

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Climate Action Programme 2024
Materials & Procurement

2024

Waste Management Factsheet





IMPACTS OF WASTE PRODUCTION

Waste is one of the most visible environmental challenges faced by arts and cultural organisations. Globally, we produce 400 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, with over 90% not being recycled, contributing to pollution in oceans, rivers, and ecosystems. Beyond plastics, construction and textile waste also contribute significantly to global waste streams, with construction waste accounting for 40% of greenhouse gas emissions. In Ireland, 1.1 million tonnes of packaging waste was generated in 2019, with only 28% of plastic packaging recycled.



THE WASTE HIERARCHY

Adopting the waste hierarchy—Prevent/Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover/Compost, Dispose—can transform waste management practices. The first step is prevention. By designing waste out of your operations from the start, you reduce the need for disposal. For example, refusing single-use plastics can have a significant impact on waste reduction.

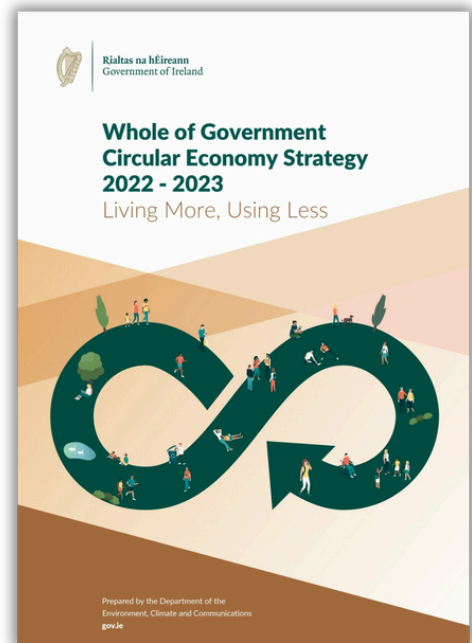


OVERARCHING POLICIES

Several key pieces of legislation underpin waste management in Ireland and across the European Union, supporting the transition towards a circular economy:



Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 (Ireland) This Act introduces the circular economy into Irish law, encouraging the use of reusable and recyclable alternatives. It also implements levies on single-use items like cups, containers, and packaging, incentivising more sustainable practices.



National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (Ireland) This plan sets specific targets for waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and repair. It aims to reduce contamination in waste streams and promote circular economy initiatives at local and national levels

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION UNDERPINNING WASTE IN IRELAND

Waste Management Checklist

- Refuse & Reduce:** Avoid bringing waste into your organisation. Implement a ban on single-use plastics across all areas, from front-of-house to backstage, and engage with all stakeholders on waste minimisation
- Reuse:** Encourage reusables such as water bottles, coffee cups, and serveware. Explore rental systems for equipment and set materials
- Recycle:** Ensure good recycling practices by providing clearly marked bins with consistent signage. Work with waste contractors to separate materials effectively
- Compost:** Implement a food waste management system, working with caterers to collect and compost food waste
- Dispose:** Only dispose of materials as a last resort. Ensure that disposal aligns with responsible waste practices
- Minimise Printed Materials:** Shift to digital programmes and marketing materials to reduce paper waste
- Engage Staff and Artists:** Include information in staff briefings to raise awareness about recycling and reuse schemes
- Water Stations:** Promote reusable water bottles by providing refill stations throughout your premises

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This waste management checklist was created as a collaboration by Native Events, Julie's Bicycle, the Green Arts Initiative in Ireland, and Julie's Bicycle Europe. Their combined expertise and dedication to sustainability in the creative and cultural industries have made this resource possible, aiming to promote environmental responsibility and inspire impactful climate action within the sector.

Together, these organisations have pooled their resources and expertise to create a robust and practical guide aimed at helping venues, event organisers, and offices implement effective sustainability measures, reduce waste, and support the transition to a circular economy. Their collaborative effort underscores the importance of unity and shared goals in driving meaningful environmental change within the cultural sector.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for joining us in creative climate action.

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