



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# Resource Efficiency Action Plan 2019 - 2021





## Contents

Introduction .....	3
Overview of The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: .....	4
Energy: .....	4
Overview .....	4
Actions.....	5
Canteens: .....	5
Overview .....	5
Actions.....	5
Waste disposal and Food Waste.....	6
Overview .....	6
Actions.....	6
Paper/Stationary.....	7
Actions.....	7
Water conservation: .....	7
Actions.....	7
ANNEX I .....	8
ANNEX II .....	9



## Introduction

In 2009 the Government set a national target to improve energy efficiency by 33% in the Public Sector in an exemplar role. Since the baseline year for measurement, 2009, DAFM has improved its energy efficiency by 33.6%. This was achieved by low cost measures such as behavioural changes, better energy management, and some lighting retrofits. In 2017, DAFM established a dedicated Energy Management Team.

In January 2017 the Public Sector Energy Efficiency Strategy was published by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE). The strategy introduced measures to support public bodies in reaching their Energy Efficiency targets. Delivery on the targets is tasked to a Departmental Steering Group on Energy Management lead by the Departmental Energy Performance Officer (at Management Board Level).

DAFM is working proactively with nine State Bodies under its remit and with DCCAE, The Office of Public Works (OPW), and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to progress Energy Efficiency related works and projects required, to promote improved energy management, and share best practice.

The Department is an active participant in the OPW Optimising Power @ Work campaign and continues to progress energy management initiatives across its main locations.

In January 2019 the Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment broadened the remit to include waste management and resource efficiency in conjunction with energy efficiency. The Minister received Government approval for actions to be taken by each Government Department to reduce the proliferation of single use plastics, the prevention of waste and initiation of green public procurement policies. This strategy also included the requirement for all Government Departments to produce a Resource Efficiency Action Plan (REAP).

In June 2019 the Whole of Government National Climate Action Plan was published. The new Plan, which puts us on a trajectory to meet our 2030 target for carbon emissions, contains comprehensive governance, performance and monitoring protocols. These include the obligation on every public sector body to adopt a Mandate for Climate Action to demonstrate their exemplar role on climate action. This REAP is an important first step in that process of monitoring, reporting and accountability.

## Overview of The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine:

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) provides a wide range of services directly and through specialist state agencies operating under its aegis. It has a wide and diverse customer base which includes farmers, taxpayers, consumers, food processors and other commercial operators, those involved in sea fishing, forestry, bio-energy, research as well as diverse EU institutions, other State Bodies and special interest groups. Its mission statement, as set out in the Statement of Strategy 2016 - 2019, is as follows:

“Serving the government and people of Ireland by leading, developing and regulating the agri-food sector, protecting public health and optimising social, economic and environmental benefits”

To realise this objective the Department pursues the following Targets:

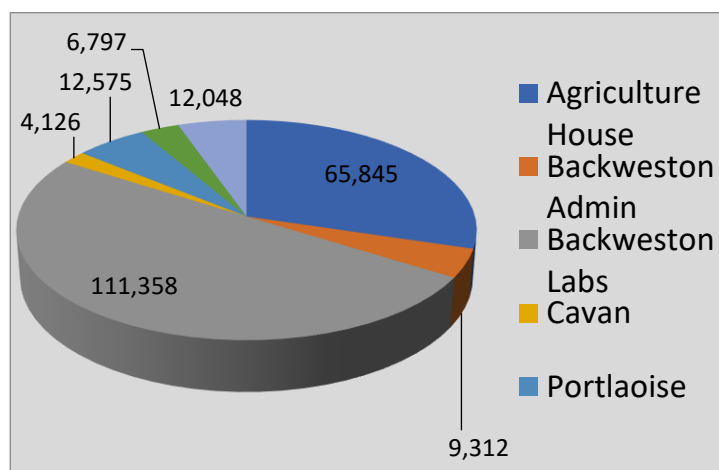
1. Promote and safeguard public, animal and plant health and animal welfare for the benefit of consumers, producers and wider society.
2. Provide income and market supports to underpin the rural economy and the environment.
3. Provide the optimum policy framework for the sustainable development of the agri-food sector.
4. Deliver a sustainable, growth driven sector focused on competitiveness and innovation driven by a skilled workforce delivering value added products in line with market demands.
5. Maintain and develop strategic, operational, regulatory and technical capacity to achieve operational excellence.

DAFM has an extensive portfolio across the entire country including ports, laboratories, veterinary inspectorates, forestry and seventy regional offices and headquarters. The agriculture and food sectors in Ireland account for: 7.6% of GVA at Factor Cost, 8.5% of employment and 12.3% of total exports.

## Energy:

### Overview

DAFM has committed to, at Secretary General Level, to the Public Sector Partnership Programme in conjunction with the Sustainable Energy Authority (SEAI). This partnership enables





DAFM to access supports from the SEAI, such as project assistance through specialist advisors. Under SEAI partnership, DAFM committed to and has followed through on developing a structured Energy Management programme. The Department reports annually on energy efficiency initiatives and savings achieved, through the SEAI monitoring and reporting portal. The results of which are audited and published annually. In 2019 DAFM had improved its energy efficiency by over 36% from the baseline year of 2009.

### Actions

In 2019, DAFM will work with the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) and DCCAE to incorporate energy efficiency and CO2 emissions into the procurement procedures of all goods and services acquired.

The Energy Management Team shall continue to increase awareness and effect behavioural change in our staff in conjunction with the Optimising Power@Work programme.

By the end of 2019, in DAFM's main locations, DAFM will seek to end the use of kettles by staff and aim to provide "instant hot water taps" to use in their place.

It is DAFM's intention to phase out the use of handtowels in washroom facilities and install, where practicable, high efficiency hand driers.

A number of re-lamping projects, (changing old fluorescent lighting to modern efficient LEDs), have taken place in some of the DAFM headquarters and it will be rolled out to other sections as and when budgets allow.

## Canteens:

### Overview

DAFM provide canteen facilities to their employees through external contracts. DAFM is working with these contractors in conjunction with the Stop Food Waste Campaign to phase out all single use items from the canteens. From the 31 March 2019, public bodies including state agencies and schools must discontinue using single use plastic beverage containers, cutlery and straws other than where specific public health/hygiene or safety issues arise. Prior to this date beverages were largely supplied to patrons using biodegradable cups. However, this has an ecological cost regarding the energy required to produce the cup and the landfill used to dispose of it. As such DAFM will create disincentives for the use of biodegradable cups which could lead to savings of over 100,000 cups per annum.

### Actions

By March 2019, single use plastics, such as plastic cutlery and straws, will no longer be available from canteens contracted to operate in DAFM's main locations.



Biodegradable (Bamboo etc) alternatives for individuals looking to take food away etc. will be available in lieu of this measure. Straws will be available only if a staff member requires their use.

DAFM has purchased reusable cups and water bottles for staff in 2019 and this will drastically reduce the proliferation of single use plastic. It is estimated that the use of nearly 80,000 single use plastic bottles can be avoided annually by providing staff with their own reusable water bottles.

DAFM has been working towards a more sustainable environment by introducing various Green Initiatives, we are introducing our latest initiative from July 2019 , namely **the Green Treat / Green Levy initiative**. A reduction in the price of a beverage will be offered to those who use re-useable cups and an increase in price will be incurred by those who continue to use single use items.

## Waste disposal and Food Waste

### Overview

We in DAFM are working on greener public procurement, improved energy efficiency, biodiversity and promoting the circular economy. Currently a lot of production is based on a linear model; The Circular economy promotes avoidance of unnecessary production and re-use of resources.

### Actions

In 2019 individual bins at staff desks in DAFM's main locations will be phased out. Recycling stations will be placed throughout the facilities. These stations will drastically reduce the amount of plastic bags used in DAFM. This measure is estimated to reduce the need for over 200,000 small plastic bags (liners) per annum.

Precise signage will be used also to help to educate staff in relation to recycling and to affect behavioural change.

DAFM will continue to work with the OGP to ensure all confidential waste is disposed of in the most ecologically conscious manner.

The removal of hazardous waste from DAFM facilities will continue to be disposed of in line with the most ecological sound practices available.





## Paper/Stationary

### Actions

The IMT division in DAFM will roll out across the department a new system of information storage and filing called EDocs. EDocs will provide for digital storage of all files and documents negating the need for volumes of paper storage which will in turn free up much needed office space.

DAFM and its print management contractors are members of the 'Releaf Initiative' which provides for a tree to be planted for every 8300 standard sheets of paper used.

In conjunction with the EDocs rollout an awareness programme will take place to encourage staff to '*Think Before You Print*'. It is hoped this will reduce the number of unnecessary printouts.

The stationary divisions will be asked to incorporate green procurement practices into all their ongoing requisitions of consumables.

## Water conservation:

### Actions

DAFM will work with the Office of Public Works to identify areas where water can be conserved,

- Reducing flow rate where practicable
- Identifying and repairing leaks as quickly as possible
- Purchasing the least water intensive toilet facilities in conjunction with Central Procurement Unit.
- Investigate the harvesting of rain and grey water for use in the toilet facilities.

DAFM will also run a water conservation awareness programme for staff in 2019.



## ANNEX I

### Data on all Department sites

Note: not all sites are expected to develop REAPs in the first year. In addition, there may be sites which are considered too small to be included in the process. However, the following data on all sites is being gathered for information purposes only and is not intended for publishing in Departmental REAPs.

Department name:

Site No.	Location	Number of staff (full time equivalent)	Activity (e.g. office, lab., etc.)
1	Agriculture House, Dublin 2	567	Office
2	Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise	190	Office
3	Johnstown Castle	271	Office
4	Clonakilty	118	Office
5	Cavan	141	Office
6	Backweston Labs	238	Labs
7			
8			
9			
10			





## ANNEX II

### Data for REAP environmental benchmark

Year:

Department name:

Total number of sites:

Total number of staff across all sites (full time equivalent):

Number of sites included in this data set:

Number of staff (full time equivalent) covered by this data set:

### Summary data on energy, water and waste

Indicate which site(s) are included in this data set:

#### Energy data

Total electricity use for the year	<input type="text" value="11,126,138"/>	kWh
Total thermal fuel use for the year	<input type="text" value="8,493,311"/>	kWh
Total transport fuel use for the year	<input type="text" value="0"/>	kWh

#### Water data

Total water use for the year  m3

**Water indicator:**  m3 per employee per year

#### Waste data

Total waste amounts for the year (fill in as relevant):

Recyclables	<input type="text" value="45"/>	tonnes
Food waste	<input type="text" value="11"/>	tonnes
General waste	<input type="text" value="45"/>	tonnes
Confidential paper	<input type="text" value="16"/>	tonnes
<b>Total waste</b>	<input type="text" value="224"/>	<b>tonnes</b>

**Waste indicators:**  kg per employee per year  
 percentage recycled

### A summary list of recent environmental actions already taken (waste, water, energy, resources)

Note; This data set shows incomplete data for Confidential Waste. Also note that the numbers of staff are full time employees of DAFM only; contractors are not included. Agriculture House also houses Oireachdas staff and members of the Defence Force; likewise these numbers are not included in this report.



**Data for REAP environmental benchmark**

Year:

Department name:

**Site**

Site address:

Green team contact person: Name:   
 email:   
 phone:

Total number of staff at this site (full time equivalent):

Total area of the building (m2):  m2

**Energy data**

Total electricity use for the year  kWh

Total thermal fuel use for the year (as relevant):

Natural gas, LPG, & biogas  kWh  
 Heating oils  kWh  
 Renewables  kWh

**Total thermal fuel use:  kWh**

**Energy indicator:  kWh per m2 per year**

Total transport fuel use  kWh

**Water data**

Total water use for the year  m3

**Water indicator:  m3 per employee per year**

**Waste data**

Total waste amounts for the year (fill in as relevant):

Recyclables	<input type="text" value="32"/>	tonnes
Food waste	<input type="text" value="7"/>	tonnes
General waste	<input type="text" value="26"/>	tonnes
Other (e.g. confidential paper, WEEE, etc.)	<input type="text" value="16"/>	tonnes
<b>Total waste</b>	<b><input type="text" value="82"/></b>	<b>tonnes</b>

**Waste indicators:  kg per employee per year  
 percentage sent for recycling**

**A summary list of recent environmental actions already taken** (waste, water, energy,

1.) In conjunction with the conscious cup campaign, we have increased awareness of re-useable cups. We have introduced a 'Green Levy' on single use cups.

We also implemented a 'Green Treat' in the form of a price reduction for the use of re-useable cups.

We have distributed a re-useable cup to each member of the Department and its contractors.

2.) We are conducting an ongoing awareness campaign in conjunction with the Optimising Power @ Work

3.) We are removing all personal desk bins from the offices. We have installed recycling stations throughout the facility. 4.) We are working with the canteen company to reduce food waste in

conjunction with the 'Stop Food Waste' campaign. 5.) We have replaced all single use cutlery with re-useable items. We have replaced all plastic drink bottles with the equivalent can version where available.



**Data for REAP environmental benchmark**

Year:

Department name:

**Site**

Site address:

Green team contact person: Name:   
 email:   
 phone:

Total number of staff at this site (full time equivalent):

Total area of the building (m2):  m2

**Energy data**

Total electricity use for the year  kWh

Total thermal fuel use for the year (as relevant):

Natural gas, LPG, & biogas  kWh

Heating oils  kWh

Renewables  kWh

**Total thermal fuel use:  kWh**

**Energy indicator:  kWh per m2 per year**

Total transport fuel use  kWh

**Water data**

Total water use for the year  m3

**Water indicator:  m3 per employee per year**

**Waste data**

Total waste amounts for the year (fill in as relevant):

Recyclables  tonnes

Food waste  tonnes

General waste  tonnes

Other (e.g. confidential paper, WEEE, etc.)  tonnes

**Total waste  tonnes**

**Waste indicators:  kg per employee per year  
 percentage sent for recycling**

**A summary list of recent environmental actions already taken (waste, water, energy, resources)**

--	--	--	--	--	--	--



**Data for REAP environmental benchmark**

Year:

Department name:

**Site**

Site address:

Green team contact person: Name:   
 email:   
 phone:

Total number of staff at this site (full time equivalent):

Total area of the building (m2):  m2

**Energy data**

Total electricity use for the year  kWh

Total thermal fuel use for the year (as relevant):

Natural gas, LPG, & biogas  kWh

Heating oils  kWh

Renewables  kWh

**Total thermal fuel use:  kWh**

**Energy indicator:  kWh per m2 per year**

Total transport fuel use  kWh

**Water data**

Total water use for the year  m3

**Water indicator:  m3 per employee per year**

**Waste data**

Total waste amounts for the year (fill in as relevant):

Recyclables  tonnes

Food waste  tonnes

General waste  tonnes

Other (e.g. confidential paper, WEEE, etc.)  tonnes

**Total waste  tonnes**

**Waste indicators:  kg per employee per year  
 percentage sent for recycling**

**A summary list of recent environmental actions already taken** (waste, water, energy, resources)



### Data for REAP environmental benchmark

Year: 2018

Department name: Clonakilty

#### Site

Site address: Block A-C Fisheries

Green team contact person:

Name: Lena O'Driscoll

email: [Lena.ODriscoll@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Lena.ODriscoll@agriculture.gov.ie)

phone: 023-8836292

Total number of staff at this site (full time equivalent): 118

Total area of the building (m2): 3,254 m2

#### Energy data

Total electricity use for the year 344,532 kWh

Total thermal fuel use for the year (as relevant):

Natural gas, LPG, & biogas kWh

Heating oils kWh

Renewables kWh

**Total thermal fuel use: 94,017 kWh**

**Energy indicator: 134.77 kWh per m2 per year**

Total transport fuel use 0 kWh

#### Water data

Total water use for the year 2,420 m3

**Water indicator: 21 m3 per employee per year**

#### Waste data

Total waste amounts for the year (fill in as relevant):

Recyclables 7 tonnes

Food waste 3 tonnes

General waste 4 tonnes

Other (e.g. confidential paper, WEEE, etc.) 16 tonnes

**Total waste 30 tonnes**

**Waste indicators: 254 kg per employee per year  
87% percentage sent for recycling**

**A summary list of recent environmental actions already taken** (waste, water, energy, resources)



**Data for REAP environmental benchmark**

Year:

Department name:

**Site**

Site address:

Green team contact person: Name:   
email:   
phone:

Total number of staff at this site (full time equivalent):

Total area of the building (m2):  m2

**Energy data**

Total electricity use for the year  kWh

Total thermal fuel use for the year (as relevant):

Natural gas, LPG, & biogas  kWh

Heating oils  kWh

Renewables  kWh

**Total thermal fuel use:  kWh**

**Energy indicator:  kWh per m2 per year**

Total transport fuel use  kWh

**Water data**

Total water use for the year  m3

**Water indicator:  m3 per employee per year**

**Waste data**

Total waste amounts for the year (fill in as relevant):

Recyclables  tonnes

Food waste  tonnes

General waste  tonnes

Other (e.g. confidential paper, WEEE, etc.)  tonnes

**Total waste  tonnes**

**Waste indicators:  kg per employee per year  
 percentage sent for recycling**

**A summary list of recent environmental actions already taken** (waste, water, energy, resources)



**Data for REAP environmental benchmark**

Year:

Department name:

**Site**

Site address:

Green team contact person: Name:   
 email:   
 phone:

Total number of staff at this site (full time equivalent):

Total area of the building (m2):  m2

**Energy data**

Total electricity use for the year  kWh

Total thermal fuel use for the year (as relevant):

Natural gas, LPG, & biogas	<input type="text" value="0"/>	kWh
Heating oils	<input type="text" value="0"/>	kWh
Renewables	<input type="text" value="0"/>	kWh

**Total thermal fuel use:**  kWh

**Energy indicator:**  kWh per m2 per year

Total transport fuel use  kWh

**Water data**

Total water use for the year  m3

**Water indicator:**  m3 per employee per year

**Waste data**

Total waste amounts for the year (fill in as relevant):

Recyclables	<input type="text" value="22"/>	tonnes
Food waste	<input type="text" value="1"/>	tonnes
General waste	<input type="text" value="11"/>	tonnes
Other (e.g. confidential paper, WEEE, etc.)	<input type="text" value="8"/>	tonnes
<b>Total waste</b>	<input type="text" value="42"/>	<b>tonnes</b>

**Waste indicators:**  kg per employee per year  
 percentage sent for recycling

**A summary list of recent environmental actions already taken** (waste, water, energy,

1.) In conjunction with the conscious cup campaign, we have increased awareness of re-useable cups.

We have introduced a 'Green Levy' on single use cups.

We also implemented a 'Green Treat' in the form of a price reduction for the use of re-useable cups.

We have distributed a re-useable cup to each member of the Department and its contractors.

2.) We are conducting an ongoing awareness campaign in conjunction with the Optimising Power @ Work

3.) We are removing all personal desk bins from the offices. We have installed recycling stations throughout the facility. 4.) We are working with the canteen company to reduce food waste in

conjunction with the 'Stop Food Waste' campaign. 5.) We have replaced all single use cutlery with re-useable items. We have replaced all plastic drink bottles with the equivalent can version where available.