

Limerick County Council



Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council providing for
Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections in Member States
(2001/331/EC)

Inspection Plan for 2011

Contents Page

1.	Introduction	3
1.1	Routine inspections	3
1.2	Non Routine Inspections	4
1.3	The County Councils Functional Area	5
2.	Responsibility for Plan Implementation.....	5
3.	Resources for Inspections:.....	8
4.	Enforcement Priorities & Outcomes	10
5.	Prioritisation for Inspection	19
6.	Review of the 2010 Plan	19
7.	Inspection Schedule	20
7.1	Inspections.....	21
7.2	Complaints and Incidents Procedure.....	21
7.3	Site Visits and Records	21
7.3	Response Times	22
8.	Reporting Policy	22
9.	Serious Enforcement Issues.....	22
10.	Enforcement Team Development.....	23
11.	Performance Measures	23
12.	Review/Revision of the Programme:	24

Tables

Table 1: Environment and Emergency Services Organisation chart.....	7
Table 2: Resources Available to Undertake Environmental Inspections.....	8
Table 3: Days Available for Inspections.....	9
Table 4: Environmental Priorities and Outcomes.....	11
Table 5: Summary of Routine Planned Inspections of Installations Subject to Authorisation by the Council.....	20

Appendices

Appendix I. Summary Inspections	
Appendix II. Annual Statistics for 2010 Plan	
Appendix III Inspection Schedule for 2011	

1. Introduction

In 2001, the European Parliament and the European Council made a recommendation to provide for the setting of minimum criteria for environmental inspections in member states. The purpose of the recommendation is to strengthen compliance with and contribute to a more consistent implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law. This plan has been drawn to assist Limerick County Council in complying with the recommendation.

The key requirements of the recommendation are as follows: -

- Prepare a plan for environmental inspections;
- Undertake inspections of relevant regulated facilities
- Produce written reports of site inspections.

The plan relates to the functional area of Limerick County Council and the calendar year of 2011. The Plan has been drawn up to take account of the requirements of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council for Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections in Member States (2001/221/EEC).

For the purposes of this inspection plan, inspections are divided into two categories, routine inspections and non-routine inspections.

1.1 Routine inspections to be carried out by the Council include inspections of:

- Authorised facilities under the Waste Management Acts 1996 – 2010, the Waste Management (Permit) Regulations S.I. No. 165 of 1998, the Waste Management (Facility Permit & Registration) Regulations S.I. No. 821 of 2007 & Amendment Regulations, 2008 and the Waste Management (End of Life Vehicles) Regulations S.I. No. 282 of 2006, and Amendment Regulations 2010;
- Vehicles permitted under the Waste Management Acts 1996 – 2008, the Waste Management (Permit) Regulations S.I. No. 402 of 2001, and the Waste Collection (Permit) Regulations, S.I. No. 820 of 2007 & Amendment Regulations 2008;
- Registered producers, suppliers and collectors under the Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyre) Regulations S.I. No. 664 of 2007;
- Registered self-compliers under the Packaging Regulations, S.I. No. 798 of 2007, in addition to producers and suspected major producers;
- Producers and Suppliers under the Farm Plastic Regulations, S.I. No. 341 of 2001;
- Registered businesses under the Waste Management (WEEE) Regulations, S.I. No. 340 of 2005 & Waste Management (Battery & Accumulators) Regulations, S.I. No. 268 of 2008;
- Identified Section 22 historic landfill sites, Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008, S.I. No. 524 of 2008
- Litter Pollution and Quantification Surveys in accordance with criteria set out in the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System (N.L.P.M.S).
- Premises licensed to discharge to waters or sewers under sections 4 and 16 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 to 2007;
- Farm inspections in the implementation of the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010
- General pollution surveys towards achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (200/60/EC);
- Investigative river monitoring using biotic indices to pin point pollution sources; as required under Water Framework Directive (200/60/EC);

- Operational and Surveillance River Water Monitoring under the Water Framework Directive (200/60/EC).
- Inspection under the Air Pollution Act 1987 (Petroleum Vapour Emissions) Regulations 1997.
- Inspections under the Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds from Organic Solvents Regulations 2002 (S.I No. 543 of 2002; and The Decorative Paints Regulations 2007 (S.I. No 199 of 2007);
- Premises licensed under Section 30 of the Air Pollution Act 1987.
- Inspections of fuel retailers and wholesales within the restricted area under The Air Pollution Act 1987 (Marketing, Sales and Distribution of Fuels) Regulations 1990 (S.I. No. 123 of 1990)
- Inspections of spread-lands under the Waste Management (Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture Regulations) 1998 & 2001 (S.I. No. 148 of 1998 & S.I. No 267 of 2001)
- Monitoring of surface waters in accordance with SI No 294/1989: European communities (quality of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water) regulations, 1989.
- Monitoring of drinking water supplies in accordance with S.I No 278 of 2007 European Communities (Drinking Water)(No 2) Regulations, 2007
- Monitoring of bathing waters in accordance with The Quality of Bathing Water Regulations.
- Monitoring of urban wastewater treatment plants in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Urban Waste Water Treatment) Regulations 2001 and 2004.
- Inspections carried out in order to assess the environmental aspects of planning applications.
- Monitoring of surface waters in accordance with SI No 294/1989: European communities (quality of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water) regulations, 1989.
- Monitoring of drinking water supplies in accordance with S.I No 278 of 2007 European Communities (Drinking Water)(No 2) Regulations, 2007
- Monitoring of bathing waters in accordance with The Quality of Bathing Water Regulations.
- Monitoring of urban wastewater treatment plants in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Urban Waste Water Treatment) Regulations 2001 and 2004.
- Monitoring of commercial food producers in accordance with the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009
- Inspection of quarries in accordance with the Waste Management (Management of Waste from the Extractive Industries)Regulations 2009
- Monitoring of facilities in accordance with the Waste Management (Registration of Sewage Sludge Facility) Regulations 2010

1.2 Non Routine Inspections carried out by the Council include:

- Site visits to unauthorised waste disposal/recovery sites, including undertaking preliminary risk assessments of unauthorised waste sites
- Investigation of unauthorised waste collection, including non compliance with conditions of waste collection permits in relation to roll out of organic waste collection
- Investigation of complaints in relation to the failure to segregate organic waste
- Investigation of complaints in relation to the plastic bag levy
- Investigation of complaints in relation to WEEE Regulations (the PRF and free take back) & Batteries Regulations
- Investigation of complaints in relation to backyard burning of waste

- Investigation of fly tipping, littering, illegal signage, and abandoned vehicles under the provisions of the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2009.
- Investigation of complaints in relation to water pollution
- Investigations in relation to public health nuisance
- Investigations in relation to noise nuisance
- Investigations in relation to air pollution.
- Investigation of environmental complaints from the public and organisations in relation to areas other than those already listed
- Sites subject to applications for authorisation under the permit regulations and discharge licences
- Investigation of failures in treatment process in Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Drinking water quality/contamination/pollution incidents
- Inspection of quarries (carried out by Planning Section staff).

While not covered under the scope of the RMCEI, inspections carried out by the Council in relation to the operation of its own water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, and bring sites have been included in this plan as the same staff carry out all the inspections. Also included are reviews of Site Characterisation Reports submitted in support of planning applications for on site waste water treatment plants as this has an important role to play in protecting groundwater, surface water and public health, in addition, to reviewing potential environmental issues resulting from planning proposals.

Inspections of the environmental aspects of quarries are carried out by staff in the planning section.

Actions are coordinated with other Inspecting Authorities via the Enforcement Network. This Plan is revised on an Annual Basis as a minimum; priorities may be re-allocated at sectional team meetings held at regular intervals throughout the year. Progress on the implementation of the Plan can also be reviewed at these meetings.

The programme for routine inspections is summarised in Section 7 of this plan. A detailed inspection schedule for each area of operations is contained in Appendix III.

1.3 The County Councils Functional Area

County Limerick, situated in the Mid-West of Ireland. The County itself comprises an area of approximately of 273,967 hectares (excluding the city area). The population of Limerick County (2006 census) is 124,265 (excluding the City area) which showed an increase of 8.4% since 2002, with a total of over 44,675 domestic dwellings.

There has been a trend of continued movement of population from the West, South and East of the County towards an area within an approximately 30 kilometre radius of Limerick City. Approximately one quarter of the total population resides in the Environs of Limerick City with only two county towns, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale having a population in excess of 1500. Otherwise, County Limerick is predominantly rural with 71% of the population living in centres below 1,500 and 57% living in centres below 200.

2. Responsibility for Plan Implementation

The responsibility for environmental inspections rests with Environmental Section, which is part of the Environmental and Emergency Services Directorate, and is overseen by the Senior Engineer. The Environment Section is further divided into four streams; the Waste Management division, the Litter Management division, the Pollution Control division, and the Environmental Laboratory, table 1 is an organisational flow chart of the Directorate. The Waste Management division is

further divided into Waste Infrastructure (WI) and the Waste Enforcement Team (WET), while the Pollution Control division is divided into the Pollution Control Team (PCT), Water Quality Management Team (WQMT).

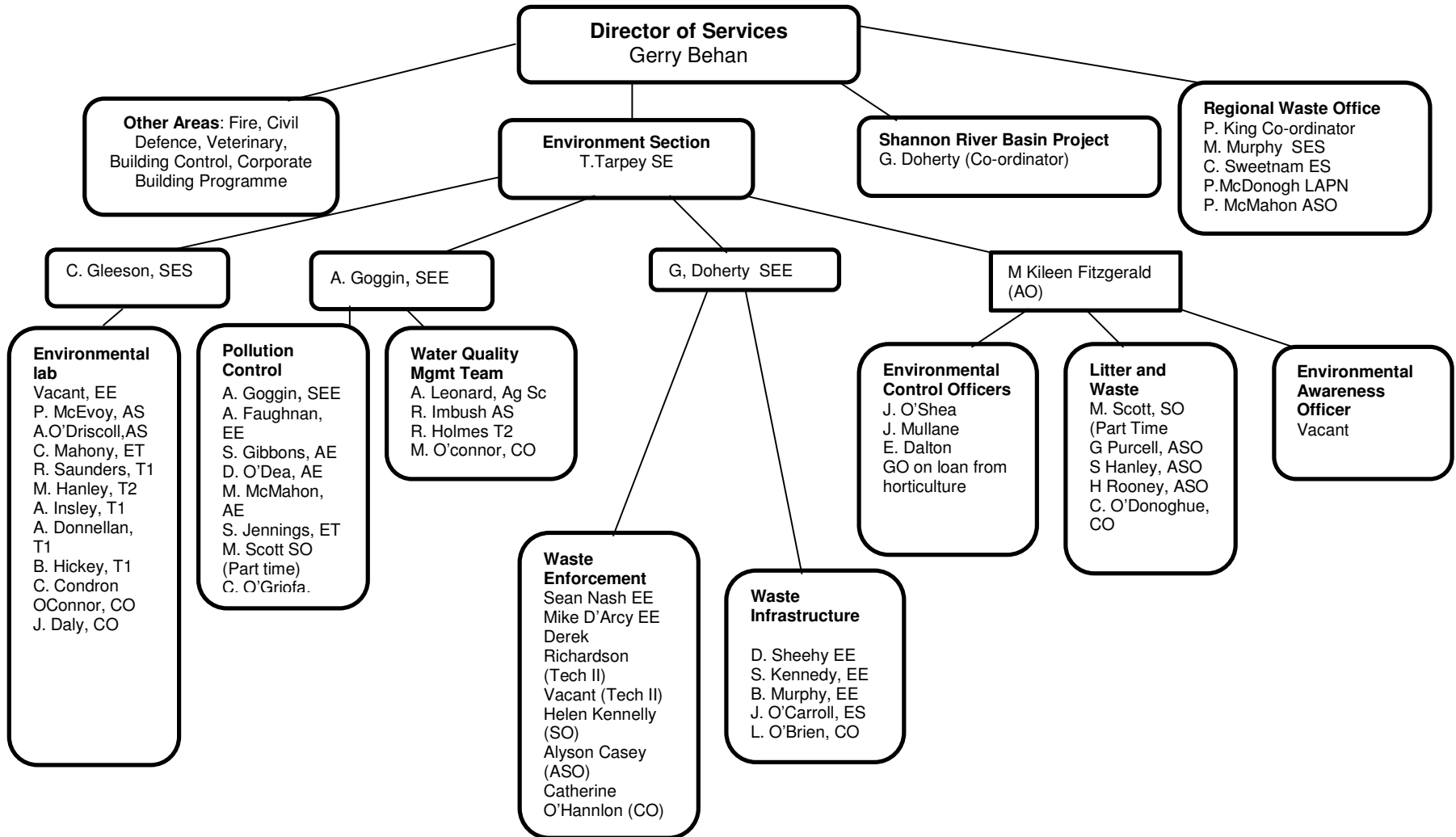
The Waste Management division works in close co-operation with the Regional (Limerick/Clare/Kerry) Waste Management Office, which has direct responsibility for the processing and assessment of Waste Collection Permits and also arranges co-ordinated waste enforcement initiatives. The Waste Enforcement Team covers the various waste and producer responsibility regulations, enforcing, investigating complaints, permitting and registering installations. The Litter Division works closely with the Waste Enforcement Team, investigating fly tipping, small illegal dumping incidences and waste issues such as abandoned vehicles, backyard burning, uncollected waste in the domestic sector.

The Pollution Control division covers: water and air pollution investigations; licensing and enforcement; public health and noise nuisance investigation; water quality management, including the implementation of the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010. and the recommendations of the Shannon River Basin District in relation to meeting the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

Limerick County Council's central laboratory facility is located in Lissanalta House. The laboratory's main functions are the monitoring of drinking waters, urban waste water treatment plants, bathing waters and surface waters for abstraction and managing the monitoring programme required under the WFD. The laboratory is also involved in carrying out analysis on evidence gathered for legal actions in the event of pollution investigations.

Table 1

Environmental and Emergency Services Directorate



3. Resources for Inspections:

The resources for undertaking environmental inspections that are available within the relevant departments are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Resources available to undertake Environmental Inspections.

Department	Available Resources	Available working days
Waste Management Division <i>Waste Infrastructure</i>	1 Senior Executive Engineer	10
	2. Executive Engineers	40
<i>Waste Enforcement Team</i>	1 Senior Executive Engineer	20
	2 Executive Engineers	400
	1 Environmental Technician	200
<i>Litter Pollution</i>	3 Environmental Control Officers (unavailable at present)	0
	1 General operative on loan from horticulture	100
Pollution Control Division <i>Pollution Control Team (PCT)</i>	1 Senior Executive Engineer	20
	1 Executive Engineer	200
	3 Assistant Engineers	600
	1 Executive Technician	200
<i>Water Quality Management Team</i>	1 Agricultural Scientist	200
	1 Assistant Scientist	200
	1 Environmental Technician	200
Environmental Laboratory	1 Senior Executive Scientist	20
	1 Executive Scientist	Vacant
	2 Assistant Scientist (One unavailable at present)	100
	6 Environmental Technicians (2 unavailable at present)	800
Planning Department	1 Heritage Officer	13
Total		3323

Table 3 below, outlines the days available for inspections. Of the 3,323 available days to the environment department 2,724 days (82%) have been allocated for undertaking and writing up planned inspections. The remaining 706 days (18%) are for handling of complaint investigations and other non-routine inspections. A more detailed breakdown is provided in Appendix I – The summary of planned inspections. This allocation is based on the existing requirements for routine inspections and the assumption that there will be no significant increase in the number of complaints received by the Council. For the Environment laboratory, while over 95% of staff time (with the exception of the SES, is dedicated to routine sampling and sampling programmes are designed in this way, this accounts for approximately 50% of our inspection work. All reactive inspections are incorporated into existing work schedules so that while a staff member is in a particular area doing a planned inspection they will also look at the unplanned issue. There is more work that we can accomplish and so decisions are made on a day by day basis as to whether to do the unplanned work or the regulatory work. The waste enforcement, litter and pollution control unit divide their time between routine and non routine inspections.

Table 3: Days available for inspections:

Department		Nr of days for planned insp.	Nr of days for unplanned insp.	Total nr of days for planned & unplanned insp.
Waste Management	Waste Infrastructure	40	10	50
	Waste Enforcement	410	210	620
	Litter	39	61	100
Pollution Control	Pollution Control Team,	870	150	1020
	Water Quality Management Team &	440	160	600
Environmental Lab		912	8	920
Planning Department	Quarry Inspections	13	0	13
Total		2,724	599	3323

The relevant inspectors will prepare written reports of all inspections. Where such reports relate to currently licensed or permitted facilities a copy of the report will be sent to the operator of the controlled installation on its completion. It is the intention of the Council that all reports will be completed within four weeks of the date of the inspection.

Where non-compliances are determined as part of the inspection, the inspection report should detail what corrective actions are to be taken and the timeframe for these works. The close out of the non-compliance will be verified during subsequent inspections. Where close out of non-compliances has not taken place within the defined timeframe, further enforcement action, in accordance with the enforcement policy, will be taken.

4. Enforcement Priorities & Outcomes

Priorities for Enforcement during 2011 will focus on solving long term and recurring non-compliance issues with particular emphasis on issues which are the subject of European Court of Justice decisions against Ireland (e.g. End of Life Vehicles (unauthorised) sites). Other priority issues will include implementation of the River Basin District management plans and associated programmes of measures relating to licensing, agriculture, wastewater treatment plants and septic tanks. In table 4 below, priorities are listed in terms of long term and intermediate environmental outcomes in addition to the nature of activities taking place.

Table 4: Environmental Priorities and Outcomes.

Final Environmental Outcome	Work Area	Outputs	Intermediate Outcome	Metric	Relevant Legislation
<p>Achieve at least good status for all unsatisfactory water bodies within the functional area by the prescribed deadlines and maintain status of satisfactory water bodies</p>	<p>Compliance with Environmental quality objectives for surface and ground waters – Section 4 licences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine conditions of all current Section 4 discharge licences and determine if a review is necessary in order to comply with the relevant Environmental Quality Objectives. • Issue notice of licence review and revise the conditions of licences identified as being inconsistent with requirements of the Environmental Quality Objectives. • Enforce conditions of revised licences. • Identify unlicensed discharge to waters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All significant discharges to waters licensed. • All section 4 licence conditions are compatible with achievement of the relevant EQO's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new licences issued. • % of required licence reviews completed • % compliance with licence conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Water) Regulations 2009 • European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater Regulations) 2010 • European Communities Environmental Objectives (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009
	<p>Compliance with environmental quality standards – Surface water Monitoring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out routine sampling and testing of surface water at designated WFD operational and surveillance monitoring sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas where action is required to achieve the objectives of the Shannon River Basin District Plan identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of required river water monitoring completed • % of sampling stations where water quality is compliant with the EQO's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Water) Regulations 2009

<p>Achieve at least good status for all unsatisfactory water bodies within the functional area by the prescribed deadlines and maintain status of satisfactory water bodies</p>	<p>Compliance- Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out routine sampling and testing of effluent from UWWTP to assess compliance with regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority plants for upgrading and/or improvements in management practices identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of monitoring, required by the regulations, completed. % plants where effluent quality is compliant with the regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations, 2001
	<p>Improved environmental management practices – Farm Surveys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potentially high risk farms through investigative river water monitoring in WBs at less than good status and classed as at risk/probably at risk from agriculture. Carry out farmyard inspections on potentially high risk farms identified Issue warning letters and/or statutory notices as appropriate Take enforcement action where there is non co-operation Hold information evenings on WFD and GAP regulations in survey areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved level of compliance with GAP regulations Reduced point and diffuse pollution of rivers from farms Increased awareness of environmental issues and legislation in farming community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of farmyards in compliance with GAP regulations % of investigative river monitoring sites with improved SSRS or Q ratings No of information evenings held. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010

Achieve at least good status for all unsatisfactory water bodies within the functional area by the prescribed deadlines and maintain status of satisfactory water bodies	Improved environmental management – FOG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Food Services Establishments (FSE's) contributing to FOG problems in priority areas reported by Water Services Carry out inspections of premises identified Provide information on FOG management to operators Require operators to apply for discharge licences Issue warning letters and legal notices as appropriate Carry out compliance audits on licensed FSE's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced amount of FOG entering public sewer and urban wastewater treatment plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % FSE's in problem areas issued with discharge licences. % FSE's compliant with licence conditions Amount of FOG removed from grease traps in licensed facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 2007.
	Compliance – Complaints Investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints investigations Warning letters and legal notices Site Visits Identification of facilities causing risk Sampling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unauthorised discharges controlled Illegal discharges ceased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of complaints followed up within 1 months of receipt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 2007.
Protect human health from water borne pollution	Compliance – Surface waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample and monitor Surface waters for abstraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All surface water monitoring carried out in accordance with regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of required monitoring completed % of samples compliant with the regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of Surface Water Intended for the abstraction of Drinking Water) Regulations 1989.

Protect human health from water borne pollution	Compliance-drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample and monitor public drinking water supplies • Sample and monitor group water schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All drinking water supplies meet the required standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of required monitoring completed • % of samples compliant with the regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations, 2007
Protect air quality and human health from harmful emissions	Compliance – VOC's Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review list of dry cleaners to ensure up to date. • Inspect premises without certificates of compliance • Issue warning letters/statutory notices • Inspect premises with certificates of approval to ensure compliance with conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All dry cleaners are complaint with the VOC's regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % dry cleaners compliant with the regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds from Organic Solvents Regulations 2002 (S.I. No. 543 of 2002
	Compliance – Deco Paints Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review list of Vehicle refinishers to ensure up to date • Inspect premises without certificates of approval • Issue warning letters/statutory notices • Inspect premises with certificates to ensure compliance with conditions of certificates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All vehicle refinishers are compliant with the Deco Paints Regualtions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % vehicle refinishers compliant with the regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds due to the use of certain Paints, Varnishes and Vehicle Refinishing Products Regulations 2007

Protect air quality and human health from harmful emissions	Compliance – Petroleum Vapour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review list of petrol stations and ensure up to date • Inspect premises with out certificates of testing • Issue warning letters/statutory notices • Maintain up to date list of approved assessors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All petrol stations are compliant with the petroleum vapour emissions regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % petrol stations compliant with the regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Pollution Act, 1987 (Petroleum Vapour Emissions) Regulations, 1997
	Compliance – smokeless coal regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections of fuel retailers within the restricted area • Inspections of fuel merchants within the restricted area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All fuel for sale or distribution within in the restricted area is in compliance with the requirements of the regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % fuel retailers compliant with regulations • %Fuel Merchants compliant with regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Pollution Act, 1987 (Marketing, Sale and Distribution of Fuels) Regulations, 1998.
The Protection of Human Health and the environment against harmful effects caused by the collection, transport, storage and tipping of waste	End of Life Vehicles sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance investigations • Site Visits • Warning Letters legal notices • Audits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unauthorised waste activities reduced or eliminated • Permitted/Certified facilities are all in compliance with all conditions of their authorisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unauthorised facilities. • % reduction of facilities with repeat non-compliances with facility conditions • % reduction in number of repeat offenders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste management Act 1996 – 2010 • Waste management (End of Life) Regulations 2006

The Protection of Human Health and the environment against harmful effects caused by the collection, transport, storage and tipping of waste	Compliance–permitted/registered facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit those which have been identified as high risk (category A) • Audit WFP to ensure they are complying with legislative requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All high risk Permitted/Certified facilities are all in compliance with all conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % reduction of facilities with repeat non-compliances with facility conditions • % reduction in number of repeat offenders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regs 2007 and 2008
	Compliance – Waste Collectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit WCP and ensure permit holders are meeting their diversion rates for commercial and domestic customers • Enforcement of the byelaws on the presentation of waste particularly targeting the uncollected waste and organic waste collections domestic & commercial • Carry out waste audits of commercial premises and focus particularly on organic waste segregation • Information campaign to divert organic waste • Compliance with Biodegradable Factors at Gortadroma Landfill Site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All waste collectors in compliance with conditions of permits 	<p>Survey of premises to find out level of awareness</p> <p>BF % submitted quarterly to the EPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations 2007 & 2008 • Landfill fill directive • Presentation of waste By-laws • Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009

The Protection of Human Health and the environment against harmful effects caused by the collection, transport, storage and tipping of waste	Compliance – Complaints investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate, assess and verify complaints received and where possible close out of longstanding complaints Carry out checkpoints (regional/multi-agency) Take appropriate action in line with Councils enforcement policy Information Campaigns Promote use of Councils free phone complaints telephone line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in Number of complaints received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % reduction in Number of complaints received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter pollution act Waste Management (Prohibition of waste by backyard burning) regs 2009
	Compliance with management of C&D waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audits Site Visits/inspections AER reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce/ Eliminate unauthorised waste activities Permitted/Certified facilities are all in compliance with all conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of unauthorised facilities % reduction of facilities with repeat non-compliances with facility conditions % reduction in number of repeat offenders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regs 2007 and 2008 Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations 2007 & 2008
	Compliance – Food Producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of facilities causing risk Site Visits Information campaign to divert organic waste Revised presentation of waste Bye-laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Producers in compliance with the requirements of the regulations Diversion of waste form landfill compliance of waste collectors with requirement .to provide organic collection service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of food producers availing of the source segregated waste collection service %reduction in landfill organic waste % compliance of waste collectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009 Presentation of waste byelaws, 2011 Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations, 2007 & 2008

	Compliance of historic landfills including mining waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain S22 register • Carry out Tier 2 investigations at 6 sites in accordance with EPA Code of Practice. • Record and classify all mining waste 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • %certification of historic/mining waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regs 2008 • Waste Management (management of waste form the extractive industries) regulations 2009
Reduce the incidence of indiscriminate littering, fly-tipping, etc in rural/ urban areas	Enforce the provisions of the Litter Pollution Acts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and take appropriate action in relation to litter pollution complaints. • Greater use of on the spot fines as a deterrent to offenders. • Oblige general domestic/commercial sector to avail of a refuse collection service • Enforce presentation of waste bye-laws to ensure proper use of refuse collection service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in number of litter complaints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % reduction in litter complaints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter Pollution Act 1997
	Continue to implement a targeted "Awareness Campaign ".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing visits / presentations to schools, residents associations, community groups, etc. • Availing of media opportunities to promote an "anti-litter" message. • Distributing environmental packs at public events including agricultural shows, fairs, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased public awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No of school and other awareness visits carried out • No of media releases re littering • No of environmental packs distributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter pollution act 1997

5. Prioritisation for Inspection

All regulated installations within the County have been prioritised into three category types using the Environmental Enforcement Network Risk Rating Tool. The Risk Rating Tool assigns a risk rating of **A, B or C**, with A being the highest risk and C the lowest risk within the local authority's inspection plan requirements. The frequency of inspections is based on a risk category for each installation.

- Category A: Large Installations with significant associated environmental risk or those with poor compliance history
- Category B: Medium sized installations with lesser risk of environmental pollution.
- Category C: Small installations with good compliance history.

The Pollution Control and Water Quality Management Teams are expected to have a full staff compliment in 2011. Training was provided for the Waste Enforcement Team in 2010 with 3 members successfully completing the FAS Waste Management Course. The priorities for action in 2011 are as follows:

- Assess all existing Section 4 discharge licences to assess need for reviews and initiate reviews where necessary.
- Continue to carry out farm inspections in water bodies at risk of not achieving the objectives of the WFD.
- Carry out investigative river water monitoring using biotic indices.
- Enforce existing discharge licences
- Identify unlicensed facilities discharging to waters
- Identify unlicensed facilities discharging to sewers which are causing problems either in the sewer or waste water treatment plants.
- Enforce Petroleum Vapours Regulations,
- Enforce Volatile Organic Compounds Regulations,
- Enforce Decorative Paints Regulations or
- Enforce Smokeless Fuels Regulations
- Reduction in numbers of ELV sites
- Awareness campaign and enforcement of the Food Waste Regulations
- Environmental investigations for historic landfill sites.

It will be unlikely that the environment laboratory will be in a position to monitor commercial activities involved in food production with independent water sources in 2011. Nevertheless, the Environment Section will continue to identify these facilities and contact them to encourage compliance. However, should additional resources be made available the inspection plan will be reviewed to reflect these changes.

6. Review of the 2010 Plan

Limerick County Council's Environment Section received 1730 No. complaints in 2010 compared to 2130 No. received in 2009. Despite staff losses and the embargo on recruiting staff the environment section continued to investigate and resolve complaints in line with the Council's enforcement policy and the response times set out in previous RMCEI plans. All of the complaints were logged and acknowledged within 5 days of receipt. Refer to Appendix II for a breakdown of the complaints received, and the follow up, i.e. warning letters & notices issued and prosecutions taken in 2010. In addition to the complaints received in 2010, there were 956 open historical complaints coming into 2010, giving a total number of complaints in 2010 of 2686. Of these 1670 were investigated and a total of 1630 resolved.

The review of the 2010 plan is an important exercise and the information gathered is used to measure the Councils performance and help develop the inspection schedules for 2011.

7. Inspection Schedule

Appendix I provides a summary inspection schedule for the various sectors regulated and includes the number of planned inspections and inspections days required. The detailed Inspection Schedule in Appendix III lists the authorised, licensed and permitted installations per category that will be inspected during 2011 and the quarter in which specific inspections are planned to be done.

Table 5 below provides a breakdown of the inspections of known installations, which are subject to authorisation by the council, planned for 2011. 774 such routine inspections are planned for 2011. The Summary Inspection schedule in Appendix I and the Inspection Schedule in Appendix III provide a break down of all planned inspections for 2011. This includes follow up inspections on complaints and inspections of installations which are not subject to authorisation by the Council, but which are subject to regulation by it (eg. Farms inspected under the GAP regulations). The total number of planned inspections for 2011 is 3899. Quarterly updates on activities will be prepared for senior management. Activity levels in relation to the summarised targets in Table 5 shall be contained within these updates.

Inspection Type	Inspections
Waste Permitted Facilities	40
Waste Collection Permit Holders (Base Facility)	47
Unauthorised ELV Facilities	27
Registered Self Compliers under Packaging Regulations	16
Historic Landfills	6
Discharges to Water Licensees	179
Discharges to Sewer Licensees	344
Dry cleaners	12
Vehicle refinishers	36
Petrol Stations	47
Fuel sellers	20
Total	774

Table 5: Summary of Routine Planned Inspections of installations subject to authorisation by the council for 2011

It should be noted that the figure in Table 5 is significantly lower than the figure of 1426 given in the same table in the 2010 plan. This reflects the omission from the above table of inspections of installations not subject to authorisation by the council (eg UWWTP's, drinking water points, litter surveys etc) rather than a reduction in the level of activity in this area. These latter inspections are detailed in the appendices.

It should also be noted that the level of inspections of section 4 and section 16 licensed facilities has increased significantly from 19 and 44 respectively in 2010 to 179 and 344 respectively in 2011. This is due to a broadening of the interpretation of "inspection" from meaning just a site visit to include other items such:

- Consideration of monitoring reports and records of a facility
- Monitoring the achievement of environmental quality standards including emission limit values as set out in the licences.
- Assessing the activities being carried out and checking that the operations are adequately managed from an environmental perspective

- Checking the relevant records kept by the operator of a facility
- Verifying the self monitoring carried out by or on behalf of facility operators and
- Considering audit reports and statements arising from a facility environmental management system.

This is in keeping with the Draft Guidance on Managing Environmental Inspections under RMCEI issued by the Office of Environmental Enforcement.

All inspections should be carried out according to the procedure for inspecting licensed installations. Inspectors are responsible for scheduling the inspection date and ensuring that the report is issued within one month of the site visit. All visits should be scheduled and carried out before the end of November 2011.

Where new licenses or permits are granted during the year, they shall be added to the existing lists of licences and permits and appropriate inspection frequencies shall be set for them.

7.1 Inspections

Routine Inspections

Inspections of licensed installations should be carried out to assess licence/permit compliance according to the frequency specified in the Inspection Plan Schedule 2011 (Appendix III). If particular circumstances come to light that indicate that the specified frequency of inspection is insufficient or excessive then the plan schedule may be updated to accommodate this change and the reason for it shall be recorded.

Where possible all inspections should be unannounced unless the visit has to be pre-arranged to view particular activities.

Non Routine Inspections

In addition, to the scheduled inspections, non-routine inspections should be carried out to investigate environmental complaints, incidents and the use of unauthorised installations, as soon as possible after these come to the notice of the Council. Occasional inspections of some of the larger permitted land restoration facilities accepting waste from licensees may be required to verify that the licensee is sending waste to these sites. These inspections should be scheduled to fit in with other planned inspections.

Inspectors may be involved in carrying out inspections of unauthorised facilities and carrying out inspections in relation to complaints. If illegal dumping is identified or if environmental pollution is occurring then the Inspector should contact a senior manager and advise them of the situation. If a licensee/permit holder is involved in the illegal activity, the relevant inspector should be informed and a copy of the inspection report forwarded to him/her.

7.2 Complaints and Incidents Procedure

All complaints to the Environment Section shall continue to be logged onto our pollution complaint database. The procedure includes all the necessary steps to follow through with a complaint to ensure it is dealt with in an appropriate manner. Mary Killeen Fitzgerald, AO was appointed complaints co-ordinator for all environmental complaints in line with the Agency's request of 27th Sept 05.

7.3 Site Visits and Records

All site visits for Waste Permits, Waste Collection Permits, Packaging and discharge licences will be logged and recorded (e.g. an Audit). Reports will be communicated to the operator within 1 month of inspection and placed on public file. (Limerick County Council hope to have these available on the Councils Web Site in the future).

7.4 Response Times

Litter complaints - the site will be visited within 7 working days
Illegal dumping - the site will be visited within 3 weeks
Complaints relating to burning will be visited on the day
Unauthorised waste collection – will be investigated on the day
Complaints relating to transient water pollution will be visited within one day.
Complaints relating to serious on going water pollution will be visited within 1 week
Complaints relating to on going minor Water Pollution will be visited within 1 month
Transient Air Pollution, site to be visited within one day.
On going Air, Public Health and Noise Complaints the site will be visited within 2 weeks

Nothing in these response times shall preclude shorter response times. Where Limerick County Council decides that the reported incident constitutes an immediate threat to the environment the site will be prioritised and visited as soon as is practicable and enforcement action taken during 2011

Limerick County Council maintains registers required by statute across all areas covered by the environmental code. These registers are held in electronic format and many are available online on the Councils extranet. Electronic registers of legal actions are also held, and include current status of each notice served.

8. Reporting Policy

The target is that all inspection reports should be written within two weeks of the inspection using the standard inspection forms. All inspection reports and associated correspondence should issue and be made available for public inspection within one month of the inspection. The original signed copy of the site inspection report will be filed and the licensee/permit holder will be forwarded a copy of the inspection report within one month of the inspection. Information from inspections will be exchanged with other bodies where relevant.

9. Serious Enforcement Issues

Senior management should be informed if any of the following circumstances arise:

- Any incidents or operation of an installation which cause significant environmental pollution;
- Operation of an installation in a manner that causes or is likely to cause environmental pollution;
- Incidents or non-compliances which have significant consequences for the environment or which have the potential for such consequences;
- Repeated and persistent non-compliances with the same conditions of the licence/permit;
- Failure to supply information or reports over long periods without reasonable excuse or knowingly supplying false or misleading information;
- Not carrying out the significant/priority monitoring specified in the licence/permit;
- Unauthorised dumping by licensees/permit holders; and
- Significant exceedances of emission limits set out in licence.

Prompt action must be taken in relation to serious non-compliance issues. The Inspectors are responsible for taking follow up actions and making recommendations on appropriate enforcement actions to senior management in accordance with the Councils Enforcement Policy. If a problem is identified at an installation that requires immediate action then the Facility

Manager or Environmental Manager (or Deputy) will be informed prior to departure from the installation.

Decisions in relation to the enforcement action in these circumstances will be taken based on the recommendation of the relevant enforcement officer and Senior Management. The Council's Enforcement Policy sets out the circumstances when the Council will normally prosecute.

10. Enforcement Team Development

The implementation of the inspection plan will require the development of certain competencies within the inspection team. The competencies necessary, that have been identified as part of the preparation of this inspection plan, are: -

- Completion of FAS Waste Management Training Course (12 days) for all Technical Staff.
- Completion of Communication Module of FAS Waste Management Training Course for Administrative Staff.
- Completion of the FAS Environmental Inspection Skills Training Programme (6 days) for all Technical Staff
- Completion of SAFE PASS Course
- Completion of the FAS Site Suitability Assessment for On site Waste Water Treatment Systems by 2 technical staff (7 days)
- Laboratory analytical training on each method – each staff member must be proven as competent before they can undertake the test
- Chemical Safety
- Training on ISO 17025
- First Aid
- Manual Handling
- FAS course on installation and maintenance of on site treatment systems when available for EE, Exec Tech and SEE involved in pollution control.
- Training on discharge licensing
- Expert witness training.

Safety is paramount when carrying out inspections and monitoring. All inspections shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Health & Safety Statement and Plan. When on site Local Authority staff shall comply with the site's safety procedures. Local Authority Staff may, where they deem it reasonable, contact the Gardaí and ask to be accompanied on site.

11. Performance Measures

The Council needs to be able to communicate the level of activity that it is undertaking in relation to environmental inspections. This need arises out of informational requirements under:

- The Local Authority Service Indicators;
 - The Waste Management Policy Document "Taking Stock and Moving Forward".
 - Implementation of the River Basin District Management Plans.
 - Reporting for co-ordination of activities within the National Enforcement Network and under the RMCEI itself; and
 - Media interest in enforcement activities.
 - PMDS
 - Increased public awareness of environmental issues.
-
- The environmental inspections undertaken by the Council shall be recorded to provide for necessary statistics required above.

The Council is required to report to the Department of the Environment periodically on activities undertaken in relation to implantation of the River Basin District Management Plans.

The Council shall report on enforcement activities as part of its participation within the National Enforcement Network in order to facilitate co-ordination and promote consistency of enforcement nationally. This reporting shall be as agreed within the Network.

12. Review/Revision of the Programme:

Programmes will be reviewed routinely on a bi-annual basis by the relevant sections to determine the number of inspections carried out versus the plan. These bi-annual reviews shall encompass any enforcement notices that have been issued and determine as to whether they have been complied with and decide on the appropriate follow up required. In addition, each team will carry out routine reviews in their work areas on a quarterly basis.

An annual review will consider the actual inspections carried out versus the planned programme, constraints and achievements will be noted, limiting factors will be identified and resources will be considered. An annual review of the 2010 plan was carried out prior to the preparation of the 2011 plan and forms an integral part of this current plan.

Appendix I

Appendix II

Appendix III