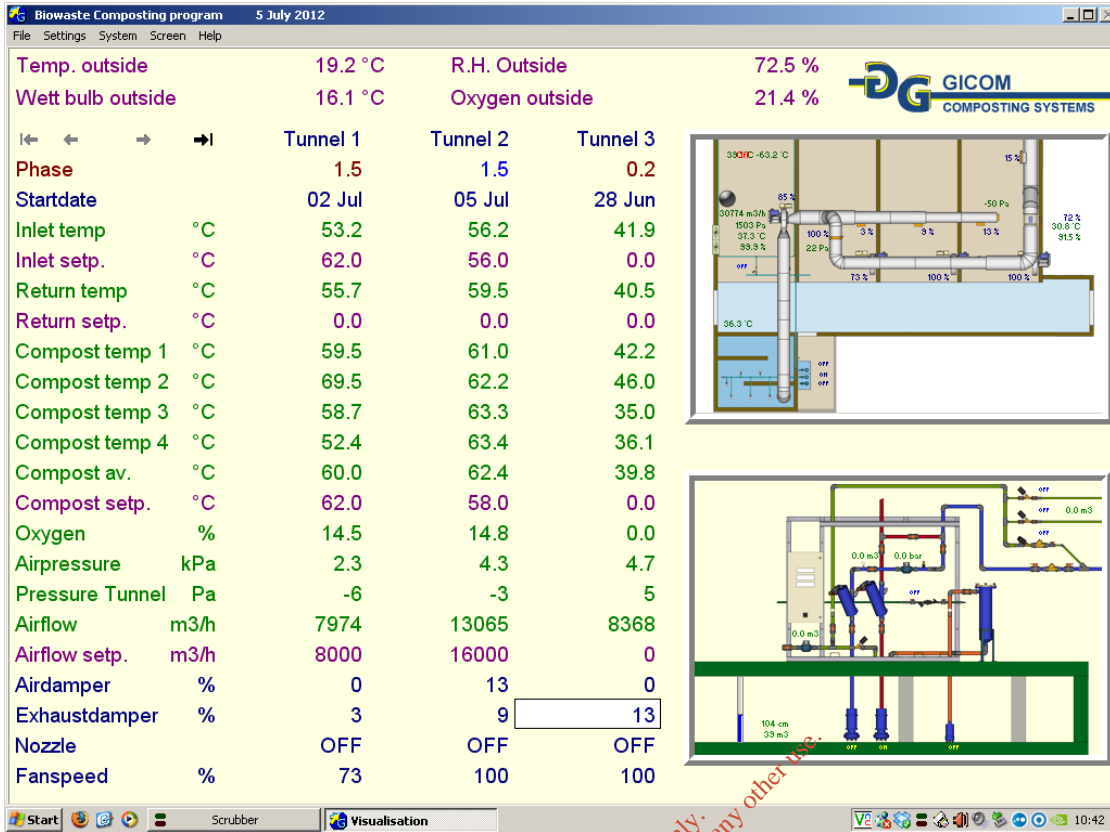


Figure 5 GICOM Software

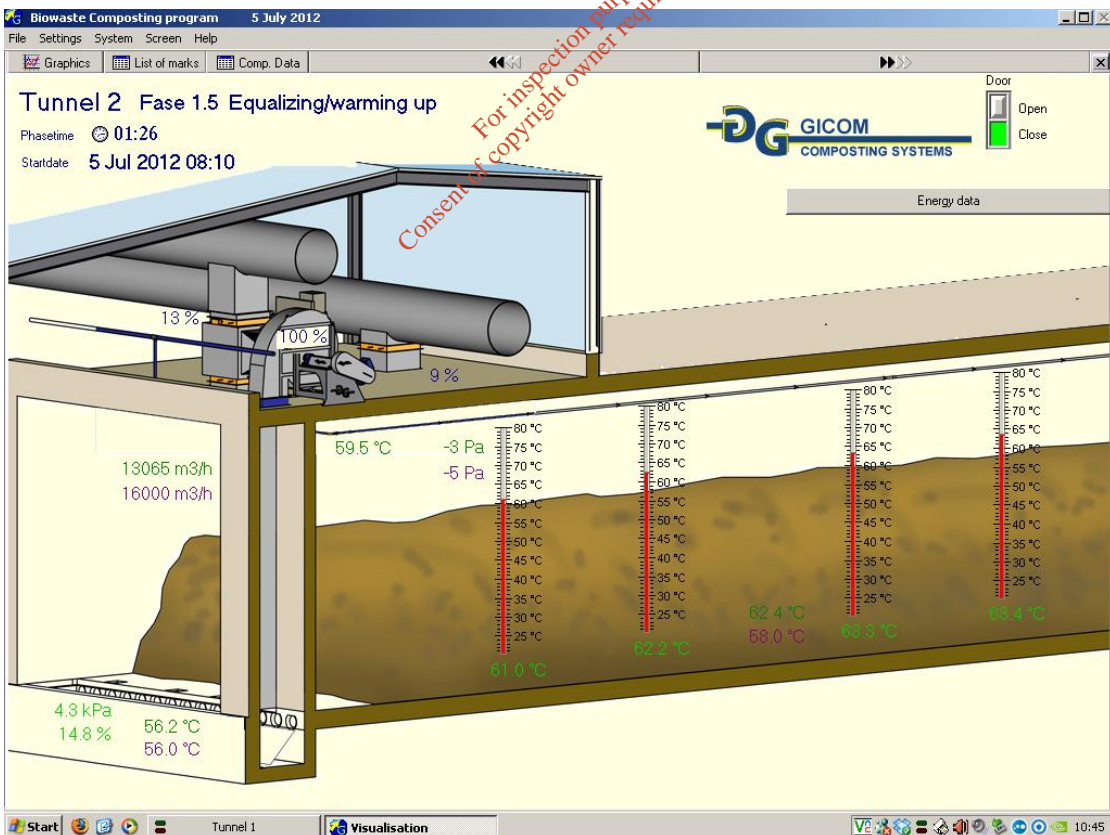


Figure 6 GICOM Software

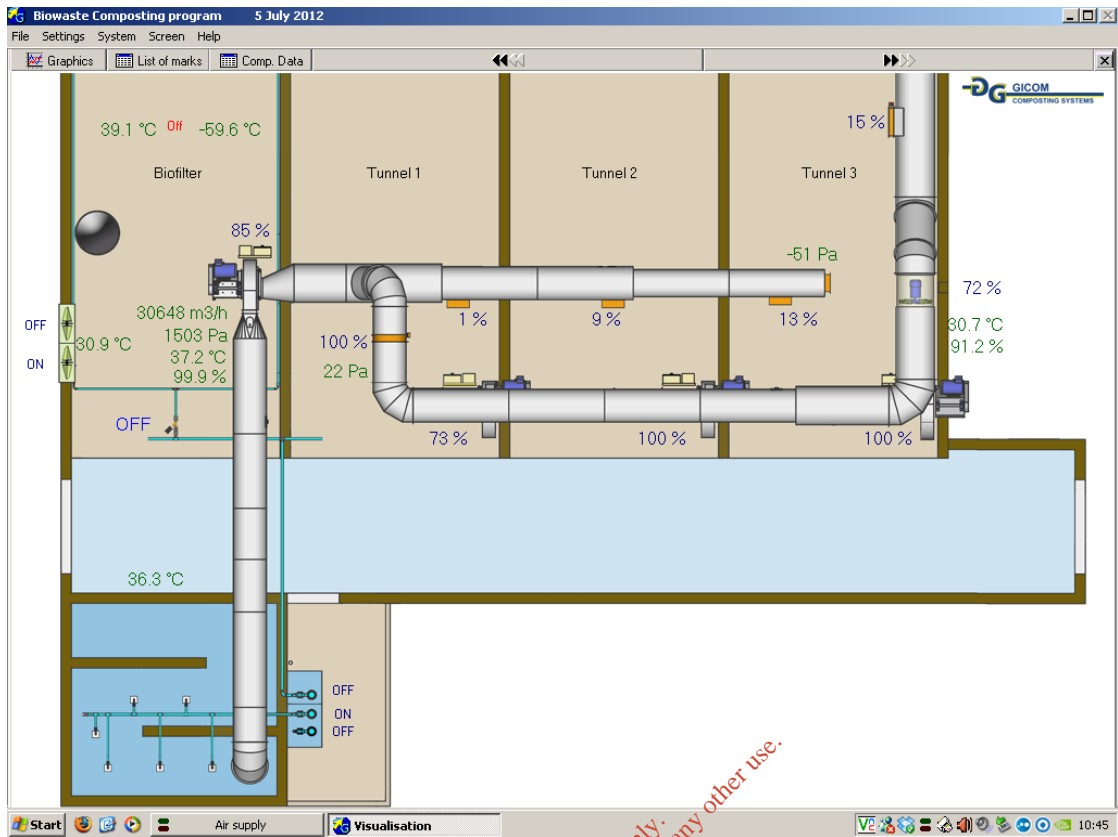


Figure 7 GICOM Software

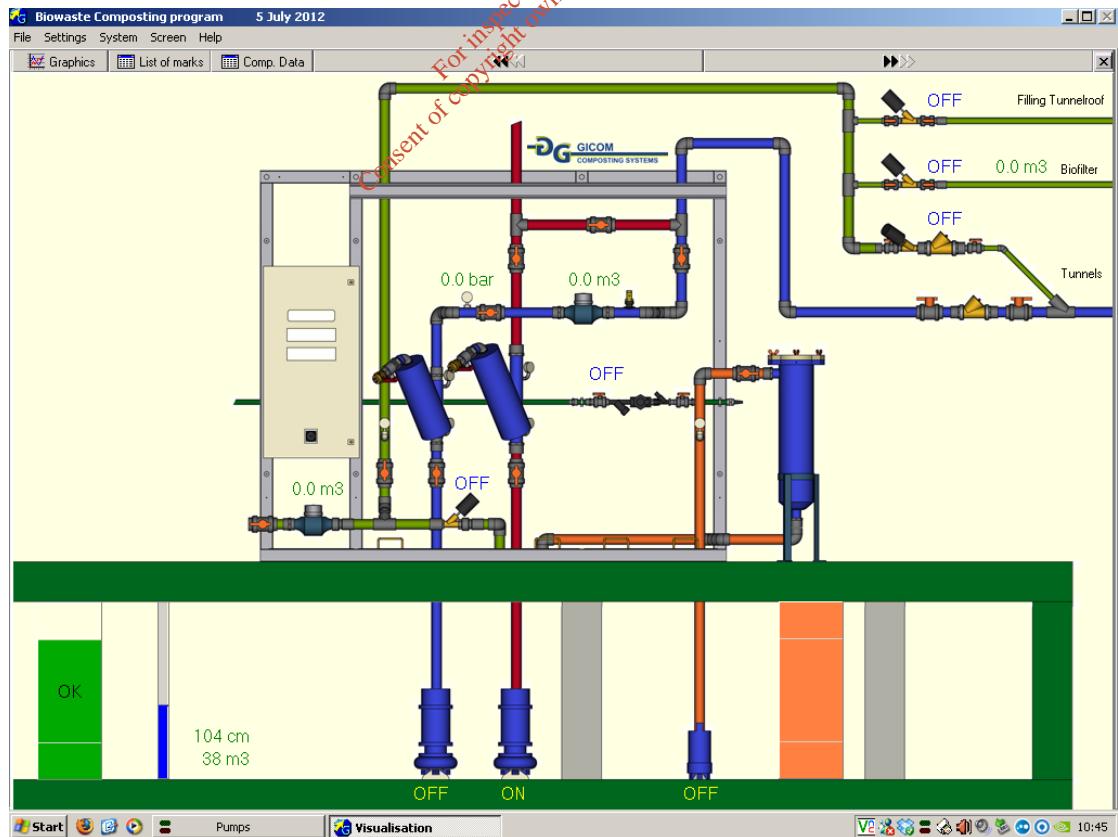


Figure 8 GICOM Software

Once aeration has taken place in the delivery and composting tunnels, material from the tunnel is discharged via the back door so that the material can be screened. The oversize fraction is circulated and mixed with fresh incoming waste, so it can break down further. The undersize fraction is transferred to the maturation floor. The composted material is left on the maturation floor for five to seven weeks to cure.

The process air exhausted from the tunnels, referred to as the Overpressure Airstream, is transported into the central overpressure duct, which connects and handles the exhaust air from the different tunnels. The overpressure duct is equipped with several safety devices to prevent damage to the system. This outgoing process air which is centrally collected, is moisturised and blown through a biofilter.

Leachate runoff from the compost tunnels is diverted via floor aeration piping that is led to a drain that leads to a collection sump. Overflow from the sump leads to a collection tank as a mitigation measure. However leachate is in general not diverted to the collection tank as all leachate is re-circulated back into the composting process so there is no waste water from the process.

Municipal Solid Waste

Domestic and commercial municipal solid waste is accepted at the facility primarily from kerbside waste collections or from waste compactors. Currently this waste is bulked up in a storage bay where the material is temporarily stored prior to transfer offsite to a suitably permitted or licensed facility. At a future date it is proposed to investigate the possibility or feasibility of drying MSW prior to transfer offsite or carrying out mechanical biological treatment of MSW at the facility. Approval will be sought from the Agency prior to the processing of MSW.

Gypsum Waste

It is proposed to investigate the viability of processing gypsum waste at the facility. Gypsum will be tipped and temporarily stored in the waste transfer station prior to processing. The gypsum processing plant may be installed in the waste transfer station building. Here it is proposed to process gypsum waste so that it can form a gypsum powder. This powder will then be transferred offsite for re-use or recycling.

Figure 9: Bio-waste Process

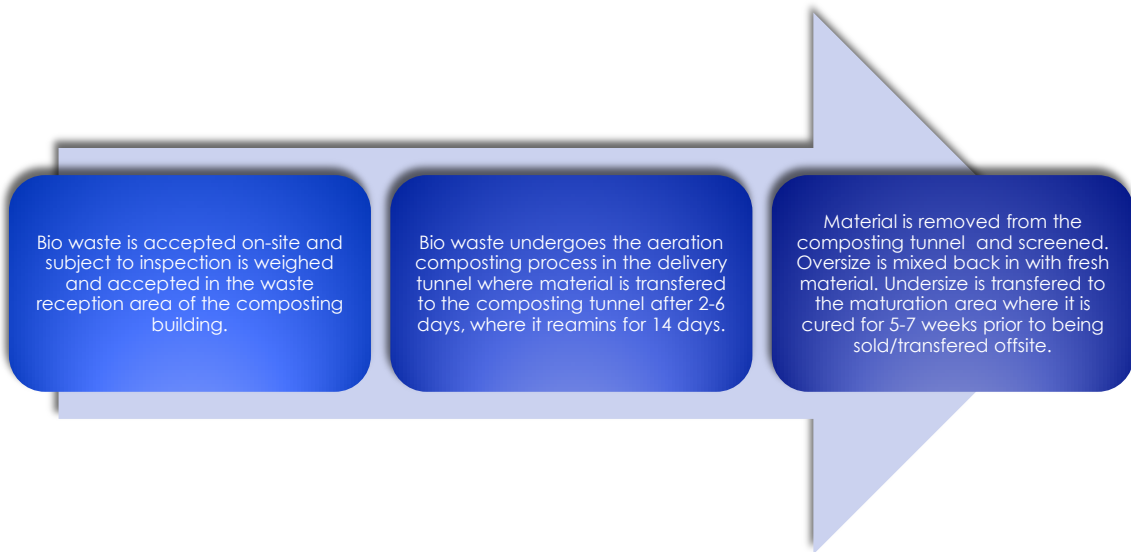


Figure 10: Mixed Skip Waste Process



Figure 11: Untreated Wood Waste Process



Figure 12: Gypsum Waste Process



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1.5 Planning and Policy Content

Ireland's planning system was introduced in 1964, when the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963 came into effect. This is the primary piece of planning legislation in Ireland, including the Amendment Acts in 2001 and in 2010. Secondary legislation includes the Planning and Development Regulations, most recently amended in 2011.

1.5.1 National Spatial Strategy 2001-2020

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) is a coherent national planning framework for Ireland for the next 20 years. The NSS aims to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development across Ireland, supported by more effective planning. In order to drive development in the regions, the NSS proposes that areas of sufficient scale and critical mass will be built up through a network of gateways and hubs. The Strategy states that it is about people, places and potential and making the most of cities, towns and rural places to bring a better spread of opportunities, better quality of life and better places to live in.

The NSS has identified strategically located, medium-sized "hubs" which will support, and be supported by, the gateways and will link out to wider rural areas. The hubs identified are Cavan, Ennis, Kilkenny, Mallow, Monaghan, Tuam and Wexford, along with the linked hubs of Ballina/Castlebar and Tralee/Killarney, working together to promote regional development in their areas. The role of the gateways acting at the national level, together with the hubs acting at the regional and county levels, needs to be partnered by the county towns and other larger towns as a focus for business, residential, service and amenity functions. The NSS also identifies an important need to support the role of smaller towns, villages and rural areas at the local level.

As can be seen from the site location maps in Figure 11 and Figure 12 O'Toole Composting is in a central location off the national transport corridor, a county town which links the gateways of Waterford and Dublin and the hub towns of Kilkenny and Wexford.

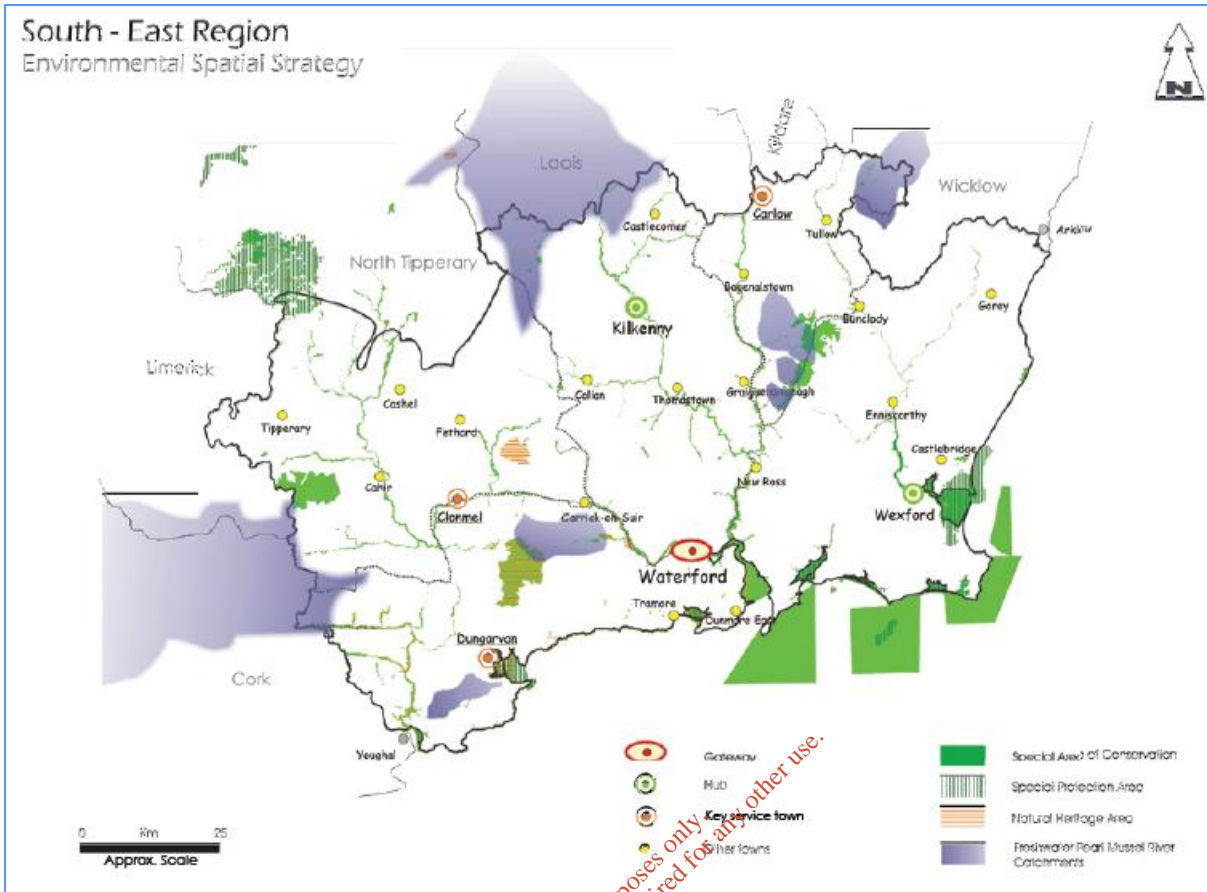


Figure 13: South East region Location Map

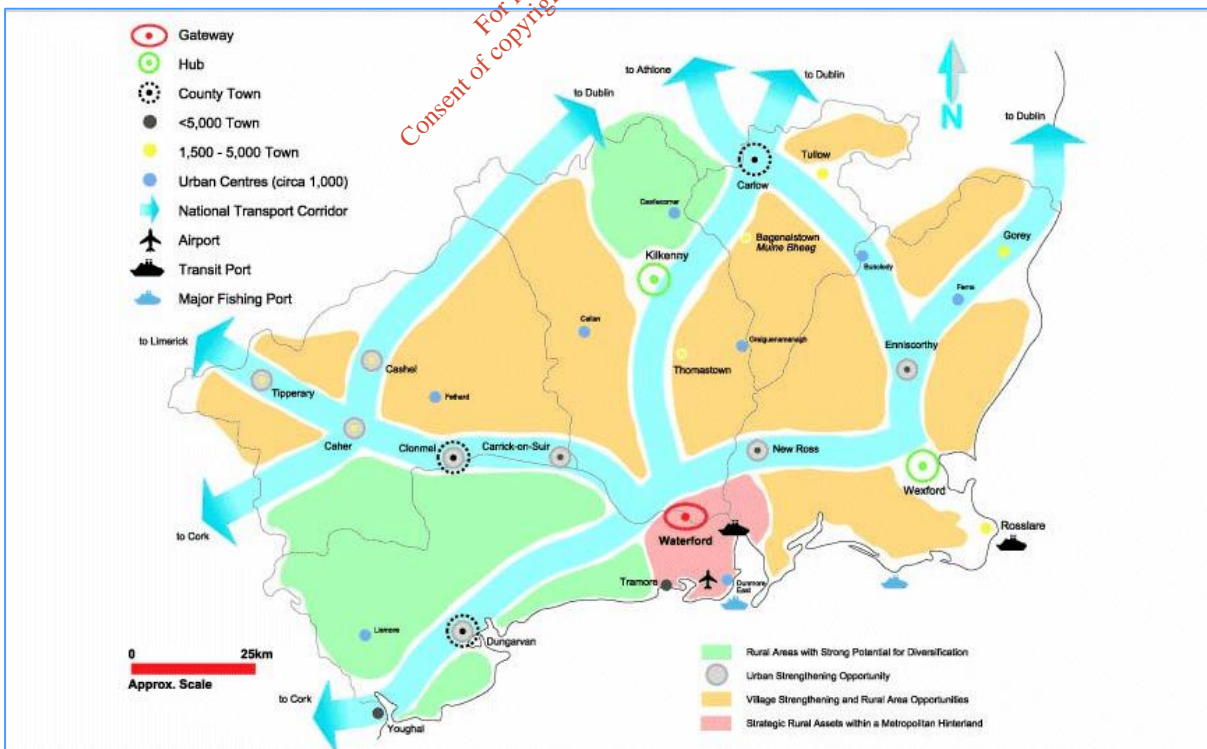


Figure 14 South East Region Transport Corridor

1.5.2 National Development Plan 2007-2013 -Transforming Ireland, A Better Quality of Life for All

This National Development Plan integrates strategic development frameworks for regional development, for rural communities, for all-island co-operation, and for protection of the environment with common economic and social goals. Investment under this Plan will make a major contribution to the enhancement and sustainability of the environment including significant measures to assist the limiting of Ireland's emission of greenhouse gases in line with international obligations.

The Plan states that waste management is one of the most relevant direct investments under the plan. *"Some €753 million of investment will address the problems associated with legacy landfills; support, through private investment, the development of thermal treatment plants to reduce landfill usage, and promote greater use of recycling and recovery". "The period of the Plan will see very substantial investment to complete the provision of a comprehensive modern waste infrastructure"*.

1.5.3 Regional Planning Guidelines

Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) were first adopted in March 2004 as a key implementation mechanism of the Government's overall framework for achieving more balanced regional development and more strategic physical and spatial planning – the 2002 National Spatial Strategy (NSS). The principal function for RPGs is to link national strategic spatial planning policies to the planning process at City and County Council level by co-ordinating the Development Plans through the Regional Planning Guidelines.

The enactment of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 provides a statutory link between Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) and the National Spatial Strategy (NSS). There is a requirement in the new legislation that RPGs be prepared in order to support the implementation of the NSS. In addition, it is a requirement that RPGs must be set within the policy framework of the NSS.

The 2010 Act is also designed to ensure a closer alignment between the NSS, RPGs, development plans and local area plans. A key element in the Act is the introduction of a requirement for the inclusion of an evidence-based "Core Strategy" in local authority development plans which will provide information to demonstrate how the development plan and the housing strategy are consistent with RPGs and the NSS. The Core Strategy must also provide the policy framework for local area plans (LAPs), particularly in relation to zoning at LAP level.

1.5.4 South-East Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022

The South-East Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 covers Waterford City and Counties Carlow, Wexford, Kilkenny, South Tipperary and Waterford. This document states that it is an objective of the Regional Authority to support the implementation of the Joint Waste Management Plan and it will support the review of the Plan to ensure that its recommendations and objectives comply with the Regional Development Strategy for the South East.

The Plan also states that the Local Authorities in the region should ensure that the majority of the recycling and recovery infrastructure recommended in the Joint Waste Management Plan be provided before 2013.

1.5.5 Carlow County Development Plan 2009-2015

Carlow County Council Development Plan sets out the policies and objectives for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County from 2009 to 2015. many aspects relating to developments are addressed within the plan as summarised below:

Air Quality- The National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 emphasises that reducing greenhouse gas emissions will benefit air quality. The role of Carlow County Council is to protect, enhance and control air and noise pollution and to ensure the provision of the highest standards. The Council supports the Polluter Pays Principle and will have regard to the Local Government (Planning and Development) General Policy Directive 1988 (as amended) and any regulations (such as the Smokeless Fuel Regulations and Solvent Regulations) issued by the Minister for the Environment relating to air quality standards nationally.

Noise and Dust - Excessive noise and dust levels can have an adverse impact on the county's environment. This Development Plan states that the Council will seek to minimise noise through the planning process by ensuring that the design of future developments incorporate measures to prevent or mitigate the transmission of noise and vibration, where appropriate.

Water Quality - to protect and to ensure an adequate supply of clean water. The Council is responsible for the protection of all waters including rivers, lakes, estuarine waters and groundwater. The work includes implementation of pollution control measures, licensing of effluent discharges, implementing and monitoring compliance with environmental legislation, and drawing up pollution contingency measures.

Waste Management - The local authorities of Carlow County, Kilkenny County, Waterford City and County, Wexford County, and South Tipperary County have prepared a Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region. The current *Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region (JWMP)* sets out the policies and objectives for waste management for the period 2006 to 2011. The purpose of this JWMP is to:

- Promote waste prevention and minimisation through source reduction, producer responsibility and public awareness.
- Provide a management plan for the recovery/recycling/disposal of waste arising on a regional basis.

Section 4 of the Waste Management Amendment Act 2001 provides that the development plan in force in an area shall be deemed to include the objectives contained in the waste management plan made by the local authority. Therefore this development plan is deemed to contain the policies and objectives of the Joint Regional Waste Management Plan, as reviewed.

Waste Infrastructure - Under the JWMP, a 3 bin collection system will be mandatory from 2009 throughout urban areas greater than 1,000 persons for household, industrial and commercial waste or as otherwise determined by the Region. This third collection bin will be utilised to collect bio-waste.

1.6 Environmental Policy

1.6.1 EU Policy Guidance

1.6.1.1 EIA Directive

The EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) is in force since 1985 and applies to a wide range of defined public and private projects. The EIA Directive was amended in 1997, 2003 and 2009 by Directives 97/11/EC; 2003/35/EC and 2009/31/EC. The EIA Directive requires environmental impact assessments to be carried out for certain projects as listed in Annex I of the Directive. The EIA Directive, and amendments, are transposed into Irish law through the Planning and Development Acts 1996 to 2010. An EIA is required for this proposed development as the proposed annual tonnages exceeds the threshold of 25,000 tonnes per annum.

1.6.1.2 EU Waste Framework Directive and European Community (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011

Directive 2008/98/EC on waste of 19th November 2008, establishes a legal framework for the treatment of waste both in Europe and Nationally. It aims at protecting the environment and human health through the prevention of the harmful effects of waste generation and waste management. This Directive is transposed into Irish Law by the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011, S.I. No. 126 of 2011. This Directive is relevant to the proposed development as it encourages the source separation of bio waste with a view to composting. It also encourages the treatment of bio-waste in order to produce environmentally sound compost and other bio waste by products.

This is outlined in Article 22 of the Directive and Part 3, Section 38 of the Regulations, which states that measures shall be taken to encourage:

- *"the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the composting and digestion of bio-waste;*
- *the treatment of bio-waste in a way that fulfils a high level of environmental protection;*
- *the use of environmentally safe materials produced from bio-waste"*

This proposed development will contribute significantly to the national composting tonnage capacity available to waste operators and by doing so will enable a greater tonnage of bio-waste to be recycled. Recycling is defined in the Waste Framework Directive as any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations.

Section 21(A) of the Waste Management Act has been amended by the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 which updates the waste hierarchy which is represented in figure 13 below. In order of priority waste must be prevented, prepared for re-use, recycled/composted, recovered (including energy recovery) or disposed. This proposed development is in line with the new waste hierarchy as it is promoting the recycling and composting of organic waste. It is also diverting materials from disposal to landfill.

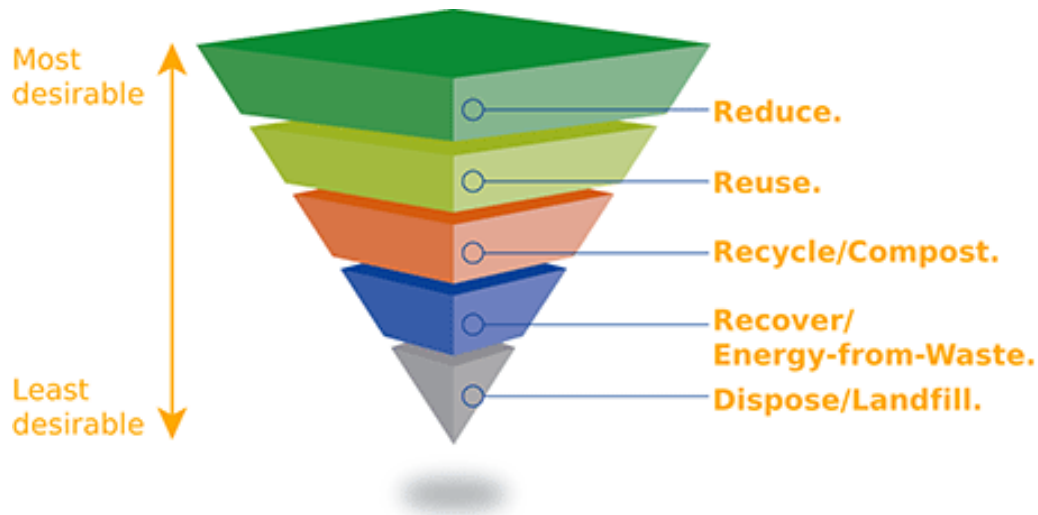


Figure 15: Waste Hierarchy 2011

1.6.1.3 EU Landfill Directive

Directive 1999/31/EC of the 26th of April 1999, sets out the criteria for the landfill of waste. This Landfill Directive requires Member States to reduce their dependence on the landfill of municipal waste in support of more environmentally sound alternatives.

Article 5 of this Directive requires Member States to prepare a National Strategy for the implementation of the reduction of biodegradable waste going to landfills which will set out measures aimed at source segregated collections, recovery and recycling of biodegradable waste. It states that the strategy should include measures to achieve diversion targets by means of recycling, composting, biogas production of materials/energy recovery.

Article 5 of the Directive also sets out targets in relation to the progressive diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill. The limitations in respect to the tonnages of bio waste that can be accepted at landfills are based on a percentage proportionate to the tonnages of biodegradable waste produced in 1995. The diversion targets are gradually staged with each iteration possessing a more stringent obligation in relation to diversion. Taking into account that Ireland landfilled more than 80% of its biodegradable waste prior to 1995, Ireland negotiated a four year extension on the timeframes outlined in the Directive.

Current timescale requirements are as follows:

- 1st January 2010: biodegradable waste going to landfills must be reduced to 75% of the total amount (by weight) of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995.

- 1st January 2013: biodegradable waste going to landfills must be reduced to 50% of the total amount (by weight) of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995.
- 1st January 2016: biodegradable waste going to landfills must be reduced to 35% of the total amount (by weight) of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995.

This proposed development will contribute to Ireland achieving these targets by increasing the tonnage of source separated biodegradable waste that can be accepted for composting and treatment at the facility. The facility also proposes to accept 'organic fines' for stabilisation. Organic fines is the organic fraction that have been mechanically separated from municipal solid waste during the pre-treatment of waste prior to landfill.

1.6.2 National Waste Management Policies

1.6.2.1 National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste

The National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste published in April 2006 by DoEHLG, sets out the Government policy for its diversion from landfill in order to achieve the targets as set out in the Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC. This strategy is based on the key objectives established in policy documents *Changing Our Ways* (1998), *Delivering Change - Preventing and Recycling Waste* (2002) and *Waste Management: Taking Stock and Moving Forward* (2004).

The policy sets out a range of measures to meet diversion targets. The fundamental principles of the strategy include:

- *"employing a combination of instruments to promote waste reduction – including awareness measures, economic incentives, and regulatory measures;*
- *continuing to develop an integrated waste system building on proposals and policies in regional waste management plans and strengthening these where necessary;*
- *emphasis on source separation of biodegradable wastes by the producer, followed by separate collections by the collector, enabling high quality recyclables to be recovered;*
- *striving to maximise the recovery of materials firstly, and energy secondly as a sustainable means of treating waste, rather than diverting from landfill to other forms of disposal; and*

- *developing partnerships with other sectors (industry, agriculture, fisheries etc.) enabling cost effective treatment systems to be established suited to Irish conditions".*

This policy states that *"separate collection of biowaste will be required, together with the provision of composting facilities for garden waste and centralised biological treatment facilities for food waste. The targets for central biological treatment are:*

- *40% coverage for households and 60% coverage for commerce in 2010 at an estimated average yield of 45% to 60% respectively, corresponding to 25% of overall organic waste generation within BMW;*
- *45% coverage for households and 70% coverage for commerce in 2013 at an estimated average yield of 50% to 65% respectively, corresponding to 33% of overall organic waste generation within BMW; and*
- *50% coverage for households and 70% coverage for commerce in 2016 at an estimated average yield of 55% to 70% respectively, corresponding to 36% of overall organic waste generation within BMW."*

The proposed development is in line with the National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste through the proposed provision of composting facility for the acceptance of bio waste including garden and kitchen waste.

1.6.2.3 Hitting the Targets for Biodegradable Waste: Ten Options for Change (2008)

In 2008 the EPA published a document entitled 'Hitting the Targets for Biodegradable Municipal Waste: Ten Options for Change' (2008). This report confirms that that *"composting is an environmentally sustainable treatment option for OFBWM treatment"* but currently there is a lack of infrastructural capacity available in the country to meet the EU, national and regional targets.

The report states that source separated organic fraction of biodegradable municipal waste collection is necessary for good recycling options but the at present *"it is not currently clear whether there will be sufficient reuse/recycle outlets for the treated OFBWM collected in the third (brown) bin"*.

According to this report, in order to comply with the Landfill Directive, Ireland must change how it manages the organic fraction of biodegradable municipal waste. In order to achieve this by 2016 it must develop in excess of 1 million tonnes of additional capacity.

1.6.2.4 EPA Licence Review 2009

In 2009 the EPA commenced a review of existing EPA waste licences issued for landfill facilities. The purpose of this review was to restrict the acceptance of biodegradable waste at landfills which will assist in complying with the targets set by the EU Landfill Directive, reduce the potential for odours from landfill facilities, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and maximise the use and value of waste prior to it being landfilled.

These reviewed Licences now contain specific Licence conditions relating to the acceptance of BMW at individual sites. In order for these licensed landfills to be able to comply with their individual licence conditions requirements, waste accepted at the landfill facility will require pre-treatment. Pre-treatment can be achieved by the provision of a three bin collection system to source segregate the organic fraction or by mechanical treatment to remove the organic fraction. Once the organic fraction of BMW is mechanically separated from the municipal solid waste, the organic fraction requires bio stabilisation prior to landfill. The main difficulty facing pre-treatment facilities in Ireland at present is the limited availability of outlets for the acceptance of organic fines or source separated brown bin material. This proposed development will increase the available capacity for the acceptance of organic fines for bio stabilisation and the acceptance of source separated organic waste for composting, thus increasing the availability of treatment outlets for waste collectors and operators.

1.6.2.5 Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, S.I. 508 of 2009

The Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations came into force on the 1st of July 2010. These regulations apply to a wide range of commercial premises where food waste is produced including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafés, hospitals, schools, canteens, shops, deli counters and local authority buildings. The regulations require that food waste arising is source segregated and kept separate from non-biological waste and contaminants.

The regulations require that all food waste that has been source segregated at the producers premises is subjected to an authorised treatment process at the premises where the food was produced, collected by a permitted waste collector and transferred for an authorised treatment process or transferred directly by the producer to an authorised facility for the purpose of an authorised treatment process.

The purpose of these regulations is to segregate food waste in order to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste being consigned to landfill in line with the targets set

out in the EU Landfill Directive and in the National Strategy for Biodegradable Waste 2006.

In order to ensure the successful implementation of these regulations a sufficient number of authorised facilities need to be available. Without availability or sufficient capacity at these authorised facilities, the dependency on landfill will continue.

1.6.2.6 Waste Collection Permit Regulations

Waste Collectors are granted waste collection permits under the Waste Collection Permit Regulations, 2008, as amended. Current waste collection permits contain conditions requiring waste collectors to provide customers with source segregated collections. The National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste states that Local Authorities should impose conditions on waste collection permits regarding the source segregation of waste and the separate collection of segregated fractions.

1.6.3 Towards a New National Waste Policy

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government published a discussion document on a new National Waste Policy in August 2011. The consultation period closed on 30 September 2011 and the new waste policy is expected to be finalised in the upcoming months.

This discussion document states that a *"particular concern is the lack of a broad range of recycling facilities to reprocess the materials the public and businesses take so much effort to segregate and present for separate collection"*. This once again highlights the current lack of infrastructure to process the various segregated fractions of waste including organic waste.

The waste policy review acknowledges the progress that has been made in relation to the provision of source segregated collections, including organic wastes, which it states *"should be the norm in most parts of the country"*. However, even though considerable progress has been made in the past number of years the policy review recognises that there continues to be an over reliance on landfill. The document states that *"addressing this over dependence [on landfill] must be one of the core priorities of the new waste policy framework. However, we must also be realistic as it will take some time to develop fully the alternative infrastructure necessary to achieve sufficient diversion of waste from landfill"*. To further support of this statement the policy states that *"all relevant Government Departments will work together to ensure that policy and other supports are structured to encourage the provision of waste recovery infrastructure, where appropriate"*.

1.6.4 Local Policy

1.6.4.1 Joint Regional Waste Management Plan 2006-2011

A joint Regional Waste Management Plan was prepared by South Tipperary County Council for the South East Region in 2006. This Waste Management Plan outlines the regional and local policy in relation to waste management. This Plan states that the region will:

- *"encourage the provision of biowaste treatment facilities for source segregated MSW.*
- *provide or arrange or facilitate for the provision of an appropriate number of waste transfer facilities, to facilitate the movement of recyclables, biowaste and residual waste to their respective treatment facilities.*
- *encourage the provision of an adequate range of waste recovery and recycling infrastructure and will have due regard to the requirements of scale for economic viability".*

It is necessary for source segregated waste to be treated in the most appropriate manner to optimise recovery, recycling and re-use. As part of this waste management plan the region has adopted many policies in relation to the recovery and recycling of the organic fraction of waste. The policy states that the region will encourage the provision of local biological treatment facilities for agriculture or other non MSW bio wastes throughout the region as well as providing and promoting a minimum of nine recycling centres to cater for the collection of green waste from householders.

According to the Plan, it is anticipated that by 2011 approximately 60,000 tonnes of recovered biological materials will have been generated in the Region.

At the time of the development of this Waste Management Plan, a number of small biological facilities were operational within the Region. The Plan states that it is policy *"not to support the further establishment of smaller biological facilities (particularly those of less than 25,000 tonnes)".* The existing number of smaller biological facilities in the region are expected to remain operational. However the Plan continues to state that the region will promote the provision of major material recovery facilities for the organic waste fraction by the private sector as well as promoting *"the establishment of larger facilities with a view to achieving economies of scale and to ensure that proposed facilities are fully assessed by means of an environmental impact assessment (EIA)".*

This proposed development is proposing a waste intake of 90,000 tonnes per annum, with this EIA being completed as part of the proposed development. Having regard to the Regions Policy on supporting the establishment of larger facilities which are fully assessed by means of an EIA, it is evident that this proposed development is within supporting the local Policy for the Region. Currently there is no other facility for commercial waste in County Carlow.

1.7 Structure of the Environmental Impact Statement

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a systematic examination of the potential impacts of a proposed development on the environment prior to the beginning of any activity. OTCL commenced composting operations at their facility in Ballinrane in 2005, currently operating under waste facility permit number WFP-CW-10-0003-01. It is proposed to increase the tonnages of waste accepted at this facility in order to maximise the usage of existing equipment that is limited due to tonnage restrictions of the WFP. There will be no construction stage as such. This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is essentially to account for any additional environmental impacts that may arise due to proposed development. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as part of the EIA process, is required to accompany Planning and Waste Licence Applications, where the volumes of waste are above a threshold volume (greater than 25,000 t/a), as outlined in Schedule 5 Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (S.I. 600 of 2001), as amended.

The EIS contains information on the scale and nature of the proposed development, a description of the existing environment, impact assessment of the proposed development and mitigation measures to avoid, reduce and where possible remedy significant adverse effects on the receiving environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is defined in S.I. No 349 of 89 (Art. 3 (1)) as follows:-

"A statement of the effects, if any, which proposed development, if carried out, would have on the environment".

Schedule 6 of these Regulations sets out the information to be contained within an Environmental Impact Statement. This EIS is based on that structure. This sequence is as follows;

- A non-technical summary
- A description of the proposed environment
- A description of the baseline receiving environment

- The potential and predicted impacts of the development and the mitigation of those impacts.

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is arranged as follows:

Volume I:	Non-Technical Summary
Volume II:	Main Report
Volume III:	Appendices

The existing environment and the subsequent impacts of the development are explained by reference to its possible impact on the following environmental topics:

Human Beings	Flora & Fauna
Soil & Geology	Hydrology
Hydrogeology	Air
Noise	Traffic
Climatic Factors	Landscape
Cultural Heritage	Material Assets
Inter-relationship between the above factors	

Supporting documentation such as maps and relevant tables are appended to the rear. A list of all external consultants is also included in the appendix to the rear.

1.8 Consultation and Scoping

1.8.1 Scoping Request

Scoping is the process of determining the content and extent of the matters which should be covered in the environmental information to be submitted to a competent authority for projects which are subject to EIA.

Scoping is conducted by contacting the relevant authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with interest in the specific aspects of the environment that are likely to be affected by the proposed development. The organisations contacted are invited to submit comments or provide information in relation to the proposed development that they may hold or to highlight any issues that they feel should be addressed as part of the EIA. Consultations will help ensure that all the impacts, issues, concerns, alternatives and mitigation which interested parties believe should be considered in the EIA are addressed.

A scoping request which included details of the proposed development was prepared by Enviroguide Consulting for and on behalf of O'Tooles Composting Ltd. This scoping request was circulated to all identified relevant bodies on the 25th of November 2011. All bodies contacted are listed in Table 2 below.

The scoping and contents element of the EIS were determined following:

- Detailed consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency;
- Existing knowledge of the site and surrounds based on current operations of the existing facility;
- Regard to 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements' (EPA, 2002);
- Regard to 'Guidance on EIA Scoping' (European Commission, 2001);
- Consultation with various, relevant Statutory Bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations.

A pre-licence application consultation meeting was held with the Environmental Protection Agency to determine the scope of the investigations required for the application of a waste licence. A meeting was held with the EPA at O'Tooles Composting Facility on the 2nd of September 2011 to discuss the proposal of applying for an EPA Waste Licence for a composting facility which is currently being operated under waste facility permit register number WFP-CW-10-0003-01.

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Table 2: Bodies Consulted During Scoping

Statutory Bodies	EnviroGuide Action	Response Details
Inland Fisheries Ireland, Anglesa Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	Letter received on 30th November 2011
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, 44 Kildare St., Dublin 2	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
An Taisce, Tailors Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
Enterprise Ireland, East Point Business Park, Dublin 3.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
Health Service Executive, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	Letter received on 6th January 2012
Health and Safety Authority, The Metropolitan Building, James Joyce St., Dublin 1.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Custom House, Dublin 1.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
Carlow County Council, County Buildings, Athy Road, Carlow, Co. Carlow.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
The Heritage Council, Áras na hOidhreachta, Church Lane, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources, 29 - 31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
Failte Ireland, 88-95 Amiens St., Dublin 1.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	Email received on 30th November 2011

Birdwatch Ireland, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford Bus Campus, Kilanic, Co. Wicklow	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
National Transport Authority, Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	Letter received on 19th December 2011
The Department of Finance, Government Buildings, Upper Merrion St., Dublin 2.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
The Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, 23 Kildare St., Dublin 2.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
The Irish Aviation Authority, The Times Building, 11-12 D'Olier Street, Dublin 2.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	Letter received on 6th December 2011
The National Roads Authority, St. Martin's House, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	Letter received on 10th January 2012
Waterways Ireland, Floor 2, Block C, Ashtowngate, Navan Road, Dublin 15.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	
An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough St., Dublin 1.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	Letters received on 6th December 2011 and 13th December 2011
The Department Of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Agriculture House, Kildare St. Dublin 2.	Written scoping request sent on the 25th of November 2011	Email received on 5th of December 2011 and Letter received on 21st December 2011

1.8.2 Scoping Responses

This section of the EIS presents a summary of the main recommendations that were made in the replies to the scoping document. Recommendations that were made during the scoping process have been taken into account and addressed where necessary within the contents of the EIS. Copies of all scoping responses received by the 30th of June 2012 are included in Appendix 3.1.1 of this EIS. Further scoping

responses received after the 30th of June 2012 will be considered during the operation of the proposed development, subject to the grant of a waste licence.

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