

EPA Application Form

8.1.1 – Waste Hierarchy - Attachment

Organisation Name: *

Starrus Eco Holdings Limited

Application I.D.: *

LA005501

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The foundation policy statement on waste management “*Changing Our Ways*” was published by the Department of the Environment and Local Government in September 1998. This statement firmly bases national policy on the EU Waste Management Hierarchy. In descending order, the current preference is: -

- Prevention;
- Preparing for Reuse;
- Recycling;
- Other Recovery (including energy recovery); and
- Disposal

The 2002 policy statement ‘*Preventing and Recycling Waste - Delivering Change*’ identified initiatives to achieve progress at the top of the Waste Hierarchy to prevent waste arising and increase recycling rates.

In ‘*Waste Management – Taking Stock and Moving Forward*’ 2004, the significant improvement in recycling rates achieved since 1998 were recognised, but the need for further expansion was emphasised. The statement confirmed that Ireland’s national policy approach remained ‘*grounded in the concept of integrated waste management, based on the internationally recognised waste hierarchy, designed to achieve, by 2013, the ambitious targets set out in Changing Our Ways*’.

In 2006, the National Biodegradable Waste Strategy was published. Its primary focus was to achieve the reduction targets set Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) for the quantity of biodegradable municipal waste that can be landfilled. A key element was the collection and treatment of source separated household and commercial food waste, commonly referred to as “brown bin waste”.

In 2008, the Government initiated a review of waste policy, to identify possible changes to policy at national level that would assist Ireland to move towards a sustainable resource and waste policy, including minimising the creation of waste and self-sufficiency in the reuse and recycling of materials. The review also addressed the application of alternative waste management technologies.

The EU Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC was introduced to co-ordinate waste management in Member States, with the objective of limiting the generation of waste and optimising the organisation of waste treatment and disposal. The Directive, which also established the first EU wide recycling targets, was transposed into Irish Law by the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 (S. I. No.126 of 2011).

The most recent Policy Statement ‘*A Resource Opportunity Waste Management Policy in Ireland*’, 2012, is also based on the EU Waste Management Hierarchy and encompasses a range of measures across all tiers namely, prevention and minimisation, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal.

The Statement sets out how the higher tiers can reduce Ireland’s dependence on finite resources, virtually eliminate reliance on landfill and minimise the impact of waste management on the environment. It is a policy objective that when waste is generated the maximum value must be extracted from it by ensuring that it is reused, recycled or recovered.