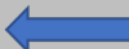




2022 National Enforcement Priorities Progress Report

| | |
|---|---|
| National Enforcement Priority: | GOVERNANCE - RMCEI Review & Reporting |
| Local Authority: | 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 RMCEI plan was submitted on target and reviewed quarterly in 2022. On the 27/06/2022 a Bi-Annual Review was implemented. The attendees were from the relevant section. Who attended were Senior Executive Officer, Administrative Officer, Senior Executive Scientist, Executive Scientist, Executive Engineer, T/Assistant Scientific Officer (RMCEI) co-ordinator and Clerical Officer who was taking the minutes but also has a role in monitoring Complaints that are outstanding.</p> <p>As part of this review process both the number of planned inspections versus actual inspection numbers and the progress of NEP's were evaluated. As a result, the RMCEI plan was revised in June 2022 due to on-going staff vacancies where planned inspection numbers could not be met. The number of inspections was revised downwards and relayed to the EPA and LGMA.</p> <p>All review meeting were presented and attended by SEO which facilitated the plan review. During the half year review the inspection numbers which were noted as on target, resources were deployed to other areas of our RMCEI planned NEP's to bring TCC back on trajectory. All actions agreed were recorded within the minutes and emailed to all parties for immediate planned actions.</p> |

| National Enforcement Priority: GOVERNANCE - Environmental Complaint Handling | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------|------------|--|--|--------|---------|------------|----------------------------------|----|----|----|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|----|---|---|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|
| Local Authority: | 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"> • 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>TCC complaints system was migrated to a CRM system, training was provided for staff for reporting under LGMA (NEMIS) monthly reports and RMCEI. There is a Clerical Officer who has a major role in monitoring and tracking environmental complaints on the system and emails all parties who have complaints that are outstanding to close them out as a priority for the month ahead.</p> <p>Under all categories (includes Derelict Sites, Burial/Grave and Animal Control stray dogs, loose horses) there were 1763 complaints received in 2022. There were 1696 Resolved indicating an Inspection and Resolution rate of 96.2%</p> <p>Of EPA referred complaints 48 in total, 43 resolved and 5 active. These have been resolved in January as the calculations for the RMCEI and NEMIS reporting were taken from 01st January 2022 to 30th December 2022. As can be seen in Complaints Handling below the planned RMCEI meetings the actions from our tailoring inspections and staff has reflected positively in overall targets for Tipperary Co Council improving.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Indicator</th> <th colspan="3">Tipperary</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Actual</th> <th>Planned</th> <th>Difference</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6.1.1 Waste Permitted Facilities</td> <td>33</td> <td>20</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.1.3 Inspections of Cert of Registration sites (private)</td> <td>12</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.1.5 Multi-agency inspections, including vehicle inspections and multi-agency site inspections</td> <td>16</td> <td>10</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.1.6 Hazardous waste sectoral inspections (e.g. WTF, garages, mini-labs, industrial healthcare, POPs & others)</td> <td>21</td> <td>20</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.1.8 Inspections of notifications under Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning Inspections</td> <td>14</td> <td>5</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.1.10 Household Waste Surveys</td> <td>290</td> <td>150</td> <td>140</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.1.11 Inspections in relation to the household and commercial kerbside waste collection regime (including brown bin)</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Indicator | Tipperary | | | Actual | Planned | Difference | 6.1.1 Waste Permitted Facilities | 33 | 20 | 13 | 6.1.3 Inspections of Cert of Registration sites (private) | 12 | 5 | 7 | 6.1.5 Multi-agency inspections, including vehicle inspections and multi-agency site inspections | 16 | 10 | 6 | 6.1.6 Hazardous waste sectoral inspections (e.g. WTF, garages, mini-labs, industrial healthcare, POPs & others) | 21 | 20 | 1 | 6.1.8 Inspections of notifications under Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning Inspections | 14 | 5 | 9 | 6.1.10 Household Waste Surveys | 290 | 150 | 140 | 6.1.11 Inspections in relation to the household and commercial kerbside waste collection regime (including brown bin) | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Indicator | Tipperary | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Actual | Planned | Difference | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.1.1 Waste Permitted Facilities | 33 | 20 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.1.3 Inspections of Cert of Registration sites (private) | 12 | 5 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.1.5 Multi-agency inspections, including vehicle inspections and multi-agency site inspections | 16 | 10 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.1.6 Hazardous waste sectoral inspections (e.g. WTF, garages, mini-labs, industrial healthcare, POPs & others) | 21 | 20 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.1.8 Inspections of notifications under Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning Inspections | 14 | 5 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.1.10 Household Waste Surveys | 290 | 150 | 140 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.1.11 Inspections in relation to the household and commercial kerbside waste collection regime (including brown bin) | 6 | 4 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 6.1.12 Other inspections of waste collection permit holders to include, for example, data validation audits | 143 | 10 | 133 |
| 6.1.13 Commercial Food Waste Inspections (original waste producers, e.g. hotels, nursing homes, restaurants, etc.) | 13 | 6 | 7 |
| 6.1.14 Inspections in relation to authorised ELV facilities (ATFs) with an emphasis on traceability requirements (SI 320 of 2014) | 11 | 3 | 8 |
| 6.1.15 Inspection in relation to Mercury Regulation (S.I. No. 533/2018) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6.1.16 Other routine inspections (not included in above numbers) | 20 | 0 | 20 |
| 6.2.1 Investigative inspections of fly tipping or illegal dumping, excluding unauthorised C&D, ELVs & Tyres | 893 | 1200 | -307 |
| 6.2.2 Investigative Inspections in relation to unauthorised C&D sites (sites with no permit) | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| 6.2.3 Investigative Inspections in relation to unauthorised ELV sites and suspected sites of origin as notified by the NTFSO (sites with no permit) | 0 | 4 | -4 |
| 6.2.4 Investigative Inspections in relation to unauthorised Tyre dumps (no permit in place) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6.2.5 Inspections in relation to unauthorised waste collectors (collectors with no permit), e.g. MAN IN VAN, scrap collection, unauthorised C&D collection, etc. | 22 | 5 | 17 |
| 6.2.6 Inspections in relation to other Unauthorised Waste sites excluding those mentioned above - incl. crashed vehicle inspections, PTUs, etc. | 1 | 2 | -1 |
| 6.2.7 Inspections in relation to Waste Facility Permits continuing to operate after their permit has expired | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 6.2.9 Household Waste/waste presentation Inspections arising from complaints, including backyard burning | 35 | 25 | 10 |
| 6.2.10 Inspections of sites notified under Article 27 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| 6.2.11 Other non-routine inspections (not included in above numbers) | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| 6.3.1 Litter Patrols/Investigations | 692 | 400 | 292 |
| 6.3.2 Litter Pollution monitoring surveys | 169 | 200 | -31 |
| 6.3.3 Litter Pollution quantification surveys | 69 | 58 | 11 |
| 6.3.4 Visits in relation to Green Schools Programme | 38 | 20 | 18 |
| 6.3.5 Providing support to community groups during litter clean ups | 327 | 200 | 127 |
| 6.8.1 WEEE Inspections | 22 | 22 | 0 |
| 6.8.2 Battery Inspections | 22 | 22 | 0 |
| 6.8.4 Farm Plastics | 7 | 10 | -3 |
| 6.8.5 Plastic Bag Levy | 11 | 10 | 1 |
| 6.8.6 Inspections under the Packaging regulations - Suspected Major Producers | 27 | 18 | 9 |
| 6.8.7 Inspections under the Packaging regulations - Registered Self-compliers | 15 | 3 | 12 |

| 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. | |

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| National Enforcement Priority: | | WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage) |
| Local Authority: | 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"> • 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>Tipperary County Council performed 47 (only 42 on EPA excel sheet?) farm inspections in 2022. As per 2022 planned inspections were carried out in accordance with organizational guidance with appropriate risk assessments completed out all inspections on a risk rating priority as is a policy in our annual plans.</p> <p>The 47 farm inspections included initial farm visits, with 14 follow up visits. This total number is a combination of planned routine visits and non-routine visits originating from complaints submitted to Tipperary County Council. Regarding these farms, 69% farms were found to be non-compliant, with primarily minor issues noted to follow up on improvements required to comply with the Nitrates Directive and Good Agricultural Practice regulations, prevent pollution and improve water quality overall. Inadequate slurry storage was found on 4 farms, while inadequate control of soiled water was found on 8 farms. All farm visits are now recorded on the EPA’s Farm Inspections Excel tracker. There were five farms cross-reported to Department of Agriculture, Food & the marine and two farms were served with a Section 12 notice under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts.</p> <p>The Kings River was selected as the priority area where 11 farm inspections were performed. This Pollution impact maps for this area indicate that Phosphorus is the pollutant of concern from farming practices due to the heavy soil types in the area. For this reason, the farm visits focused on the collection and storage of</p> | |

organic fertilisers such as slurry and soiled water as well as the containment of other pollutants such as dairy washings and silage effluents.

In 2021, The Ollatrim Catchment was specifically targeted for farm inspections (35 herd owners) due to the widespread deterioration of water quality observed throughout the catchment, but most notably, Phosphate in the upper reaches with agriculture identified as a significant pressure.

In many cases only minor non-compliances were recorded and rectified within a short time frame. In other cases, more significant non-compliances were recorded, requiring longer timeframes & additional enforcement. 4 of these more complex cases required follow up during 2022.

Significant non-compliances found included mis-management of silage effluent whereby it was discharging via the clean water channels and directly to the stream. The poor management of cows at milking time, including collecting yards and cow roads, resulting in excessive accumulation of effluent discharging directly and indirectly to streams. Given the steep terrain in the Upper Ollatrim, cow roads were found to generate large volumes of sediment and discharge significant organic loading to the streams over which they traversed. Separation of clean and soiled water and the existence/absence of adequate control measures such as kerbs and channels and the maintenance of these in farmyards was also a significant problem.


In some cases, very significant investments were made to remedy the problems identified in 2021. However additional issues were identified (in particular cow roads) during follow up inspections in 2022. TCC requested the assistance of ASSAP advisors to accompany our Agricultural Scientist to offer in particular, advice in relation to the complex cow road issues. In addition, TCC sought the advice of specialists in Integrated Constructed Wetlands, as a possible solution to the extensive problem in the Upper Ollatrim, not readily (or sustainably) resolved by constructing more sheds and tanks. It is anticipated that one farm will submit planning for an ICW in 2023.

4 previously cross reported farms submitted appeals to the DAFM and required the input and reporting of TCC directly back to the Regional Inspector in the DAFM, in order to assist with appeal deliberations and decisions. This resulted in sanctions being reduced which had a positive effect on the farmers concerned.

As a result of the 6 follow up visits carried out on these farms, a number of other positive outcomes can be identified:

Significant improvements in GAP compliance rate, following on from an initial non-compliance rate of 49% (17 farms) in 2021 which was reduced to 11% (4 farms) in 2022, with all but one farm (3% non-compliance) now at an acceptable level of compliance which can only contribute positively to water quality in the Upper Ollatrim.

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| | <p>Excellent level of co-operation and collaboration between TCC, farming community, ASSAP and Specialists who can provide a more sustainable solution for water quality improvements in the Upper Ollatrim</p> <p>Heightened awareness of the farmers in relation to the sensitivity of the rivers and streams in their locality and the understanding that their actions/in-action can have very serious consequences is key in tackling water pollution.</p> |
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|---|---|---|
| National Enforcement Priority: | | WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading) |
| Local Authority: | 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"> • 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>Multiple slurry spreading complaints (21) were received and followed up during 2022 throughout the County, in “not at risk” waterbodies. In all cases, warning letters are sent out detailing GAP requirements but also requesting the submission of GAP records. These records are to be submitted by a suitably qualified advisor on the farmers behalf. Our letter states that following an assessment of the records submitted, further on-site inspections and/or cross reporting will be considered. The effect of this request is that farmers are forced to engage with us and their advisor. There is a learning opportunity for the advisor to ensure that he/she is fully aware of the implications of submitting inaccurate information and the very significant impacts their actions can have on water quality</p> <p><u>Youghal Catchment</u></p> <p>The Youghal catchment is currently at moderate status and at risk of failing to meet its WFD objectives. Q values have been consistently at 3-4 over the past 2 decades with elevated N & P in recent times. Slurry spreading during the closed period has been an issue over the winter period of 2021/2022 & late in 2022 within this catchment. Two intensive dairy farms in particular have been identified as posing a potential risk. Both of these farms were issued advisory letters initially, outlining their obligations in relation to slurry spreading and slurry & soiled water storage requirements. Following on from these initial letters, both farms contacted the environment section and a site inspection of one farm took place. The farmers agricultural advisor was on hand on the day to offer assistance. A warning letter detailing the non-compliances found on the day was subsequently issued and a planning application for farmyard improvement works was submitted. Both farms also submitted the requested nitrate records. A follow up inspection is required in 2023 on both farms to ensure all works are carried out and also to assess the on-going issue of soiled water on the second farm.</p> | |


Although only a small number of farms were initially targeted, it is considered that the impact of these farms alone is significant. Further farms will be inspected in 2023 and the situation regarding slurry spreading will continue to be monitored.

Sludge Management

25NMPs were submitted for assessment and approval from 19 farms accepting sewage sludge. In addition, 10 farms submitted NMPs for the land spreading of non-sewage sludges such as dairy sludge and SMC. All NMPs were assessed for compliance with GAP and Sewage Sludge Regulations, where applicable as well as groundwater protection. Compliance levels have significantly improved year on year since 2019 when TCC introduced an NMP assessment protocol which stipulates what is to be included in NMP submissions. Compliance in 2022 was 69% compared to 45% in 2021. In addition to NMP assessments, 4 farms were chosen for site inspections as they were located in areas of high PIP ranking for Phosphorus. Inspections took place at spreading times with the aim of ensuring buffer zones and application rates were consistent with the approved NMPs and that any plots excluded were not spread. All farms were found to be compliant in this regard.

Compliance promotion and awareness raising

Following on from a number of similar events in late 2021, a Tipperary County Council representative presented at the final nationwide Derogation Training on-line event in January 2022. This concluded the compulsory national training for all derogation farmers in the “Farming Sustainably under Derogation, reducing the impact of emissions, water and biodiversity” module of the course for clients of the Agricultural Consultants Association (non Teagasc, private consultants). 45 farmers from all over the County participated in the event. Specific areas covered in the presentation included local authority inspections programmes and enforcement policies, water quality, source protection, common farmyard issues and mitigation measures, pesticide in water, planning & DWWTS.

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| National Enforcement Priority: | | WATER – Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks |
| Local Authority: | 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"> 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>Tipperary County Council performed 38 Domestic Waste Water Treatment Plant inspections in 2022. All Sites for inspection were selected having due regard to The EPA’s Risk Zone criteria as part of the National Inspection Plan 2022-2026. Prior to each inspection each homeowner selected is notified of the planned inspection and a suitable date arranged. 3 new members of The Environmental Protection team undertook training programmes to become National DWWTPS inspector. This was necessary to complete the programme successfully and provide the required competence to do so. Inspections are carried out in pairs where practicable for operational and safety reasons. 18 out of 38 systems failed and 18 advisory notes were issued. Where a system failed an inspection, the homeowner was informed and assigned a reasonable timeline for completion of all works. This is followed up formally with an advisory notice. 18 advisory notices issued for follow up in 2023. All inspections were input into The EPA portal and all senior management requested to approve advisory notices prior to issue within the statutory period assigned. Follow ups are scheduled for all advisory notices.</p> <p>Inspection targets were met in 2022. A non- compliance rate of 47 % was noted and the primary reasons was failure to maintain systems and issues regarding percolation areas. This compares to a non- compliance rate of 33% in 2021.</p> | |

Following a review of open advisory notices (in Q4 due to staff vacancies and turnover) there is 38 outstanding advisory notices dating from 2013 to 2021 (11 for 2019 /8 for 2021 and 19 pre-2019) all issued prior to the present water quality teams start dates. The EPA were contacted to reopen these notices. A number of cases are open due to extreme hardship cases, these will be identified with a view to engagement and assistance to address the non-compliances where feasible. All open advisory notices will be our primary focus for 2023.

We had successful positive environmental outcomes this year following complaints of two malfunctioning septic tanks and percolation areas.:

- Mullinahone: where contents from a neighbour's bio-cycle was entering a drain that enters the River Anner (WFD status Poor & At risk status) . On investigation the bio-cycle was not percolating properly. This point source pollution was having a negative environmental impact on the stream entering the River Anner which was also upstream from a drinking water abstraction source. When the owner was informed of this he promptly had remediation work done. This was a positive step in the improvement of this stream and was visually evident.
- Annacarthy: where grey water from the percolation area was accumulating on the roadside ditch. There was a significant impact on human health and environment. The owner of the property stoppered the pipe and had remediation works done to rectify the percolation area. This negative point source pollution stopped and the road drain improved.


Septic Tank Grants:

4 payments have been made under this initiative

Awareness:

In association with local radio stations, an awareness campaign was run in March to inform homeowners with domestic waste water treatment systems (septic tanks), about their obligations to register the septic tank and to contract the services of a contractor who is registered with National Waste Collection Permit Office. A number of phone calls received re same indicated the piece was well received and understood.

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| National Enforcement Priority: | | WATER – Discharge Licences / Misconnections |
| Local Authority: | | 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"> • 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. | | <p><u>Discharge Licences:</u></p> <p>There are 42 active S4 licences managed by Tipperary County Council. 63 monitoring samples were taken in 2022 to ensure compliance with licence conditions. This exceeded revised RMCEI targets set in June 2022 (50 samples).</p> <p>All facilities are required and reminded to submit self-compliance monitoring, along with corrective action evidence where applicable. This is reviewed on an on-going basis.</p> <p>An on-going vacant position responsible for S4 monitoring was filled in September resulting in a catch-up period for 2022. In September, correspondence was sent to all licence holders reminding them of the conditions of the licence and notifying them of inspections and to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plant is accessible and free of any overgrown vegetation, obstacles, etc so that sampling and inspections can be carried out. • Rectify any issues with plant operation to ensure compliance with license limits. |

- 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.

- Submit all outstanding self-sampling results and flow data for 2022.

Audits are performed on a risk basis and following on from significant work on 10 priority sites identified in 2020 and 2021 the compliance rate is significantly improved with only minor non-compliances noted and no threat to water quality considered. A 60% overall compliance rate is noted which is line with 2021 but it is noted that the non-compliances in 2022 are more minor in nature and where they are experienced in sampling, in many cases a further percolation area is available after the sampling point, which reduces the impact on the receiving water bodies.

Follow Up 10 sites identified as priority sites in 2020/2021 period due to the higher risk of pollution posed by non-compliance of these facilities. Many businesses were closed for long periods of time during lockdown which meant allowances in respect of corrective actions had to be made and in many cases capital works required for rehabilitation of systems were impacted due to equipment and lead in delays. 2 carried forward to 2022 had the following outcomes:

A high priority site, a school located in a Priority Area for action (Kings River) and listed as an area for lead for TCC in the 3rd cycle of RBMP, whose discharge impacted on the Kings River were dependent on funding and subject to delays in works due to COVID lockdowns, hence timelines were extended. A new plant is currently under commission and due for follow up compliance checks by TCC in Q2 2023.

A priority site (Large Service station & Food outlet) where significant non-compliances were noted in 2020, showed significant improvement following extensive engagement and upgrades to the plant. These upgrades were delayed by Covid restrictions with Brexit impacting on timelines of delivery of parts. While very minor non-compliances are noted at the end of 2022 these are noted to be addressed by the end of Q2 2023.

22 site inspections (Audits) were carried out between September and December.

Following on site audits, one Section 4 licence holder was identified as having deteriorated effluent quality with potential to impact water quality of the receiving body (Multeen). The local authority

engaged with the licensee to carry out significant remedial measures and service works, to return the parameters to acceptable levels. This plant is to be replaced and compliance reviewed in late 2023 once planned installation takes place.


All exceedances are recorded and trended against historic data to monitor an improvement or deterioration of effluent quality. In any case, the licensee was made aware of a non-compliance and corrective action would be advised if the issue was ongoing., The local authority recorded on file any corrective actions taken to achieve compliance, along with subsequent discharge monitoring data.

2 Section 4 Discharge Licence Application have been assessed and issued in 2022 and The Environment section actively tracks planning applications to identify facilities which will require S4 licence. This is noted where applicable on Planning reports

Misconnections:

This year TCC followed up a complaint from the Angling Club in Clonmel that sewage was going directly to River Suir from a stream at Mulcahy Park in Clonmel causing visible and large amounts of sewage fungus. After corresponding with the angling club, we arranged an urban stream walk with representatives from Irish Water to investigate. IFI were also consulted. This was a full day walk where we narrowed down a misconnection at a housing estate and that the foul overflow was identified as the source of the pollution. This issue was rectified and there has been a marked improvement in the stream at Mulcahy park.

There were no LAWPRO referrals in relation to section 4 discharge licences or misconnections in 2022

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| National Enforcement Priority: | | WATER – Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring |
| Local Authority: | 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"> • 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><u>WFD Monitoring:</u></p> <p>Tipperary County Council (TCC) completed monitoring at 150 sites in 2022 by taking 862 WFD samples which meets the target requirements of the EPA (100%).</p> <p>During sampling at the Tar River, run off from Farm yard manure stockpile was noted to be entering the river at the sampling location. A site visit to the farm was scheduled for the next day and instructions issued that the FYM be removed to outside the requested buffer zones from the water body. The instruction was complied with and reviewed for compliance on follow up inspections. No further issues noted.</p> <p>TCC began a catchment assessment in The Kings River in 2022 to be progressed and actioned through 2023.</p> <p><u>Investigative Monitoring:</u></p> <p>There have been no referrals to Tipperary County Council from LAWPRO for investigative monitoring.</p> <p>Staff had 27 days engagement with LAWPRO including catchment assessment training</p> <p><u>Abstraction of water</u></p> <p>The Abstractions Register (maintained by EPA) was reviewed in 2022 with regard to potential environmental impact from water abstractions across the county.</p> <p>An awareness programme is planned on water abstraction and regulatory requirements in 2023</p> | |

Bathing Water Monitoring:

- TCC does not have officially designated bathing areas however monitors 5 locations on Lough Derg, a popular tourist attraction and bathing locations in the interest of public health. 25 bathing water samples were taken at 5 locations on Lough Derg (May-Sept). All samples collected were compliant with the Bathing Water Regulations 2008 (as amended) This is in line with the previous 2 years of monitoring.
- A number of complaints re odour and algae growth were received during the summer months following the hot weather spells. These were found to be due to exceptionally low water levels
- 30 (5 follow up to reports & 25 routine in tandem with sampling) Algal bloom inspections took with 2 press releases issued of 'Warning of algal bloom on Lough Derg' in the interest of public and animal health.
- Tipperary County Council continued the use of Algal Bloom App after a successful trial in 2021. It is used to report the presence of harmful blooms of blue green algae. No sampling was required following the reports of blue/green algae. The record sent is examined and verified by an expert. Results were verified within 24hrs and warnings issued promptly hence minimising the risks to public and animal health.

Private Water Supplies:

In early 2022, management of the Rural Water Programme moved within Tipperary County Council from Water Services to Environment, which brought many challenges but also a fresh perspective on the programme.

38 GWS and 77 SPS were monitored in 2022 at the frequency required under the drinking water regulations (a total of 282 Group A and 119 Group B samples) and all data is submitted to the EPA through EDEN annually. Tipperary County Council also engages with 36 exempted Group Water Schemes.

In addition to regulatory samples, 122 investigative and operational samples were collected in 2022, triggered by non-compliances detected through regulatory monitoring and also connected to resolving water quality issues on exempted Group Water Schemes.

In 2022, regulatory monitoring carried out on GWS found 100% compliance with E Coli standards, in line with 100% compliance in 2021. For SPSs, the compliance rate was 98.2% (3 SPS had E Coli failures) in 2022 compared to 98.9% in 2021.

Overall compliance for all parameters tested was 99.47% for GWS, with the few failures noted being mainly for nitrate, colony count and colour. For SPSs, overall compliance was 98.63%, with Colony Count, Total Coliforms, Sodium and E Coli being the most common failing parameters. An increase in manganese failures was noted in 2022. Less common parametric failures such as sulphate, tetrachloroethene and antimony on individual supplies required a more tailored approach by council staff and learnings followed.

Where regulatory monitoring showed a breach of the drinking water standards, Rural Water staff promptly followed up with the water supplier by ensuring that the cause of the failure was investigated and that appropriate remedial action was taken. Rural Water staff consulted with the HSE on each failure to determine the risk to public health and in some cases restrictions or prohibitions on the use of water supplies were put in place (6 Boil Water Notices and 4 Do Not Consume Notices were issued in 2022). Audits were carried out and tailored recommendations were made regarding treatment or other options in line with the regulations and the EPA handbook. Follow up sampling was carried out to ensure that all supplies returned to compliance following the carrying out of remedial action.

Five private supply drinking water audits were planned for 2022, a conservative number due to the uncertainty early on in the year of resources available. These audits were planned on a risk basis, e.g. E Coli fails during 2021, new sources being commissioned by suppliers and one focussed on lifting a longstanding boil water notice. This target was exceeded as a total of 25 audits were carried out during 2022 to ensure private suppliers were complying with the drinking water regulations. 24 of these audits have been fully closed out with the one remaining audit to be closed out with a follow-up visit in early 2023. The majority of audits carried out on SPSs were reactive, and were triggered as a result of failures found through regulatory monitoring.

It is considered that the lower rate of compliance with SPSs may be linked to the lack of meaningful access to technical advice for SPS owners (like the support provided by the NFGWS to GWSs), the lack of access to the likes of the Annual Maintenance Subsidy which is the financial life blood of Group Water Schemes and a historical lack of engagement between Small Water Private Suppliers and the Local Authority compared to Group Water Schemes.

Tipperary County Council engaged with Small Private Supply owners in 2022 by inviting them to LEADER-funded Water Quality workshops.

Improvements planned for Rural Water for 2023 are to improve the accuracy of the SPS register in the south of the county through renewed engagement with the HSE. It is also planned to improve the Information on the council website relating to the responsibilities of private water suppliers.

Source Protection


Following a request from water services, the environment section carried out 6 investigations, 5 of which related to breaches of the drinking water standards, 3 of which related to Pesticides, 1 GAP and 1 DWWTS. These investigations resulted in 41 advisory letters sent out to landowners within the ZOC of these supplies regarding obligations under Sustainable Use Directive and GAP Regulations and 1 warning letter regarding compliance with DWWTS Regulations. This work programme required a collaborative approach between environment and water services staff of TCC, IW, DAFM, Coillte, landowners, co-op merchants and wind farm operators. Follow up inspections will be carried out in 2023 but it is envisaged that as a result of the numerous communications with landowners and co-ops, there is a heightened awareness of pesticide usage in particular and its potential impact on drinking water and continued breaches of PPP thresholds will be avoided.

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| National Enforcement Priority: | | WASTE - Tackling significant illegal waste activities & Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern | |
| Local Authority: | | 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><u>Illegal Waste Activity</u></p> <p>Tipperary county council were involved in a number of significant illegal waste activities in 2022. Targeted inspections and follow up enforcement actions were carried out across a number of sites. Site selection for the inspections came from a number of different sources such as complaints, WERLA, EPA, GARDAI and also from other vendors in the industry that feel that they are being undercut by competitors who do not have appropriate authorisation. We then prioritize inspections based on the potential for environmental damage.</p> <p>Authorised Operator Working Outside Permit Conditions:</p> <p>A complaint was made to Tipperary county council regarding an existing authorised facility holder in Tipperary working outside of current conditions. The accused was also flagged to Tipperary County Council by the EPA as an operator of Concern. An inspector visited the site and confirmed that the operator was working outside their permit conditions and causing nuisance for local residents, breaches included excess material on site, working outside of the designated areas and times and noise and dust emissions. Tipperary County Council proceeded to enforcement actions and were successful in a court case earlier in the year. This has had a very positive effect on the community and the facility is not being run within its permit conditions</p> <p>Non-Compliance with Article 27</p> <p>Tipperary county council conducted an inspection on foot of an article 27 notification from the EPA. The material in the notification itself was acceptable but from the inspection there was</p> | |

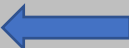
evidence of contamination in the soil in areas of the quarry site. There was evidence of hedge vegetation trimmings, a diesel drum, mattresses, plastic piping, steel sheeting, timber, steel buckets, insulation and plasterboard. A section 55 Notice was served to the landowner requiring the remediation of the site. A second site inspection confirmed that the section 55 notice was not complied with and additional deposits of unauthorised material was evident on site. Tipperary county council confirm that there was no waste authorisation in place as required for these activities, as required to invoke the presumption of environmental pollution pursuant to section 32 (6) of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended. Tipperary county council are currently in enforcement proceedings and are confident that remediation of the site will be the outcome.

Anti-Dumping Initiative 2022

Projects to the value of €82,000 were approved by the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications. Projects included a number of days to drop off household hazardous waste at local civic amenity sites in Tipperary, this produced a total of 14t of household hazardous material being dropped off at civic amenity sites and being brought to authorized facilities for disposal. There were also a number of clean up days in specifically target sites around the County. These clean up days proved to be very beneficial to the local community.

| National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Construction and Demolition Activity | |
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| Local Authority: | 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 –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk based inspections of construction sites using WERLA intelligence and inspection templates. • 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. • 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><u>Inspection of Soil Recovery Sites (routine inspections):</u></p> <p>There are 12 soil recovery sites operational across Tipperary County Council. To ensure that we could prioritize our inspections in order of risk the first step in the process for Tipperary County Council was to complete a desktop study to confirm AER's were completed for the year before and also to rank the sites in order of volumes received. If there are any anomalies in relation to waste in and permitted volumes in the previous year this pushed the site up the priority list. 8 of the 12 sites were inspected in the reporting year. 1 of the 8 sites were considered to be in breach of the permit conditions in relation to waste accepted to site and they received a direction under section 14 under the WMA . Within one month of the initial inspection the site was remediated by removing the contaminated material on site and supplying dockets to show that the material was brought to an authorised facility.</p> <p><u>Non-Routine Inspections:</u></p> <p>Tipperary County Council have been increasing their focus on non-routine inspections at C&D deposition sites across the county. Site selection for these types of operations are carried out number of different ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inspect sites of origin (e.g building developments or roadworks projects) and follow where the material is going from there. We completed two of these inspections in 2022 2. Inspection of unauthorised deposition sites which come from either complaints or one of our enforcement officers coming across them on their travels. We have completed 11 of these inspections in 2022 <p>If any enforcement officer notices a deposition site across the county on their travels they are encouraged to complete a desktop check of the site to check for authorisations in place and then follow up with an inspection. During one such inspection one of our enforcement officers came across a deposition site in Cahir Tipperary. During the inspection a number of issues were flagged to the operator including:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The truck carrying the material did not have a waste collection permit • The site was not authorised <p>The contractors representative was notified and asked to come to site. Although he took responsibility for the lack of a waste collection permit on the vehicle being used he maintained that the material was being moved under an article 27. On closer inspection of the material the Waste Enforcement officer noticed that there was C & D waste scattered amongst the material and it was not just soil and stone as stated in the article 27. For this example Tipperary County Council had the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPN was issued to contractor for carrying waste on a truck that was not registered on their collection permit. • S14 was issued to the contractor to remove the C & D waste from the site (S14 was complied with). • Submission was made to the EPA with respect to the Article 27. <p>Tipperary also routinely inspect Article 27 sites to ensure that the material being moved is as described in the contractors submissions.</p> |
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| National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal sector | |
| Local Authority: | 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"> • Risk based inspections of Authorised Treatment Facilities and other ELV sites using WERLA intelligence | <p>In relation to WASTE - End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal sector, 7 sites in total were audited on site to check compliance with their WFP permits. These were audited based on an analysis of their Annual Returns that they had submitted to the NWCPO in 2022 annual return. While their data was been viewed and validated there were some anomalies, in what was been recorded by these WFP holders and WCP holder to whom in turn deposited to an authorised WFP holder for final processing.</p> |


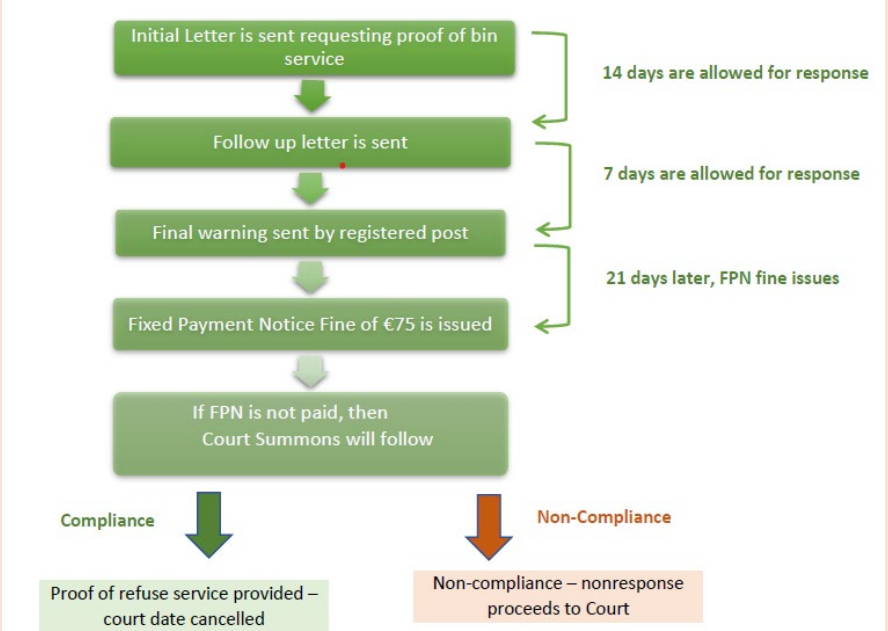
and inspection templates (at least one inspection per annum of permitted sites).

- 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.

The methodology used, helped Tipp Co Council T/Assistant scientist auditor on the NWCPO portal make early Interventions on the calculation to help address differences in which the exchange of emails and sample docket were also used for to make notes to ask during their on-site audits which also carried out by the same person. This also gave the opportunity to share Data analysis and calculations for enforcement targeting but also to highlight differences to other Co councils, NWCPO auditors to identify permit holder in their region to audit based on tonnage and destination difference in what was recorded.

During one particular desktop audit on the NWCPO portal 2022. An individual WFP holder was detected of non-compliances i.e. calculation which did not add up and follow up inspection was requested. Which resulted to an on-site audit by the same Tipperary Co Council T/Assistant scientist auditor. While going through the WFP holder files and paper work 3 receipt were noticed in a folder highlight as waste sent out. Photos were taken of these receipts which was asked by the auditor and agreed by the permit holder. Also, business cards were also identified on site and recorded. This in turn was relayed to Tipperary Co Councils Executive scientist whom happened to be at a conference with WERLA southern region 2 days prior discussing unauthorised activities. This information just happened to be discussed at this WERLA meeting in relation to one collector whom seemed to carrying out unauthorised activities in one county in the southern region.

Tipperary Co councils T/Assistant scientist contacted Nicholas Bond, Senior Waste Enforcement Officer, WERLA SR to discuss his site findings over the movement of certain material. It was agreed to collaborate with WERLA SR to carry out more audits and to gather more information and to forward on future analysis and data gathering to them as of interest. As the owner of the WFP are trying to get everything correct in relation to their permits by asking and requesting for these individual WCP numbers and identifications and working with Tipperary Co council which is a positive environmental win/win for everyone involved. By working together, it will be possible to gather more intelligence which in turn later on may result in these individuals becoming registered or help with a successful prosecution which can only be, truly calculated in the future.

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| National Enforcement Priority: | | WASTE - Waste Collection - Household & Commercial |
| Local Authority: | | 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"> • 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>Household Waste</p> <p>In previous years, due to Covid-19 Pandemic physical inspections to households were stood down. In the 2nd quarter of 2022 it was recommended to senior management that Tipp return to door to door surveys and initiate the process below to drive compliance:</p>  <pre> graph TD A[Initial Letter is sent requesting proof of bin service] --> B[Follow up letter is sent] B --> C[Final warning sent by registered post] C --> D[Fixed Payment Notice Fine of €75 is issued] D --> E[If FPN is not paid, then Court Summons will follow] E --> F[Compliance] E --> G[Non-Compliance] F --> F1[Proof of refuse service provided – court date cancelled] G --> G1[Non-compliance – nonresponse proceeds to Court] A --- R1[14 days are allowed for response] B --- R2[7 days are allowed for response] C --- R3[21 days later, FPN fine issues] </pre> |

Meetings were undertaken with the Housing Section and Community Liaison officer to determine priority areas for assessment and also from complaints regarding issues around household waste accumulation/disposal.

The meetings with community liaison officers was very beneficial and insightful regarding issues of tenants and how the Environment and Climate Action Section could support/encourage compliance with difficult individuals.

5 FPN's issued following discussion with Senior Management and outcome of Regional Meetings sharing of information.

Following the positive dialogue and collaboration with the Housing Section, regular review meetings are proposed for 2023 to also include Municipal District Administrators, the purpose is to identify priority areas and to encourage compliance among consumers.

As it stands the register currently holds 989 records, 304 of which were complete in 2022 with 64 non-compliant households, it is proposed to re-assess the non-compliant households and initiate enforcement where appropriate. If continued non-compliance is occurring and FPN's are not being paid then court proceedings will follow. It is envisioned that court proceedings will happen as group cases. Groups of 10.

The register has been found to be extremely beneficial for data analysis and auditing purposes.

Some challenges identified from the Household Surveys involved rental accommodation where tenants changed tenancy address and the Issuing of the FPN proved difficult.

Collaboration with WERLA and advice from fellow colleagues in other Local Authorities was found to be very advantageous with beneficial advice surrounding enforcement and processes.

Household Waste Collectors:


Annual returns are required to be completed by all household waste collectors across the country. As part of this Tipperary county council are required to validate data which has been submitted by the contractors. In 2022 there, the assistant scientist validated all data submitted by contractors. The desktop study competed showed up a number of anomalies one of which resulted in a waste contractor returning an inconclusive annual return. That contractor has since been flagged with WERLA and a follow up joint investigation is expected to take place in 2023.


Commercial Food Waste

Holy Cross-Country Music Festival took place in Tipperary in 2022. This event required a authorisation from Tipperary county council. Part of the authorisation included a food waste management plan within which were all of the details of how food waste was to be dealt with on the day of the festival including Number, type and size of receptacles, waste collectors' details etc. On the day of the festival an audit was carried out. The audit confirmed that the event was in line with the details input into the management plan.

There were 13 commercial food waste inspections carried out within Tipperary County Councils functional area. All vendors were found to be compliant.

Communications were sent out to commercial food waste vendors pertaining to information booklets and posters that were published on mywaste/business early in 2022. The posters included were informative pictograms to show what types of waste were permitted to go into each different type of receptacle, food waste, general waste of recycling.

| National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities | |
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| Local Authority: | 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. | <p>Produced responsibility is a style of environmental legislation that suits most forms of waste stream directive. The Tipperary county council monitor the following waste streams in terms of PRI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packaging • WEEE • Batteries • ELV's • Single Use Plastics <p>Tipperary County Council maintain a register of business that fall into the categories above and inspections are periodically completed from calling off business from the register. In 2022 there were 84 inspections completed as part of the PRI NEP. Inspection sites were picked in order of priority and priority was given in terms of the size of the business and whether or not information was given from other agencies like WERLA or the EPA.</p> <p>Although there were a number of S14 directions issued, there were no enforcement actions taken in 2022 on the back of the 84 inspections carried out.</p> |

| National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Solid Fuel Inspections | |
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| Local Authority: | 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><u>Solid Fuel</u></p> <p>Solid Fuel inspections were carried out in 2022 in accordance with The Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 529 of 2022) which came into force 31st October 2022.</p> <p>The implementation of the programme is concentrated in late autumn, winter and early spring months (solid fuel use season) Inspections planned for the first quarter of the year were re-scheduled to the 4th quarter due to on-going staff vacancies. An Environmental Technician role responsible for the area of Air quality was filled in October 2022.</p> <p>In response to the new regulations, Tipperary County Council launched an awareness campaign on the introduction of new Solid Fuel regulations called 'Change is in the Air', in conjunction with the Department of the Environment & Climate Action. Adverts were placed on all social media platforms, newspapers and on all local radio stations in the county informing the public and businesses of the change.</p> <p>11 retailers were inspected in November & December 2022 under the new regulations with particular focus given to areas outside of Clonmel which was previously the only Low Smoke Zone in Tipperary. A 100% compliance rate in the Clonmel area was noted in 2021 with a very good awareness base, hence the focus outside of this area. Inspections were targeted to new areas/retailers which had not previously been inspected under the Solid Fuel Regulations.</p> <p>The purpose of these inspections was to establish the types of fuel sold and compliance level under the new regulations and to issue to retailers the FAQ document from the Department of Environment,</p> |


Climate and Communications on their responsibilities under the new regulations. The feedback received indicated a general high level of awareness from the retailers and the public on the benefits of choosing compliant solid fuels.

10 out of 11 premises visited were compliant with 1 premises found to have uncompliant (smoky) coal on site. A verbal warning and follow up warning letter were issued to the uncompliant premises to inform them that the sale of smoky coal is no longer permitted and the FAQ document was sent to inform them of their responsibilities. A desk top study showed the supplier in question was found not to be currently on the EPA register for solid fuel producers. Following correspondence with the EPA, it was established that no application from these producers has been submitted to date. There was further follow up with the retailer to inform them they must only use EPA registered producers and a further warning letter was sent to the producer to inform them to register with the EPA if they are to provide fuels to retailers in Tipperary. A follow up phone call has resulted in the acknowledgement of the new regulations and confirmation that they will no longer have smoky coal for sale and a follow up inspection in 2023 is planned to confirm compliance

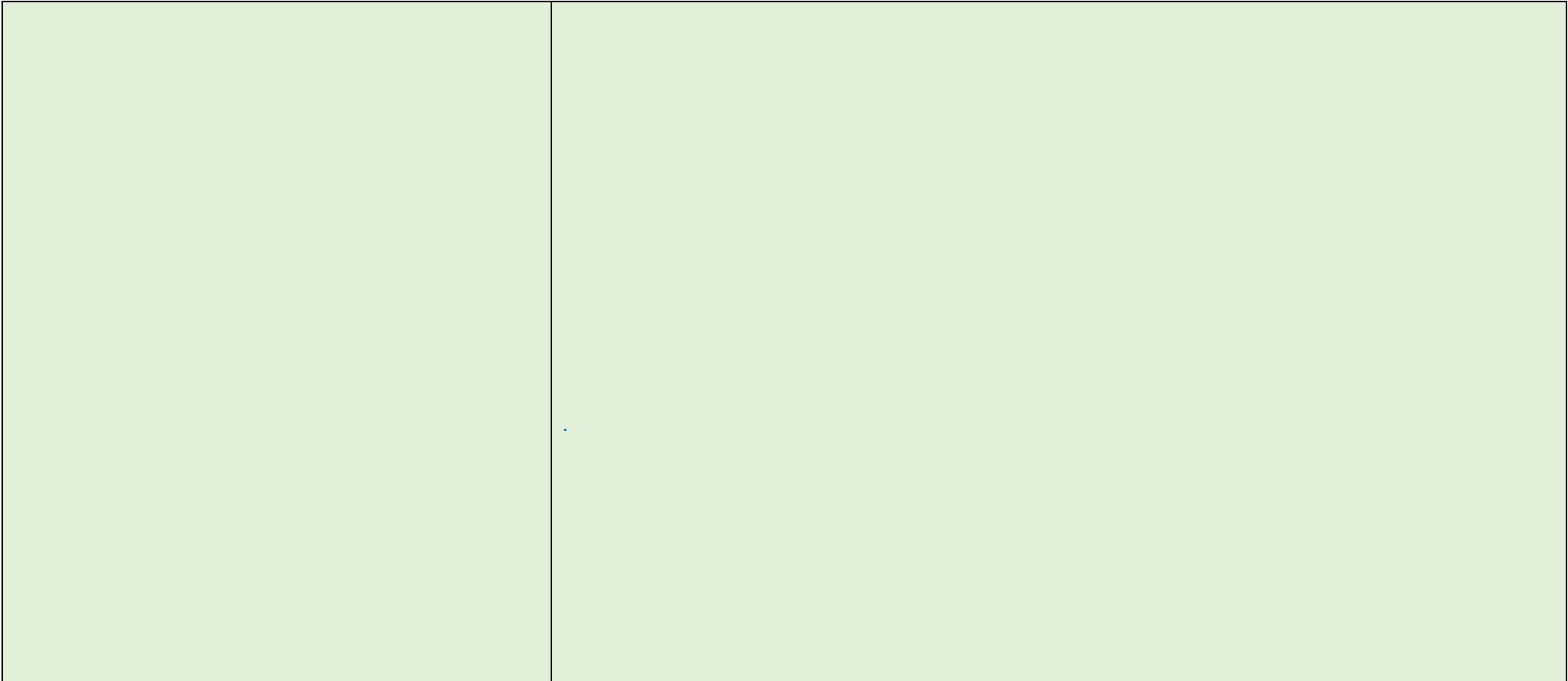
Complaints on Air Quality were down in 2022 (from 163 in 2021 to 69) mainly due to the reduction of burning and because the number of complaints increased in 2020 and 2021 (attributed to COVID lockdowns and increased public surveillance)


One complaint (anonymous) received from one resident of a Clonmel housing estate after the introduction of the new solid fuel regulations alleging the burning of illegal smoky fuel in certain houses within the estate causing poor air quality. This resulted in an awareness campaign for the area. Letters and the FAQ document for householders from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications were sent to all householders in the area in question (35) to inform them of the new regulations and the new restrictions surrounding fuels. By circulating this information, the aim was to educate people on the new regulations and also prevent the sale of illegal fuels. The complainant sent feedback that the issue has resolved.

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| | <p>2 staff member attended meetings and workshops held on the introduction of the Solid Fuel Regulations run by DCAEE & EPA</p> <p>2 staff members attended the EPAs National Air Event in November</p> <p>2 staff members attending LAIG meetings in 2022</p> |
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| National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Air Quality Monitoring Activities and Data Use | |
| Local Authority: | 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"> • 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. | <p><u>Air complaint and use of data</u></p> <p>There are 3 air quality monitoring stations in County Tipperary in Clonmel, Tipperary Town & Nenagh. The monitor in Nenagh is an indicative model and not used for reporting under The Café regulations, has been out of commission for 2022 despite best efforts from both the EPA and TCC to recommission. The issue with parts is attributed to Brexit.</p> <p>These monitors have been in situ since 2019 with Tipperary one of the first counties to engage with the EPA on viable locations for installation. An awareness campaign was run following the installation of these monitors and details relating to Air quality are issued at every Management meeting with Elected members. The link to the EPA's airquality .ie is available on Tipperary County Councils website .</p> |

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Air quality data is reviewed monthly with no exceedances or hot spots identified within the county to date. The air quality in Tipperary is consistently designated as ‘Good’ according to the AIR QUALITY INDEX FOR HEALTH</p> <p>12 site visits for maintenance purposes by TCC staff were recorded in 2022 along with engagement when required and as requested by the EPA. Due to staff turnover, TCC has requested training from the EPA air quality team (pending)</p> <p>2 Staff members attended the EPA run Air Conference /Event in November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complaint referred to the Environment Department in May 2022 alleging that poor air quality due to activities from steel fabrication company in Tipperary Town was having a negative impact on the complainant. As a follow, up a site visit to the company in question was conducted where it was found that excellent air quality management systems were in place and it was highly unlikely it was causing the poor air quality. The data from the FIDAS air quality monitor located in Tipperary Town was downloaded and reviewed for the time period referenced. The data was extracted down to the hourly data and spikes in values identified. It was concluded that the spikes related to high traffic volumes both in the morning and afternoon correlating with morning and afternoon/evening travel to work and school. TCC liaised with the EPA air monitoring team to confirm the conclusion and the EPA team concurred with our conclusion. The air quality monitor is located in the County Council car park. There is no hourly limit for PM10 rather daily limits. From that viewpoint there had been no exceedances for that time period It was established that there were no emissions from the company alleged to be causing the poor air quality. The air quality data was critical in fully evaluating the complaint, ruling out the company alleged to be causing air pollution and despite ‘spikes’ in PM 10 and 2.5 values the air quality data is indicative of overall ‘good’ air quality • 2 staff members attended training and workshops ruin by Dept & EPA Air quality |
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| National Enforcement Priority: | AIR - Environmental Noise Directive (END) Activities/ Noise Plans |
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| Local Authority: | 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"> • 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>The Roads section is responsible for the development and completion of the Noise Action Plan for Tipperary County Council. The Environment and Climate Action Section have appointed a representative to have input where necessary in completing the Noise action Plan.</p> <p>The Environment & Climate Action section have developed a Noise Protocol which dictates our response to noise complaints and issues and is based on the Guidance issued for Local Authorities. The section works closely with The Planning Authority in enforcing noise conditions as set out in Planning Approvals</p> <p>Noise Action Plan (NAP) Priority Area Action:</p> <p>Reduction of noise in areas exceeding thresholds</p> <p>Tipperary County Council have progressed the planning and implementation of a number of road pavement schemes in urban areas which are identified as high noise locations. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N24 Carrick on Suir Pavement Scheme (under construction); • N62 Kilnoe Pavement Scheme, (constructed); • N62 Slievenamon Road, Thurles (in planning); • N62 Liberty Square, Thurles (phase 1 constructed, phase 2 in planning); • N62 Cathedral St., Thurles; (in planning) • N74 Fr Matthew Street and N24 Tipperary Town Main Street (in planning). |

The following priorities have been addressed under the noise action plan in the preceding year:

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| Priority addressed | Reduction of existing ambient noise to below threshold. |
| Noise reduction measures introduced | Incorporation of low noise road surfacing, removal of surface irregularities, introduction of landscaping. |
| Estimate of the number of people benefiting from noise reduction | 1,000 (Liberty Square and Carrick on Suir) |
| Estimate of reduction in people annoyed due to noise | 3,000 |
| Estimate of reduction in people sleep disturbed due to noise | 2,000 |
| Estimate of reduction in noise levels | 3 dB Lden |
| Budget (if available) | €15M combined for Carrick on Suir & Liberty Square |
| Cost-effectiveness assessment (if available) | €25,000 (based on €25/dB/household) |
| Cost-benefit assessment (if available) | N/A |

Important Areas

An important area addressed in 2022 was the inclusion of references to the NAP within the revised County Development Plan, 2022-2028 (CDP). The CDP requires a Noise Impact Assessment for proposed developments within the Action Planning Area, with the incorporation of acoustic planning within the development design, and including buffer zones and/or noise barriers.

The NAP working group has been re-established following Covid restrictions that restricted actions in previous years. Further implementation of actions contained within the NAP are now being considered.

Round 4 Traffic data has been collated and submitted to the Roads Maintenance Office (RMO) for preparation of Round 4 Noise Mapping. This has identified new sections of urban road that will be included in future NAP.

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| Important area addressed | Planning & Regulation of development design with regards to noise. |
| Noise reduction measures introduced | Requirement for Noise Impact Assessment and Acoustic planning in new developments |
| Estimate of the number of people benefiting from noise reduction | As these will impact new developments it is not possible to accurately determine a number at this time. |
| Estimate of reduction in people annoyed due to noise | As above |
| Estimate of reduction in people sleep disturbed due to noise | As Above |
| Estimate of reduction in noise levels | 3-5dB Lden |
| Budget (if available) | None provided. Majority of costs to be borne by developers. No budget provided for TCC costs. |
| Cost-effectiveness assessment (if available) | N\A |
| Cost-benefit assessment (if available) | N\A |

Quiet Area

There are no agglomerations of 100,000 population within County Tipperary. There have not been any quiet areas identified during this reporting period. Discussions are commencing in this regard.

Details of progress which has been made in the preceding year, for each action set out within the NAP and comparisons to the timetable in the action plan and outcomes achieved


- Traffic flow data for round 4 has been compiled and submitted for production of updated mapping.
- Improved Traffic management has been implemented with further projects currently in planning.
- Low road noise surfaces have been introduced in urban areas as part of maintenance procedures.
- Tipperary fleet vehicles are being maintained and a number of EVs have been purchased which will contribute to reduced noise emissions.
- NAP measures have been referenced in the revised County Development Plan which will strengthen the ability to ensure noise mitigation is included in new developments.

Submission of the local authority Noise Action Plan (NAP) Progress Report by the 28th of February 2022:

Yes

The link to access the noise action plan published by TCC:

<https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/environment/noise-action-plan-consultation/tipperary-noise-action-plan-2018-2023>

| National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Air & Noise Controls in Planning Assessments | |
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| Local Authority: | 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"> • 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>The section reviewed and reported on 64 Planning applications submitted by The Planning Authority of Tipperary County Council to ensure potential environment impacts of proposed developments were identified and mitigated at planning stage. 9 site inspections were carried out as part of the reporting function to Planning.</p> <p>There is an agreed protocol for the referral of Planning applications with a template developed for guidance and the following applications are referred for assessment at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications for large scale developments • Applications for developments in environmentally sensitive locations • Agricultural Developments ▪ Others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All on-site wastewater treatment systems for >1 house ○ Applications for significant groundwater abstractions i.e. other than a domestic well for a single house ○ Applications for waste facilities (i.e. storage, processing etc) <p>All reports include consideration of, at a minimum Water Quality, Air & Noise impacts and are conditioned to ensure minimum impact to the environment. The agreement protocol with The Planning Authority was amended to include for consideration of WHO recommended noise limits when conditioning planning developments and the inclusion of Climate change mitigation measures such as SUDs where practical.</p> |

The section also reviews compliance reports submitted to The Planning authority related to compliance conditions in area of water, air & noise.: 3 number of reports submitted were reported on.

The Environment Section works closely with Planning in relation to legacy Developer provided infrastructure and in particular waste water treatment systems on those sites. In 2022 we worked closely with Planning to address issues at 1 problematic site arranging desludging of the plant and network and avoiding a public health nuisance.

The section supports the Planning section by offering expertise particularly in the area of Noise pollution control and conducts where feasible noise impact surveys and compliance surveys.

The Environment section liaised closely with the Planning section on 4 significant cases relating to noise pollution control arising from complaints received relating to developments or proposed developments. No enforcement notices (S107/S108) were required to be served due to compliance with initial engagement and warning letters.

Actions arising from each- case included:

- 1 Strict conditions of operating hours and noise limits were applied to 1 commercial scaffolding company.
- 2 A public house was refused retention planning for an extension to host music events based on the potential for noise pollution and the number of complaints received re noise nuisance.
- 3 1 site (construction) was issued with a warning letter re operating hours following unsuccessful engagement and mediation and the noise nuisance was addressed by same action.
- 1 A guidance document on noise control with reference to the *Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts (The Noise Council, UK)* was issued to one venue planning small scale outdoor concerts (exempt from Planning Licence). This document was issued to the Arts /grants office of TCC also to ensure any other such events may include noise control as part of their management strategy.


The Environment protection team collaborated with the Planning Authority and The EPA in relation to commercial unauthorised peat extraction in Co. Tipperary. 6 sites have been identified and followed up with planning enforcement. All environmental enforcement issues will be referred to the Environment section for follow up in 2023.

Training

1 member of staff completed the Noise Assessment course

1 member of the environment staff is completing a Level 7 Special Purpose Award Certificate in Environmental and Planning Legislation offered by SETU. The course provides for a minimum competency in a number of EU

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| | environmental directives i.e. SEA, EIA, Habitats and WFD and ensures better integration of environmental issues into planning regulation and enforcement. |
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| National Enforcement Priority: | AIR – Local Enforcement Issues |
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| Local Authority: | 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. | <p><u>Deco Paints regs:</u></p> <p>Tipperary County Council carries on-going targeted enforcement site inspections, ensuring vehicle refinishing operators comply with SI 564 of 2012. There were 38 registered installations in Co. Tipperary at the beginning of 2022.</p> <p>Vacancies in this area until October resulted in a gap in activities in this area in the first 3 quarters. In October TCC began focused engagement with the priority given to the identification of lapsed or expired certifications for 2022.</p> <p>Letters of correspondence were sent to 12 /38 premises where certification had expired (30 % of total number). Liaising with these premises has resulted in 3 cert renewals. The remaining premises are identified as priority inspection sites in 2023 in order to enforce compliance and certification.</p> <p>Unauthorised sites: These are detected via public complaints received, and certified operators are encouraged to identify those operating without certification.</p> <p>A list of registered facilities is available on Tipperary County Councils website</p> <p><u>PVE:</u></p> <p>On-going vacancies has resulted in a gap in activities for 2022. 104 facilities are register under the Petroleum Vapour Emissions Act. Follow up with registered facilities with lapsed certification was prioritised. 17 desk top inspections were carried out with 17 letters sent to inform premises of their need for renewal. 12 premises</p> |

were inspected on site. This has resulted in 8 certificated renewed before the end of 2022, 1 premises found to be duplicated and already certified and 2 premises to organise assessors reports for early 2023. A priority list has been issued for inspections in 2023 for follow up and enforce certification.

Solvent regs: There are 8 registered solvent operators in Tipperary

On-going vacancies has resulted in a gap in activities for 2022. Once the vacancy was filled, the priority was given to following up on renewing expired certifications for 2022. 12 facilities were listed on the register with 4 identified as exempt as activities do not meet with the specified activity requiring certification and removed from the register.

4 out of 8 certified premises were identified as having lapsed certification with correspondence sent requiring updated assessor reports/application of renewal. ¾ have followed up with 1 operator outstanding at the end of 2022 for follow up in 2023 -88 % compliance rate.

An up to date register of Solvent and Deco paint operators is available on TCCs website

Tipperary County Council has representation on the Solvents and Deco Paints working group, which facilitates the sharing of knowledge and general improvement in the approach for these areas

Noise

46 noise complaints were investigated and resolved with engagement and mediation. No Section 107/108 notices issued.

Local Air Issues

Tipperary Town has an active community group and has highlighted the issue of the lack of a bypass road for a number of years. Associated with this is alleged noise and traffic pollution through the main streets of the town causing concern for the general population of the town and its business leaders and public representatives.

In response and to support the community, Tipperary County Council have undertaken a traffic emission study (Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) tube diffusion study) in the town and while this began in 2020 we have extended its focus from Q4 2021 to the end of Q2 2022 as the data obtained in 2020 and 2021 was seen as not representative due to National Covid lockdowns and the associated reduction in traffic numbers. The final report issued in December 2022 concluded that there is no breach of NO₂ air limits.

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| | <p>With regards to the results, the annualised average concentrations ranged from 7.72ug/m³ to 35.32. This slightly higher than values being recorded through lockdown which is expected</p> <p>When compared to the EU legislative limit value and The WHO guideline, no location showed an indicative value higher than the annual NO₂ limit value of 40ug/m³ (WHO guideline). This correlates well with data from the Air Monitoring station in Tipperary Town</p> |
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