

Repak Members' Seminar

(date) Where Europe is heading in the area of packaging legislation, how to save on waste management bills and why individual packaging levys are not the way forward are some of the topics that will be explored at this years Repak National Seminar, which will be held on June 24th in the Great Southern Hotel in the Airport. The seminar targeted at Repak's 1800 members companies representing nearly 3,000 business premises throughout the country will be of particular interest to retailers and suppliers of packaged goods.

The speakers will include Otto Linher, EU Commisison, Director General Office (sustainable production and consumption), Ann Murray, Senior Packaging Development Manger, HJ Heinz, Gareth Fennell, GFC Consulting and Andrew Simmons of Recoup at this years event which has moved from its traditional date during Repak National Recycling Week in October.

Otto, from the EU commission, will give an insight into developments in Europe and what is the current thinking and trends in European policy on packaging waste being debated under the thematic strategy on waste prevention and recovery.

Ann Murray from HJ Heinz, who won the Best Member of the Year Award at last year's Repak Recycling Awards, will give details on the packaging reduction strategies and the waste management systems they have implemented in their Business. She will also reveal how to set up systems for recording and maintaining their packaging data. She will also detail how the company has achieved real benefits from redesigning and reengineering their packaging types. As a result of such actions HJ Heinz have recorded a 25% reduction in weight on their finished goods (preventing 20 tonnes) by also reducing the thickness on their printed cartons they prevented 85 tonnes of paper. She will also outline how their recycling strategy diverted over 573 tonnes of cardboard, plastic and metal from landfill in 2002.

Andrew Simmons of Recoup, a leading UK expert in plastic bottle recycling, will speak on the current status of plastic bottle recycling in Ireland and the opportunities that exist in Ireland for plastic bottle recycling in the future.

Gareth Fennell will discuss the recent threats of the possible introduction of Individual packaging levys on different packaging types and will discuss a recent report, which questions the use of levys and details the best methods to achieve future recycling targets.

The conference takes place from 9.30 to 13.00 hours. Full list of speakers below. The seminar is open only to Repak members to ensure you get a place return your reply paid invitation early or call please call (01) 4670190.

About Repak

Repak is a not-for-profit members based packaging compliance scheme, currently Ireland's only producer responsibility scheme, which was established under a voluntary agreement between industry and the Department of the Environment and Local Government in 1997.

It was created 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 compliance scheme under the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 1997. Repak succeeded in reaching and exceeding Ireland's National Recycling Target of 25% of packaging waste in 2001, as set by the EU directive.

The organisation also performs an administrative role for the recycling of used farm film (silage cover) through the IFFPG.

Repak also runs a variety of educational initiatives such as Repak National Recycling Week in October, Repak Green Christmas, Repak National Conference. It is also a sponsor of An Taisce's National Spring Clean campaign, the Tidy Towns Competition and the schools based Repak Cash for Cans programme.

Last year Repak launched a trial plastic and beverage carton recycling scheme as part of a strategy to target traditionally more difficult material types. The beverage carton scheme has now been extended to all households in Dublin with a Kerbside/Green Wheelie Bin collection scheme.

For further information please contact:

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