

# Draft National Bioresources Strategy

## Consultation Brochure

Public Consultation on the draft National  
Bioresources Strategy and Environmental  
Reports



# Introduction

**The draft National Bioresources Strategy sets out our long-term strategic approach to wastewater sludge and bioresource management to:**


- Support our growing population and economy
- Protect human health and our environment, and
- Contribute to a circular economy and net zero carbon ambitions.

## Uisce Éireann


Uisce Éireann, as Ireland’s national public water services provider, supplies 1.7 billion litres of drinking water to our customers every day and collects and treats more than 1.2 billion litres of wastewater before we safely return it to the environment.

Providing safe, secure and sustainable water services is vital for our society, supporting public health, supporting the delivery of housing and jobs and protecting our environment and precious water resources.

Our primary function is to provide clean drinking water to customers and to treat and return wastewater safely to the environment. In providing these services we play a central role in enabling economic growth, protecting both the environment and the health and safety of our customers and the public.



**OUR PURPOSE**  
We rise to the challenge of delivering transformative water services that enable communities to thrive.



**OUR VISION**  
A sustainable Ireland where water is respected and protected, for the planet and all the lives it supports.

## The Draft National Bioresources Strategy

The draft National Bioresources Strategy is a key document for Uisce Éireann that outlines our long term 25-year strategy to ensure a nationwide standardised approach for sustainably managing wastewater sludge and bioresources. It reviews and updates the existing UÉ National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (NWSMP) published in 2016 and will ultimately replace the NWSMP once adopted.

The draft National Bioresources Strategy presents our strategic objectives and how we plan to achieve them in the context of opportunities presented by modern technologies, research and innovation, as well as the challenges we are likely to face in the coming years.

## Have your say

Uisce Éireann is seeking your feedback on the draft National Bioresources Strategy and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

**The public consultation is running for eight weeks from 27 May 2026 to 22 July 2026.**

Following conclusion of this consultation, all submissions and observations received from public consultation will be taken into consideration, and the draft National Bioresources Strategy will be reviewed and updated. Once adopted by the Uisce Éireann board, the final draft National Bioresources Strategy will be published alongside the SEA statement and AA Determination.



## Why is the National Bioresources Strategy needed?

Following the public consultation on the draft National Bioresources Strategy and adoption by the Uisce Éireann Board the National Bioresources Strategy will:

- ✓ Ensure compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements including the recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (rUWWTD), the Sewage Sludge Directive (SSD) and the Code of Good Practice for the use of Biosolids in Agriculture.
- ✓ Support the objectives of Uisce Éireann’s Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) 2050.
- ✓ Inform future capital and operational activities in relation to sustainable bioresources management in Ireland.
- ✓ Support future resilience and progress actions to implement new and alternative methods to managing wastewater sludge and bioresources.

## The National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (2016)

Our existing National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (NWSMP) was published in 2016 and set out our 25-year strategy to ensure a nationwide standardised approach for managing wastewater sludge. Almost 10 years later, we have reviewed and updated the existing NWSMP to provide a progress update on the objectives it outlined and to what extent they have been achieved.

It is proposed to rename the existing NWSMP to the National Bioresources Strategy to reflect:

- Regulatory changes, such as the recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
- Principles of the circular economy, net zero carbon, and sustainability
- Industry developments, technological advancements and international best practice, including the approach taken by the UK utilities

# Managing Wastewater Sludge and Bioresources

## What's involved?

Wastewater sludge is a nutrient-rich substance that is left over after the wastewater treatment process. Wastewater sludge is treated to reduce its volume and break it down further. It is also treated to recover bioresources which can be beneficially reused to support a circular bioeconomy.



Treatment

Wastewater sludge is treated to recover bioresources which can be beneficially reused in a sustainable and circular way. This includes recovering energy, through processes like anaerobic digestion and advanced anaerobic digestion, and nutrient-rich resources, such as biosolids recovered through processes like lime stabilisation, which can be beneficially reused as fertiliser in agriculture.



Transport, Storage and Logistics

The draft National Bioresources Strategy outlines our objective to optimise transport and storage of wastewater sludge and bioresources, and how we will achieve this using a national bioresources strategic decision support tool.



Bioresource Centres Infrastructure

Sludge from rural wastewater treatment plants is transported to satellite dewatering centres where its volume is reduced before it is transported to a bioresource centre for treatment.



Monitoring and Compliance

The management of wastewater sludge and bioresources includes ensuring adherence with regulatory requirements and quality standards at an EU, national and organisational level.

## Supporting the bioeconomy

Wastewater sludge treatment can contribute to the bioeconomy through the bioresources that are recovered through the treatment processes. These include:



### Renewable energy generation

The processes used to treat wastewater sludge generates a methane rich biogas which can be sustainably converted into energy and heat.



### Resource recovery

Wastewater sludge contains many valuable elements such as organic matter and nutrients which can be recovered and reused as raw materials in other sectors.

The use of bioresources reduces our overall carbon footprint and the draft National Bioresources Strategy aims to harness these opportunities to contribute towards achieving our net zero carbon ambitions.

## Looking ahead

The draft National Bioresources Strategy looks ahead and considers the changing landscape we operate in and how this might change how wastewater sludge and bioresources are managed.

We have considered overall challenges faced by Uisce Éireann such as climate change, growing population and economy, environmental and biodiversity crises, ageing infrastructure, legislation, and economic conditions. We have also considered challenges specific to wastewater sludge and bioresources.



Legislative and regulatory changes



Sustainability ambitions



Data and reporting



Emerging contaminants



Storage



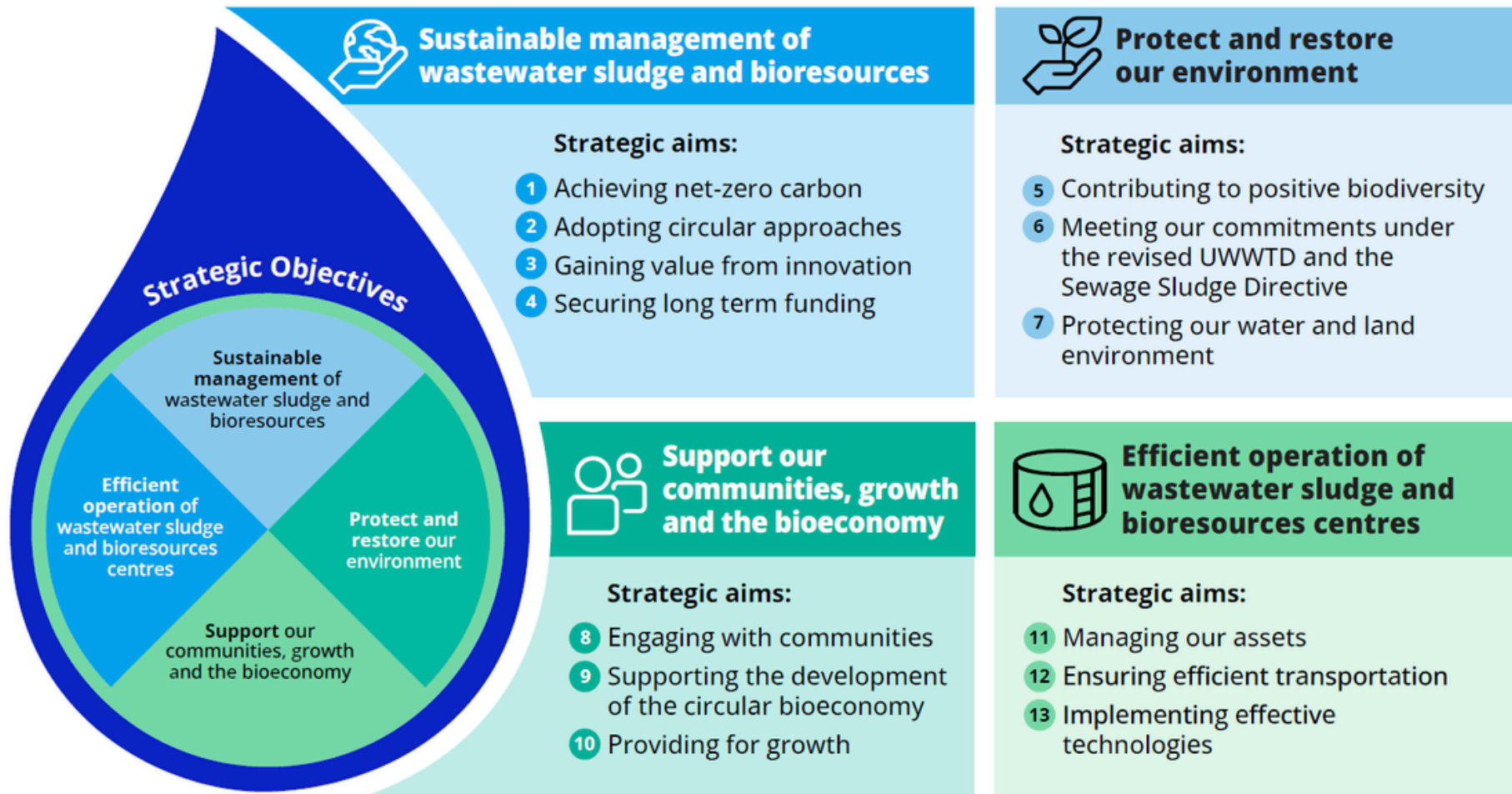
Transport logistics



# Our Approach to the draft National Bioresources Strategy

The draft National Bioresources Strategy identifies four strategic objectives. Accompanying these objectives are thirteen strategic aims that will help us to address our most critical investment needs, respond to emerging policy and regulatory changes and align with our core principles of circular economy, energy neutrality, net zero carbon, and sustainability.

The draft NBioS presents 35 actions which set out how we propose to achieve our strategic objectives.



## How to get involved

We are looking for your input to the draft National Bioresources Strategy and associated environmental reports through this public consultation, running for **eight weeks from 27 May 2026 to 22 July 2026**.

[Visit our consultation platform to view the consultation questions and to make an online submission.](#)

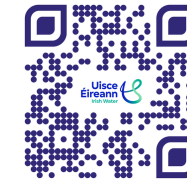
If you have any questions for the project team or if you would like to make a written submission, you can:

**Email:** nbios@water.ie

**Write to us at:** National Bioresources Strategy, C/O Tetra Tech Ireland, West Pier Business Campus, Old Dun Leary Road, Co. Dublin A92 N6T7

**A public information webinar** will be held on 23rd June at 12pm where the project team will provide an overview of the draft National Bioresources Strategy, the associated environmental assessments and the consultation process.

To register, visit the draft National Bioresources webpage or email us at nbios@water.ie.



On our website you can access:

- The Draft National Bioresources Strategy
- SEA - Environmental Report
- Natura Impact Statement
- The Consultation Portal
- Details of consultation events and how to register



## How will my feedback be used?

Your feedback will be recorded, collated, analysed, and considered to inform changes to the draft National Bioresources Strategy.

Please note that Uisce Éireann will publish a report summarising the consultation feedback and may also publish anonymised data from the responses received.

All submissions received will be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and Data Protection legislation.

## Has there been previous consultations?

The process of developing the draft National Bioresources Strategy involves two periods of focused consultation.

The first consultation was held in 2024. This consultation was held with statutory stakeholders on the SEA Scoping Report.

# Consultation Questions

## Question 1 - Looking Ahead

In **Section 2**, we have identified key challenges we foresee as we treat, recover and reuse wastewater sludge byproducts sustainably in the future.

These include overall challenges for Uisce Éireann such as climate change, growing population and economy, environmental and biodiversity crises, ageing infrastructure, legislation, and economic conditions.

They also include challenges specific to wastewater sludge and bioresources such as legislative and regulatory changes, sustainability ambitions, storage, transport logistics, emerging contaminants and data and reporting.

**Do you have views on the identified challenges and are there other challenges to be included?**

## Question 2 - Objectives:

In **Section 3**, we present four strategic objectives which the National Bioresources Strategy seeks to achieve:

- Strategic objective 1: Sustainable management of wastewater sludge and bioresources.
- Strategic objective 2: Protect and restore our environment.
- Strategic objective 3: Support our communities, growth, and the bioeconomy.
- Strategic objective 4: Efficient operation of wastewater sludge and bioresources centres.

**Do you have views on these strategic objectives and the associated aims and actions?**

## Question 3 - Solutions

In **Sections 6 to 12** of the draft strategy, we examine treatment processes and technologies, identify transport and infrastructure requirements, and assess reuse and recovery solutions.

**Do you have views on the identified solutions and are there others you would like to see included?**

## Question 4 - SEA & NIS Reports:

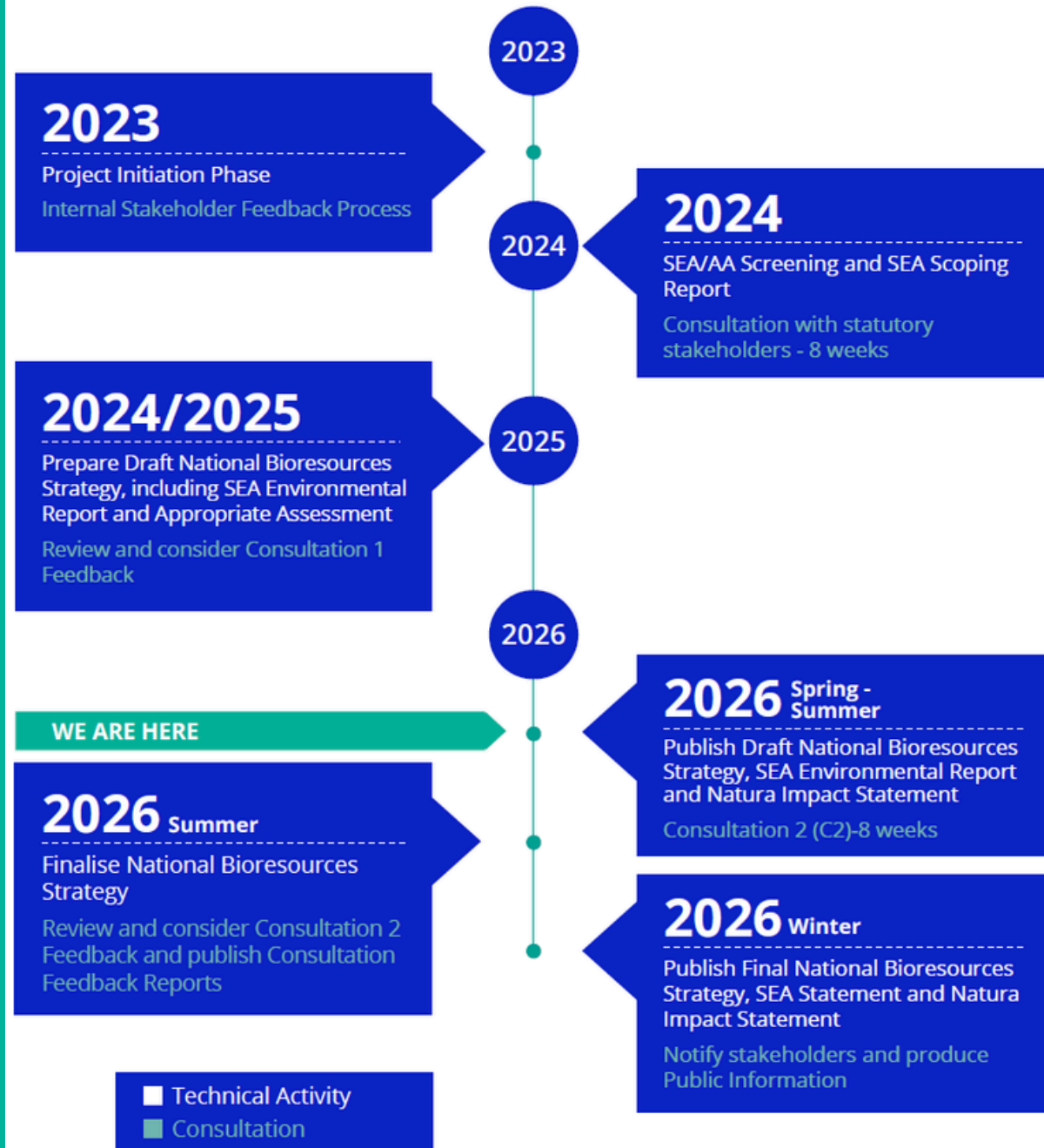
**Do you have any comments on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which accompany the draft National Bioresources Strategy?**

## Next Steps

Following conclusion of this consultation, all submissions and observations received from public consultation will be taken into consideration, and the draft National Bioresources Strategy will be reviewed and updated.

Once adopted by the Uisce Éireann board, the final draft National Bioresources Strategy will be published alongside the SEA statement and AA Determination in quarter 4 of 2026.

The final National Bioresources Strategy will undergo regular reviews, at least every five years, or as required by legislation. These reviews will allow us to adapt to any changing circumstances or needs. Updates to the final National Bioresources Strategy will be informed by any future changes in relevant legislation or government policy.



- Technical Activity
- Consultation