**National Food Waste Recycling Week 2023**

**Separating food waste is a positive climate action that we can all make**

**25th May 2023:** Now in its second year, the National Food Waste Recycling Week will run from the 5th until the 11th June 2023. This campaign, managed by [MyWaste.ie](file:///%5C%5Cwo0l0pafs0001%5Cgeneral%5CWHPRPROD%5CWHPR%5CCORPORATE%5C02%20-%20Existing%20clients%20retainer%20and%20projects%5CRegional%20Waste%20Management%5CNFWRW%202023%5CPress%20Release%5Cmywaste.ie) will provide practical advice, with easy to follow hints and tips to encourage everyone to recycle more of their food waste.

In Ireland, we waste about 800,000 tonnes of food each year, according to current best estimates. Growing, processing and transporting food uses a huge amount of resources, such as land, water, energy and fertiliser. If food is wasted, these resources are wasted too. The EPA estimates that food waste costs the average Irish household about €60 per month or €700 per year.  That’s an annual national cost of €1.29 billion.

This year’s campaign aims to ensure that people understand that food waste needs to be fully separated from all packaging such as plastic or other containers to prevent contamination at the compost and anaerobic digestion facilities leading to higher quality recycling.

The overall aim of the campaign is to generate awareness of the role of food waste recycling in diverting this valuable resource from landfill and allowing it to be transformed into renewable energy and fertilisers for horticulture and agriculture use in Ireland. This will have a lasting impact as it will create green jobs here now and into the future. The campaign is being managed by Ireland’s three regional waste management planning offices\* and funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Properly recycled food waste can be used to produce energy through anaerobic digestion and to produce clean, organic fertiliser.

Minister Ossian Smyth, Minister of State with responsibility for Public Procurement, eGovernment and the Circular Economy, said: *“Did you know that you can save money and cut carbon at the same time, just by sorting your food waste? During this year’s National Food Waste Recycling Week, we’re going to show businesses and households how to easily cut food waste. It’s more money in your pocket but it’s also a source of clean energy and climate-friendly fertiliser.”*

Minister Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, said: *“This National Food Waste Recycling Week my message to everyone is straightforward. We all have a role to play in reducing food waste. It benefits our local environment, can help us reach our climate targets, helps us show our farmers, fishers and food producers that we value their products and of course it can help us save money on our grocery bills. Working together with colleagues in government we are committed to our global climate targets and protecting our local environment. There is a wealth of information on how every household can reduce their food waste at MyWaste.ie and I encourage everyone to consider trying out some of their practical ideas that can help you to play your part.”*

Pauline McDonogh, Circular Economy Coordinator, Southern Waste Region, said: *“Organic waste collected in the brown bin accounted for 11% of all household waste managed in 2020 (199,823 t). The tonnage of organic waste increased of 25% when compared to the 2019 tonnage (159,385 t). However, previous EPA studies have shown that most household organic waste (over 60%) continues to be placed in the residual (black) or recycling bins and therefore not recycled\*\*.*

*From January 1st, 2024, under new national legislation to be introduced later this year all waste management companies will be obliged to provide food waste recycling bins for compostable material which will radically improve Ireland’s management of food waste. This campaign is focused on continuing to educate people on what can be put into their food waste recycling bin. It will highlight the importance of separating waste food from its packaging to ensure we reduce contamination and achieve high quality recycling. This is good for the Irish environment as it is a closed production process and supports our circular economy.”*

[Events](https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=1962&r=show&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mywaste.ie%2Fnational-food-waste-recycling-week%2F&t=c53a22a8be7d6bd90596d62a57330288e1522018) will be held nationwide to highlight National Food Waste Recycling Week 2023, supported by local authorities, the Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland (Cré) and members of the Irish Waste Management Association (IWMA).

In addition, MyWaste.ie team will be hosting talks each day at the Bloom Sustainable Living Stage during the Bord Bia Bloom Festival. Here, visitors will be able to hear from the MyWaste.ie experts as well as gardener Marie Staunton on how food waste recycling works and its benefits using several interactive exhibits. There will also be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions at each session.

People are encouraged to check locally for information on the events happening across the country. At many of these events, subject to availability, attendees will receive a food waste caddy, each with a starter pack of caddy liners, free compost for their gardens and an information leaflet.

For more information on the National Food Waste Recycling Week 2023, see [www.mywaste.ie/national-food-waste-recycling-week/](https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=1962&r=show&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mywaste.ie%2Fnational-food-waste-recycling-week%2F&t=c53a22a8be7d6bd90596d62a57330288e1522018)

* To find out more information on food waste management and to have all your waste related questions visit [www.mywaste.ie](https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=1962&r=show&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mywaste.ie%2F&t=2324ac0fbfb4f30cbfeab01bf08ba64dedb39ea6).

* For more information about preventing food waste visit [www.stopfoodwaste.ie](https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=1962&r=show&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.stopfoodwaste.ie%2F&t=cf29c8a79ce55f118048a15c9ed0509f63dab092).

* For more information on composting and anaerobic digestion visit [www.cre.ie](https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=1962&r=show&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cre.ie%2F&t=57e3459b34be6184b99e057f7c5428e2ee67edb9).

* Launched earlier this month, the public consultation for The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy, Ireland’s framework for the prevention and management of waste covering the years 2023 to 2029 is open until 4 p.m. on 5th July 2023. Written submissions/observations in relation to the Draft Plan and the associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Natura Impact Statement may be made online at mywaste.ie, by email to submissions@nationalwasteplan.ie or by post to the Lead Authorities. Following the consultation period, submissions will be considered, and a final plan will be published by the end of the year.