



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

**TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT**

**AIBREÁN 2023**  
**APRIL 2023**

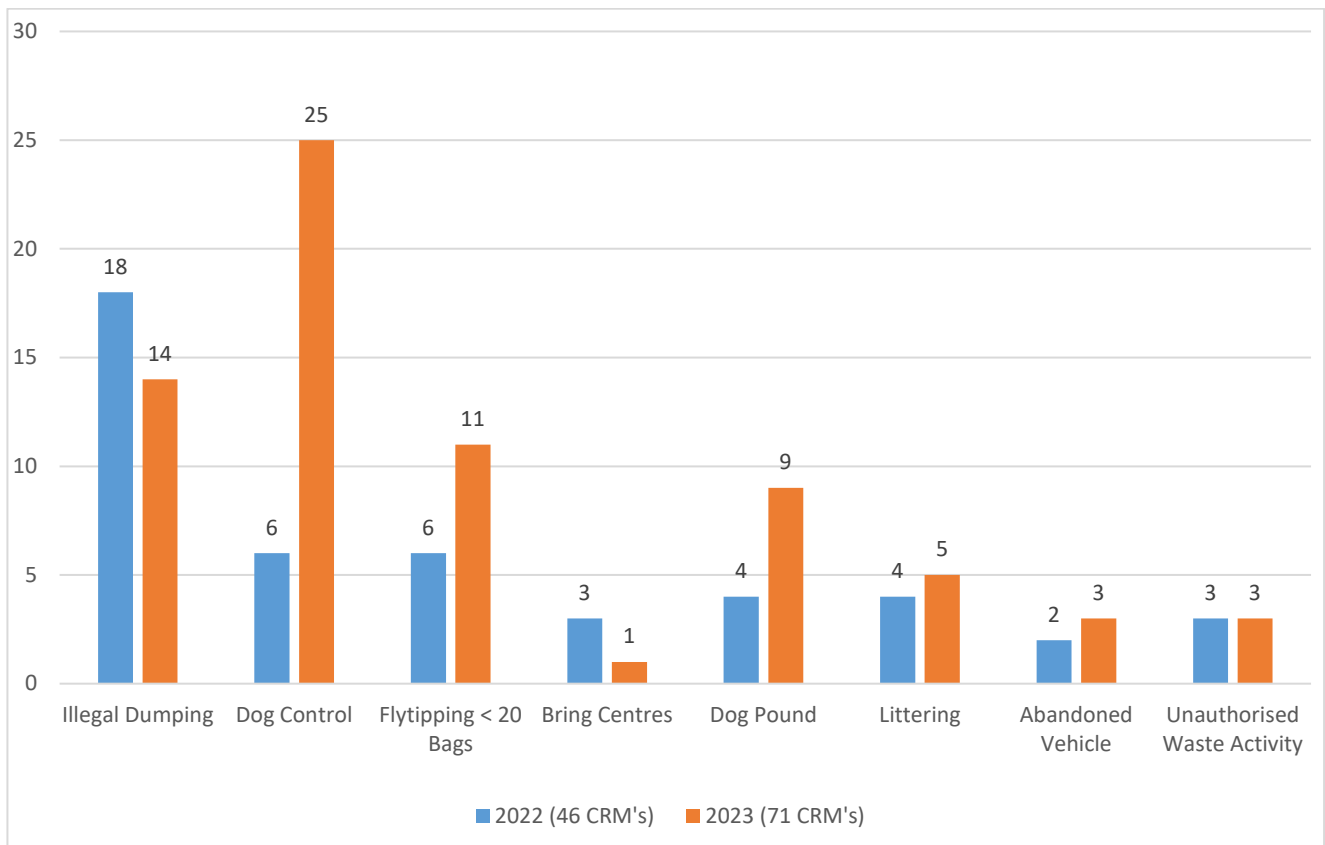
**General Environment Enforcement**

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. Waterford City & County Councils Dog Wardens continue to investigate all control of dog issues throughout the City & County.

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 in the Comeragh area during the period to the end of March in the years 2022 & 2023.



## **Climate Action**

### **Climate Action Plan**

The process for creating Waterford's Climate Action Plan has begun. Minister Eamon Ryan announced the process commencement in the Granville Hotel on 6<sup>th</sup> March last. The Council is currently in the evidence gathering stage and will share a survey with the public next month presenting the picture in Waterford at present in the areas of Climate Adaptation, Energy, Transport Waste and Land Use, and will ask the public to give their initial thoughts on what should be done. The draft consultation period will be between August and November.

### **Climate Community Action Fund**

3 community events have been held to make community groups aware of the Community Climate Action Fund. 92 people have attended events. It is expected the fund will open in April and communities will have 8 weeks in which to submit an Expression of Interest. Successful projects will be 100% funded and depending on the funding amounts applied for, Waterford could win funding for between 10 to 15 projects.

## **Environmental Education & Awareness**

### **Green Flag Programme**

School visits and assessments have now been completed for both green flag renewals and first time applications. There were 61 schools in Co. Waterford due to renew their Green Flag this year. This has resulted in a lot of school visits recently, to meet with Green School Committees and talk to classes. A renewal visit must take place before a school submits a renewal application form for their renewal Green Flags (Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and the Global Citizenship themes). Renewal visits are carried out by the Environment Awareness Officer. The purpose of this visit is to demonstrate that the school has an active Green-Schools programme in operation and has been maintaining previous themes in addition to working on the current theme.

### **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. These have begun again in earnest. We continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, distributing them from both our Dungarvan and Waterford offices. Collection of any bags of litter is then arranged following the clean-up. National Spring Clean takes place throughout the month of April; registrations are now being taken at [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org) As part of this we supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter for all clean ups. Groups are encouraged to register their clean up as a National Spring Clean event to receive additional resources from An Taisce.

### **Biodiversity**

National Tree Week took place between 19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March. 200 free native saplings were distributed to community groups and schools across Co. Waterford. These saplings were kindly donated by the Tree Council of Ireland and Coillte. A tree planting also took place in Dungarvan with the Mayor on 20<sup>th</sup> March to mark this week.

## **Introduction of incentivised waste collection charges**

The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan, has signed new legislation to introduce incentivised charging for waste collection in the commercial sector. The Waste Management (Collection Permit) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2023 will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

A study published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2018 found that 70% of the contents of the average commercial waste bin could be diverted to recycling. This represents a massive loss of potentially recyclable material and an unnecessarily high cost to businesses, whose waste charges would be lowered through proper segregation.

Improved waste segregation in the commercial sector can also make a significant contribution to achieving our EU recycling targets. Ireland faces challenging targets under the EU Waste Framework Directive for recycling municipal solid waste (MSW) of 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The most recent figures from the EPA show that we achieved a rate of 41% in 2020.

The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy, published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in 2020, contains a commitment "to improve waste segregation in the commercial sector, including an awareness campaign and enforcement actions requiring segregated waste bins and incentivised charging to ensure

waste minimisation and proper segregation". This change will bring the commercial sector in line with the residential sector, for whom incentivised pricing has been in place since 2017.

Measures in the new regulations for commercial waste include:

- all waste collection companies will be required to provide a residual, mixed dry recyclable and bio-waste bin to all their commercial customers
- all waste collected must be weighed, with details on the weights of the individual bins communicated to customers
- waste collection companies must ensure that all commercial customers are placed onto a price plan that ensures that the cost to the customer for mixed dry recyclable or bio-waste is less than the cost of disposal for municipal waste. The introduction of this measure should not result in higher waste collection charges for commercial customers
- waste collection companies will be required to at least collect the recyclable waste materials as specified on [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)
- collection of recyclable waste and bio-waste must occur at least fortnightly

There is no change for packaging waste currently collected under packaging waste legislation, as well as no change proposed for food waste or bio-waste currently collected from commercial premises under the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009.

The regulations also require that waste collection companies update their customer charter for households, as well as introduce a customer charter for their commercial customers. This charter must be published on the collector's website and must give details such as the frequency of collections, methods of charging and details of the collection service for each type of waste.

**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](http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie)