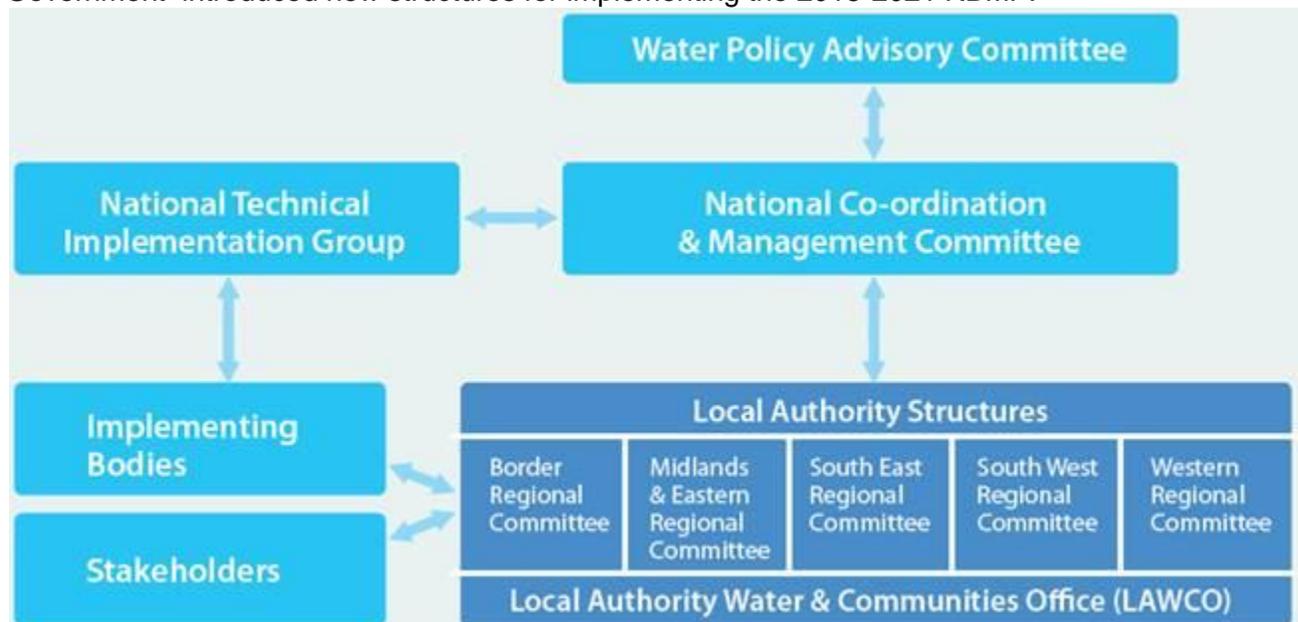


What are River Basin Management Plans (RBMP's)?

RBMPs are plans to protect and improve the water environment. They are prepared and reviewed every six years. The first RBMPs covered the period 2010 to 2015. The second cycle plan is currently being developed.

Who is responsible for implementing RBMP's?

Building on the successful elements and the shortcomings of the first RBMP cycle, the Government introduced new structures for implementing the 2018-2021 RBMP.



Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC):

The WPAC will provide high-level policy direction and monitor RBMP implementation. It will also advise the Minister on progress.

The National Co-ordination & Management Committee (NMC):

This committee will ensure RBMP measures are managed and will strengthen partnerships for implementing the plan. The NCMC will provide the links between science, policy, and programme delivery. It will agree and oversee the overall work programmes and report to WPAC on progress, potential barriers to implementation and future policy needs. It will also oversee preparation of future RBMPs and programmes of measures on behalf of WPAC.

The National Technical Implementation Group (NTIG):

The NTIG will oversee technical implementation of the RBMP at a national level. It will also provide a forum to coordinate actions among relevant State actors and address any operational barriers to implementation. The NTIG will also be a forum for information exchange and promote consistent regional implementation.

Regional and local authority structures:

The Local Authority National RBMP Office, supported by 5 regional committees, will coordinate delivery of measures at regional and local level. The five regional committees will be chaired by a local authority chief executive. The EPA will provide technical advice. Each committee will produce a Regional Integrated Catchment Management Programme for this RBMP period (2018-2021) and track the progress and effectiveness of implementing structures. The Local Authority Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO) will be responsible for ensuring public and stakeholder engagement and implementation of measures at regional and local level. Whilst national authorities such as the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Irish Water, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the EPA will drive implementation of national measures, the regional structures will help national authorities to coordinate and target national measures.

Public consultation on the draft River Basin Management Plan (2018-2021)

On 28 February 2017, the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Simon Coveney, T.D., published the draft River Basin Management Plan (2018-2021). The draft plan, executive summary and summary programme of measures outline the measures to improve water quality in our rivers, lakes, coastal and transitional waters, to be performed by a range of organisations and sectors, over the next few years. The Department and the Local Authority Water Communities Office have produced a leaflet explaining the draft River Basin Management Plan. The plan will be finalised at the end of 2017.

Local engagement: Water quality is both a local and a national issue. A lot of improvements to water quality in your local rivers, lakes or coastal waters can happen with local knowledge and actions such as community clean-ups of a river. The newly-established Local Authority Water Communities Office (LAWCO) is responsible for engaging and consulting on the draft RBMP at local level. It has held public information meetings throughout the country about the plan. It is also gathering views - at public meetings, from emails, by phone or in person - on local or regional water quality issues

To find out about the public meetings, to give your views on local, regional or national water quality issues, or to find out about how you can get involved in protecting water quality, contact LAWCO on its website. The LAWCO officers are available to work with communities.

Visit www.catchments.ie for more information.