

Waste Management Plan for the Connacht-Ulster Region

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Draft Scoping Report

3rd June 2014



Lead Authority



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council

RPS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE	1
1.2	WASTE MANAGEMENT IN IRELAND.....	1
1.3	CONNACHT-ULSTER REGION.....	3
1.4	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	6
1.4.1	SEA Screening Stage.....	7
1.4.2	SEA Scoping Stage	7
1.4.3	Environmental Assessment.....	8
1.4.4	SEA Statement	8
1.5	SEA GUIDANCE	8
1.6	APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT.....	9
1.7	INTEGRATION OF THE PROCESSES	10
2	RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES.....	11
2.1	PLANNING HIERARCHY.....	12
2.2	KEY PRESSURES	13
3	SCOPING	17
3.1	SCOPE OF THE PLAN	17
3.1.1	Geographic Scope	17
3.1.2	Temporal Scope	17
3.1.3	Scoping of Strategic Environmental Assessment Topics	17
3.2	PARTS OF THE RWMP TO BE ASSESSED.....	20
4	PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE	23
4.1	BASELINE DATA SOURCES.....	23
5	PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS.....	26
5.1	INTERNAL COMPATABILITY OF OBJECTIVES	28
5.2	DRAFT INDICATORS AND TARGETS	29
5.3	IMPACTS, MITIGATION AND MONITORING	29
5.4	OUTLINE OF ALTERNATIVES	29

6	NEXT STEPS	32
6.1	SCOPING QUESTIONS	33

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1:	Previous Waste Management Regions	2
Figure 1.2:	Ireland’s Waste Management Regions	4
Figure 1.3:	Connacht-Ulster Waste Management Region	5
Figure 1.4:	Overview of SEA Process	7
Figure 1.5:	Integration of Plan, SEA and AA	10
Figure 2.1:	Key Waste Related Documents for Review in the SEA	11
Figure 2.2:	Key Environmental Related Documents for Review in the SEA	12
Figure 2.3:	Draft Hierarchy	16
Figure 5.1:	Inter- relationship of SEA Topics	28

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3-1:	Scoping of SEA Issues	18
Table 3-2:	Elements of the Connacht-Ulster RWMP Proposed for Assessment	20
Table 4-1:	Baseline Data Sources and Extent of Assessment	24
Table 5-1:	Draft SEA Environmental Objectives	26
Table 5-2:	Draft SEA Environmental Objectives	30
Table 6-1:	Consultees in SEA Scoping Process	32

1 INTRODUCTION

This draft Scoping Report on the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan identifies the key environmental issues which are to be addressed in the future assessment of the plan. This document is being issued for consultation to the statutory consultees, other relevant stakeholders and the public. Submissions made on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and taken into consideration in the finalisation of the report.

1.1 WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

The Waste Framework Directive sets out the approach for the sustainable management of waste in the Member states of the European Community and has been transposed into Irish law by the Waste Management Act 1996 and the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011. The Directive requires the following:

- The application of the waste hierarchy to apply as a priority order in waste prevention and waste management legislation and policy.
- To ensure that waste is recovered (including separate collection at source to facilitate recovery where technically, environmentally and economically practicable) or, where it is not recovered, to ensure that waste is disposed of without causing risks to human health and the environment.
- To prohibit the abandonment or uncontrolled disposal of waste.
- To establish an integrated and adequate network of waste disposal installations and of installations for the recovery of mixed municipal waste, aiming for EU self-sufficiency and for Member States individually to move towards self-sufficiency.
- To take necessary measures to ensure that any holder of waste has that waste handled by a private or public waste collector or recovers or disposes of it himself/herself in an environmentally sound manner and in accordance with the waste hierarchy.
- To have a system of permits and registration for all those involved in collecting, disposing of, preparing for the recovery of, or recovering waste.
- To ensure that all those involved keep a record of all the details of their operations (the quantity, nature, origin and destination of the waste) and are subject to periodic inspections and special controls to ensure the safe management of hazardous waste.
- To ensure that the costs of waste management are borne by the original waste producer or by the current or previous waste holders, in accordance with the polluter pays principle.

The Directive and a number of other directives set out a range of policy principles, mandatory targets and regulatory frameworks which Member States must transpose into national law.

1.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT IN IRELAND

A regional approach to managing waste in Ireland was given a legal base by the Waste Management Act 1996 which allowed for one or more local authorities to come together for the purpose of preparing a waste management plan. Ten regions were formed, seven of which were made up of two or more local authorities and covered the majority of the country and three were county regions (these were Kildare, Wicklow and Donegal). These are shown in **Figure 1.1**. The first regional waste

management plans were prepared in the late 1990s and most were based on a 15 year strategy to maximise recycling and to minimise disposal. This strategic vision remains valid to this day and is in keeping with the European Commission's aim for Member States to embrace and foster a recycling society.

The first generation of waste management plans covered the period 1998 to 2004 and introduced a new approach to local waste management in Ireland. The plans followed the policy objectives of the State's first National Waste Policy Statement, *Changing Our Ways*, and the waste management hierarchy was placed at the heart of the regional plans. The plan objectives included the widespread introduction of source separated collection systems for households and business, significant improvements to local public recycling infrastructure, plans for the development of regional waste treatment capacities, awareness and education initiatives and enforcement activities. The scope of the plans was (and still is) substantial and is defined in statute by the Waste Management Planning Regulations 1997.

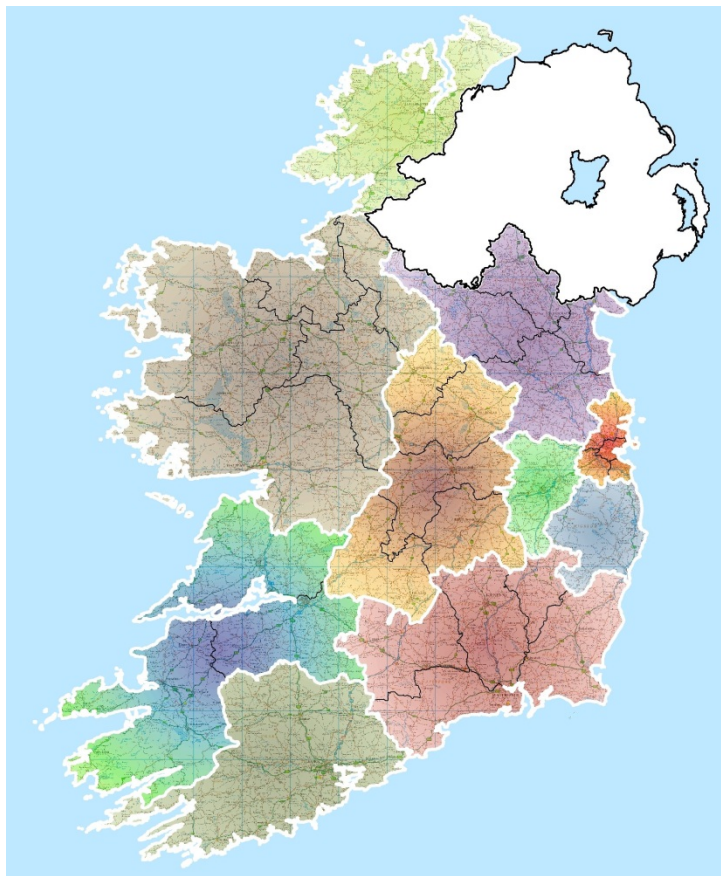


Figure 1.1: Previous Waste Management Regions

The first generation of waste management plans were reviewed and replaced wholesale over the period 2005 to 2006. The second generation of waste management plans built on the foundations of the first regional plans, expanding on policy objectives to reflect the nature of the operating environment, the growing market and the increased role of private sector operators. The targets set down in the original strategies remained in place and provided headline goals for most regions to 2013.

The second generation of the plans were designed to cover the period up to 2010 and 2011. A review of the regional structure extended the life of the current plans which remain in force. An evaluation of the existing waste management plans was carried out by the local authorities in 2012 in line with the requirements of Article 30 of the EU Waste Framework Directive. The outcome of this process showed that there was significant improvement in recycling rates in the period as well as building capacity in waste prevention capacity. In addition, the outcome of this process it was to recommend the replacement of all of the waste management plans to take account of the legislative changes brought into force by the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011.

In July 2012 the latest Government National Waste Policy document, *A Resource Opportunity*, recommended the consolidation of the waste regions to a maximum of three [see **Figure 1.2**]. The document acknowledges that the time has come for the regional waste planning framework to be re-shaped to allow for greater resource efficiencies in the implementation of the plans and to better reflect the movement of waste. The new boundary lines will provide for greater consistency and co-ordination with other planning frameworks.

The transformation from ten regions to three has been undertaken as follows:

- Eastern-Midlands Region;
- Connacht-Ulster Region; and the
- Southern Region

The new plans will be in force for 6 years and are to cover the period 2015 – 2021.

1.3 CONNACHT-ULSTER REGION

The Connacht-Ulster Region incorporates all or part of nine administrative areas: Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Galway City, Leitrim, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon and Sligo. The lead authority for the preparation of the waste management plan is Mayo County Council. The geographic scope of the Connacht-Ulster Region is shown in **Figure 1.3**.

The Connacht-Ulster Region is home to rich agricultural land, peatlands and bogs, extensive coastlines and the city of Galway. With a land area of around 25,800km², the Connacht-Ulster Region covers approximately 37% of the country. Approximately 837,350 people (18% percent of Ireland's population) live in the Connacht-Ulster Region.

The distribution and activities of people in the region varies from rural agricultural communities to the city of Galway. Galway City is home to 9% of the region's population (75,529). Around 91% of the population in the region lives in small villages or one-off houses in rural areas.

The region's rivers and lakes support fishing and boating activities and the coastline is popular for holidays. Some areas in the Connacht-Ulster Region contain rare and vulnerable habitats and wildlife. These areas are numerous and varied in the types of habitats and species found. Such areas in the region include Lough Corrib, the River Moy, the Shannon, the lakes of Cavan and national parks (Connemara and Glenveagh National Parks). The region also contains nine water bodies that have been designated as freshwater pearl mussel catchments. In addition, many coastal sites have been

identified to protect recreational bathing areas and habitats of importance and include Galway Bay, Clew Bay, Drumcliff Bay and Gweedore Bay to name but a few.



Figure 1.2: Ireland's Waste Management Regions

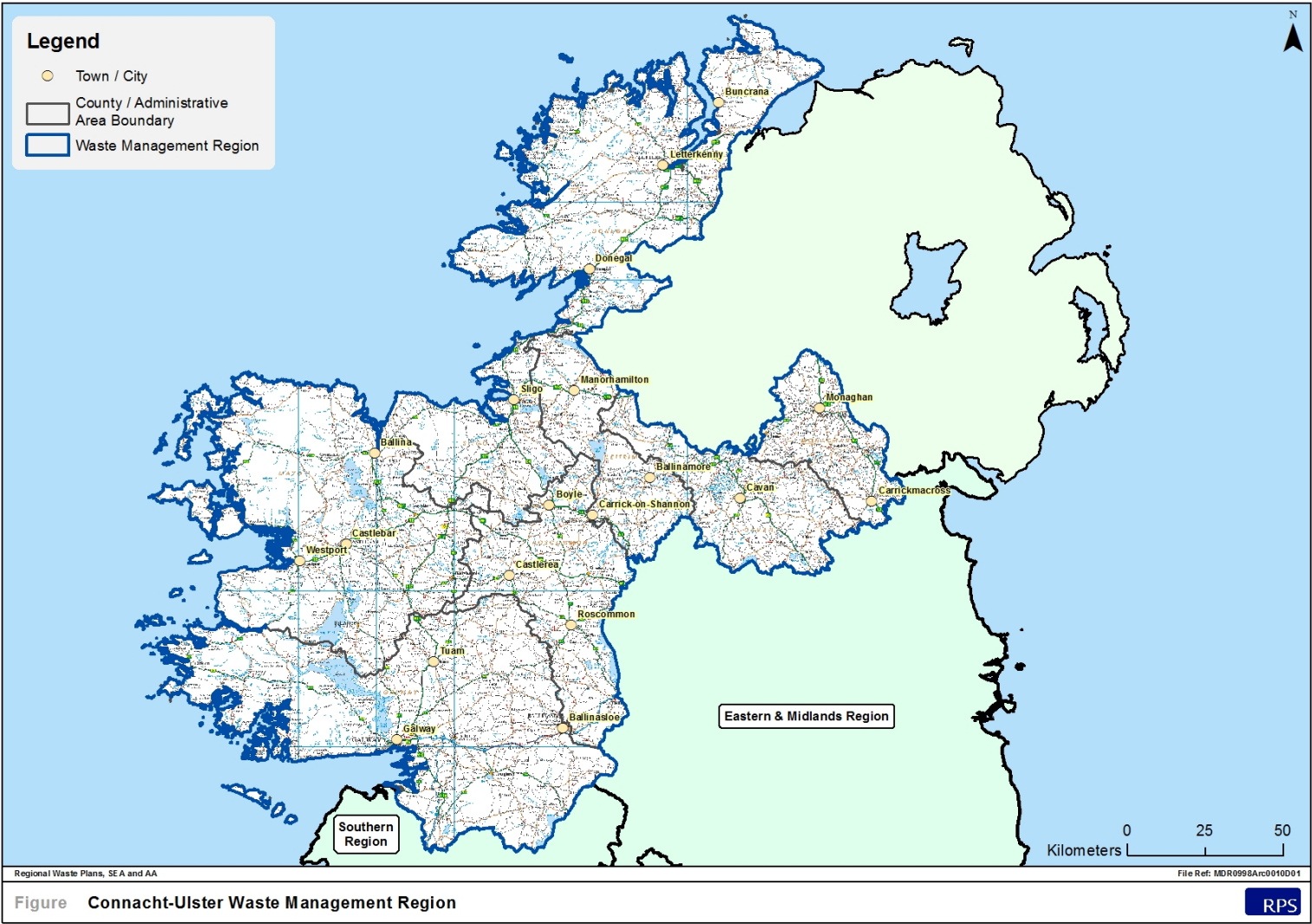


Figure 1.3: Connacht-Ulster Waste Management Region

1.4 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental quality and consequences of policy, plan or programme initiatives by statutory bodies. The purpose is to ensure that the environmental consequences of plans and programmes are assessed both during their preparation and prior to adoption. The SEA process also gives interested parties an opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed plan or programme and to be kept informed during the decision making process.

The European Directive (2001/42/EC) on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive), was transposed into national legislation in Ireland by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435/2004) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436/2004). Both pieces of legislation were amended in 2011 under S.I. 200/2011 and S.I. 201/2011.

The SEA process is comprised of the following steps:

- Screening: Decision on whether or not an SEA of a plan/programme is required;
- Scoping: Consultation with the defined statutory bodies on the scope and level of detail to be considered in the assessment;
- Environmental Assessment: An assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of the plan or programme;
- An Environmental Report;
- Consultation on the draft plan/programme and associated Environmental Report;
- Evaluation of the submissions and observations made on the draft plan/programme and Environmental Report; and
- Issuance of an SEA Statement identifying how environmental considerations and consultation have been integrated into the final plan/programme.

Figure 1.4 shows the key steps required to complete the statutory SEA process in accordance with the relevant national legislation.

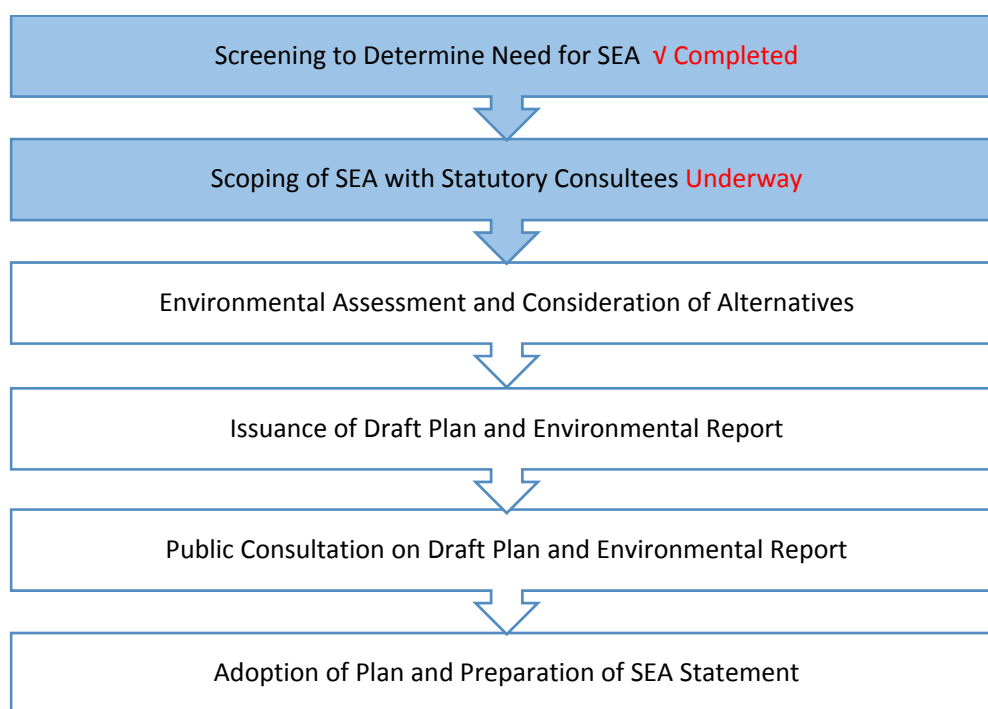


Figure 1.4: Overview of SEA Process

1.4.1 SEA Screening Stage

The SEA Directive requires that certain plans and programmes, prepared by statutory bodies, which are likely to have a significant impact on the environment, be subject to the SEA process. A screening of the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan for SEA was undertaken in May 2014 after which it was concluded that SEA would be undertaken for the draft Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan. A copy of the Screening Statement is available on the dedicated plan website: www.mayococo.ie.

1.4.2 SEA Scoping Stage

Under Article 6 of the SEA Directive, the competent authority preparing the plan or programme is required to consult with specific “environmental authorities” (statutory consultees) on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report. The competent authority in relation to the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan is Mayo County Council, acting on behalf of all local authorities within the Connacht-Ulster Region. The statutory consultees for SEA are established within the national legislation as being:

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;
- Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources; and
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Currently Ireland transports waste out of Ireland for processing and disposal, including export to mainland Europe. The transport of waste between Ireland and Northern Ireland in particular is a consideration for the draft plan. As such the need for transboundary consultation has been identified within the SEA process and this scoping documentation will therefore be sent to the relevant authority for SEA in Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).

The main objective of scoping is to identify key issues of concern that should be addressed in the assessment of the plan and the appropriate level of detail to which they should be considered. The scoping exercise should answer the following questions:

- What are the relevant significant issues to be addressed by the SEA?
- Against what environmental objectives should the potential options be evaluated?

While the issuance of a Scoping Report is not a formal requirement of the SEA Regulations, it is recommended as good practice. A Scoping Report can inform stakeholders about the key environmental issues and the key elements of the plan/programme (P/P). In addition, the Scoping Report can be used as a tool to generate comments from stakeholders on the scope and approach of the SEA.

This document has been compiled as part of the scoping stage of the SEA for the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan. This Scoping Report has been compiled on behalf of Mayo County Council as the lead authority for the plan.

1.4.3 Environmental Assessment

An assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of the plan will be undertaken in due course. This will include, as relevant, a description of the baseline, mitigation measures to offset negative impacts and provision of a monitoring programme. The output from this stage is an Environmental Report. Further details on these issues are presented in Chapters, 3, 4 and 5 of this document. In parallel to this assessment, Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening will also be undertaken and this will inform the SEA and development of the draft plan.

Public consultation will be carried out on the draft plan, the associated SEA Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment. The submissions and observations made on these documents will be reviewed and considered during finalisation of the plan.

1.4.4 SEA Statement

An SEA Statement identifying how environmental considerations and consultation have been integrated into the final plan will be provided for information alongside the final plan.

1.5 SEA GUIDANCE

The Environmental Report will contain the findings of the assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment resulting from implementation of the proposed Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan. It will reflect the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) on the

Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment and also the transposed regulations in Ireland (S.I. 435/2004) as amended in 2011.

The following principal sources of guidance will be used during the overall SEA process and during preparation of the Environmental Report.

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Checklist - Consultation Draft. January 2008. Environmental Protection Agency.
- GISEA Manual – Consultation Draft. April 2009. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC). Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment. Guidelines for Regional Planning Authorities. November 2004. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland. Synthesis Report. 2003. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Process Note for Regional Waste Management Plans, February 2012.

The SEA will also have regard to the findings of the EPA's 2012 Review of SEA Effectiveness in Ireland.

1.6 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

The requirements for Appropriate Assessment and the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites derive directly from Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) which is one of the most important articles of the Directive in determining the relationship between conservation and site use.

Article 6(3) states:

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

Article 6(4) states:

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [Natura 2000] site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest [IROPI], including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

The Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan is not directly connected to the conservation of any Natura 2000 site. The plan has the potential to impact on habitats and species for which SAC and SPA have been designated in the Connacht-Ulster Region and it has therefore been determined that the Waste Management Plan will undergo screening for AA in a parallel process to the SEA.

It is noted that there are requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives that are not encompassed by AA (e.g. Annex IV species as per Articles 12 and 13 of the Habitats Directive, disturbance and deterioration of bird habitats as per article 4(4) of the Birds Directive) and these will be addressed in the SEA.

1.7 INTEGRATION OF THE PROCESSES

The waste management planning process is running in parallel with both the SEA and AA processes as outlined in **Figure 1.5**.

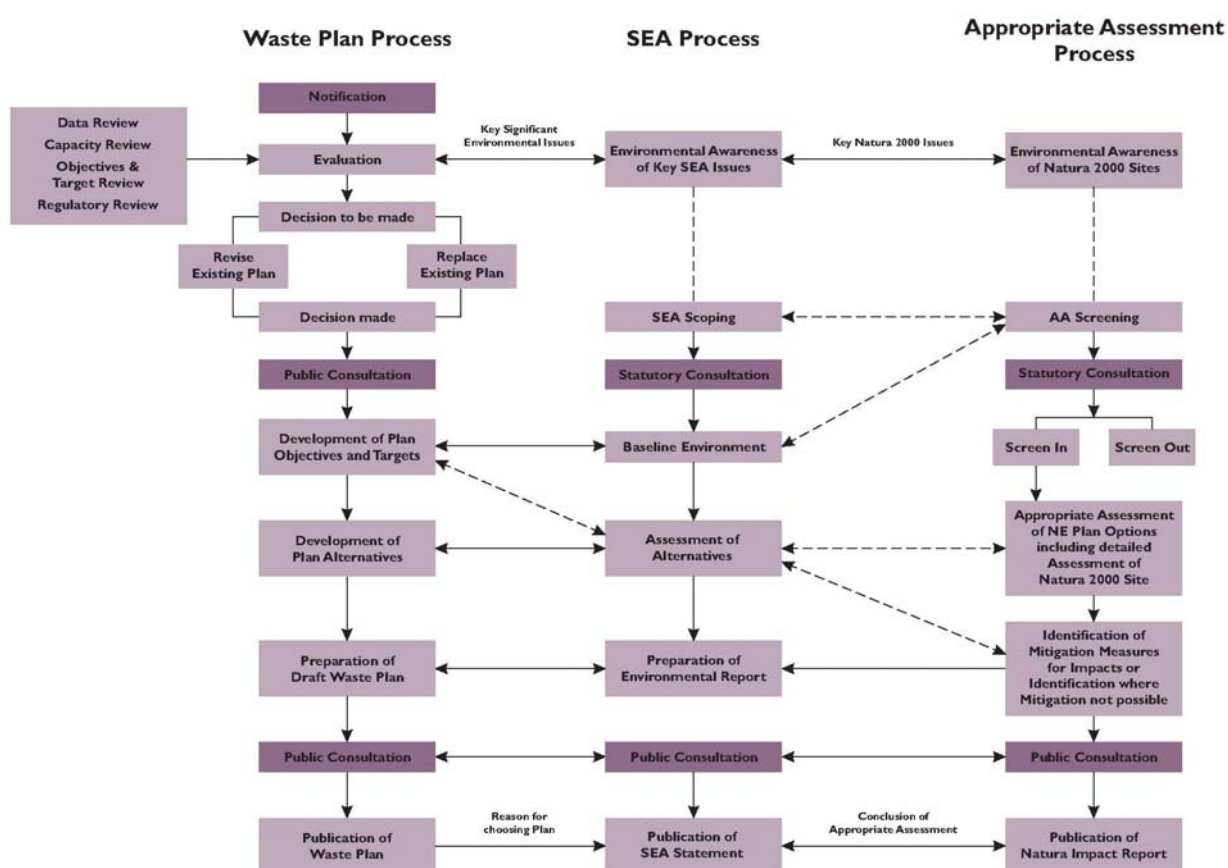


Figure 1.5: Integration of Plan, SEA and AA

2 RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

As part of the SEA process, it will be necessary to consider the environmental protection objectives, established at the international; European and national level which are relevant to the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan and how they have been taken into account during the preparation of the plan. For the purposes of scoping **Figure 2.1** below summarises key waste legislation and documents which will be considered.

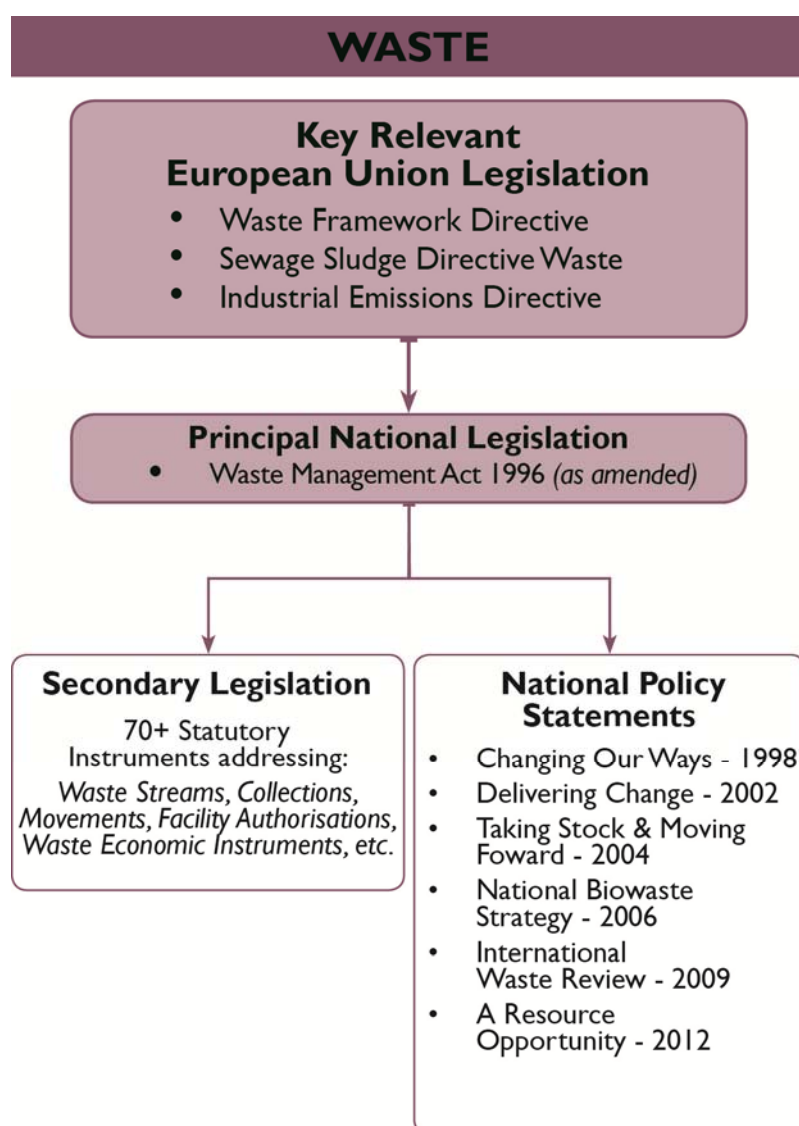


Figure 2.1: Key Waste Related Documents for Review in the SEA

Figure 2.2 outlines some of the key environmental legislation, plans and programmes specifically relevant to the SEA of the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan. The environmental protection objectives from these documents will be explored further as part of the Environmental Report and suggestions are welcomed as part of the scoping consultation.

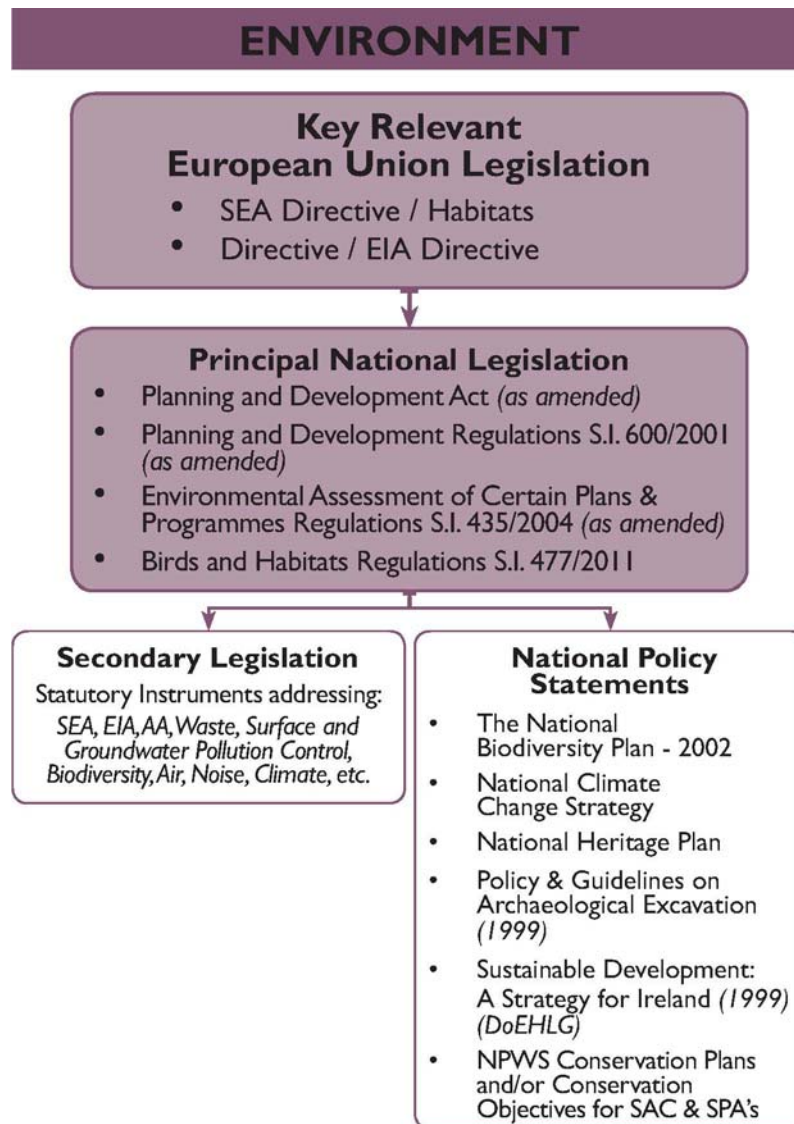


Figure 2.2: Key Environmental Related Documents for Review in the SEA

2.1 PLANNING HIERARCHY

The EU Waste Framework Directive is the key legislative instrument driving waste management in all Member States. It is part of a suite of waste management legislation whose primary focus, although not specifically environmental, have significant implications for environmental protection and as such has the potential to interact with many other environment specific EU Directives. Article 30 of the Waste Framework Directive requires Member States to evaluate and subsequently revise or replace the waste management plans. This requirement of the directive has been transposed into Irish legislation and the evaluation of all waste management plans has been completed. The outcome of the process recommended that each plan is replaced.

The Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan will be administered wholly within Ireland, therefore the planning hierarchy in Ireland must be considered when placing the regional waste management plans in the context. Within Ireland, the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (*as amended*), has established a hierarchy in relation to planning as follows:

- EU / International Legislation and Agreements;
- National Development Plan (NDP);
- National Spatial Strategy (NSS);
- Regional Planning Guidelines;
- County, Borough and Urban District Development Plans; and
- Local Area Plans, Integrated Area Plans, Action Area Plans.

A draft hierarchy in which the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan is placed in context is illustrated in **Figure 2.3**. The Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan represents higher level regional planning and will inform regional and county development plans and other local level planning strategies.

2.2 KEY PRESSURES

Under the transposing regulations of the Waste Framework Directive there was a requirement on all local authorities to evaluate existing waste management plans by 31 December 2012. Evaluation Reports were prepared by all local authorities. These Evaluation Reports highlighted the main pressures / problems facing waste management in Ireland. This section gives a summary of the principal environmental and waste management problems experienced within the Connacht Ulster Region:

- Potential cost savings from resource efficiency and waste prevention measures have not been clearly defined;
- There is a lack of local authority dedicated resources to proactively implement waste prevention campaigns and strategies. There is a need to maximise resources that are already present and be consistent with approach across the region with coordination and integration within the region and nationally;
- There has been poor roll out of the three bin collection system in the Connacht Ulster Region. The National Waste Report 2011 shows that the 3 bin roll out in the region only reached a maximum of 26% in all counties with the exception of Galway City which achieved 87%. This all resulting in increased biodegradable waste going to landfill. Landfilling of biodegradable waste results in leachate, landfill gas and odour generation;
- There is fragmented household waste collection services with low rates of coverage particularly in rural areas leading to increased illegal dumping and/or backyard burning. In rural areas where no kerbside collection service is offered viable alternatives need to be provided. Civic Amenity Centres (CAS) should not take priority over kerbside collection however it is an important part of the collection infrastructure in areas of low population density. Community / Local Authority Initiatives should be encouraged to establish waste

services in these areas similar to existing schemes i.e. green waste facility set up between a local community development group and Sligo County Council.

- The percentage of uncollected household waste remains very high in the region, due to the extensive coverage of areas of lower population density. The majority of the counties in the Connacht Ulster Region were above the national average for uncollected waste in 2010 (29%) (with the exception of Galway City). Uncollected waste is contributing to backyard burning and illegal dumping. The environmental impacts associated with these activities include deterioration of air quality with potential effects on human health, deterioration of the natural environment and water and ground pollution from waste degradation. Flora and fauna are also at risk depending on the location of fly tipping/burning etc;
- In some counties in the Connacht Ulster Region (including Monaghan) illegal waste dumping incidents from diesel laundering is a major issue. Significant clean-up costs are being incurred by the local authorities and these hazardous wastes have the potential to cause significant environmental damage (sulphuric acid wash, sludge etc.)
- Significant portion of biodegradable waste within the commercial waste stream is still not being diverted from the residual bin and significant quantities are going to landfill rather than being recycled;
- The region, at the end of 2010, remained over reliant on landfill for disposal of municipal waste streams;
- There are environmental risks (including to groundwater and surface water) associated with closed landfills and former hazardous waste disposal sites. Many have yet to undergo environmental assessment and more landfills will continue to close during the period of this Plan requiring continued monitoring and after care;
- There has been a failure to ensure the reuse and recycling of construction and demolition (C&D) waste resulting in reduction in our finite natural resources such as geological and energy reserves;
- The lack of enforcement of producer responsibility scheme is contributing to poor controls of this waste stream and resulting in improper treatment and illegal disposal of End of Life Vehicles (ELV), WEEE, C&D, batteries, tyres and hazardous waste;
- Illegal dumping of waste in vulnerable areas (e.g. permeable sites) has the potential to impact on soils, groundwater and surface water as a result of leachate. For example, where tyres are illegally disposed, the primary areas of concern are the metal threading, the fuel residue and the rubber itself leaching into groundwater and surface waters;
- Environmental impact associated with failing to deliver the required infrastructure in the region is considered significant. The lack of lasting alternative to landfill to ensure the appropriate management of residual waste is having ongoing environmental impact; and
- There is a national deficit of thermal treatment capacity to deal with residual and residual biodegradable waste going to landfill or for export. The growing trend of the export of

residual waste is not an environmentally sustainable option in the long-term. The provision of indigenous infrastructure is considered important to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.



Figure 2.3: Draft Hierarchy

3 SCOPING

3.1 SCOPE OF THE PLAN

3.1.1 Geographic Scope

The Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan (RWMP) is the plan for the management of wastes arising primarily in the Connacht-Ulster Region. As such the assessment will be primarily focussed at activities occurring within the functional area of the plan however it is recognised that there is a national dimension to the plan also. Recognition will be given within the plan to the issue of waste management in the other two waste management plan regions (the Southern Region and the Eastern-Midlands Region) in the context of national capacities as well as those specific to the region. A separate SEA will be carried out for each of the two remaining waste management regions.

3.1.2 Temporal Scope

The Connacht-Ulster RWMP will be in force for six years and will cover the period from 2015 up to 2021. In line with the SEA Directive, short, medium and long-term impacts (including reference to secondary, cumulative, synergistic, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects) will be considered during the assessment. While the review period for the plan is every six years the recommendations put forward in the plan have a longer perspective and will take a number of years for certain aspects to be implemented and take effect. As a result the time lines proposed for assessment of long-term impacts extends beyond the timeframe of the actual plan. For the purpose of the SEA, a medium term horizon of beyond 2021 and a long term horizon of beyond 2027 will be assessed. This will cover two full cycles of the waste management plans under the revised boundaries. It is also recognised that the changes to the waste management region boundaries is likely to result in immediate changes / impacts for existing facilities and therefore short-term impacts will be relevant.

3.1.3 Scoping of Strategic Environmental Assessment Topics

In accordance with S.I. 435 of 2004, as amended, consideration has been given to whether the environmental effects, both positive and negative, of the Connacht-Ulster RWMP are likely to be significant. A summary of the conclusions are listed in **Table 3-1**, below.

Table 3-1: Scoping of SEA Issues

SEA Issue	Scope In/Out	Significant Environmental Issues with Potential to Occur and Reason for Scoping In / Out
Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on protected areas: European (e.g. SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites) and National (e.g. (p)NHAs); • Effects on flora and fauna, (including migratory bird species, invertebrates etc.) and habitats; • Effects on Freshwater Pearl Mussel; • Effects on salmonids, other protected fish and shellfish species; • Effects on sensitive habitats e.g. peatlands, limestone habitats; • Potential introduction of alien species and invasive species; • Protecting and enhancing biodiversity as a whole on a national, regional and local level; • Potential for habitat loss and fragmentation; • Potential for interaction with Habitats Directive, i.e. Articles 6, 10,12.
Population	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in waste produced and requirement to recover, recycle and treat same; • Proximity of waste treatment facilities and infrastructure to population centres; • Improving function and operation of waste management facilities and infrastructure affecting land quality and water quality; • Nuisance issues etc.; • Encroachment on recreational land uses; • Possible effects on tourism (e.g. eco-tourism, site seeing, activity holidays, fishing, water sports)
Human Health	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on air quality; • Effects on soil; • Effects on water quality (recreational and drinking); • Effects on traffic and transport networks; • Potential for nuisance (noise, odour); • Potential for disease generation; • New waste management facilities and infrastructure providing cleaner safer options and replacing older technologies.
Soil and Landuse	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contaminated land sites; • Historic unregulated waste disposal sites (category 1 and 2 as per EPA Code of Practice¹), Illegal landfills (category 3 as per EPA Code of Practice) and closed landfills (which continue to be authorised); • Landfill management, restoration and closure; • Future waste management facility and infrastructure land requirements; • Land vulnerable to erosion;

¹ EPA 2007, Code of Practice. Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites

SEA Issue	Scope In/Out	Significant Environmental Issues with Potential to Occur and Reason for Scoping In / Out
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence on land use practices reliant on soil as a resource; • Effects on geomorphology (i.e. landforms and river channels).
Water	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water pollution from point or diffuse sources; • Morphological impacts on water bodies from engineering and other works; • Impacts on surface water and groundwater bodies from landfill leachates and contaminated land sites; • Impacts on water bodies from construction of new waste management facilities and infrastructure ; • Impacts on water bodies from land spreading of organic wastes; • Impacts on groundwater quality and quantity; • Pressures and impacts on ecological status of water bodies; • Impacts on water supply (including potable) and water conservation; • Impacts on surface water and groundwater from leachates following landfill closures.
Air Quality	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect of odour generated by waste management facilities and infrastructure; • Effect of air emissions from collection and transport of waste; • Effect of air emissions from waste treatment and recovery facilities; • Effect of air emission from land spreading practices; • Effect of air emissions from accidental fires at waste management facilities and infrastructure; • Air emissions associated with backyard burning of waste.
Climatic Factors	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas emissions from landfill sites; • Greenhouse gas emissions from collection and transport of waste; • Greenhouse gas emissions from waste treatment and recovery facilities; • Greenhouse gas emissions from land spreading practices; • New waste processing technologies generating energy and used as alternatives to fossil fuels.
Material Assets	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving towards self -sufficiency in waste management nationally; • Use of resources (building material and energy) in construction of waste management facilities and infrastructure; • Reuse of waste materials, quality of waste for recycling; • Use of transport networks in collecting and transporting waste; • Energy generation potential including district heating; • Use of water and energy in operation of waste management facilities and infrastructure; • Siting of waste management facilities and infrastructure

SEA Issue	Scope In/Out	Significant Environmental Issues with Potential to Occur and Reason for Scoping In / Out
		affecting land take and land use; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage efficient use of resources and move further up the waste hierarchy.
Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally designated sites in close proximity to waste management facilities and infrastructure; Effects on cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage features in the vicinity of proposed and existing waste management facilities and infrastructure; Potential for disturbance of previously undiscovered archaeological remains near or within development of waste management facility and infrastructure development site.
Landscape	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects on areas of designated landscape quality and scenic views e.g. from illegal dumping; Effects on general landscape character and sensitive receptors as a result of waste management infrastructure and activities such as illegal dumping.

3.2 PARTS OF THE RWMP TO BE ASSESSED

As part of the SEA scoping process a decision needs to be made as to what parts of the Connacht-Ulster RWMP should be assessed and to what level of detail. The purpose of the SEA is to provide a meaningful assessment of those parts of the Connacht-Ulster RWMP that may lead to significant environmental effects. In doing this it will ensure that the requirements of the SEA Directive and associated environmental regulations are being met in adopting the RWMP.

Table 3-2 identifies those elements of the RWMP proposed to be assessed as part of the SEA and also explains why they are / are not to be assessed. Again this information is provided to generate discussion during the consultation process and is subject to change based on the comments received.

Table 3-2: Elements of the Connacht-Ulster RWMP Proposed for Assessment

	Outline Content of RWMP	Will this be Assessed in the SEA?
1	Introduction	No. This provides factual information about the environment in the waste management region.
2	Study Area	No. This provides factual information about the environment in the waste management region.
3	Consultation	No. This is information about the consultation arrangements put in place as part of the development of the regional waste management plan. SEA consultation arrangements may also be incorporated into this for clarity.
4	Legislative and Policy Framework	No. This provides factual information about legislation and policy relevant to waste management planning. The SEA and AA may

	Outline Content of RWMP	Will this be Assessed in the SEA?
		provide additional information on key environmental legislation with direct relevance for the RWMP to be included in this chapter.
5	Pending Legislative Developments	No. This provides information about pending legislation and policy relevant to waste management planning, however issues raised may be considered as part of cumulative assessments where relevant.
6	Market trends and Developments	No. This provides factual information about market trends and provides baseline information to inform the development of policies and measures within the plan.
7	Waste Prevention and Reuse	No. This provides factual information about waste trends and provides baseline information to inform the development of policies and measures within the plan.
8	Waste Generation	No. This provides factual information about waste trends and provides baseline information to inform the development of policies and measures within the plan.
9	Household Waste Collection Systems	No. This provides factual information about waste trends and provides baseline information to inform the development of policies and measures within the plan.
10	Other Waste Collection Systems	No. This provides factual information about waste trends and provides baseline information to inform the development of policies and measures within the plan.
11	Management of Packaging Waste	No. This provides factual information about waste trends and provides baseline information to inform the development of policies and measures within the plan.
12	Management of Biodegradable Municipal Waste	No. This provides factual information about waste trends and provides baseline information to inform the development of policies and measures within the plan.
13	Recovery and Pre-treatment Capacity	No. This provides factual information about waste trends and provides baseline information to inform the development of policies and measures within the plan.
14	Disposal Capacities	No. This provides factual information about waste trends and provides baseline information to inform the development of policies and measures within the plan.
15	Waste Management Finances	No. This provides financial information on current expenditure and future investments required for waste management. This information will be relevant to the SEA Assessment of Chapter 18.

	Outline Content of RWMP	Will this be Assessed in the SEA?
16	Waste Projections	No. This provides forecast information about waste trends and provides baseline information to inform the development of policies and measures within the plan.
17	Regional Policy Statement & Strategy	Yes. This is a key element of the RWMP for which the SEA will feed into and assess for potential impacts.
18	Policy Actions, Targets and Indicators	Yes. This is a key element of the RWMP for which the SEA will feed into and assess for potential impacts. Policy Actions, Targets and Indicators in the areas of prevention and reuse of waste, household, commercial, other waste streams, waste management infrastructure and siting, former disposal and recovery sites, movement of waste, proximity, enforcement and resource efficiency will be presented.
19	Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of the Plan	No. This is a chapter which will summarise the SEA and AA processes.
20	Implementation and Monitoring Plan	No. This is a key element of the success of the RWMP and is critical information for the SEA. It will feed into the assessments for Chapter 17 and 18 providing a clear understanding of how the RWMP will be implemented. The monitoring programme will be reviewed for synergies with the SEA monitoring proposals to ensure efficiencies.
21	Roles and Responsibilities for Key Stakeholders	No. This provides factual information about the RWMP but it is recognised it is a critical element of the documentation to ensure implementation.

4 PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

In line with the SEA Directive, an environmental baseline will be compiled for the Connacht-Ulster Region. This will include; a description of the state of the environment at present; a discussion of the key problems/ issues currently being faced in the region; and a description of the expected evolution of the environment should the waste management plan not be implemented.

The SEA Environmental Report will present a full description of the relevant aspects of the environmental baseline data for the region. The baseline will reflect the strategic nature of the plan. The environmental baseline will be presented in the Environmental Report under a number of Strategic Environmental Assessment topic headings as follows:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (BFF);
- Population (P);
- Human Health (HH);
- Soils and Land Use (SL);
- Water (W);
- Air Quality (AQ)
- Climatic Factors (CF);
- Material Assets (MA);
- Architectural Archaeological and Cultural Heritage (AACH); and
- Landscape (L).

Under each of the SEA topic heading the current state of the environment will be identified along with the key problems/ issues and the expected evolution of the environment in the absence of the plan. The data sources that will be used to compile the current state of the environment are identified in **Section 4.1**.

4.1 BASELINE DATA SOURCES

It will be key that the current state of the environment is described using the most up to date environmental data, information and reports. Where updates of significant environmental data and associated reports become available during the SEA process, consideration will be given to incorporating the new information into the description of the current state of the environment. Where data gaps are found for particular aspects of the current state of the environment, the significance of these data gaps will be clearly stated. In addition, it will be stated whether these gaps can be reasonably and realistically addressed during the SEA process.

A key document that will be referenced will be the fifth EPA State of the Environment Report: *An Assessment. Ireland's Environment 2012*, which identifies four priority challenges for the environment. These four priority challenges comprise:

1. Value and Protecting our Natural Environment;
2. Building a Resource-Efficient Low Carbon Economy;
3. Implementing Environmental Legislation and

4. Putting the Environment at the Centre of Our Decision Making.

The Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan will be put in context in relation to these four components.

It is intended to utilise Geographical Information Systems (GIS) where possible to display and analyse information relevant to the region. **Table 4-1** provides a preliminary overview of each of the SEA Topics that will be outlined in the SEA baseline. The table also includes a non-exhaustive list of the potential data sources that will be used to compile the baseline and in addition it outlines the preliminary extent of the assessment based on these available data sources. Given the strategic nature of the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan, it is recognised that there are limitations on the extent of the scope of an environmental assessment and therefore it is beneficial to outline such limitations at this early stage.

Table 4-1: Baseline Data Sources and Extent of Assessment

SEA Topic	Potential Data Sources	Potential Extent of Assessment based on Data Sources
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) database; National Biodiversity Data Centre; Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan Birdwatch Ireland database; Inland Fisheries Ireland; Invasive Species Ireland website; wfdireland website; Freshwater pearl mussel project website; Bat Conservation Ireland database; County Development Plans for all local authorities within the Connacht-Ulster Region 	National and regional datasets are available for aspects relating to biodiversity, flora and fauna. Given the scale of the plan the assessment will be focussed on designated sites such as SPA, SAC, NHA.
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Statistics Office (CSO) database, including census 2011 data; Myplan.ie; County Development Plans for all local authorities within the Connacht-Ulster Region; and Failte Ireland database. 	National datasets are available for population density and distribution and the potential impacts of the waste management plan can be assessed relative to the available information.
Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Soils, Water and Air Quality entries. 	<p>There is no available National datasets for Human Health however, this topic is often referenced in relation to indirect impacts from air quality, noise, water quality etc.</p> <p>Reference will be made to the Institute of Public Health for appropriate information if available.</p>

SEA Topic	Potential Data Sources	Potential Extent of Assessment based on Data Sources
Soils and Landuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corine Landcover and Land Use Database; • Coillte Forestry Database; • Teagasc Soil Information; • County Development Plans for all local authorities within the Connacht-Ulster Region; and • Geological Survey of Ireland Online Mapping. 	National high level datasets are available for soil and land use resources at a county / national scale. This is in keeping with the strategic nature of the plan and is considered adequate at this scale.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA ENVision (Environmental Mapping); • EPA database reports including but not limited to: Water Quality in Ireland 2007-2009; Integrated Water Quality Reports (2011 and 2012 for specific regions); and Quality of Estuarine and Coastal Waters 2007-2009); • Water Framework Directive 'Water Matters' (Mapping); • National Catchment Flood Risk Management Programme (CFRAM), Office of Public Works (OPW); • Inland Fisheries Board database; and • Waterways Ireland database. 	National datasets are available for surface water and groundwater and issues relating to waste and water quality can be identified.
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA database (air quality); • Local Authority air quality monitoring network. 	National and regional datasets are available for relevant air quality parameters.
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA Irelands Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2012-2030; • Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEAI), Energy in Ireland Report (1990-2012) • EPA SAFER database 	National datasets are available for carbon emissions and greenhouse gases.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA database (municipal solid waste) • ENVision (licenced waste facilities) • Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEAI), Energy in Ireland Report (1990-2012); and • Rx3 Database (DEHLG). 	National datasets are available for certain resources that may be affected by the waste management plans.
Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural, Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Monuments Service (Archaeological Survey Database); • National Inventory of Architectural Heritage; and • Discovery Ireland Programme. 	National datasets are available for archaeology and architectural heritage, however the scale of the datasets are directed towards local project specific sources.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no national datasets for Landscape. A National Landscape Strategy has been proposed but is not yet published. 	There are no national datasets available for landscape and the information that is available at a county level is not consistent across all of the counties.

5 PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

A key purpose of scoping is to set out sufficient details about the proposed methodological framework for the assessment of environmental effects to allow the consultees to form a view on this matter. It is proposed to use an objectives-led assessment which will involve comparing the proposed alternatives against defined SEA Environmental Objectives for each of the identified issue areas.

The preceding sections have identified the environmental characteristics and key environmental issues relating to the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan and the key influences from external plans, policies and strategies. This section uses that information to set out a series of draft SEA objectives, indicators and associated targets. These will be used in the environmental report to predict the likely environmental effects of the regional waste management plan and, subsequently, monitor implementation of the plan. The use of these objectives ensures that following this scoping stage the SEA focuses only on those issues that are most relevant and significant to the study in the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan.

Set out in **Table 5-1** are the draft SEA objectives that are being considered to test the potential environmental impacts of the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan. These objectives are based on the current understanding of the key environmental issues identified. The detailed assessment criteria are examples of the issues that will be considered during the assessment of whether the plan, including the proposed alternatives, meets the proposed SEA objectives. It should be noted that these are draft objectives (**Table 5-1**) only and may be refined or developed further during the study.

Table 5-1: Draft SEA Environmental Objectives

Objective	Detailed Assessment Criteria – To what extent will the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan:	Related to SEA Topic(s)
Objective 1 To preserve, protect and maintain the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide effective protection of European and nationally designated biodiversity sites and species? Sustain, enhance or where relevant prevent the loss of ecological networks or parts thereof which provide significant connectivity between areas of biodiversity? Avoid loss of relevant habitats, species or their sustaining resources in national and European designated ecological sites? Support delivery of Habitats and Birds Directives, and the Water Framework Directive? 	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (BFF)
Objective 2 Contribute to sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve water quality / quantity? Impact on air quality? Contribute to floods or droughts on established populations? Protect drinking water areas (including private abstractions), bathing waters, economic shellfish waters and fisheries? 	Population and Human Health (PHH)

Objective	Detailed Assessment Criteria – To what extent will the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan:	Related to SEA Topic(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to Flood Risk Management Planning? Preserve amenity / recreational areas? 	
Objective 3 Avoid damage to the function and quality of the soil resource.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerate or reduce erosion? Result in impacts on the productivity of agricultural land? Safeguard soil quality, quantity and function? 	Soil and Landuse (SL)
Objective 4 Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent deterioration of the status of designated water bodies with regard to quality, quantity Improve water body status to at least good status, as appropriate to the WFD. Impact on physical modifications to habitat and on fish passage? Contribute to effective protection of “protected areas” on the WFD Register of Protected Areas? Contribute to the enhancement of “protected areas” on the WFD Register of Protected Areas? Contribute toward achieving the basic (“good / high status”) objectives of the WFD? 	Water (W)
Objective 5 Minimise emissions of pollutants to air associated with waste management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent air pollution associated with collection, transport, treatment and storage of waste? Control nuisance associated with noise, odour and / or dust emissions from waste management? 	Air Quality (AQ)
Objective 6 Minimise contribution to climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gasses associated with Plan implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to reducing GHG emission from landuse management activities? Provide for measures that are vulnerable to climate change? Reduce the risk of flooding on existing / future waste infrastructure? 	Climatic Factors (C)
Objective 7 Support economic activities without conflicting with the objectives of the Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive or the Waste Framework Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Result in a loss of land available for economic activity? Result in significant changes to an existing economic activity, which would render it unviable? Encourage new or enhance existing economic activity? Ensure existing waste infrastructure is maintained as appropriate? Ensure orderly reduction in reliance of on landfill? Contribute to the remediation of historic unregulated waste disposal sites (category 1 and 2 as per EPA Code of Practice), illegal landfills (category 3 as per EPA Code of Practice) and closed landfills (authorised) within the region? 	Material Assets (MA)

Objective	Detailed Assessment Criteria – To what extent will the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan:	Related to SEA Topic(s)
Objective 8 Protect and maintain cultural heritage resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interfere with archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage features? Interfere with the landscape setting of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage features? 	Cultural Heritage (CH)
Objective 9 Protect and maintain the national landscape character.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to maintaining the national landscape character? Result in changes to the historic or cultural landscape? 	Landscape (L)

5.1 INTERNAL COMPATABILITY OF OBJECTIVES

In accordance with the SEA Directive, the interrelationship between the SEA environmental topics must be taken into account. The key interrelationships identified in this SEA are set out below in **Figure 5.1**. The relationship between water and biodiversity is an example. Flora and fauna rely directly on the aquatic environment as a habitat which is directly related to the quantity and quality of the water environment which is in turn a material asset for the local community.

Objective 1 BFF	Y								
Objective 2 PHH	Y	Y							
Objective 3 SL	Y	Y	Y						
Objective 4 W	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Objective 5 AQ	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Objective 6 CF	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Objective 7 MA	Y/N	Y/N	Y	Y	Y	Y/N	Y		
Objective 8 CH	Y/N	Y/N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y/N	Y	
Objective 9 L	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Objective 1 BFF	Objective 2 PHH	Objective 3 SL	Objective 4 W	Objective 5 AQ	Objective 6 CF	Objective 7 MA	Objective 8 CH	Objective 9 L

Y = Yes, compatible N = No, not compatible Y/N = May be compatible depending on how it is implemented

Figure 5.1: Inter-relationship of SEA Topics

5.2 DRAFT INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Targets will be considered over the duration of the baseline data collection and assessment, and through the consultation process, in order to meet the strategic environmental objectives of the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan. In each case, any target that is set must be attributable to the implementation of the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan. The indicators will also be selected bearing in mind the availability of data and the feasibility of making direct links between any changes in the environment and the implementation of the plans. These indicators will be developed during the study, including in response to comments received on this Scoping Document.

5.3 IMPACTS, MITIGATION AND MONITORING

In line with the requirements in the legislation the likely significant effects on the environment will be assessed. This includes reference to secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects as well as the interrelationships between the environmental issue areas. Where possible and practical, assessment of these impacts will be quantitative. Any problems encountered during the assessment of impacts, including technical difficulties and/or lack of information, will be highlighted and described, as appropriate.

With regard to cumulative impacts, the use and application of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) will be considered, where possible, at the various key stages in the SEA process. GIS, along with other methodologies and depending on the availability of relevant spatial data, will assist in determining the cumulative vulnerability of various environmental resources nationally / regionally for the waste management plan.

Where significant adverse impacts are identified during the SEA process, relevant and appropriate mitigation measures will be provided in the Environmental Report. In order to ensure implementation of the recommended measures, monitoring arrangements will be provided and will include, where feasible, details as to the frequency of monitoring, and analysis and reporting on monitoring. As part of the monitoring programme, relevant and appropriate thresholds will be included to determine when remedial action is required for the particular aspect of the environment being monitored.

5.4 OUTLINE OF ALTERNATIVES

The assessment of reasonable alternatives as part of the SEA process is required as part of an Environmental Report under Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive. Due to the strategic nature of the Waste Framework Directive and the far reaching effects of the RWMP it is considered best practice to outline the framework of alternatives being considered at this stage of the SEA process although it is recognised that development of alternatives is at an early stage of the plan making process. Alternatives can be described as a range of options available to the plan makers for delivering the objectives of the plan. The identification of alternatives enables more informed decision-making and the assessment allows more sustainable options to be identified. The strategic alternatives to be considered must be realistic, reasonable and relevant. It is anticipated that the environmental report will explore alternatives at a number of levels: strategic; policy actions etc.

At the strategic level, given the statutory requirement [under both EU and national waste management legislation] for the plans to be reviewed and updated, it is not proposed to assess a **do nothing scenario** as this is not considered reasonable. It is further noted that a **business as usual** scenario is not considered realistic as there has been a significant change in the make-up of waste regions since the last RWMP were published. A **modified business as usual** may be more relevant wherein the policies remain unchanged from the previous regional plans and only the revised boundaries are considered.

At the policy action level, the plan will deal with a wide remit covering household waste collection, historic unregulated waste disposal sites, illegal landfills, export of wastes, packaging wastes etc. The areas to be considered can broadly be categorised into five main headings: Prevention; Preparing for re-use; Collection and recycling; Other recovery; Disposal. Early consideration of alternatives is summarised below in **Table 5-2**, however it is noted that the SEA team will work with the plan team to elaborate on the reasonable and realistic alternatives for the various waste streams within these broad categories as part of the environmental report.

Table 5-2: Draft SEA Environmental Objectives

Management	Alternative Example 1	Alternative Example 2
Prevention	Continuation of the National Waste Prevention Programme which has been instrumental in driving the prevention agenda at the national level and cessation of cuts to the programme. The programme is responsible for many initiatives such as Stop Food Waste, Green Business, Smile and Green Hospitality etc. The programme also funds prevention actions at a local level through the local authority prevention network. At the local level, local authority designated staff members, such as Environmental Awareness Officers, are responsible for driving local waste awareness and prevention actions. In this alternative, it is expected that the current prevention programmes will continue and more money would be made available for this area.	The alternative scenario is that prevention programmes and initiatives continue to be cut and the momentum which they have built up, including the behaviour change, the resource efficiency and the savings is eroded.
Preparing for reuse	This is a new definition which has not been used in the previous waste management plans and would cover sectors such as community and social enterprises. Activities which fit into this definition may be operating without any type of waste permit and in this alternative it is expected that this will continue.	The most obvious alternative here is that these facilities are required to apply and comply with a waste permit and its conditions.
Collection and Recycling	The collection and recycling systems are well established in Ireland and expectation is that these will continue to develop slowly over the plan period including continued rollout of the brown	The alternative is the failure of collection system to develop to the level anticipated, e.g. the rollout of the brown bin is not achieved, and as a consequence

Management	Alternative Example 1	Alternative Example 2
	bin collection scheme to households and businesses and it is expected that rates of recycling will increase over the plan period.	recycling rates are not improved to the fullest extent.
Other Recovery	The provision of over 1 million tonnes of residual waste treatment capacity which can and generate energy as a by-product through a combination of 320-350K tonnes at existing facilities at Indaver Waste-to-Energy and 2 Cement Kilns and the coming on stream of Poolbeg, a possible WtE plant in Cork and a possible third cement kiln.	The alternative is the existing capacity remains active during the period but no new capacity is developed or comes on line. The potential energy generated from residual waste is lost as it is likely this material will be exported in the absence of indigenous treatment capacity.
Disposal	The rate of exporting of residual waste continues to gather momentum and increase annually.	Ireland continues to send residual waste to landfill albeit in line with the diversion targets.

6 NEXT STEPS

As part of the Scoping Process for the SEA for the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan there will be an initial consultation with the SEA statutory consultees, as designated by the relevant SEA legislation and listed in **Table 6-1**. A meeting will be offered to all statutory consultees to further discuss the proposals in advance of formal submissions.

Table 6-1: Consultees in SEA Scoping Process

Consultee	Statutory / Non-Statutory
Environmental Protection Agency	Statutory
Department of Environment, Community and Local Government	Statutory
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources	Statutory
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	Statutory
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Statutory
Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)	Transboundary

In addition to this, it is also proposed to undertake wider non-statutory public consultation to encourage further participation by stakeholders and the public in the consultation process. A newspaper notice will be published in the Irish Independent and the Irish Times confirming that SEA is being undertaken for the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan and that scoping has commenced. Relevant websites and addresses for submissions will also be provided.

In this respect, the Scoping Report will be published on the dedicated Connacht-Ulster RWMP website [www.mayococo.ie] and links to this website will also be established on the relevant local authority websites for the region. Written submissions in relation to the SEA Scoping of the proposed Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan may be made in writing or via email to the following addresses not later than **4th July 2014**.

Post: Regional Waste Coordinator

Connacht–Ulster Regional Waste Management Office,

Mayo County Council Aras An Chontae Castlebar

County Mayo

E-mail: rwmo@mayococo.ie

Following receipt of submissions, the SEA team will review the issues raised and these will be taken into account in the scope and level of detail developed in the SEA Environmental Report. Scoping is a dynamic process and is expected to continue throughout the SEA process, up to the publication of the SEA Environmental Report.

6.1 SCOPING QUESTIONS

A series of short scoping questions are presented below to assist in generating focussed feedback from stakeholders. Your response on these or any other topics relevant to the scoping for the SEA for the Connacht-Ulster RWMP are welcomed.

1. Based on the plans, policies and programmes outlined, are there any other key relevant international, national or regional plans, policies or programmes that should be considered in the SEA Environmental Report?
2. Are there any other significant information sources that should be considered?
3. Do you agree with the list of potential significant effects that have been identified? Should any be added or removed?
4. Are there any other existing environmental issues which should be considered?
5. Do you have any comments regarding the draft SEA Objectives outlined in **Table 5-1**?
6. Do you have any suggestions in relation to the overall approach to alternatives?