



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

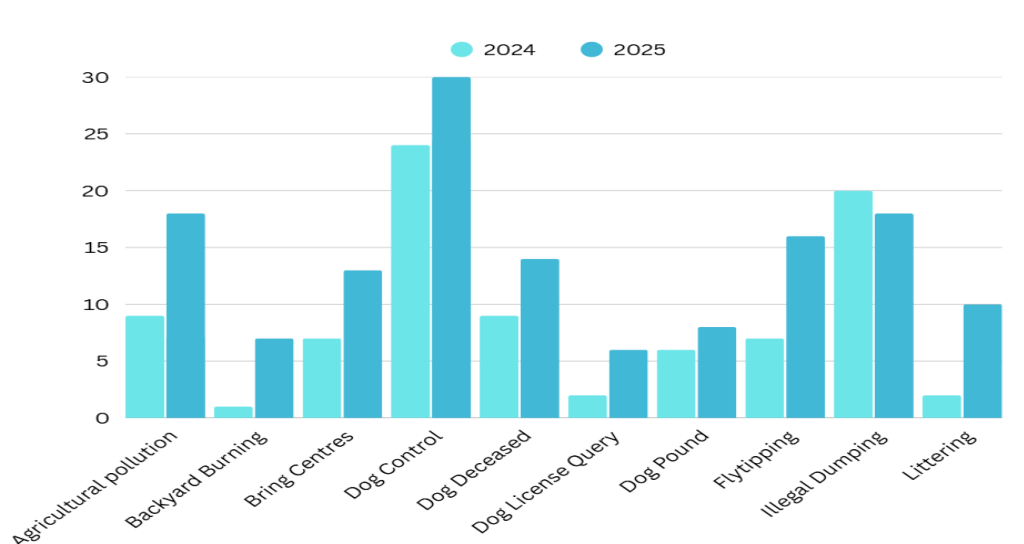
DO: GACH BALL DE CEANTAR BARDASACH AN CHOMARAIGH
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE COMERAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

BEALTAINÉ 2025
MAY 2025

CRM Activity

The following graph shows a comparison of the top categories of CRM cases recorded in the Comeragh area during the periods from 1 January, 2024 to 30 April, 2024 and from 1 January, 2025 to 30 April, 2025.



Changes to Environment Department Structures

Effective from 12th May 2025, the Parks, Open Spaces and cleansing teams for the City will transfer to the Metropolitan Municipal District Department, under the leadership of Paul Johnston. The Dungarvan Presentation & Cleansing team will transfer to the Dungarvan Roads section under the leadership of Gabriel Hynes.

The Environment Department will continue to lead on the areas of Waste, Air and Noise Pollution, Water Quality, Climate Action and Animal Control.

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.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Green Flag Programme

Green-Schools promotes long-term, whole-school action for the Environment with primary and secondary schools. Themes range from Litter & Waste to Climate to Biodiversity. 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 were 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. Successful schools will be awarded their Green Flag at an awards ceremony in Kilkenny in the middle of May. This event is always very popular with schools after all their hard work towards achieving this flag.

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. 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 bags of litter is then organised after the clean-up takes place. National Spring Clean took place throughout the month of April. Waterford City & County Council continues to facilitate clean-ups during the rest of the year.

Connecting Communities Roadshow

Environment Awareness is taking part in a Connecting Communities Roadshow around the county this spring. Environment's display will focus on food waste prevention. The most recent of these has taken place in Cappoquinn on 30th April, with the popular food waste prevention stand and an interview on WLR FM about the same on the day.

Waterford Food Festival & Waste Prevention

A cookery demonstration by Catherine Fulvio was funded to highlight the importance and simplicity of cooking to prevent food waste. This took place on the Saturday afternoon of the festival. The demonstration was busy, with a large group of people standing at the back of Currans Store on the quay to gather tips as the demonstration took place.

Rubbish Film Festival

The Environment Section is working with Createschool and 5 secondary schools in County Waterford on the Rubbish Film. The Rubbish Film Festival is an 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. All costs are covered by the Environment Section of Waterford City & County Council. A county awards ceremony will take place on 1st May for this and the winning schools will go forward to the national awards later this month.

Two small **grants** were awarded locally, with a wide range of projects being applied for under both grants:

1. Local Circular Economy Grant 2025: This grant is designed to encourage innovative local projects that embody principles of the circular economy—longevity, renewability, and minimal waste. The focus will be on projects that promote reusing, repairing, and changing the way we think about and consume resources. We are still in the process of confirming funding with successful

applicants for initiatives that extend the life of products through skills such as repair and maintenance, reducing the community's environmental footprint through upcycling projects, composting, etc.

2. Local Litter Awareness Grant: We are seeking submissions from community groups, youth groups, schools or other community development organisations, based in County Waterford, who are interested in receiving funding for public education and awareness initiatives regarding litter or graffiti. Examples of projects funded under this grant include local workshops with schools, dog fouling and roadside litter Awareness projects.

Biodiversity

Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy consultation is live for the month of May

In partnership with four other local authorities, WCCC is preparing an EV charging strategy to identify the areas of greatest need for chargers in the County and to establish the business plan for installing Neighbourhood EV charging. We are currently consulting with the Waterford public to see what they need and value when it comes to EV charging. The consultation [can be found here](#) and on the WCCC website. Neighbourhood refers to the chargers that might be needed on a street or community level. There will also be a network of charging along our major roadways where fast chargers will be provided at least every 60km. Neighbourhood chargers are for people to use once they've arrived at a destination or for local people who may not have driveways and cannot charge at their own home. The consultation closes on May 31st.

Biodiversity predraft consultation and Biodiversity Week events

The Biodiversity Action Plan predraft consultation will open in May. There will be display in Dungarvan and Waterford city libraries along with there being a link to the consultation on the Council website. Councillors will be sent a link once the consultation is live. As part of the promotion there will be several events such as a seashore safari in Dungarvan and various talks in our libraries. Some of these events are also being held as part of Biodiversity Week May 17th to 25th. Event listings can be [found here](#). The Biodiversity Officer has also started a pilot for school janitors with the National Biodiversity Data Centre, it is hoped that by engaging with the janitors there will be more space in schools managed for wildlife and spaces where children can learn outdoors. Finally, WCCC have been granted funding for 7 biodiversity projects such as the creation of dune restoration plans for Tramore and Bunmahon and an upland bird monitoring programme.

Collaborating with major employers in Waterford City to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions

In 2021, Waterford City and County Council (WCCC) was requested by the Government to select an area as our Decarbonising Zone—an area where innovative technologies, new working methods, and collaborations would be implemented to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. WCCC chose Waterford City as this Zone, initiating the effort to make it Ireland's first carbon-neutral city. To accomplish the goal of reducing emissions per person by 60% within the next 16 years, the council has developed the "Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality 2040," which aligns with national climate action objectives.

The Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality 2040 is a crucial document that requires periodic review and adjustment for effective implementation. As such, the council recognises that the support and collaboration of influential organisations and decision-makers are essential for creating a robust, viable, and achievable plan. To facilitate this, WCCC has established a steering group chaired by a Director of Service. This group includes representatives from the Waterford Chamber of Commerce, the Health Service Executive, SETU University, the

Southeast Energy Agency, the Industrial Development Authority (IDA), and the Port of Waterford. The members of the steering group will share their achievements, plans, best practices, methods, and key performance indicators (KPIs) for successful climate action within their organisations. This information will help shape and, if necessary, adjust the roadmap, with any changes being openly shared and subject to approval.