



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,  
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil  
Department of Housing, Planning,  
Community and Local Government



Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe  
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil  
Department of Communications,  
Climate Action & Environment

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# Environmental Services Training Group

## LOCAL AUTHORITY ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE 2018

### Climate Change and the Environment: A New Reality

Hotel Minella, Clonmel

25<sup>th</sup> April 2018

# Climate Change and the Environment: A New Reality

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## LAWCO working with Local Authorities

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Senior Engineer  
Kilkenny County Council



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waters & communities  
Healthy Waters supporting Vibrant Communities

# Local Authority Waters Programme

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- ❑ Shared Service
- ❑ Kilkenny / Tipperary Co. Councils
- ❑ Head Office – Clonmel
  
- ❑ Waters and Communities (LAWCO)
- ❑ Waters Science and Advice (LAWSAT)

# LA responsibilities

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- Regulatory and Enforcement Role (RMCEI)
  - Water Pollution Acts, 1977 – 2013
  - EU (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2017
  - WM (Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations 1998 – 2001
  - WM (Registration of Sewage Sludge Facility) Regulations, 2010
  - Water Services Amendment Act, 2012
    - National Inspection Plan 2018 – 2020

# LA Waters Programme

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- Water Policy Regulations 2014
  - Community engagement
  - Co-ordination of implementation among public bodies
  - Scientific support to EPA and Minister for characterisation; plan development; establishment of environmental objectives; development of POMs

# Collaborative Approach

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## □ Structure

- Management Committees – LA/EPA
- Operational Committees – LA/Public Bodies
- LAWSAT/LA Liaison Committees proposed

## □ Areas for Action

- Maps at [www.watersandcommunities.ie](http://www.watersandcommunities.ie)
- 190 areas
- 729 water bodies

# Some Areas of Concern – LA/LAWSAT

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- Farm Inspections – GAP Regulations
  - Cross compliance
- Farm Inspections – Complaints
- Industry – Discharges to waters
- Septic Tanks – Construction & discharges
- Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture
- Sewage Sludge Waste Facilities
- IW – Abstractions, discharges, sludge
- DW Source Protection

# Support and Advice Team

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## □ Initial Team

- 5 Senior Executive Scientists
- 20 Assistant Environmental Scientists
- 10 Agricultural Scientists
- 5 Regions
  - Border; West; Midlands-East; South East; South West
- 10 locations
  - Monaghan, Donegal, Galway, Mayo, Dublin, Offaly, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Limerick, Cork



# Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advice Programme

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- 20 Teagasc sustainability advisors
  - Free one to one advice for farmers
- 10 Dairy sustainability advisors
  - Targeting dairy milk suppliers and co-op customers

# LAWSAT – Boots on the Ground

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- Catchment Assessment
- Co-ordination with LA
  - Data gathering
  - Data updating
  - Local knowledge

# Climate Change effects

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- ❑ Invasives
- ❑ Weather effects on invertebrates / fish
- ❑ Lower water tables in summer – drought
- ❑ Rising sea levels
- ❑ Flooding & other extreme weather events
- ❑ LA Waters Programme - co-ordination with new LA Regional Climate offices (Dublin, Kildare, Mayo, Cork)