

Calculating the Present, Counting Down to the Future

- **Repak launch first public online Carbon Calculator**

Householders all around the country can now calculate their exact carbon footprint through the first Irish publicly accessible online carbon calculator for households. The carbon calculator which is launched today by Repak in conjunction with the Minister for Environment can be accessed through the Repak website (www.repak.ie) and allows a household to calculate how much carbon they use by inputting details of activities they perform in their daily routine. It also provides hints and tips on how people can reduce their carbon footprint.

The calculator allows users to input specific details about their homes and their lives. It assesses heating methods in the household, calculates energy consumption, and investigates the various types of insulation being used. It also allows the user to input information on the type of lighting they use in the house including energy efficient light bulbs. This calculator will permit householders to investigate the impact that transportation usage has on their carbon footprint, from private and public transport to international flights. When a householder fills in all these details they are instantly provided with a monthly breakdown of carbon emissions, broken down into three separate sections, Home Energy Usage, Transport and Flights. They are also provided with a comparative average for their particular living situation and practical hints and tips on how each household can reduce their carbon footprint.

The household calculator is the first in a suite being developed by Repak. Early next year, Repak will also launch carbon calculators for schools and for businesses which produce product packaging.

Commenting on the launch of the carbon calculator, Andrew Hetherington, CEO of Repak said "It can be very difficult for people to actually realise the extent of their carbon footprint, however when they see it written down as an exact number and have it compared to an average it is a very empowering statement. One of the best aspects of the calculator is that it gives each household suggestions and tips on

practical ways in which they can reduce their carbon footprint and recycling is one way in which people can have a serious impact on carbon emissions."

The launch of the Carbon Calculator comes on the back of the signing of Repak's new approval to 2011 and changes to the Waste Management Packaging Regulations .

Mr Hetherington added "This an endorsement of Repaks success and the important role we have to play in meeting future EU targets. We can now plan for moving forward with certainty for next 5 years and also widening the base of obligated companies to increase funding. However its also poses challenges with such as future increased funding to local authorises."

Also at the launch, Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley commented "Repak's carbon calculator is the latest example of the excellent work they do to promote recycling and the environment. Recycling creates lower energy costs, reduces emissions into the atmosphere and to water and reduces the amount of waste going to landfill sites. Each of us can further reduce our own carbon footprint by reducing the amount of packaging we consume and recycling as much as possible".

Last year Repak managed to recycle 603,000 tonnes of packaging resulting in the equivalent of 463,000 tonnes of carbon savings. Since Repak was established in 1997 they have diverted over 3.5 million tonnes of used packaging from landfill resulting approximately 2.2 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent savings.

Ends

About Repak

Repak is a not-for-profit voluntary member's based packaging recycling scheme established under a voluntary agreement between industry and the Department of the Environment and Local Government. It was established as industry's response to the obligations placed on Ireland by the EU directive on Packaging Waste (94/62/EC) and is the only government approved packaging compliance scheme under the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 1997. Repak succeeded in

reaching and exceeding Ireland's EU National Packaging Recovery and Recycling Target of 25% of packaging waste in 2001 and is well on the way to Achieving our 2005 EU packaging recovery target of 50%.