

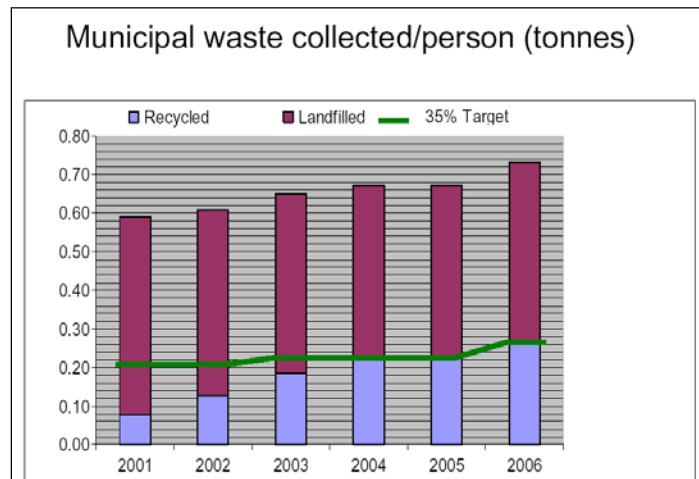
Title: The Local Authority Demonstration Programme – Building Capacity in Irish Local Authorities for Waste and Resources Use Prevention

Abstract:

The Local Authority Demonstration Programme (LAPD) funds 14 local authorities in Ireland to implement prevention and resource efficiency programmes in their own functional areas. The programme is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the National Waste Prevention Programme (www.prevention.ie).

With the exception of the Cleaner Greener Production Programme, a funding and technical support programme aimed at Irish organisations wishing to implement cleaner greener practices

(<http://www.cleanerproduction.ie/>), there has been little emphasis on waste and resource use prevention in Ireland. The result is a constant growth in waste generation.



The LAPD programme seeks to harness the capability for change demonstrated by local authorities in going from almost 100% land filling of waste to the achievement of national recycling targets eight years ahead of schedule. However, the environmental benefits of this change will not be apparent if the steady increase in waste generation continues to go unchecked.

The LAPD programme began in 2006 with seven local authorities and now has 14 local authorities involved. The programmes they are undertaking range from 18 to 30 month initiatives in a range of sectors including hotels, food processing factories, health care institutions, retailers, construction sites, households, farms, leisure centres, communities, and schools. Some of these are already beginning to show improvements in resource consumption.

Prevention is a new area of endeavour for all involved in the programme and therefore the Clean Technology Centre in Cork, experts in the area of prevention, have been contracted to mentor the prevention teams in the various local authorities. In addition to this, local authorities receive financial support that allows them to dedicate staff to their prevention initiatives. A prevention training programme specific to the needs of local authorities has also been developed and regular networking opportunities are organised that allow participants in the programme to get together and share experiences. These include meetings every quarter and a website complete with a discussion forum (<http://www.ctc-cork.ie/lapd>).

On foot early results of the local authorities involved in the programme in terms of resource savings achieved and improved capacity for prevention, the EPA now plans to expand the LAPD network beyond the 14 local authorities currently involved in the programme. This will involve inviting all 34 local authorities in the country to get involved in the network, continued funding for prevention projects, development of case studies of projects due to reach completion by December 2008, continued provision of prevention training, and the development of a prevention manual for local authorities.