

## Environmental Awareness Newsletter

Spring Newsletter 2020

17<sup>th</sup> February 2020



### Upcoming notable dates

- **Global Recycling Day** happens on the 18th of March and asks people to think again about what is thrown away.
- **Green-Schools** renewal deadline is the 27<sup>th</sup> of March.
- **National Tree Week** 21st to 27th of March.
- **World Water Day** is on the 22nd of March.
- **Earth Hour** is 20:30 to 21:30, Saturday 28th of March.
- **National Spring Clean** takes place during the whole month of April.
- **Tidy Schools** application deadline is 3 April 2020
- **Earth Day** is 22 April 2020. The theme for this year's Earth Day is climate action!
- **Tidy Districts** application deadline is 29 May 2020



### Contact us

Do you have a query about an environmental outreach programme, waste prevention or do you have an event or story you would like to feature in the quarterly newsletter? Please contact Martha Casserly (Environmental Awareness Officer) or Niamh Moran (Environmental Schools Officer / AEAO). Email [EnvAware@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:EnvAware@dlrcoco.ie) or phone 01-2054700.

For all other general queries please contact our Civic Hub on 01-2054700 or email [info@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:info@dlrcoco.ie).

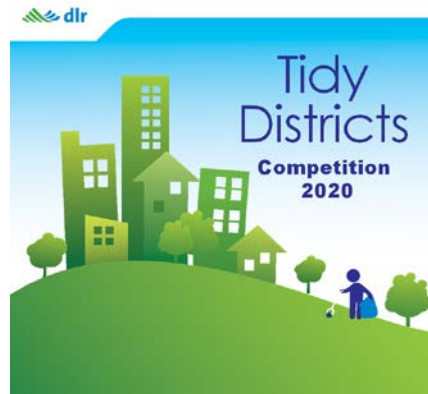
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### Tidy Districts Competition 2020

The Tidy Districts Competition will be launched in early March 2020.

While the competition is primarily an anti-litter and anti-graffiti competition, it has evolved over the years to also consider biodiversity, sustainability and climate change.

In addition to the main awards, the 2020 competition will include three optional categories; Climate Change Award, Waste Prevention Award (*new*) and Special Environmental Project Award (*new*).



The Tidy Districts Competition offers the Council an opportunity to recognise and reward the efforts made by residents' associations and tidy towns/district groups to enhance their local environment.

The application form will be available to download on the dlr website from early March. The closing date for receipt of applications will be 29 May 2020. Judging will occur in June and July.

### Tidy Schools Competition

Do you know a school that actively keep their area litter free? Please invite them to enter the Tidy Schools Competition.

Tidy Schools rewards schools for cleanliness, their anti-litter campaigns and biodiversity action projects. The closing date for the competition is 3 April 2020. Application forms can be downloaded directly from [www.dlrcoco.ie](http://www.dlrcoco.ie).



### Linking with your local school

We are fortunate to have outstanding schools within dlr that invest huge amounts of effort into improving their local environment, keeping it litter free and promoting sustainability.

The number of schools that have achieved at least one Green-Schools Flag continues to grow. Environmental Awareness now support over 110 schools on this programme within the County. If you would like to establish an environmental project with a local school and need assistance, please contact us.



## Environmental Awareness Spring Newsletter 2020

### 3 Tips to 'Green' Your Meetings

#### Keep it local

Supporting local suppliers not only supports local jobs but also reduces the amount of greenhouse gases created by transport. Choosing a local location for your event may also give attendees the option to walk or use public transport.

#### Water

Pitchers of tap water are a cost effective and environmentally friendly alternative to disposable bottles. Adding fruit to some of the pitchers can add a flavour-infused twist. Cucumbers, citrus fruits, melons and mint all add taste instantly! It is now possible to rent tanks of filtered tap water, cups and mobile water vans for larger events.

#### Eco-alternatives

Alternatives to single-use plastic cups, plates and cutlery are now widely available. If you hold many meetings, you may wish to invest in crockery or a set of reusable cups, plates and cutlery. If reusable is not an option, consider a more sustainable option such as compostable paper. The popularity of eco-alternatives continues to increase and are often competitively priced. Many retailers within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown now stock sustainable options.



REUSABLE CONTAINERS



REUSABLE COFFEE CUP



CLOTH SHOPPING BAG



GLASS JAR

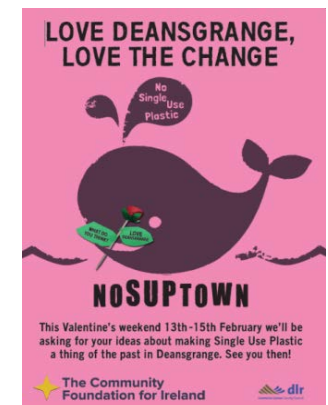


ZERO WASTE

### Pilot Project in Deansgrange

[NoSuptown](#) is an action group working with communities and businesses to reduce their single use plastic.

After successful projects in Dalkey, Dún Laoghaire and Sandyford, they are now starting a campaign in Deansgrange, supported by The Community Foundation for Ireland and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.



The NoSuptown campaign has been very successful to date, with 711 surveys completed over the launch weekend (13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Feb). The ideas gathered through the survey will help individuals and businesses to move towards more sustainable options. If you'd like to take part and for more information please visit [www.nosuptown.com](http://www.nosuptown.com).

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### 'End of life' vehicles

Do you have a car that has reached the end of its life? Are you looking to dispose of it?

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council can remove and dispose of 'end of life' vehicles.

This service is free of charge.

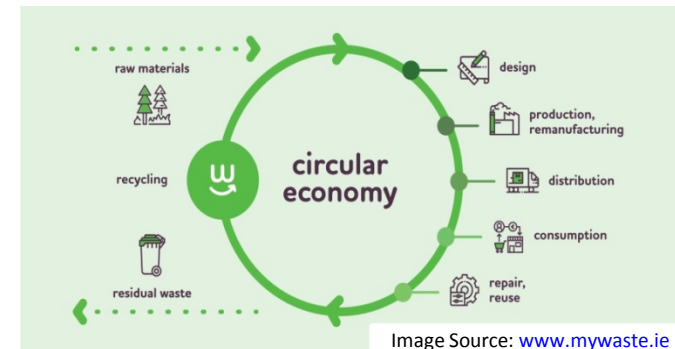
The disposal of end-of-life vehicles is controlled because they can pose a threat to the environment. This is largely because of the hazardous materials contained in vehicles such as acid batteries, lubricating oil, coolant, brake fluid and catalytic converters. Hazardous substances must be disposed of safely to prevent pollution.

Additionally, even old cars contain valuable metals and parts that can be reused, recycled and upcycled.

To arrange for your vehicle to be removed, or to report an abandoned car in your area, please contact the Council.



### The Circular Economy – Open Consultation



The Department for Communications, Climate Action and Environment are currently developing Ireland's Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.

A circular economy is an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and reducing the use of resources. It is about creating products that can have a long-life, products that can be renewed, reused, repaired, upgraded and refurbished to preserve precious natural resources, protect habitats and reduce pollution. This is a profound change in how we think about growth and economic development and will affect everything from product design to finance, from technology and innovation to public policy and the structure of society.

Consultation closes at 5pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of February. The consultation can be accessed by clicking [here](#).



## Environmental Awareness Spring Newsletter 2020

### dlr are taking Tree planting to the max this National Tree Week (21st to 27th of March)!

We are involving everyone in our Afforestation project in Fernhill Park during National Tree Week! Over the course of the week, we will plant 2,800 young trees to create our first woodland and tackle climate change.



We will be holding two sessions every day (10-1pm and 2-5pm) from Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of March.

If you would like to get involved, please email [Darren dcorcoran@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:Darren.dcorcoran@dlrcoco.ie). Please let Darren know which session you would like to book into and how many people will attend.

### Biodiversity Events



The Biodiversity Officer has a number of exciting workshops planned for 2020. Most of these events are suitable for the whole family!

The series of events kicks off this Saturday (22nd Feb) with Animal Tracking! For a full list of Biodiversity Events and to book a place, please click [here](#) or visit the dlr website.

### National Spring Clean

If you are organising a community clean-up this Spring and require support with equipment or bag collection, please contact the Civic Hub on 01-2054700. Ireland's nationwide anti-litter campaign and takes place during the whole month of April ([nationalspringclean.org](http://nationalspringclean.org)).



The Community Clean-up Scheme is available all year and can provide schools, Residents' Associations and Tidy Town/District groups with litter pickers, gloves and blue dlr branded bags. The Council will also collect the blue bags of litter following the event.

**To collect equipment**, please visit the Civic Hub at County Hall, Dún Laoghaire or our office in Dundrum.

**To organise a bag collection**, please notify the Civic Hub in advance of the event by calling 01 2054700 or emailing [info@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:info@dlrcoco.ie).

## Environmental Awareness Spring Newsletter 2020

### The Social Enterprise Development Fund is now open for applications!

Social Enterprises are businesses whose core objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact. Social Enterprises are often key drivers of new environmental solutions and technology. The Social Enterprise Development Fund is now accepting application for their various support programmes. For more information please click [here](#) or visit [www.socialinnovation.ie](http://www.socialinnovation.ie).

### Pre-Draft Consultation on the DLR County Development Plan 2022 - 2028

The process of reviewing the current Development Plan and preparing a new County Development Plan (CDP) has begun. This plan will shape the future growth of the County for the period of 2022–2028.



The Pre-Draft consultation process will run for eight weeks from Friday 3rd January 2020 to Friday 28th February 2020. [Read more here](#)

### The Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



The centre piece of the 2030 Agenda is the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 SDGs, cover policy areas such as: ending poverty, economic development, protection of the environment, access to health and education services, gender equality, peaceful societies and human rights

### Public Consultation - Cycling Route

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is seeking to introduce a cycle route on Carysfort Avenue from Stillorgan Park Road to Convent Road. Do you have an opinion, view or suggestion on the proposal, we would welcome your input. Please visit dlr Public Consultation Hub. [For details please click here](#). Deadline: 27th February 2020.

## Environmental Awareness Spring Newsletter 2020

### Interesting links

#### MyWaste

Mywaste is the new official guide to recycling and managing waste.

[www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)



#### All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Local communities can lead the way in creating an Ireland where pollinators can thrive.

[www.pollinators.ie/communities](http://www.pollinators.ie/communities)



#### The National Biodiversity Data Centre

This website contains a wealth of information on Irish fauna and flora. It also enables Citizen Science and asks users to report their sightings.

[www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)



#### Bord Bia Gardening Guides

Bord Bia cover all general topics including - When to Plant? Where to Plant? What to Plant?

[www.bordbia.ie/lifestyle/gardening/tips/](http://www.bordbia.ie/lifestyle/gardening/tips/)



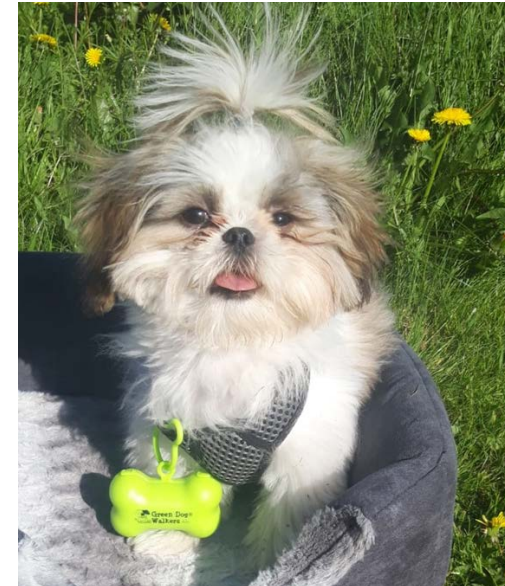
#### Bat Conservation Ireland

Bat Conservation Ireland (BCIreland) is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). They organise a wide range of events and now have a guide on gardening for bats.

[www.batconservationireland.org](http://www.batconservationireland.org)



### Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership



**Toby goes  
green for  
Spring!**

The Green Dog Walkers scheme aims to increase awareness of the problem of dog foul litter.

If you are running a community event and would like a supply of Green Dog Walkers leaflets and doggie bones, please contact the Council.