

Attachment 4.3-6 Waste Hierarchy

Evidence that demonstrates that the waste hierarchy has been considered when choosing treatment options for waste treated onsite or transferred offsite.

1.1 Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851 (WFD)

The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC introduced new provisions to boost waste prevention and recycling as part of the waste hierarchy and clarifies key concepts namely, the definitions of waste, recovery and disposal and establishes a legal framework for the treatment of waste both in Europe and Nationally. The Waste Framework Directive (WFD) made it mandatory for member states to implement a five-step waste hierarchy instead of the outdated six steps and obliges Member States to move towards self-sufficiency.

Section 21(A) of the Waste Management Act in Ireland has been amended by the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 which updated the waste hierarchy which is represented in Figure 1 below.

Section 29(2A) of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, states that it shall be the duty of waste producers and holders to ensure that waste undergoes recovery operations in accordance with sections 21A (Waste Hierarchy) and 32(1) of the Waste Management Act.

Ireland is obliged to comply with EU laws and policies and as an EU Member State, Ireland must implement EU economic instruments which have environmental objectives.

The WFD sets out the framework for European waste legislation and places obligations on Member States to adopt national legislation for the collection, transport, recovery, and disposal of waste in a manner that does not endanger human health or cause harm to the environment. The WFD provides:

- Definitions of 'waste', 'hazardous waste', 'recovery', 'recycling' as well as 'holder' and more
- Legal status for the Waste Hierarchy.
- Conditions for 'by-product' and 'end-of-waste' status.
- The general obligations for the treatment, disposal, and handling of waste.

The aim of the WFD was to lay the basis to turn the EU into a recycling society. In order of priority waste must be prevented, prepared for re-use, recycled/composted, recovered (including energy recovery) or disposed.

The Waste Framework Directive defines recovery as:

'any operation, the principal result of which, is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy'

The permitted development is in line with the new waste hierarchy. Sancom Ltd proposed to accept waste soil and stones from the Construction industry for recovery to primarily infill the worked-out quarry. In addition, they intend to carry out recovery operations to repurpose and recirculate waste construction materials back into usable product. Considering the cost implicates associated with the excavation and management of soil at construction sites, it is assumed that during the design stage of construction projects the amount of soil excavated on development sites will be minimised to avoid unnecessary costs. Similarly, it is assumed

that inert soils would be reused insofar as possible onsite and that only excess material not suitable for re-use onsite will be exported from construction sites. As soil cannot be recycled, the recovery of excess soil from the construction sector would form the next tier within the waste hierarchy. Sancom will provide such facility for the recovery of excess construction and demolition waste included soils, stones, sand and gravels, concrete and green waste from the Construction Sector.

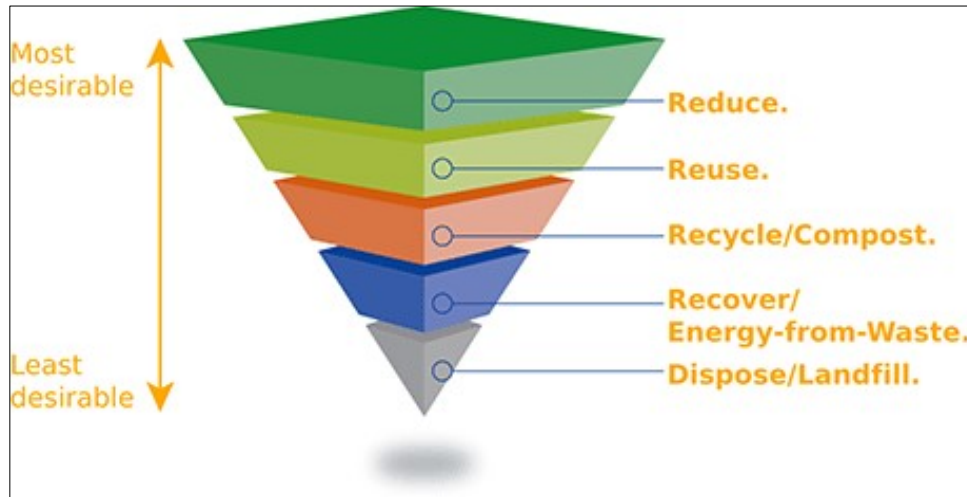


Figure 1 - Waste Hierarchy

The most recent waste management data available for Ireland is presented in the National Waste Report (2020) which was published by the EPA in December 2022 and states that Ireland is in danger of missing future EU waste targets for 2025 relating to municipal waste recycling, plastic packaging, WEEE Collection and waste generated has increased to 16.2 million tonnes in 2020.

Construction waste was the largest waste stream generated in the state in 2020 amounting to over 8.2 million tonnes. Soil and stone was the largest waste fraction of this stream, accounting for 82% of all construction waste generated. This can be avoided through the greater use of the by-product regulation in the first instance.

The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) has a target for Dec 2020 of preparing for reuse, recycling and other material recovery (incl. beneficial backfilling operations using waste as a substitute) of 70% by weight of C&D non-hazardous waste; However, this target excludes natural soils & stone. While there are no national or EU targets specified for the recovery of soil and stone, as per the above the Waste Management Planning Regions have highlighted a lack of treatment capacity for soil & stones. The proposed development shall provide much need capacity for soil and stone recovery in the South-East region and promotes appropriate segregation and recovery of inert waste in the construction and demolition industry.

The backfill of the quarry void via recovery of inert soil will be beneficial in the restoration of the original landform of the Screen Hills, returning the habitat of the site similar to that prior to quarrying activities.

Topsoil and overburden stripped from site and extracted material not suitable of commercial sale are considered not to be waste and are valuable assets at the facility which shall be re-used as essential material in the restoration of the site.

1.2 Conformance to the Principles of the Waste Hierarchy

The Proposed Waste Activity is considered to adhere to the Principles of the Waste Hierarchy as defined in the Waste Framework Directive, and as transposed in national legislation. The proposed waste activity conforms to the principals, policies and objectives relating to the promotion of the circular economy, resource efficiency and the reduction of waste to landfill defined the Eastern- Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan (WMP) 2015-2021, Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022, the national Waste Management Act and the European Union Waste Framework Directive.

The proposed activity is considered to align with the planning policy objectives defined for the region in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029, and in particular, the following planning policy and objectives defined:

- **IN P6** Implement European Union, National and Regional waste related environmental policy, legislation, guidance, and codes of practice, in order to support the transition from a waste management economy towards a circular economy.
- **IN O40** Provide, promote, and facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure / technology in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy to cater for anticipated population growth and the business sector in the County.
- **IN O44** Encourage waste prevention, minimisation, re-use, recycling, and recovery as methods for managing waste.
- **IN O47** Support and facilitate the separation of waste at source into organic and non-organic streams or other waste management systems that divert waste from landfill and maximise the potential for each waste type to be re-used, recycled or composted.