

**DO: GACH BALL DE CEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE  
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL  
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT**

**FEABHRA 2024  
FEBRUARY 2024**

**General Environment Enforcement**

Environmental Inspectors continue to investigate and monitor illegal waste issues, littering, fly-tipping and illegal signage and issued litter fines where offences are detected.

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 102020.

**Recent Enforcement Case before Carrick-on-Suir District Court**

An elderly landowner was spared a waste management conviction on 17<sup>th</sup> January at Carrick-on-Suir District court on the provision he paid €3,000 towards the Councils clean up costs.

Waterford City and County Council took a prosecution against the landowner for facilitating the unauthorised management of construction and demolition waste and soil in a protected area adjacent to the River Suir near Carrick-on-Suir. WCCC found that construction and demolition waste had been dumped on the land which forms part of the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation prior to July 2022. The landowner for the land in question could not be traced, and the land appeared to be abandoned, but in August 2022, an adjoining landowner paid a contractor to form an entrance ramp to the land with the waste material to provide an additional access to his adjoining land. Subsequent to this, WCCC undertook a cleanup, removing the C&D waste to restore the area to its previous condition.

The adjoining landowner pled guilty to the offence under section 32 of the Waste Management Act, but Judge O'Shea, noting that the defendant had not previously been before the courts, said he would apply the probation act to the landowner and spare him a conviction if he contributed €3,000 to the council's clean-up costs.

**Presentation/Parks & Open Spaces**

**Waterford City**

- Tree cutting works for Autumn/Winter ongoing and progressing well.
- Trees at TFM have been pruned.
- Peoples Park Fountain works progressing, due for completion early 2024.
- Cleansing crews continue to manage their areas well.
- Six Acre Playground, Farronshoneen. Installed January 2024.



### Playground in Kilcaragh Park

- We now have a provisional design. A workshop was held for elected members on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in advance of a part 8 submission.

### Tramore

- Phase 1 of Sensory Garden is now complete, Tramore Tidy Towns to develop a plan for planting area with Executive Parks & Landscape Officer.
- Public consultation for Skate Park is open. Consultation closes for receipt of submissions on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### Climate Action

#### Climate Action Plan

The Chief Executive's Report and the Draft Climate Action Plan with changes noted on foot of suggestions made in the consultation and the Strategic Environmental Assessment documents are available on Decision Time. Elected members were asked to adopt the Climate Action Plan on 8<sup>th</sup> February and there was a workshop for elected members in advance of the Council meeting to discuss the Plan and the proposed changes. The plan was adopted.


#### Community Climate Action Fund

The deadline for applications for the Community Climate Action fund was 19<sup>th</sup> January. 25 communities submitted a completed application before the deadline. The projects will now be assessed by a team of independent assessors within the Council and the chosen projects will go forward to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for final approval. Once approved communities will have 18 months to deliver their project. The total amount to be distributed in this programme is €564,000.

#### Energy Improvement Projects

<b>Metropolitan Area</b>		
1	Tramore Library	Heat pump installation completed, Oil heating system has been removed and building. Ceiling insulation and led lighting upgrades completed also.
2	Dog Pound	Attic & cavity wall insulation completed, heat pump installation completed. New windows and doors to be completed by mid March. CCTV, fire safety systems to be fitted and drainage works to be undertaken in coming months.
3	Tramore House, RDO	New smart storage heating installation, insulation upgrades, solar PV and sash windows upgrades
4	PLEEP Progress	Survey nearing completion of Public Lighting, Design process to follow and new led installation in late 2024 /2025

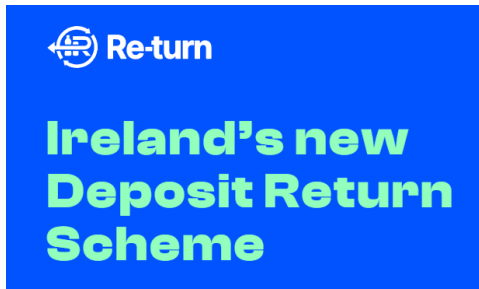
### EU funding

ClimateGO	 GREEN	Pathways to climate-smart governance Lead partner: LAB University of Applied Sciences, Finland
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The Climate Team have been successful in securing €163,000 in funding through the Interreg fund. This fund will further collaboration between large organisations in the City to reduce emissions and put in place governance to achieve the same over 3 years. It will give Waterford an opportunity to learn from other European cities further along the way to becoming a zero carbon city.

## **Environmental Education & Awareness**

### **Introduction of Deposit Return Scheme**



From 1<sup>st</sup> February, a new Deposit Return scheme was introduced in Ireland. When you buy a plastic, aluminium or sell drinks container that features the Return logo, you will pay a small deposit in addition to the price of the drink; you will then get this deposit back when you return your empty, undamaged container (to any shop). We have been working with our Communications Section to post on social media and have also created a local case study to make the general public aware of this in the coming weeks.

### **Green Schools Programme**

All Green Schools working on a flag for this current school year must receive a visit and submit an application by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Green Schools visits are therefore well underway, with schools availing of an assessment visit to their school. Themes range from Litter & Waste to Water and Biodiversity.

### **Composting for Schools Programme**

The 8 Secondary Schools taking part in the Composting for Schools programme are currently working on an action plan to tackle waste within their school and receiving student and staff training. visit. The initial visit was to carried out to conduct a waste audit, helping schools to prevent, reduce and reuse their waste, and putting a strong focus on recycling food waste. Schools have also taken part in 5 online sessions to learn more about waste prevention, recycling and composting within a school.

### **Rubbish Schools Film Festival**

The Environment Department is working with Createschool to offer 4 secondary schools in County Waterford the opportunity to participate in the Rubbish Film Festival. The Rubbish Film Festival is a really unique opportunity for Transition Year Students to showcase their creative talents, create awareness on Environmental Issues such as Climate Action and learn some new digital storytelling skills in the process. Each participating school will receive an intensive 2-day workshop on-site in their school from [Createschool](#) to help them gain and/or develop the skills to create their own short ONE MINUTE film or films that will create awareness among their peers on their selected environmental issue. Festival All costs are covered by the Environment Department of Waterford City & County Council.

### **Food Waste Prevention**

It is estimated that every household in Ireland is responsible for 117kgs of food waste per year. With every household in Ireland entitled to a brown bin collection service now, it is an ideal time to talk to people about how they segregate and reduce their food waste. A food waste information day was held at Tramore Library on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This included an information display, with advice being given on the day about correct waste segregation. Compost caddies, compostable bags, food measures and information leaflets will also be available on the day for collection.

### **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 from both Dungarvan and Waterford offices to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards.