

DO: GACH BALL DE CEANTAR BARDASACH AN CHOMARAIGH
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE COMERAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2022
OCTOBER 2022

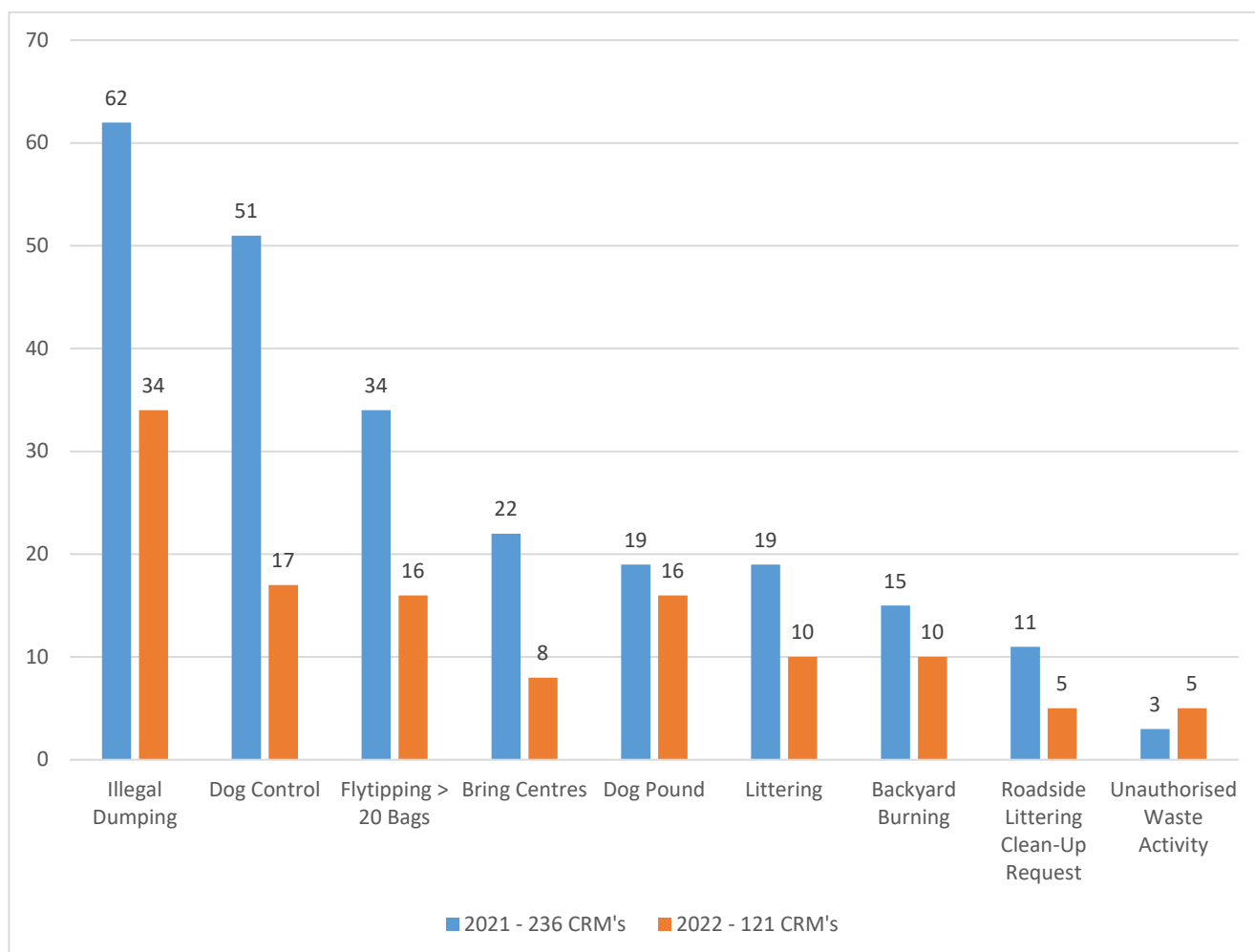
General Environment Enforcement

Environmental Inspectors continue to investigate and monitor illegal waste issues, littering, fly-tipping and illegal signage and issued litter fines where evidence of an offence is available.

Members of the public are encouraged to contact the local authority to report all incidents of illegal dumping or littering by using the following telephone number: 0818 10 20 20.

CRM Activity

The following graph shows a comparison of the top categories of CRM cases recorded by the Environment Dept. in the Comeragh area in the period to mid-September in the years 2021 & 2022. Environmental Inspectors continue to investigate complaints received and monitor illegal waste issues, littering, fly-tipping and illegal signage and issued litter fines where offences are detected. The Waterford City & County Councils Dog Warden continues to investigate all control of dog issues throughout the City & County.



Climate Action

Commercial Rates Energy Credit Scheme

Businesses and industry account for approximately 41% of county Waterford's carbon emissions. A successful transition to a carbon neutral county and city requires businesses to play their part. With that in mind Waterford City & County Council has put in place an Energy Credit Scheme this year for rate payers. Businesses who attended a short training on energy efficiency and downloaded the information on the energy saving supports available, were eligible to receive a credit on their rates account. The scheme was open to businesses with an annual rates bill of less than €10,000, and all hospitality businesses. The original closing date was 30th September at 6.00pm however some businesses had difficulty accessing the site so an extension was given until 7th October. In total 953 businesses completed the training. This compares favourably with other campaigns to engage with businesses.

Local Climate Action Plan

Guidance has been published for formulation of Local Climate Action Plans. The Council will have one year to complete this plan. The Local Climate Action Plan will include Climate Adaptation and the Decarbonisation Zone as chapters. The current Climate Adaptation Strategy goes to 2023. The Local Climate Action Plan will be a comprehensive roadmap as to how we will achieve emissions reduction across the city and county while preparing for climate impacts.

Climate Adaptation Strategy Report

A progress report on how the Council is meeting the goals set out in the Waterford Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2023 is being sent to the Department of the Environment, Climate Action and Communications.

Reduce Your Use Campaign

Waterford City & County Council will participate in the Government's Reduce Your Use campaign with a goal of reducing energy use by 15% this winter. Council staff will be encouraged to complete several actions each month and to be mindful of energy use.

Update from Waterford Energy Bureau

- The launch of the "South East Energy Agency" took place on the 30th of September. SEEA is a non for profit regional Energy Agency, committed to supporting every energy user in using energy more efficiently, monitoring energy use and towards a greater choice of renewable energy sources. Working in Partnership, raising awareness, providing support, and delivering low carbon in the region.
- WCCC are open to partner with community groups to include buildings within the 2022/2023 "SEAI Better Energy Communities Scheme". Funding of between 30% is available for businesses and 50% for community centres, with measures funded including insulation / window door upgrades, heating system upgrades, lighting upgrades and installation of renewable energy technologies.
- Rathgormack Community Centre was included within a funding application for the community center upgrades. Funding of €15 million is available for the improvement and refurbishment of existing community centers in both urban and rural areas. This scheme is operated by the Department of Community and Rural Development.
- The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, has launched a "Support Scheme for Renewable Heat" (SSRH). This scheme includes grant funding for air-source heat pumps for businesses and farmers and tariff payment for biomass boilers, biomass / anaerobic digestion CHP's and anaerobic digestion boilers. The SSRH scheme is operated by SEAI and open to applications.
- A draft "WCCC Electrical Vehicle and Charging Strategy", has been prepared for approval of WCCC Management and details a phased transition of WCCC vehicles to EV's with appropriate charging infrastructure being installed where operationally feasible by 2025. It is projected that up to 30%-40% of WCCC vehicles can transition to EV's by 2025. Three environmental inspector electrical vehicles have been placed on order with Peugeot and are projected to be delivered later in 2022.
- WCCC are supporting communities in joining the "Sustainable Energy Communities" initiative, where funding is available through SEAI, for the development of "SEC Master Plans" and funding is available for energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy installations.
- Details on the new SEAI home grant schemes is available on the WCCC Environment Dept Waterford Energy Bureau site.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Waste Prevention

Reuse Month takes place during the month of October. The Environment Department are launching a toolkit for swap events to encourage reuse and repair; this toolkit will provide tips, posters and social media posts to enable community groups, schools, etc to run swap events for items such as sports equipment, clothes, musical instruments, school supplies and more. Waterford City & County Council are also hosting a clothes swap at Central Library on 19th October, with a Repair demonstration and fast fashion exhibit on the night also.

Waterford City & County Council have been chosen for the Reuse Month Flagship event 2022, a Repair Café to be held on 22nd October. This event will feature experts in textiles, furniture and bicycle repair demonstrating practical examples of repair. Waste prevention workshops will be held in libraries for Reuse Month. The focus of these workshops is making a reusable food wrap that provides a natural alternative to plastic wrap. These wraps are a great way to start out on your waste reduction journey and offer an easy switch from plastic. Each participant can make their own wrap to take home with them and are encouraged to bring along any other waste prevention or recycling questions they might have. The workshop provides a forum to discuss reuse, composting and recycling as the wraps are being made. These workshops will take place in Waterford city centre, Ardkeen, Tramore and Kilmacthomas. A sustainable living workshop will also take place in Lismore, incorporating Greener Cleaning (environmentally friendly cleaning in the home, how to reduce the use of chemicals and hazardous materials), Greener Gardening, Composting, food waste prevention and waste prevention tips.

Waterford is taking part in the Commercial Waste Campaign run by the Regional Waste Management Office, a waste audit project was commissioned in small food businesses. As part of this, a waste characterisation is completed, then the commercial waste assets are deployed and a follow up review is done two months later. Each business is also encouraged to give feedback on their experiences. Two businesses in Waterford have agreed to take part in this survey.

The Environment Department continue to work with 2GoCup to encourage the use of the deposit return reusable cups at cafes. 10 cafes are taking part in a three month pilot initiative with deposit return reusable cups that cost €1 each (5 cafes along the Greenway and 5 in Waterford). It is hoped that these 10 cafes will then encourage other cafes to accept and move towards reusable cups.

Community Clean-Ups

Waterford City & County Council facilitates community clean ups throughout the year to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. The Environment Department continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards.

Website

Environmental Information continues to be added to the Environment section of the Waterford City & County Council website which can be found at www.waterfordcouncil.ie