



**Minister re-enforces new Food Waste Regulations and launches  
Draft National Waste Policy Roadmap at  
Thorntons Recycling “Ask the Expert” Breakfast Event**

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2010:** Mr John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government attended the Thorntons Recycling “Ask the Expert” Breakfast Event which was aimed at informing customers about the New Food Waste Regulations for **commercial** businesses that came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 and encouraging customers to recycle more to reduce their costs.

At the event the Minister also announced that he is launching a public consultation process on Waste Policy, including Draft Regulations to require the provision of segregated food waste collections for **households**.



**Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley T.D. is welcomed by Gary Brady, Paul Thornton, Shane Thornton and Carmel Thornton at the company’s Headquarters in Park West.**

Speaking at the event the Minister outlined how the new Food Regulations (S.I.508) is part of key policy innovations to ensure that waste is treated as the resource it is. "We need to ensure that waste is treated as a resource. Waste is not a problem to be binned, buried or burned. Waste is a resource that can create jobs, improve competitiveness and enhance prosperity," he said.



**Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley T.D. announcing New Waste Policy Roadmap at Thorntons "Ask the Expert" Event**

Mr. Gary Brady, Managing Director of Thorntons Recycling welcomed the implementation of the new Food Waste Regulations for commercial customers.

"The Irish waste sector is highly developed and highly competitive. A structured system for source-segregated collections will not only benefit the industry, it will also pay dividends for the consumer and for the environment".

Mr. Brady said that Ireland has been slow to recognise the economic potential of the waste sector. The current attitude to waste – of dumping everything to landfill, is slowly changing and this is to be welcomed. Thorntons Recycling is an example of a company making a strong economic contribution in the waste sector. We are leading the move up the waste hierarchy and away from disposal and residual waste treatments like landfill and mass burn incineration. In the process we are employing over 225 people in 7 facilities in Dublin, Meath and Kildare.



**Gary Brady, Managing Director of Thorntons Recycling addresses attendees about new Food Regulations and MBT technologies used at Thorntons.**

The "Ask the Expert" event was designed to educate attendees about how the introduction of new Irish food waste regulations is impacting on Irish businesses, in particular those operating in the retail and hospitality sectors.

Since the start of this month, new food waste regulations oblige all major producers of food waste, such as restaurants and cafés, hot food outlets, canteens, hotels and larger guesthouses, supermarkets and other food retailers to segregate food materials from other waste and make them available for a separate brown bin collection service.

Mr. Brady warned that Irish businesses need to implement proper procedures for the separation; disposal and recycling of food waste, or face hefty fines and even imprisonment.

"The owners of the premises as well as the tenant is liable if the regulations are breached and face a maximum fine of €3,000 at District court or 12 months in Prison or both", says Brady. "A key requirement is that food waste must be kept separate from all other waste. If businesses have not already implemented the appropriate procedures they urgently need to assess how they are going to adhere logistically to the regulations or face severe penalties."

"Under the legislation, producers of food waste can implement onsite treatment, for example composting, but will need a Certificate of Registration from their Local Authority for such a process. Critically, food waste can no longer be disposed of through a macerator into the sewer system where there is a brown bin service

available. Many larger companies have invested in macerators and will now need to disable this system", he said.



**Gary Brady, Minister John Gormley and Paul Thornton discuss Thorntons food waste collection service.**

Thorntons Recycling is a market leader in food waste recycling and currently produces high grade compost from food waste collected from its customers at its Kilmainhamwood compost facility. Last year the facility processed over 20,000 tonnes of food waste.

The event was attended by more than 160 delegates from the retail, hospitality, financial and healthcare sectors. Delegates were treated to a number of presentations by Guest speakers including Alan Gallagher, Operations Manager of Croke Park Stadium. Following these presentations a number of live demonstrations took place including End of Life Vehicle (ELV) recycling, Confidential Shredding , Liquid Waste management and Composting.



**Guest Speaker Alan Gallagher, Operations Manager Croke Park Stadium, outlining their Recycling Programme**



**Attendees at the "Ask the Expert" event**

Images from Demonstrations below





