



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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

MÁRTA 2024
MARCH 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.

Presentation/Parks & Open Spaces

Waterford City

- Tree cutting works for Autumn/Winter are ongoing and progressing well – large volume of list from CRM requests have been completed. New requests will be continually added to 2024/2025 list by Executive Parks & Landscape Officer.
- The Executive Parks and Landscapes Officer is developing a Tree Management Strategy, which will result in more streamlined decision making on the management of our tree stock.
- Hedge cutting work programme largely completed.
- Peoples Park Fountain works are progressing, however poor weather conditions have caused delays.
- Peoples Park, lighting design has now been received. The next steps are to assess the design with internal lighting experts and develop initial costings.
- St. Otterans Cemetery – Fenced clay storage area to be constructed to the rear of the Cemetery.
- Staff will continue to carry out an initial cutting of grass in our parks as the weather dries up to remove the longer winter growth.
- Cleansing crews continue to manage their areas well.
- Cleaning of Ballybeg estate signs has been completed.

Tramore

- Phase 1 of Sensory Garden is now complete. Tramore Tidy Towns are developing a plan for planting area with the Executive Parks & Landscape Officer.
- Staff will be continuing to carry out an initial cutting of grass from our parks as the weather dries up to remove the longer winter growth.
- Tree pruning has been completed.
- Bins and planters have been taken in for cleaning and painting ahead of Spring/Summer.
- New Electric Vehicle has been delivered for Presentation Crew which will assist with regular duties while reducing the carbon footprint of the crew.

Climate Action

Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan was adopted by Council on 8th February. The updated translation is currently being completed, to include the changes made arising from the public consultation and the plan will be made available to the public in printed and online form in both Irish and English on 8th March.

Community Climate Action Programme

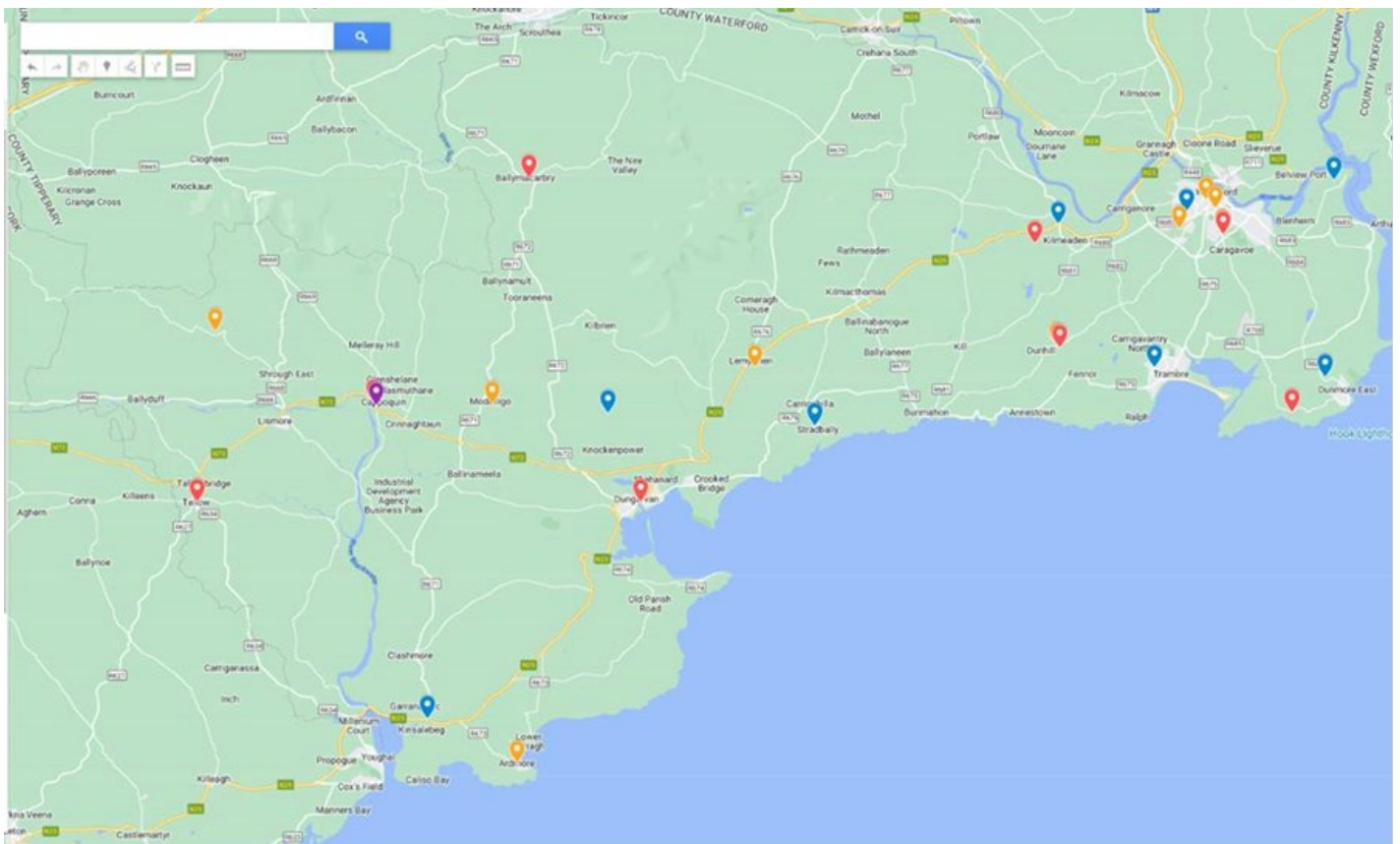
Summary of applications:

- Total funding available to Waterford for this round is €564,000
- 25 community groups applied for funding under Strand 1

- 1 community group applied for funding under Strand 1a (All Island Projects)
- Applications were accepted from 9th November 2023 to 19th January 2024
- Applicants could apply via the online portal Submit, by email or post. No postal submissions were received, only three applications were received via email and the remaining, 23 were via Submit platform. Groups did not appear to have any issues using the online form and it was noted that some applicants said it was preferable to using the Word Document.
- Of the 25 groups who applied for funding under Strand 1, they had at on average at least 2-3 meetings with the CCAO.
- Evaluation Committee decided on the 15 projects which will be submitted for approval by the Minister of Environment, Climate and Communications.

Grant Size	# Applicants	# Awarded	Total Funding Requested	Total Amount Awarded	Average Amount Awarded
Small (< €20k)	8	6	€70,287	€46,592	€7,765
Medium (€20-50k)	9	6*	€497,632	€258,452	€43,075
Large (€51-100k)	8	4	€606,275	€258,956	€64,739
Total Strand 1	25		€1,174,194	€564,000	
Strand 1A - Large	1	1	€99,662	€92,007	
Total Strand 1a	1		€99,662	€92,007	

Map of location of various grant applicants – by grant size (Blue = Small, Orange = Medium, Red = Large, Purple = Strand 1a)



- Following the launch in Waterford in March 2023, the Community Climate Action Officer began meeting with community groups one-on-one to discuss the Community Climate Action Programme and their project ideas. In total the Community Climate Action Officer met with 59 community groups – a combination of MS Teams meeting, in-person site visits and phone calls.

- Many groups' (51%) initial interest in the Community Climate Action Programme was for energy related projects, with many needing to address the rising cost of their energy bills.
- The 17 projects that have been judged as being suitable for the funding have been sent to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, along with an extra project in the Small, Medium and Large category. The department will now go through the projects to check that they are happy with what has been put forward by WCCC.

Energy Improvement Projects

Work completed in February 2024	
Tramore Library	Heat pump installation completed, Oil heating system has been removed and building. Ceiling insulation and led lighting upgrades completed also.
Dog Pound	Attic & cavity wall insulation completed, heat pump installation completed. New windows and doors to be completed by late-March.
Tramore House, RDO	New smart storage heating installation, insulation upgrades, solar PV and sash windows upgrades.
PLEEP Progress	Survey nearing completion of Public Lighting, Design process to follow and new led installation in late 2024/2025

Environmental Education & Awareness



Green Flag Programme

Green-Schools promotes long-term, whole-school action for the environment Green-Schools with primary and secondary schools. There are 61 schools in Co. Waterford due to renew their Green Flag this year. 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 the 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. Schools

applying must first complete an assessment visit from the Environment Awareness Officer before submitting their renewal application. All Green Schools working on a flag for this current school year must receive a visit and submit an application by 15th March 2023. 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. This has meant lots of school visits have been taking place recently to meet with Green School Committees and talk to classes including the following:

Metropolitan Area – Waterpark National School, Presentation Secondary School, Newtown NS, Glor na Mara, Fenor NS, St Martins School and St. John of Gods.

Workshops

Community groups continue to request environmental talks. A waste segregation (recycling) and prevention workshop provides a demonstration of how to make reusable food wraps. This is a popular workshop and provides a practical means of demonstrating how simple it can be to reuse an item everyday instead of using single use items such as clingfilm or tinfoil. A recycling workshop took place with two groups at St Brigid's Family Resource Centre on 23rd February. This workshop explains what can and cannot be recycled and enables participants recycle correctly and to reduce their waste. It also provides tips and reasons behind living more sustainably.



The Environment Department is working with Createschool to offer five 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 two-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. All costs are covered by the Environment Department of Waterford City & County Council. An awards ceremony will take place in April for this.

Swap Event

The Environment Department worked with SLI's on a swap event at Ardkeen Library to host a free swap event on Saturday 24th February in Ardkeen Library from 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Up to five items in good condition could be brought along to swap for other items, including toys, books, gift sets, games, etc.

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. We also ensure the collection of any bags of litter after the clean-up takes place.

National Spring Clean Month

National Spring Clean will take place throughout the month of April. Registrations are now being taken at 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 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.



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland

NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY 2024-2030
- BRIEFING NOTE



The Waste Management Act 1996 requires Local Authorities to make a waste management plan either individually or collectively for their functional areas. In 2015 local authorities established three Regional Waste Management Planning Offices to develop and implement three regional waste management plans on their behalf. Following an evaluation, it was recommended that a single plan be prepared to replace the existing regional plans.

This Plan seeks to **influence** sustainable consumption and **prevent** the generation of waste, **improve** the capture of materials to **optimise** circularity and **enable** compliance with policy and legislation.

The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association National Oversight Group, have co-ordinated the preparation of this plan which is the first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.

CIRCULARITY
 “Keeping materials in use for longer”

The draft Plan was published for consultation from the 3rd May to the 5th July 2023 and all comments raised in the consultation have been considered in the process of the completion of this final Plan.

Ireland is moving away from the traditional linear ‘take-make-use-dispose’ model towards a ‘circular economy’ regenerative growth model where resources are reused or recycled as much as possible and the generation of waste is minimised. The transition to a circular economy is essential to reduce pressure on natural resources, aid in achieving climate targets, support Sustainable Development Goals and create sustainable growth and jobs.

The Circular Economy Act 2022 is supported by a wider circular policy base which establishes the framework for the national transition to a circular economy. This Plan has been prepared to support and supplement the wider policy base and includes specific targets, policies and actions to enable the waste and resource sector to meet the circularity challenge and accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

The role of the waste and resource sector is central to this national transition and the **National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy** (the ‘Plan’) provides a framework to support this strategy.

This Plan recognises Climate Change as a key driver for both behavioural change and improved waste management practices. The Plan will be evaluated annually for climate impact and annual work plans will be adapted to respond to the climate challenge.

The transition to a circular economy requires a collaborative national response across all sectors of the economy through the lifecycle of products and materials.

The content of this Plan has been created through extensive collaboration with key partners, stakeholders and the wider waste audience and the principle of co-ownership has been embedded into the responses to the challenges identified.

The Plan identifies key deliverables which will unlock the potential of all stakeholders to contribute to the transition to more sustainable practices. Responsibility for key deliverables has been allocated to the key partners for the delivery of waste policy namely the Local Authority Sector, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Collaboration will continue to be central to the implementation of the Plan and key deliverables have been included on organisation, engagement and monitoring to support this collaborative approach.

PLAN AMBITION
0%
TOTAL WASTE GROWTH

The ambition of this Plan is 0% total waste growth per person over the life of the Plan with an emphasis on non-household wastes including waste from commercial activities and the construction and demolition sector.

This ambition is underpinned with a comprehensive series of targets, policies, actions and a suite of key deliverables. Each of these Plan provisions has been devised to support achievement of the Plan ambition, respond to current and future challenges, and support the transition to a more circular economy with reduced climate impact.

INCREASE RECYCLING RATES

While the ambition of the Plan is to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, increasing recycling rates is also a key priority.

Ireland is currently on track to achieve many of the current European Union waste targets, however, significant challenges remain on the achievement of recycling targets. Performance targets are increasing, and the next generation of targets will present an additional significant challenge.

€40M
 The cost of the transition to circularity

The private waste sector in Ireland is valued at in excess of €1.4bn and provides employment for circa 10,000 people while total Local Authority expenditure on waste functions exceeds €280M annually and involves over 1700 people.

The scale of the financial and human commitment to the continuation of waste services is large and the transition to a circular economy will require an additional minimum investment of €40M by the State to achieve the desired outcomes over the lifetime of this Plan.

Additional resources will be required in key areas including communications, engagement, regulation and infrastructure to enable the local authority sector to make a meaningful contribution to the transition to a more circular society.

THIS PLAN IS PRESENTED IN FIVE VOLUMES AS FOLLOWS:

VOLUME I

Sets out the current situation including policy, the existing waste landscape and financial, human and market resources deployed. It also identifies the **key waste management challenges** facing the State.

VOLUME II

Sets out **the responses** to the waste management challenges identified including the Plan ambition, targets, policies and priority actions. Targeted policies and priority actions are identified for a range of focus areas chosen to align with the challenges.

VOLUME III

Sets out the **delivery roadmap** for the responses contained in Volume II and contains key deliverables required to enable the ambition, targets, policies, and actions identified.

VOLUME IV

Provides the **supporting information** for the Plan in a series of technical appendices.

VOLUME V

Contains the **Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement** and **Natura Impact Statement**.

PROGRESS

Significant progress has been made in the management of waste in Ireland and the previous Regional Waste Management Plans have provided a framework for these advances.

Challenges remain as the State seeks to transition to a more circular economy and this Plan provides a national framework which recognises the challenges, presents responses and sets out a roadmap for delivery over the next six years.

THIS PLAN IN NUMBERS:

1

Plan
Ambition

8

National
Targets

13

Core
Policies

16

Focus
Areas

74

Targeted
Policies

85

Priority
Actions

51

Key
Deliverables

This plan was made on the 22nd of February, 2024, and covers the period 2024 – 2030.



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