

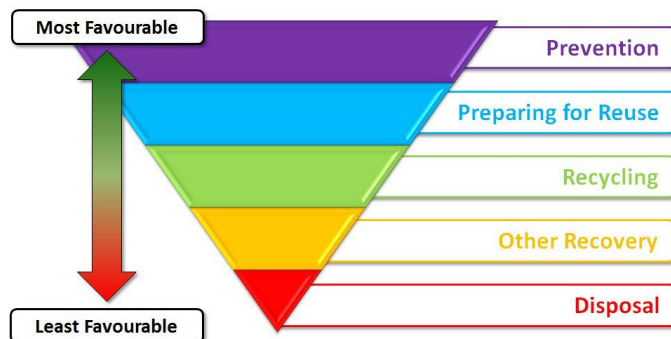
## Introduction

### Drivers for Waste Management

Compliance with waste management legislation forms the basis of all our waste management operations. Our Environmental & Sustainability Policy identifies our aims and objectives and how these impact on our waste operations. At all times we manage our waste in line with our Duty of Care responsibilities and in a manner, which does not cause damage or pollution to the environment or harm to human health. We recognize that promoting sustainable waste management has beneficial financial implications. Starting with waste prevention, there are financial benefits for improvement at each step of the waste hierarchy. As a leading academic institution, we firmly recognize the important role we play in providing a clear, educational example on the importance of responsible waste management, to students, staff and wider stakeholders.

### Key principles of Sustainable Waste Management the Waste Hierarchy

The Waste Hierarchy model (implemented through Waste Regulations in Ireland) sets out the “most favorable” and “least favorable” options for waste management. Where disposal is the only remaining option, the College aims for 100% of waste to be diverted from landfill.



### Wider Resource Efficiency

Resource Efficiency is all about using natural resources in the most effective way, as many times as possible whilst minimizing the impact of their use on the environment. This makes good business sense and is a concept that the Estates Department aims to consider when managing all of its resources along with waste disposal techniques.

### Vision for Waste Management 2018-2021

Significant progress has been made in recent years and therefore we want to look beyond traditional waste management practices and develop a more holistic Lifecycle approach. In order to achieve this, we will look further at infrastructure for waste, operations for waste and measuring waste success.

## **Infrastructure for Waste**

### **Procurement**

**Aim:** Ensure procurement processes are set up so that a) waste contractors contribute towards our overall aims and objectives, and b) waste is embedded at the heart of construction, refurbishment and procurement operations to design waste out of projects and purchases from the outset.

**Key objectives:**

- Develop standard tender documentation for all waste contractors to include key operational requirements such as data uploads to waste expert, our online database used to compile, store and analyze all waste data.
- Work with procurement to develop procedures which disincentive purchasing on non-essential items and promote re-use from across campus.
- Support BREEAM & LEED during construction and major refurbishment projects to ensure building design is optimized to reduce waste during the demolition/construction process with the projects team.
- Explore central procurement of key items such as stationary, uniforms, print and PPE.

### **Provision of Facilities and Visual Identity**

**Aim:** Ensure that waste management facilities across all RCSI Campuses are sufficient, fit-for-purpose, provide continuity and display a clear visual identity.

**Key objectives:**

- Develop uniformity for the supply of waste management facilities (internal, external bins and waste compounds).
- Conduct regular audits of facilities internally and externally.
- Develop a College waste visual branding scheme to be applied across all campuses.

### **Compliance**

**Aim:** Maintain legal compliance across all of our waste management operations.

**Key objectives:**

- Develop robust systems for ensuring waste duty of care documents are accurate, complete and accessible.
- Ensure all staff with responsibility for waste management are kept informed of their legal obligations and receive appropriate and regular training.

## **Operations for Waste**

### **Application of the Waste Hierarchy**

**Aim:** Apply the waste hierarchy to all waste streams across the College.

**Key objectives:**

- Maximize uptake of WARP-IT, an online subscription service we use to reuse furniture and other items around campus rather than purchasing new, through effective communication and development of systems for the removal, storage and distribution of items for re-use.
- Develop partnerships with appropriate charities and other third sector organizations to maximize opportunities to reuse waste materials.
- Explore other opportunities to establish reuse and recycling schemes for selected waste materials.

### **Resource Efficiency**

**Aim:** Encourage the efficient use of resources across the College highlighting the financial and environmental benefits.

**Key objectives:**

- Run effective campaigns aimed at reducing food waste from catering and student accommodation with hospitality, conferencing and the Estates team.
- Work with individual departments to prevent local printers, which do not have the papercut software, to tackle paper consumption.

### **Waste Stream Specific Actions**

**Aim:** Identify waste streams where there is significant potential to prevent, reuse or increase recycling and put action plans into place to address this.

**Key objectives:**

- Conduct a review of all College waste streams to identify those where improvements could be made.
- Develop action plans for those waste streams where improvements have been identified.

### **Organizational Culture Change**

**Aim:** Deliver a College-wide culture programme including actions around waste, procurement and resource efficiency.

**Key objectives:**

- Work with the Estates team to ensure that the College-wide culture change programme reflects the aims and objectives of the waste strategy.
- Support the delivery of the programme through communications, attendance at the College Environmental & Sustainability Committee, workshops and participation in the programme.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

**Aim:** Work closely with stakeholders to ensure waste management operations are conducted with maximum efficiency

**Key objectives:**

- Work with teaching Hospital partners, and to a lesser extent the local councils, to deliver a consistent approach to waste management across the College with regards to facility provision, visual identity, communications and training.
- Conduct annual external stakeholder meetings to discuss issues, plans and progress.
- Reduce general waste volume.
- Increase both recycling and reuse options and volume.

## **Measuring Waste Success**

### **Monitoring and Measurement**

**Aim:** Develop robust, transparent systems for monitoring and measuring all waste activity.

**Key objectives:**

- Ensure that 100% of waste data is accurately uploaded to the CAFAM System by waste contractors.
- Develop targets and KPIs for all areas of waste management and review progress against these regularly.
- Explore options for measuring waste at the 'per' building scale and ensure this information is available to building users.

### **Communication and Reporting**

**Aim:** Ensure students, staff and stakeholders, have access to up-to-date information on waste management including procedures, data and audit findings where appropriate.

**Key objectives:**

- Develop the waste and recycling web pages to include clear information and a waste data dashboard to communicate progress against targets.
- Contribute towards the annual sustainability successes report.
- Maintain a consistent presence on the College social media platforms.





### **Continuous Improvement**

**Aim:** Ensure that progress on waste management across the College improves year on year where reasonably practicable.

**Key objectives:**

- Ensuring SMART targets for waste management are included as part of the PDP process for all appropriate staff with waste management responsibility.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with other peer universities waste teams, external organizations such as the EAUC, suppliers and contractors to keep up-to-date with advances in waste management practices.
- Achieve waste reduction targets in regards to general waste following the below percentage decreases from the baseline year 2017-2018. Our focus has been on increasing our recycling percentage which we have successfully achieved a level of 2% per annum. We now recognize that we don't foresee the possibility of this percentage increasing and so we have decided to aim for other targets which follow the waste hierarchy. The approach taken is that we start with the top priority of the waste hierarchy of waste reduction, following to the next level of importance of increasing reuse. We are basing each year of target as a follow on from the baseline year of 2017-2018, therefore in 2021 our aim is to reduce the general waste by 6% in 2021 from the baseline year 2017-2018.
- Plastic free RCSI. Reducing single use plastic is a top priority across campus buildings. We are working with our catering vendor and industry partners in packaging to address this challenge. As already outlined in our strategy is to reduce, reuse and recycle before considering alternative options. In 2018 we removed 200,000 cups from staff rooms which equates to 3.5 tons annually. We have removed plastic cutlery plastic straws and Styrofoam takeaway containers.
- In September 2019 we will introduce a 30c levy on single-use takeaway coffee cups. This follows feedback from students asking that we do more to reduce waste. This initiative also supports RCSI's Vision to operate a sustainable estate. The aim is to encourage our customers to play an active role in reducing waste by bringing their own cups.
- The money raised by the levy will go into a Sustainability Ideas Fund and at the end of the year students can decide how they want to use it by pitching ideas to the Fairtrade and Sustainable Foods Steering Group, attended by student representatives. We are introducing crockery mugs into more of our outlets for

customers that wish to drink within the café areas. The levy is just one of many things King’s Food are doing to make a positive impact on the environment through delivering the Sustainable Food Policy. We’re reviewing our practices to see how we can reduce water and energy use, and continue to review where we produce waste and how we can minimize it. Across RCSI we produce over 198.5 tons of waste each year, and our catering outlets hand out nearly 100,000 disposable coffee cups to customers. Not only does this create a problem by creating waste and litter, but there are significant upstream impacts of energy, water and materials used to manufacture something that on average is used for less than 20 minutes. In rolling out this initiative we’re following best practice guide developed by Sustainable Restaurant Association of which RCSI is a member of, who carried out comprehensive research on how to reduce the impact of catering. We’re also learning from several other universities who have seen use of disposables reduce significantly when a levy was introduced.

			
<b>general waste</b>	<b>paper</b>	<b>plastic bottles</b>	<b>cans</b>
Paper towels Coffee cup & lid Crisp packets Sandwich wrap Cling film Polystyrene Contaminated items	Clean paper Newspaper Clean cardboard Paper envelopes	Clean plastic bottles ONLY	Clean cans ONLY
Clean paper	Paper towels	Coffee cup & lid	Crisp packets

Signature

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Environmental Performance Officer

