



## **Are You Recycling Your Food Waste? If Not You Will Be Breaking the Law!**

**If you operate one of the following you must obey the Law and Comply with the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No 508 of 2009)**

- Restaurants, Bistros, Cafes, Pubs,
- Canteens, Deli counters, Shops, Supermarkets selling food
- Hotels , B&B, Hostels
- Industrial and office buildings where food waste is produced
- Hospitals and nursing homes
- Schools, Colleges, Universities, Training centers, Government Buildings
- Rail stations, Airports, Harbours
- Events and exhibitions where food waste is produced.
- Local Authority offices, Garda stations, Prisons etc.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 all obligated producers must segregate food waste and ensure that it is recovered.

**Q** Do you supply Food? Then you must comply with the regulations.

### **What and why do we have Food Waste Regulations?**

These regulations are designed to promote the segregation and beneficial use of food waste arising in the commercial sector. The regulations will facilitate the targets set out in EU Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste for the diversion of biodegradable municipal waste (Food Waste) from landfill sites in Ireland. Food waste decomposes when it is placed in a landfill and produces landfill gas. This gas contains large amounts of Methane – a powerful Greenhouse agent. It also produces leachate, a polluting liquid. These undesirable effects can be greatly reduced if biodegradable waste is diverted from landfill. Ireland has committed to a national strategy on biodegradable waste and these regulations will enable us to meet this commitment.

### **What is Food Waste?**

All canteen/kitchen food waste including - Food, fruit, vegetables, paper napkins, paper towels, teabags, eggshells, coffee grinds, bread, cereal's, soups/sauces, cheese, dairy, kitchen food scraps (cooked/uncooked meats) etc

### **How Can I be Compliant with the Regulations?**

It's easy just;

1. Segregate your food waste for collection by an authorized waste collector such as **Thorntons Recycling**.
2. We will do the rest. We will provide you with a brown bin and a bin liner, arrange a suitable collection date and provide free advice on how you can make your new system work to your benefit.

Your collector i.e. **Thorntons Recycling** must then ensure that;

- A. There is no mixing of food waste with other waste which is not suitable for the authorized treatment process e.g. composting, we therefore must supply a separate collection service



- B. Thorntons Recycling is not obliged to collect waste from a producer where they consider that the producer is non compliant with the regulations or to accept food waste for disposal where the producer has not given a written declaration as to the separation of the food waste.
- C. Collectors, including **Thorntons Recycling**, must inform the local authority of persons who are refusing to avail of the collection service

### **What are the Penalties if I do not comply?**

If you cause an offence and don't comply with the regulations then you can be subject to a fine of up to €3,000 at District Court or twelve months imprisonment or both or, €15,000,000 on indictment or 5 years imprisonment (or both).

Collectors must inform the Local Authority of persons who are refusing to avail of the collection service and dealers, brokers or recovery operators are obliged to supply the specified information to the satisfaction of the EPA.

### **Is there any exceptions?**

The regulations will impact on commercial premises from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 on all businesses that produces over 50kg per week of food waste. On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 the regulations will apply to all business no matter how much food waste they produce.

The regulations state that where there is a source segregated collection for food waste, that the business cannot deposit food waste in the residual bin/black bin and that they cannot shred or hydrate food waste by mechanical means to facilitate its discharge to the sewage infrastructure.

Businesses producing less than 50kg per week of food waste are required to write to the Environmental section in their local authority and get an exemption in writing before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010, stating that they do not need to comply with the regulations until the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

### **What is in it for me?**

1. You will be firstly and most importantly be compliant with the law which will be enforced by your Local Authority.
2. You will be doing your bit to ensure that Ireland as a country meet their targets for diverting biodegradable waste form landfill and avoid hefty EU fines.
3. You will have less collections on your regular/black bin as the heavy food material will be removed which if used effectively will reduce your costs for your waste management programme.
4. Your food waste will be converted into an environmentally beneficial product, compost at our compost facility!

### **How can Thorntons Recycling Help?**

You simply just have to call us on 01-6235133 or contact your account manager and arrange for the delivery of a brown bin. We will do the rest!

### **Where will my Food Waste Go?**

**Thorntons Recycling** has operated a composting facility since 2006 "Kilmainhamwood Compost" in County Meath which has received the title of the "Best Composting Facility In Ireland" from the Composting Association of Ireland, Cre. Here your food waste will be delivered and composted to produce compost which is suitable for use as a soil enhancer in agriculture and landscape gardening. Your Food Waste will be returned into an environmentally beneficial product!