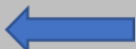
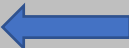


2022 National Enforcement Priorities Progress Report

National Enforcement Priority: GOVERNANCE - RMCEI Review & Reporting	
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RMCEI Plan frequency of reviews should be bi-annual at a minimum. The review frequency and the outcomes should be included in the progress report. • RMCEI reviews should evaluate progress of NEPs and assess if planned inspection targets are on track. • RMCEI reviews should provide reasons for any deviation from targets, planned activities or objectives set out in the plan. • RMCEI reviews should be presented to the Director of Services/Senior Engineer/Senior Management/Environment Strategic Policy Committee at least once during the earlier part of the year, to facilitate plan review. • The RMCEI Plan, RMCEI Data Return and NEP Progress Report should be submitted to the EPA on schedule. 	<p>The organisation chart for the Environment Section is contained within the main body of the RMCEI report.</p> <p>In 2022 Longford County Council lost one of its Waste Enforcement Officers in May. The Council experienced difficulty in hiring a replacement Officer due to the exhaustion of existing panels. Following a new recruitment process a new appointment is expected in early 2023. There was significant turnover of staff during 2022 due to organisational changes, staff mobility, etc.</p> <p>Team meetings continued to be held electronically in 2022 and took place every 4-6 weeks. RMCEI was an agenda item at each meeting.</p> <p>Quarterly RMCEI Progress Reports were produced at the end of February, May, Aug and November and are reviewed by the Director of Services. These offset quarters allow for a full review in December before the year ends and provides an opportunity to address any shortcomings identified in the inspection schedule before the end of the calendar year. They also help work around the summer holiday season.</p> <p>The EPAs RMCEI assessment report of Longford County Council's 2021 performance was reviewed by the Council's Senior Management Team and it set a bench mark going forward.</p>

National Enforcement Priority: GOVERNANCE - Environmental Complaint Handling	
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment of a dedicated Environmental Complaints Co-ordinator. • Implementation of the National Environmental Complaints Procedure. • Appropriate systems in place for recording and tracking environmental complaints. • Adequate resources assigned to complaint investigation in the RMCEI Plan. • Appropriate handling of EPA referred complaints and Section 63 Notices received by the local authority. • Ensuring timely investigation of complaints and reporting of complaints outcomes. This should include progress on complaints outstanding from previous years and the timeframes for complaint investigation. • Analysis of complaints numbers and inspection intelligence that may have potential impacts on NEPs and other thematic areas. • Details of environmental complaint handling should be provided in the appropriate section of the NEP Progress Report. • Reporting of complaint numbers and investigation for each thematic area in the RMCEI Data Returns. 	<p>Complaints - All environmental complaints received by Longford County Council are logged on the Council's environmental complaint system and then allocated for investigation. Of the 1668 complaints received in 2022 51% were waste related, 37% were litter, 1% abandoned vehicles, 2% burning, 4% unauthorised signage, 3% Air/Water/Noise and 2% other (Derelict Sites, stray animals etc.). No section 63 notices were received from the EPA in 2022. Overall changes in percentages year on year are marginal.</p> <p>The majority of complaints received concern litter and illegal dumping. All are investigated by the Litter Wardens in the first instance. A good working relationship has developed between the Litter Wardens and the Waste Enforcement Officers (WEO). Consequently, when a complaint requires WEO attention it is often investigated by the Litter Warden and WEO together. 97% of the waste and litter complaints received in 2022 were closed with the offending material removed for disposal and fines issued where appropriate. 156 litter fines were issued in 2022. 41 waste complaints required enforcement action in 2022 with 39 warning letters and 24 statutory notices under the WMA issued. 3% of the complaints received under litter and waste remained open at the end of the year. The level of litter and waste complaints is high for a small County and most relate to the illegal disposal of household waste – particularly in and around urban areas. Complaints relating to C&D waste accounted for less than 1% of the total.</p> <p>The volume of complaints in Odour, Noise and Water is relatively small compared to Waste and Litter. There was a slight decrease year on year in the overall number of complaints received for this category from 55 in 2021 to 44 in 2022. The percentage of complaints in this category which were received and closed in 2022 was 93%.</p> <p>5 industrial noise complaints were received in 2022, 1 remains open at the start of 2023.</p> <p>Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) made one complaint to the Council in 2022. It was short on information and remains open pending further details from IFI.</p> <p>5 complaints were received via the EPA Hotline in 2022. Each was logged and investigated. Three referred to burning of waste. Two related to problems with sewers and were referred to Irish Water.</p>

NEP Assessment Criteria		
A	For regulated / authorised sites, a compliance rate documented and compared over the previous years, and analysed or explained;	CORE
B	Demonstrate appropriate site selection methodology and inspection implementation and/or early interventions;	
C	Demonstration that non-compliances/unauthorised activities are being detected and are being followed up – and some progress in the NEP is shown;	
D	Clear example(s) of a positive environmental outcome(s) – something was achieved to improve the environment (not simply reached a target of inspections);	
E	Clear useful learning in a NEP area (positive or negative e.g. what to do, or what not to do, or identification of illegal sites or unauthorised operators);	Complementary
F	Collaborative work with WERLA, NTFSO, RWMPO, LAWPRO, EPA, Catchment Care Projects, inter-departmental within the local authority or with other local authorities; cross cutting NEP collaboration;	
G	Demonstration of a proactive approach, or innovation in dealing with a problem or demonstration of an enforcement curiosity;	
H	Compliance promotion and awareness raising activities;	
I	Activities on data validation, data analysis, systems development, website development;	
J	Significant enforcement actions/prosecutions and the outcomes such as remediation, sharing of lessons learnt to aid national consistency of enforcement;	
K	Case studies written up and shared that encompass any of the above properties.	

National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage)	
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections of farmyards in areas where agriculture is identified as a significant pressure, with a small percentage in other areas, as defined in the National Agricultural Inspection Programme for local authorities. • Undertake targeted agricultural inspections specific to the pollutants of concern (P, N and organics), using the EPA Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps and EPAs Targeting Agricultural Measures Map. • Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances. • Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM. • Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA. 	<p>Gap Inspections:</p> <p>Eight farms were selected for inspection in 2022 in the Black 010 (Westmeath) Catchment. This catchment is on the list of Areas for Action as agreed between the Council, the EPA Catchments Team and LAWPRO. It is a relatively small catchment. Edgeworthstown is an Area for Restoration owing to its’ wastewater treatment plant being at capacity and because of stormwater overflows. Farms were selected for inspection based on proximity to Black River upstream of Edgeworthstown and based on PIP maps showing elevated levels of phosphorus.</p> <p>Inspectors used inspections as an opportunity to explain to the farmers the problems with water quality in the catchment and the importance of good farming practice to improve and protect waters. Information packs on a range of environmental topics were handed out to each farmer during inspections.</p> <p>The farms inspected all proved to be small holdings with dry stock. Inspections took place in Q4 so the Council’s follow up work will take place in early 2023. In general the farms were found to be compliant with slurry storage requirements. One farm will have to carry out work to divert roof water to ground before the next silage making season. Inspectors found that all farmers had tidied up their farmyards prior to the inspections which were all announced. None of the farmers inspected were importing organic fertilisers. More details on the outcomes from the inspections can be found in the “Reporting on Farm Inspections 2022” spreadsheet which forms part of the RMCEI return.</p> <p>Through discussions with farmers, Longford County Council environmental inspectors were able to locate convenient monitoring points on the Black River upstream of Edgeworthstown for further catchment work in 2023.</p> <p>Complaints:</p> <p>Inspections took place on receipt of complaints from members of the public, primarily in relation to slurry spreading. There were five such complaints in 2022. All were investigated. In one instance the Council investigated a complaint of a farmer spreading slurry during the restricted period. Inspectors from Longford County Council visited the address and inspected lands. There was no sign of slurry spreading and livestock were grazing on land where alleged spreading took</p>

place. Longford County Council had inspected this farm under the GAP Regs the previous year. The inspector contacted the farm advisor for this land. We were informed that a holding tank had filled with rainwater and had been dewatered with the contents being sprayed on the land. Longford County Council reminded the farmer through his advisor to obey the restricted periods with respect to slurry spreading.

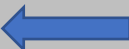
The Council liaised with Inland Fisheries Ireland on one water pollution complaint. The complaint remains open as further details has been requested from IFI.


Pesticides Survey:

In November 2021 a Pesticides Survey developed by the National Pesticides Working Group was sent to all the farmers inspected under the GAP Regs that year. All completed survey forms were returned by Jan 2022. Review of the returns showed gaps in the farmers knowledge on the use of pesticides. An information sheet was prepared and sent to the famers better informing them on the use of pesticides. This information sheet was also distributed at the Agri Environment Training Scheme training days. (See case study)

Longford Central Public Water Supply has been compliant for MCPA since September 2022.

No point source pollution was detected by LCC during the 2022 inspections. Awareness among landowners of water quality issues was increased. It is early days in the inspection programme and Longford County Council has not yet noticed much improvement in water quality.

National Enforcement Priority:	WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading)
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections of farmlands in areas where agriculture is identified as a significant pressure, with a small percentage in other areas, as defined in the National Agricultural Inspection Programme for local authorities. • Undertake targeted agricultural inspections specific to the pollutants of concern (P, N and organics), using the EPA Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps and EPAs Targeting Agricultural Measures Map. • Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances. • Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM. • Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA. 	<p>Outreach:</p> <p>Longford County Council Environment Inspectors and the Environmental Awareness Officer accepted an invitation from local Agricultural Consultants to give presentations on environmental topics at the AETS (Agri-Environment Training Scheme) training days in summer 2022. This provided an excellent opportunity to engage with the farming community. Overall, Council personnel took part in fifty AETS sessions (many on Saturdays) and engaged with an estimated audience of c. 1300 people from the farming community over the period of June to September. Information packs covering the proper use of pesticides, invasive species and water quality issues such as cattle access points and buffer zones were provided. GAP inspections were discussed. Information was also given on typical agricultural related pollution complaints that have been investigated by Longford County Council. The engagements proved to be very positive.</p> <p>See the case study.</p> <p>Slurry complaints</p> <p>We received five complaints relating to land spreading of slurry in 2022. All were logged and investigated. Three were during the open season. Two related to spreading during the closed season. Both were investigated, in one case there was lack of evidence due to time delay in reporting and in other case it was soiled water which was spread (see WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage))</p>

National Enforcement Priority:	WATER – Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><u>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake the allocated number of DWWTS / Septic Tank inspections under the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2022 - 2026. • Take all necessary steps to follow up and ensure advisory notices are closed out. • When selecting households for inspection, consider areas where LAWPRO have issued letters of grant eligibility and homeowners have not taken action. 	<p>For 2022, sites were selected using the EPA National Inspection Plan 2022-2026’s (NIP) selection criteria for Zones 2 (higher relative risk to surface waters) and Zone 3 (higher earlier relative risk to private wells). Longford does not have any Zone 1 (zone of highest risk to waters) sites. The overall number of inspections was reduced from 11 to 8 (by 27%) from previous year due to reduced requirements in the new NIP. This total was 4 more than the minimum required. The 8 sites chosen fell under the categories of “clusters” and/or “older”. Other criteria in the NIP were considered but did not apply in site selection.</p> <p>Four 2021 Advisory Notices carried over into 2022. Two were closed out in 2022 and two remain open. They will be followed up in 2023. One 2021 notice referred to a DWWTS that was an open cesspit. Remediation eliminated the risks of significant physical harm and infection to humans & animals and overflows of effluent to the adjacent Royal Canal.</p> <p>Three 2022 Advisory Notices remain open on 1/01/2023. Follow-up is planned for 2023. In a cluster of four inspections in 2022, two DWWTS were found discharging directly to a drain and on to the nearby stream. One discharge was only discovered when a second inspection of the drain was undertaken from a different approach and during dry weather.</p> <p>It is always a good idea to check watercourses in the vicinity of an inspection site and to bear in mind that householders will often clean drains and cover up discharge points in advance of a notified inspection. If in doubt go back some time later and carry out a second inspection.</p> <p>The compliance rate for first inspections was 63% in 2022 and Advisory Notices were issued to three non-compliant householders. Of the three issued in 2022 two related to direct discharges to water.</p> <p>To date Longford County Council has managed to get all advisory notices closed out within a reasonable timeframe even though the non-compliance rate on first time inspections is high. Delays in complying with Advisory Notices are primarily</p>


due to poor ground conditions and difficulties in sourcing suitable contractors. A further challenge is the growing gap between the available grant and increasing cost of remediation works. The programme is slowly raising awareness among the general public on the need to maintain DWWTS correctly.

Longford County Council Environment Section processed on DWWTS remediation grant in 2022.

Longford County Council received no referrals from LAWPRO in 2022.


Outreach:

Inspectors and the Environmental Awareness Officer accepted an invitation from local Agricultural Consultants to give presentations on environmental topics at the AETS (Agri-Environment Training Scheme) training days in summer 2022. This provided an excellent opportunity to engage with the farming community. Overall, council personnel took part in 50 AETS sessions (many on Saturdays) and engaged with an estimated audience of c. 1300 people over the period of June to September. Information packs on septic tank maintenance was distributed at each event.

National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Discharge Licences / Misconnections	
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all Section 4 Discharge Licence conditions are consistent with the requirements of the Surface Waters and Groundwater regulations. • Undertake risk based inspections/monitoring of Section 4 Discharge Licences. Inspect all licences in areas where discharge licensing is a significant pressure. • Ensure that all licensable discharges are authorised by a Section 4 Discharge Licence. • Ensure compliance with discharge licence conditions and follow up and close out non-compliances and LAWPRO referrals on Section 4s and misconnections. • Follow up on misconnections that have been identified as impacting on water quality, to ensure that works are undertaken by property owners to remediate such misconnections. 	<p>Discharge Licences:</p> <p>There are six section 4 licensed facilities in operation in County Longford, three large schools, two industrial quarries and a large holiday resort (Center Parcs). It has a maximum occupancy of 2,000 guests. One quarry did not begin industrial operations until late 2022. Prior to beginning industrial operations clean water dewatering took place at the quarry as it had remained dormant for several years.</p> <p>2022 was also the first year that Covid-19 restrictions were fully lifted. As such, the large holiday resort (Center Parcs) operated at near to 100% capacity all year round as opposed to 2021 when restrictions permitted reduced capacity. Schools also returned to full time in class learning resulting in increased pressure on all treatment systems.</p> <p>Longford County Council undertook, on average, four routine inspections per facility in 2022 to ensure that licence holders complied with the conditions of their licences. A grab sample was taken at the discharge point of each treatment system and this sample was then analysed in respect of the parameters set out in their respective licence. Longford County Council carried out analysis on these samples in its own laboratory. Once results for all parameters were received, Longford County Council wrote to each section 4 facility informing them of the results and whether any exceedances had occurred. Longford County Council advised that non-compliances should be dealt with promptly. Longford County Council advised licence holders to book a maintenance check of their system to help bring non-compliant parameters under control.</p> <p>All non-compliances in 2022 were minor except for one facility that became problematic over the latter part of 2022. Longford County Council remains in constant contact with the facility who have employed an independent contractor to diagnose the root cause of the problem. In this facility Ammonium, Ortho phosphate and BOD were detected over the limits set out in the licence.</p> <p>Section 4 licenced facilities in County Longford continue to perform well with a 80% compliance rate of measured parameters in 2022. The result is slightly down on 2021 where an 84% compliance rate was achieved. Possible explanations for this might be the fact that systems were now operating at an increased workload after the total lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. Longford County Council continues to stress the importance of keeping treatment systems maintained and serviced appropriately.</p>

Misconnections:

No misconnections were investigated in 2022

National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring	
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete statutory monitoring for WFD surveillance and operational monitoring, investigative monitoring and bathing water monitoring. • Inspect and follow up any local issues (not covered by other NEPs), including non-compliances with water quality standards and LAWPRO referrals. • Address any climate related water quality issues, e.g. impacts due to extreme weather events. • Registration and monitoring of all private drinking water supplies. Investigate supplies that fail to meet drinking water quality standards and take necessary enforcement action. • Engage with LAWPRO and Regional Committees on the implementation of RBMP Actions. 	<p>Private Water Supplies</p> <p>Longford County Council monitored 15 small private supplies and 2 group water supplies during 2022. In 2022 two rounds of check samples were taken on each of the group and small private supplies and an audit sample on both group water supplies. Five of the small private supplies remained on a boil water notice throughout 2022. The Council undertook an audit of five small private supplies and four of these were on a Boil Water Notices. The audit process helped inform water supply owners of the risks to public health when treatment systems are not adequately maintained and serviced. Following the audit process a direction under EU Drinking Water Regulations was issued to one small private supply.</p> <p>Water Quality monitoring data for all small private supplies and group water schemes in the County is publicly available on the Council’s website for 2022. Longford County Council also displays information on its website relating to improvement grants available for private wells and group water schemes. In 2022, under the Rural Water Programme, Longford County Council Environment Section processed 10 individual well grants to the value of €43,782.10 and 2 small private supply and group water scheme upgrade grants of €15,935</p> <p>WFD Monitoring:</p> <p>Routine Statutory Monitoring of Rivers and Lakes in Co. Longford under the WFD Sampling Plan continued in 2022. Nine operational river sites and two surveillance sites were sampled throughout the year. General samples were taken. The operational sites were sampled five times in 2022 whilst the surveillance sites were sampled twelve times. Samples were dispatched to EPA lab in Castlebar for analysis. One station has been removed for 2023 under criteria 2 of the 2023 Rivers and Lakes Sampling Programme circulated by EPA.</p> <p>Four samples were taken on Lough Forbes in 2022.</p>

LAWPRO & River Basin Management Programme (RBMP)

Area for Action (AfA) - Black 010 (South Leitrim)

Longford County Council began work in 2021 on the list of Areas for Action (AfA's) as agreed with LAWPRO and the EPA in 2020. The Black 010 (South Leitrim) was the first catchment investigated. The catchment is on the AfA list as the EPA assigned a site (Br SW of Ballinamuck) a Q value of Q3-4 in 2020 indicating moderate status. The Council's work in 2021 identified inter alia, elevated nutrients and sedimentation in the catchment.

In 2022, further biological monitoring was undertaken upstream of the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) outfall. The biological health of monitored sites upstream appeared good and the results indicated that the Ballinamuck WWTP is the likely cause of low Q values downstream. Contact with LAWPRO is ongoing. The Council will upload 2022 findings to the WFD App in 2023. The delay is due to workload pressures.

Area for Action – Black 010 (Westmeath)

The Council commenced work in the Edgeworthstown Catchment in 2022. Edgeworthstown is an Area for Restoration because its WWTP is at capacity, stormwater overflow impacts and agricultural pressures. Biological monitoring was carried out at three sites downstream of the town. All three sites failed. Using SSRS scores all sites were either "maybe at risk" or "at risk". There was difficulty accessing monitoring sites upstream, however two accessible upstream sites were identified and further work will take place in 2023.

It is early days for this investigative monitoring programme. It is helping the Environmental inspectors to obtain a more complete picture of environmental situation within the catchments and has increased farmer awareness through direct interaction with the inspectors.

Bathing Water Monitoring:

There are currently no designated bathing sites in County Longford

National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Tackling significant illegal waste activities & Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern	
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'. Note that Criteria A (to provide a compliance rate and comparison with previous years) is not specifically applicable under this NEP.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted inspections and follow up enforcement actions of unauthorised collectors and site operators using intelligence from waste data flows, complaints and other available data. Co-ordination with, and input from Revenue/Social Protection/An Garda Síochána in relation to unauthorised activity and identified sites of concern. Multi-agency investigations for sites of concern. Roadside check points. Relevant Anti-Dumping Initiatives implemented. Traceability requirements to be enforced at Permitted/Licensed sites. Focus on those who are facilitating the unauthorised treatment of waste. 	<p>During 2022, WEOs carried out 11 inspections on 10 Waste Facility Permit (WFP) sites and 39 inspections on 19 Certificate of Registration (COR) sites. This included online validation of their 2021 Annual Returns (AR). 9 WFP ARs (90%) were completed satisfactorily. 1 WFP holder failed to submit its AR (ATF) for 2022. This facility's WFP was due for renewal in 2022 and they did not apply for renewal so the permit has lapsed.</p> <p>One WFP AR was subject to a query from EMWERLA. There was an anomaly between the amounts of waste entering and leaving the site. Further anomalies existed from reported Waste Collection Permit (WCP) holders AR's. A detailed onsite audit was carried out by a multi-agency team comprising of Longford County Council, EMWERLA, NWWERLA and NTFSO. The WFP holder was able to provide proof of tonnages entering and leaving the site. All parties involved in audit were happy with responses given. The AR was reversed and resubmitted with changes. The WFP holder is part of an End of Waste application submitted (in conjunction with Circol ELT) to the EPA and is awaiting response. Longford County Council is keen to promote the circular economy.</p> <p>The COR sites are all sites permitted to accept clean soil and stone. These are reported on in the C&D report. All COR ARs reported were validated.</p> <p>Two sites of illegal dumping in one housing estate were cleaned up by Environment in 2022 and 6 tonnes of domestic waste was removed on account of public health and environmental pollution concerns. No evidence was found in the waste. A separate area of significant illegal dumping within an estate in a town outside of Longford was cleaned as part of the ADI 2022. No evidence was found.</p> <p>The Council had three waste cases which were initiated in 2020 appealed to the Circuit Court. These are still ongoing. They for 5 person days in court in 2022. One case involved contravention of Section 32 and 34 of WMA. The Waste Enforcement Officer has to maintain ongoing surveillance for unauthorised waste collection by the defendants and to report to the Council's legal representative before each court sitting.</p>


One waste case which was initiated at the District Court in 2020, is still ongoing. This case involves non-compliance with a Section 55 Notice and contravention of Section 32 of WMA. It required 5 person days in court in 2022.


A waste case initiated at the District Court in 2022. It involved non-compliance with a Section 55 Notice and contravention of Section 32 of WMA. It has required 2 days in court so far. The company has removed the waste and secured the site since the case commenced. It is back in court in February 2023. In 2021 the Council was forced to remove 11.64 T of waste from this site due to public health risks. The Council is also attempting to recoup these costs under Section 56 of WMA.

The Council was unable to carry out vehicle checkpoints with An Garda Síochána in 2022 due to the loss of a WEO to promotion in 2022. A replacement WEO is due to start in early 2023.

An awareness campaign against illegal waste collectors was published in the local newspapers, radio advertisements and on social media. Details of Social Media hits are provided in a spreadsheet below.

The battle against illegal dumping is never ending – particularly in areas of social disadvantage. Longford County Council Environment staff believe that policy changes are required. For example if all landlords, public and private, were to include bin services in their lease agreements it would greatly reduce illegal dumping and allow WEOs direct their energies to other regulatory matters.


National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Construction and Demolition Activity	
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk based inspections of construction sites using WERLA intelligence and inspection templates. • Inspection of Article 27 sites of origin and destination to include material notified under Article 27 being accepted at WFP/Licensed sites. • Inspection of soil recovery sites to ensure only appropriate materials accepted. • Validation and inspection of WCP/WFP and licensed sites dealing with C&D waste. • Take all necessary steps to resolve non-compliant issues including the selling of crushed concrete from WFPs/Licensed sites without EoW decision. • Incorporate proposed improvements to the Article 27 notification system. • Tracking of waste delivered to Licensed sites. • Based on researched data and local knowledge, identify authorised operators for further investigation and/or enforcement action. • Focused monitoring of the resources and systems available for gathering and reporting waste data to be carried out as part of site audits at waste facilities/waste collectors. 	<p>WEOs carried out 5 planned C&D inspections on large public projects during 2022. 4 of these inspections were 1st time inspections. A full cradle to grave inspection was conducted on one site. Waste was followed to a WFP site in Co. Longford. All was found compliant (100%).</p> <p>There was a significant increase in illegal dumping of C&D waste at unauthorised locations during 2022. 34 unauthorised C&D inspections were carried out at 16 different locations. 5 Section 55 notices under the WMA were issued. All were resolved with the waste being removed to authorised facilities within the timeframe given and receipts were submitted as proof.</p> <p>The COR for 4 COR sites expired during 2022. This left 15 authorised sites for clean soil and stone within the County. 10 CORs submitted their AR to the NWCPO and 100% of these ARs were examined and validated. The remaining CORs that did not submit an AR were contacted by the Council with a warning of enforcement action. 19 on-site inspections were carried out during the year. This resulted in 2 Section 55 notices of the WMA being issued to remove unauthorised material. This material was removed from both sites and no further action was required.</p> <p>This highlights the need for consistent monitoring of authorised sites.</p> <p>There was one Article 27 notification for material originating in County Longford in 2022. The material originated from a road resurfacing project on the N4 at Garryandrew by Lagan Cement. These road plainings were used by Lagan in Co. Longford for other road improvement works. Due to staff constraints, an inspection of the Lagan facility was not carried out.</p> <p>Assessment and validation of 22 Waste Collection Permit (WCP) Annual returns were completed during 2022 with 100% validation. One on-site multi-agency inspection took place at one WCP facility. On completion of the inspection, their AR submission was reversed, resubmitted and approved. Ref “WASTE - Tackling significant illegal waste activities & Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern” sheet above.</p>

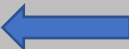
National Enforcement Priority:	WASTE - End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal sector
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk based inspections of Authorised Treatment Facilities and other ELV sites using WERLA intelligence and inspection templates (at least one inspection per annum of permitted sites). • Validation and inspection of records for WCP/WFP and licensed operators dealing with ELV and metal waste. • Take all necessary steps to resolve non-compliant issues. 	<p>There were 4 Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATFs) due for inspection in 2022. One site let its permit lapse in 2022 and is scheduled for enforcement action in 2023.</p> <p>The 3 other ATFs had their ARs successfully validated.</p> <p>The largest ATF was physically inspected and was found to be compliant with its permit conditions. There had been significant improvements with an increase in the hard paved area, better recording keeping and more advanced recycling processes. Of note was the installation of an onsite crusher and a machine for extracting engines.</p> <p>The other 2 ATFs were visited but not formally inspected. One stores End of Life Vehicles (ELVs) for the Gardai and does not undertake any recycling activities. When the ELV is released by the Gardai it is disposed of at the large ATF referenced above. The remaining ATF is scheduled for inspection early in 2023. The loss of a Waste Enforcement Officer (WEO) to promotion last May impacted on the Council's ability to complete its inspection schedule in 2022. A replacement WEO is expected in early 2023.</p> <p>One unauthorised ELV site was tackled in 2022. Following enforcement action (Statutory Notice) the site was cleared and vehicle dismantling activity ceased.</p>

National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Waste Collection - Household & Commercial	
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><u>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of WCP operators for provision of 3 bin system. • Surveys of retail, hospitality and industrial sectors to ensure proper use of 3 bin system, segregation and use of authorised collectors. • Sampling/analysis of treated waste outputs • AER Validations on WCP and WFP priority lists. • Maintenance of register of households with/without a waste collection service and targeted inspections in areas with low compliance. • Focused monitoring of the resources and systems available for gathering and reporting waste data to be carried out as part of site audits at waste facilities/waste collectors. • Monitoring of waste acceptance criteria at authorised sites e.g. WFP, Waste Transfer Sites, Landfills and Waste to Energy Plant. 	<p>In consultation with the Litter Wardens and Longford County Council Housing Section five estates within the County were selected to carry out household waste inspections using Waste Presentation Byelaws. This selection was based on frequency and quantity of illegal dumping within the estates and involved 184 individual surveys. All surveys were carried out in areas with a population >500 and therefore should have a three-bin system.</p> <p>70% of households responded to the initial enquiry. Of those that replied, 100% had a waste bin of which 75% had recycling bins. Only 30% reported using the food bin or their own composter. This gives a clear picture of attitudes to waste segregation in these areas.</p> <p>One FPN was issued during 2022 for failing to provide evidence of waste disposal. It was decided to only issue one as a test case to ensure our procedures were correct. This case led to two court appearances in 2022 and one in January 2023 with no resolution and further court appearance scheduled for April 2023. Going legal with FPN's is proving to be costly and time consuming. (See case study)</p> <p>A further 78 inspections were carried out as non-routine inspections in response to complaints relating to waste presentation. 58 (74%) of these inspections were resolved after the first inspection. The remaining 20 (26%) required at least one follow up inspection to achieve resolution.</p> <p>Eight commercial food waste inspections were carried out on six premises. Four of these premises were compliant on the first inspection (66%) for segregation and use of a three bin system. Two premises required follow up inspections to achieve compliance with waste segregation practices.</p> <p>There is one large licenced waste collector involved in general waste collection in County Longford. Their AR was assessed and approved. There was no back office inspection in 2022.</p> <p>Longford County Council carried out two large goods and two hazardous waste collections in 2022. The hazardous waste collections are an essential as the Civic Amenity Sites in the County are currently not licensed to accept hazardous waste. Adverts were placed in the local newspaper and on social media. 12.64 tonnes of domestic hazardous waste and 6.64 tonnes of large goods was accepted during the collections.</p>

Longford County Council ran a successful Food Waste campaign throughout 2022 using the local newspapers, radio and social media.

Social Media impressions data for various campaigns are attached at the end of this report.


National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities	
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and inspection of all suspected producers who require registration. • Examination of potential for information exchange between Local Government Sector and other Agencies, where appropriate. • Relevant PRIs with local impact and local priorities, not covered by the other waste NEPS, should be reported (e.g. where suspected producers are not registered or are non-compliant). • (RMECI PRIs: WEEE Regs, Battery Regs, Suspected Vehicle Importers (ELV Regulations 2016), Farm Plastics, Plastic Bag Levy, Packaging Regs – Suspected Major Producers and Registered Self Compliers, Tyre Regs – Tyre Retailers). 	<p>10 planned inspections were scheduled and completed for Batteries, Plastic bag and WEEE in 2022. There was 100% compliance, and all were first time inspections. This was a similar result to inspections in 2021.</p> <p>7 of the 8 planned farm plastic inspections took place and 100% compliance of those facilities inspected.</p> <p>We have two registered self-compliers for the Packaging Regulations and both facilities were compliant throughout 2022. We have notified both companies and their consultant company that the self-compliance option is no longer available and that they are obligated to register with Repak before end of February 2023.</p> <p>Longford was notified of two suspected Major Producers for Packaging in 2022. Each has been written to and responses are still outstanding. Follow-up is scheduled for 2023. Progress to date has been recorded on the packaging portal.</p> <p>There was one large tyre dump of approximately 100 tyres recorded during 2022. Evidence was found within the waste relating to a company outside of the county. Despite persistence, we were unable to definitively identify the illegal dumper.</p> <p>Due to the loss of one Waste Enforcement Officer in May 2022, who has yet to be replaced, we were unable to carry out inspections for Suspected Vehicle Importers. We held back on these PRI inspections as there has been a significant reduction in the importation of second hand cars from the UK mainly due to Brexit.</p>


National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Solid Fuel Inspections	
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle the sale of non-compliant fuel and its use via compliance promotion, inspection and enforcement of fuel merchants and retailers. • Participate in multi-agency operations investigating the sale of non-compliant fuels. • Develop and implement a programme for the sampling and analysis of fuel types (this can be carried out per individual local authority or a joint approach can be adopted with other local authorities). • Carry out awareness programme to promote compliance by increasing the awareness of how the choices people make in heating their homes impacts on their air quality and health and legal obligations. • Establish and/or maintain a list, including the number and profile of solid-fuel merchants operating in each local authority area, including those using social medial platforms to market solids fuels. • Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other local authorities via networks and working groups and participating in training events. 	<p>The Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, signed the new Solid Fuel Regulations for Ireland, which came into effect on 31st October 2022. This law restricts the online and commercial sale of smoky fuels, including smoky coal, turf and wet wood.</p> <p>Longford County Council was given Department of Environment Climate & Communication funding for pilot projects to support implementation of the new regulations. One project involved screening “smokeless fuel” labelled products for sulphur content for sale in or supplied to Longford Town. Longford Town was a Low Smoke Zone up until end of October. Of the eight samples taken four did not comply with sulphur limit of Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012 which was current at time of sampling. Nor did they comply with the new Solid Fuel Regulations 2022 which are in force now. One product was a 100 percent petroleum coke fuel. This exercise demonstrated that many retailers can be unaware they are selling non-compliant product.</p> <p>The purpose of the second project was to engage with the public. A survey of 554 households in Longford Town was undertaken to provide information on the new Solid Fuel Regulations. Information was provided on the reasons for the new regulations, how residents can comply and the penalties for non-compliance. It also gathered information on existing home heating choices and recorded relevant feedback. The survey showed that 116 (57%) of householders burn sold fuel with 35% of those using solid fuel as their main source for heating. 86 (43%) of householders do not use solid fuel at all, the majority of which use oil to heat their homes.</p> <p>A case study on both projects will be submitted.</p> <p>In 2022, Longford County Council compiled a list of premises within the County that sell solid fuel. We wrote to each business informing them of the new regulations and included detailed FAQ’s on complying with regulations. Some of these premises were selected for on-site inspection. The focus was on larger operators around Longford Town. No prior notice was given to retailers before inspections. Of the eight inspections, five were fully compliant with SI 529 of 2022 Solid Fuel Regs. One filling station was selling bituminous coal. Longford County Council initiated enforcement action with a warning letter to the premises. On a follow-up inspection the retailer had removed non- compliant product from premises.</p>


The Council advertised information for householders and retailers on the Solid Fuel Regulations in the local newspaper and on social media in December. Details on social media hits are provided at the end to this document.


Longford County Council have representatives on the Local Authority Implementation Group for Solid Fuel Regulations. In 2022, Longford County Council personnel attended two meetings of the work group in spring and autumn 2022. As part of the spring meeting Longford County Council delivered a presentation to other members of the working group entitled 'Enforcement of the Solid Fuel Regulations in Longford Town'.

The main outcome in 2022 was the increased awareness by the general public and fuel retailers of the new regulations and their requirements.

National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Air Quality Monitoring Activities and Data Use	
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the EPA to complete the expansion of the Ambient Air Monitoring Programme network including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist EPA to determine viable locations for air quality monitoring stations. 2. Assist EPA to progress the siting of air quality monitoring stations. 3. Assist EPA to troubleshoot issues at existing air quality monitoring stations including the nomination and notification to the EPA of a primary and secondary contact person. 4. Assist (where possible, to the best extent possible) EPA to maintain existing and new air quality monitoring stations. • Review local air quality data to identify hotspots and to prioritise sites/areas for action. • Ensure local air quality data, including a map, is made available to the general public as soon as technically possible for each local authority. As a minimum, a link to the relevant page(s) of the EPA site should be placed on each local authority website. 	<p>AMBIENT AIR MONITORING PROGRAMME</p> <p>The EPA have an Ambient Air Monitoring station on Council property in Longford Town which is the only large urban area in the County. The station monitors PM2.5 and PM10 ug/m3. The Council will continue to assist the EPA in maintaining this station. The Council has provided link on its website so that the public can access data and reports on ambient air monitoring from this site. Spikes were observed for PM10 pollution in late evenings particularly in cold weather spell in mid- December when limit was exceeded.</p>

National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Environmental Noise Directive (END) Activities/ Noise Plans	
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Round 4 Noise Mapping requirements as set out in the Environmental Noise Regulations of 2018. This includes the timely submission of any relevant datasets and information in the required format as requested by the RMO/Urban Agglomeration Project Team and/or any other specified body. • Prepare and submit the Annual Noise Action Plan Progress Report to the EPA by 28th February. • Annual Noise Action Plan Progress Report should demonstrate progress on the key issues and priority areas for action. 	<p>Submission of the local authority Noise Action Plan (NAP) Progress Report by the 28th of February 2022: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 was prepared by Longford County Council in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Directive (END) and transposed into Irish Law in 2006. The plan was prepared to address environmental noise from major roads in Co. Longford calculated to have an excess of three million vehicles per annum. Longford County Council submitted its annual Noise Action Plan progress report in 2022 to the EPA as required.</p> <p>IN 2022, Longford County Council participated in the centralised contract carried out by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). A number of local authorities participated in this contract. Transport Infrastructure Ireland carried out modelling and mapping of roads with a vehicle threshold greater than three million vehicles per annum for Longford County Council. These maps were then finalised and were sent to the EPA who are responsible for sending them to Europe. Datasets from this work are being used to generate the Round 4 Noise Maps which are due to be available on the EPA website in early 2023.</p> <p>No noise abatement measures were implemented by Longford County Council in 2022.</p>

National Enforcement Priority:	AIR - Air & Noise Controls in Planning Assessments
Local Authority: Longford County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-planning assessments of air and noise impacts. • Environment staff assist in follow up of air and noise issues including use of Section 107 and 108 of the EPA Act, the Air Pollution Act and liaising with planners where planning enforcement is more appropriate. • Increased public awareness of noise induced health impacts. 	<p>General noise conditions are applied to significant industrial planning applications. The conditions are derived from "Environmental Noise Guidance for Local Authority Planning & Enforcement Departments" as prepared & issued by the Association of Acoustic Consultants of Ireland.</p> <p>The Environment Section was not specifically requested to comment on noise emissions for any planning application in 2022.</p>

National Enforcement Priority:		AIR – Local Enforcement Issues	
Local Authority: Longford County Council		Activities	
 Looking back at the year		<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>	
<p><u>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions of facilities/activities as specified in the RMCEI template and/or as otherwise determined by the local authority. Make available on their websites, the EPA vehicle refinishers video and use appropriate channels to promote it. Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions under Sections 107 and 108 of the EPA Act 1992, in order to limit noise nuisance. Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other local authorities via networks and working groups and participating in training events. 		<p>Deco Paints Regulations:</p> <p>The certification rate for 9 known operators in Co. Longford was 100%. An initiative from 2020 to promote awareness and to identify non-compliers was progressed 2022. Inspectors called to twelve premises and explained the purpose of the regulations and the importance of compliance. Proprietors were asked if they subcontracted paint work and to which contractor. A copy of the register showing the currently certified operators in the midlands was handed over at each premises. Despite this effort no further operators were identified in 2022. Two of our registered operators alleged that they were competing with illegal operators but refused to give any details to the Council for follow-up. It is clear from engaging with garage proprietors that there is very little awareness of the National Vehicle Refinishers Register, but proprietors were very interested to see who is on it. No one admitted using unauthorised operators.</p> <p>Longford Co. Council has representatives on the Solvents and Deco Paints Network. To help with planning and enforcement of the Paints Regulations relevant staff attended the EPA's annual RMCEI Seminar and the annual EPA National Air Event</p> <p>Solvents Regulations:</p> <p>Longford County Council has one business certified under Solvent Regulations in County Longford. The Cert of Compliance serving this premises expired at the end of 2021.</p> <p>Longford County Council sent a warning letter to the business in February 2022 reminding them of their obligations under the Solvent Regulations to make an appointment with an approved assessor to have the facility inspected. Upon receipt of this letter the business booked an inspection with the approved assessor for April 2022. The premises was deemed compliant following inspection by the approved assessor and on this recommendation Longford County Council issued a new certificate of compliance to the premises in May 2022.</p> <p>A routine inspection of facility was carried out in August 2022. This inspection was unannounced. No non-compliances were found on day of inspection. An information leaflet explaining how to be compliant was provided to the facility owner</p>	

during the inspection. The info leaflet from the EPA is a simple guide to help dry-cleaners understand their obligations under the Solvent Regulations.

Petroleum Vapour Regulations:

In 2022 four Certificates of Testing were issued to filling stations, five other premises are under renewal. Letters were sent to all filling stations informing them of obligations under these Regulations. Two additional assessors were added to register of approved assessors. Staff from Environment Section attended enforcement training in regional training centre.


Licensed sites under the Air Pollution Act:

There is one active Air Pollution licensed site in the county – an asphalt plant. We review compliance of emissions data submitted by operator. The site has been visited in 2022 by Council Inspectors.

Local air and noise issues:

Noise complaints are logged and investigated. Most noise complaints received are trivial in nature such as barking dogs or loud noise from neighbouring properties. We assist complainants by giving information on how they can make a complaint to the District Court under The EPA Act, 1992.

Air complaints mostly relate to odour nuisance from agricultural activity such as land spreading of slurry and biosolids. In Longford Veolia had Irish Water contract for disposal of biosolids and they used local contractor for land spreading this material. We worked with Veolia and contractor to come up with a solution to help lessen odour nuisance. This involved mixing water with the biosolids just before taking product to the field and then applying it to land using a band spreader instead of muck spreader. This change of practice greatly reduced odour.

National Enforcement Priority:		Local Priorities identified in 2022 RMCEI Plan	
Local Authority: Longford County Council		Activities	
 Looking back at the year		<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>	
		<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions of facilities/activities as specified in the RMCEI template and/or as otherwise determined by the local authority. Make available on their websites, the EPA vehicle refinishers video and use appropriate channels to promote it. Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions under Sections 107 and 108 of the EPA Act 1992, in order to limit noise nuisance. Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other local authorities via networks and working groups and participating in training events. 	

Longford County Council Social Media Outreach on Environmental Awareness 2022

Campaign	Facebook				Twitter				Instagram		
	Posts	Likes	Shares	Reach	Posts	Likes	Retweets	Impressions	Posts	Likes	Reach
#ReuseMonth	2	8	1	1,524	2	-	-	189	2	4	271
#StopIllegalDumping	1	12	5	829	1	-	1	164	1	1	226
#ThinkBeforeYouFlush	1	29	7	2,285	1	-	-	123	1	15	327
#UpCycleChallenge	3	4	2	1,724	3	1	-	399	1	1	159
Anti Litter and Anti Graffiti Awareness Initiative Scheme	4	15	9	3,191	4	1	3	444	4	7	981
Better Estate Awards	1	106	5	5,342	1	-	-	122	1	26	613
burning of agricultural waste	1	3	5	1,432	-	-	-	-	1	6	371
Clean Air Campaign	4	2	1	1,539	4	1	1	614	4	4	691
Dog Fouling	14	74	16	7,738	13	3	2	1,917	14	34	2,786
Green Christmas	2	1	-	2,510	6	-	1	646	2	9	455
Green School/Irish Water Competition	1	46	1	3,255	2	1	1	379	1	13	534
Gum Litter Taskforce	1	17	2	2,204	1	4	1	356	1	8	292
Halloween Hazards	9	27	5	474	9	3	1	1,299	9	50	1,824
Hedgerow Cutting		-	-	-	2	4	-	288	-	-	-
Household Hazardous Waste Collection	5	77	31	4,976	6	11	2	1,353	5	25	1,899
International e-Waste Day	1	2	3	550	1	5	-	117	1	2	187
Lambing season/sheep worrying	2	5	1	1,424	2	5	3	831	1	11	285
Large Goods Waste Collection	2	15	18	2,988	2	-	1	295	-	-	-
Leave no trace	1	1	-	450	1	2	-	133	1	3	241
Longford's Green Keep it Clean	1	29	3	257	1	2	-	123	1	11	241
Relove Fashion	4	153	10	9,784	3	8	5	1,567	4	74	1,732
Spring Clean	6	280	21	15,294	9	34	11	3,026	6	154	3,515
stop food waste	1	-	-	409	3	7	2	515	1	1	173
Tidy Towns	2	51	1	3,756	2	7	1	407	1	8	287
Waste Collectors	1	1	1	439	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEEE Recycling	4	8	3	2,449	5	9	4	764	4	6	801
Clean Air Campaign	4	2	1	1,539	4	1	1	614	4	4	691
Note:											
Reach: The number of people who had the post enter their screen.											