

Official Opening of Dublin Region Materials Recovery Facility

Merrywell Industrial Estate, Ballymount

19th January 2009

Deputy Mayor of South Dublin County Council Speech

Minister, Oireachtas Members, Fellow Councillors, Managers, Directors of Environmental Services. and all present, I welcome you all to the Official Opening of Dublin Region Materials Recovery Facility here in Ballymount. Today is the final stage in a long process of planning and development in order to provide improved waste resource management to the people of Dublin.

The Dublin Waste Management Plan outlines a comprehensive approach to reducing and preventing waste and sets ambitious targets to achieve a recycling rate of 59% by 2013, a target we are well on the way to achieving with our current rate of 30%. A key component of the Plan is to develop the capacity to handle the ongoing and increasing volumes of recyclables collected in green bins in the region. The promotion of the Green Schools programme and the environmental awareness programmes of the Local Authorities have ensured that the mantra of Reduce, Reuse & Recycle is one that is known and understood by young and old. This combined with increased recycling facilities throughout the Region and new initiatives such as the implementation of the WEEE Directive and the recent Battery regulations reduces the amount of recyclable material going to landfill and allows the Dublin region to make its significant contribution to the national environmental targets.

On a personal level, I am delighted that as a result of this facility we can recycle all plastics in the green bin now.

I welcome the Minister, John Gormley and thank his department for the continued support shown to the Dublin Local Authorities in the delivery of the Dublin Waste Management Plan.

I would like to this opportunity to thank all the hard working officials of the four Dublin authorities who have planned and developed this facility. It is rewarding to see the fruits of your labour and know that this will improve the environment and go towards helping to reduce our Carbon footprint.

I am delighted to be here and particularly enjoyed the tour of the facility.

I am also very pleased to see that there is a training room on site and hope that all schools and Community groups in Dublin will come and visit and see for themselves where the material from their green bin goes and look forward to this new chapter in recycling history making a positive contribution to our culture of sustainability here in Dublin.