



21st June 2019

RE: Capacity for managing residual MSW waste

The Irish waste sector continues to experience capacity issues on an ongoing basis, with residual MSW in particular requiring continued monitoring and careful management.

In light of ongoing concerns in this regard, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment asked the three Regional Waste Management Planning Offices (RWMPOs) to examine the availability of contingent capacity for residual municipal solid waste (rMSW). The RWMPOs produced a feasibility study on the ability of the local authority sector to provide contingent capacity in the State which was presented to the Department in mid-2018. This study has identified a number of candidate sites which have the potential to provide contingent capacity and the Department is currently discussing these options with the relevant local authorities.

The Report by the RWMPOs also envisaged a number of additional initiatives, including engagement with the private sector to ascertain its ability to provide contingent capacity for rMSW.

With the impending closure of the East Galway landfill site, all remaining operating rMSW licenced facilities in the State will shortly be operated by the private sector. The waste industry therefore has a pivotal role to play in the provision and management of waste on an ongoing basis.

The Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment seeks to engage with the waste industry in Ireland to consider how contingent capacity for residual MSW might be provided by the sector.

This engagement may seem counter intuitive in the current circumstances, whereby industry can just about meet demand. However, in order to fully assess and inform a business case on the potential provision of contingent capacity for rMSW, all possibilities must be explored, including those which may not be feasible under current circumstances or in the current legislative environment.

The Department invites all interested parties who may be in a position to provide contingent capacity to submit proposals to the Department for consideration. Attention should be given to issues such as planning permissions and licence conditions, including any implications for existing or future Environmental Impact Assessments when preparing such a proposal.

The Report by the RWMPOs recommends the provision of at least 150,000 tonnes of contingent capacity for rMSW and related waste streams. When submitting a proposal, please specify the following details;

1. Legislative or administrative changes required,
2. Time frame for delivery,

3. Other waste streams which could also be accommodated if a higher contingent capacity could be provided.
4. Cost of delivery.

Proposals should be submitted by close of business on Friday 19th July at the latest.

The objective of this engagement is to establish whether the Irish Waste Industry can provide some or all of the contingent waste capacity required by the State at this time.

This is not a Request for Tenders.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any clarification on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Denis Dunne
Waste Policy & Resource Efficiency Division
01 6782912
Denis.Dunne@DCCAE.gov.ie

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