



Water Management in Ireland

The national stakeholder body representative of stakeholders with an interest in the quality of Ireland's waters.

Who is responsible for what?



◆ National level

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
The Environmental Protection Agency

◆ National/regional & local

Local Authority Waters Programme

◆ Regional & local

Local Authorities

National level

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Key responsibilities

The Department is responsible for water policy development and legislation such as:

- Implement the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) to restore good ecological status to all waterbodies
- Nitrates Action Programme to protect water resources from agricultural practice
- Shellfish Waters Directive, Bathing Water Directive, Floods Directive
- Drinking Water Directive
- Legislation for water abstraction – The General Scheme of the Water Environment (Abstractions) Bill
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Marine Protected Areas
- Manage the Water Services Investment Programme for water and sewage services
- Manage the development of the Rural Water Programme

The Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA develops monitoring programmes and reports on the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive to the European Commission. Their work includes:

- An assessment programme to monitor water quality of lakes, rivers and groundwater trends
- Surveys water quality in estuaries and coastal areas
- Assesses and reports on water quality in bathing waters and other protected areas
- Monitors and reports on drinking water quality data in public and private supplies
- Acts as the Supervisory Authority for public water services under the Drinking Water Regulations
- Operates a national hydrometric programme
- Co-ordinated environmental research and produces regular reports on water quality

National/ regional & local

Local Authority Waters Programme

- Catchment assessments through field and desk studies in the Priority Areas for Action under the RBMP and work with agencies to develop measures to improve water quality in these areas.
- Community engagement on the importance of healthy waters and support local projects and initiatives under the Community Water Development Fund to protect and improve waters.
- Support the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme to work with farmers to improve water quality.

Regional & local

The Local Authorities role in water management

- With the EPA, the Local Authorities carry out monitoring on rivers, lakes, groundwaters and bathing waters and support the national programme for the collection, analysis and distribution of surface water quantity data
- Have primary responsibility for water management and protection under the Water Pollution Acts
- Support the implementing of the Water Framework Directive
- Inspect under the National Nitrates Action Programme
- Inspect under the Domestic Waste Water Treatment National Inspections Plan
- Act as Supervisory Authority for Rural Water Services
- Administer the Multi-annual Rural Water programme
- Implement Sludge management plans

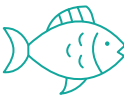


Organisations with a specialist focus



Marine

Marine Institute is responsible for Marine Research, Technology Development and Innovation (RTDI). They monitor estuaries and marine waters, assess the economic potential of Ireland's marine resource; promote the sustainable development of marine industry and safeguard our marine environment.



Fisheries

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) has responsibility to advise on conservation, protection, management, development and improvement of inland fisheries and sea angling.



Groundwater

Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) is responsible for providing geological advice and information. The organisation provides maps and scientific data about groundwater quality, quantity and distribution as well as advice and expertise to support policies and regulations.



Flooding and drainage

Office of Public Works (OPW) has responsibility for the implementation of the Floods Directive and for coordinating the implementation of the Flood Risk Management Plans and works with the EPA and Local Authorities on flood defence schemes and the management of the arterial drainage schemes.



Natura sites

The **National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)** has responsibility for the protection of habitats and species through designation and management of Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas and national parks.



Water services

Irish Water (IW) is the national utility responsible for public water and wastewater services. It is tasked with operating, improving and investing in water and wastewater infrastructure and systems to provide a safe, reliable and high

quality service to consumers. It sources, treats and delivers 1.7 billion litres of drinking water to 1.8 million households and 184,000 businesses and processes 1.2 billion litres of wastewater every day. It manages 755 water treatment plants and 1,062 wastewater treatment plants.



Rural water services

National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS) is a representative organisation for over 400 community owned Group Water Schemes delivering rural drinking water services. While representing the sector at both National and local level the Federation also provides support services, mentoring and training to ensure water quality and consumer service standards.



Regulation

The **Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU)** regulates public water and wastewater services. It has responsibility for ensuring that water services are delivered in a safe, secure and sustainable way and that IW operates in an economic and efficient manner.



Advisory

Water Advisory Body (WAB) monitors Irish Water and reports quarterly to the Minister on progress against IW business plan and its transparency and accountability.



Public health

Health Service Executive (HSE) Environmental Health Officers Association promotes the awareness of Environmental Health issues among the public particularly in the area of drinking water quality.



Stakeholder engagement

The Water Forum (An Fóram Uisce) provides a platform for stakeholder engagement in water resource management. It has an advisory role in Government water policy, Irish Water plans, the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan and rural water services.

This factsheet presents the main organisations and their primary responsibilities for water resource management. These organisations and other bodies have further roles contributing to water resource management.