



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT EDITION

Science has confirmed, beyond any doubt, that our climate is changing. Tackling climate change is a significant challenge and local authorities are determined to play our part.

Our first Climate Change Action Plan, published in 2019 and we are currently working on our new plan which will help South Dublin County Council adapt and reduce our impact on climate change.

However, the Council recognises that we can't do this on our own. Engaging the citizens, businesses, and communities of South Dublin is vital – we all need to act.

The South Dublin Climate Team regularly works with schools, businesses, community groups and individuals across the county on projects and initiatives that will help bring about change.

The climate problem is complex and touches on so many aspects of our lives, that no one solution will be the answer.



New Fast Fashion Documentary

Since the mid-2000s fast fashion has changed the fashion industry. Where traditionally two collections were produced every year, today fashion companies produce 50-100 micro-seasons annually. Consumers have, so far, embraced this throw away culture, but do we really know what impact this is having on our world.

South Dublin County Council together with the other Dublin Local Authorities and the Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Office are developing a documentary to highlight the issues around fast fashion. Fast Fashion: The Reality, the Impact,

and the Solution is a short 20-minute documentary aimed at the men and women of all ages who buy fast fashion.

The documentary gives a uniquely Irish perspective and includes contributions from Carrie Ann Moran, Circular Fashion Ireland Consultant and Arran Murphy, who runs the Recover Fashion in the Rediscovery Centre.

This documentary aims to inform, educate and hopefully convince anyone who buys fast fashion to change their ways.

Fast Fashion: The Reality, the Impact and the Solution will be available shortly.



Community Climate Action Fund

While SDCC are working towards being carbon neutral in our operations by 2050, this represents only approximately 5% of the total contribution to climate change in the South Dublin area. Addressing the other 95% of impacts is critical to limiting the worst effects of climate change, while also acknowledging that we must adapt our communities to these effects now and into the future.

Based on the national Climate Conversations, which engaged with over 4,700 people, it was clear that citizens want to do more on climate and require the support to do so. In response, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications launched the Community Climate Action Programme.

South Dublin County Council has been allocated €1.07 million under the fund to support local communities of all sizes, to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a coherent way such that they contribute to our overall climate and energy targets.

To apply for the grant, community organisations must be a

not-for-profit organisation operational within the boundaries of South Dublin County and registered with the Public Participation Network or connected with other collectives such as the Wheel, Tidy Towns and/or be a community group with Articles of Association or a Constitution, which hold an AGM, and for which approved minutes are available.

A range of small, medium, and larger projects up to €100,000 will be funded under the following core themes:

- Home/energy
- Travel
- Food and waste
- Shopping and recycling
- Local climate and environmental action
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Applicants are not limited to selecting these project types however and are encouraged to explore innovative projects that meet the objectives outlined above.

We expect to launch the grant later in 2023 and more information on how to apply will be made available on our climate website www.southdublinclimate.ie. You can also contact us at climatechange@sdblincoco.ie.

Supporting Sustainable Energy Communities In Our County

South Dublin County Council is delighted to work with local Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in the county and now provides bridging finance to communities to support their preparation of Energy Master Plans (EMP). The bridging finance provided by the Council can be used to hire an energy consultant who will work with the community on their own local Energy Master Plan.

There are currently 11 registered SECs across South Dublin, and the Council is keen to attract more communities to join the network.

Each SEC is provided with an energy mentor to guide them through the three-step process of 'Learn-Plan-Do'. This planned approach is aimed at assisting local groups to become more energy-efficient, to explore renewable energy and consider smart energy solutions in their locality. Gavin Harte is the South Dublin SEC mentor, and he has a wealth of experience in working with communities to build their energy



knowledge and understanding. Gavin is delighted to be working closely with South Dublin County Council in order to help individual communities to move through the 'Learn-Plan-Do' process at their own pace.

Fionnghuala Ryan, Climate Change and Environmental Awareness Officer said "South Dublin County Council has an important role to play in mainstreaming climate action in the

county. By encouraging and demonstrating climate leadership and partnering with local communities, we will continue to support local commitment to making progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the County’.

The SEAI is the national co-ordinator for the Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) programme, which currently consists of over 600 communities across Ireland, who are interested in community energy. Under this network, groups of

people can come together to improve how energy is used for the benefit of their community. They look at how to use energy in a sustainable, holistic way. Energy communities often look at projects in homes, transport and local business. They also look at community buildings such as schools, community centres, and sports facilities. Further information on how to join the South Dublin Sustainable Energy Community network is available at: <https://www.codema.ie/sec>.

Climate Action Website



southdublinclimate.ie, a first for local authorities. The site is a place to showcase the climate action we are undertaking in the county. Whether it is reducing the causes of climate change, such as building a district heating network to reduce our use of fossil fuels, switching streetlights to LED bulbs which use far less electricity, or adapting ourselves to the impacts of climate change, such as building flood defence schemes to protect our infrastructure or increasing our tree cover to help on hotter days, the site has been created to let you find out what we are doing.

We also want to inspire climate action. As such, the website is also the place to find out what you can do to take action. There are larger actions you can consider such as insulating your home which will reduce your energy bills in the long term, but also many climate actions are available that don't require any financial outlay. For example, switching your journeys out of private cars to public or active transport is one that could even save you money. Changing your diet to one that is more plant based or reducing/eliminating your food waste is another. It is never too late to begin to take action.

Soon after launching the first iteration of the site in summer 2022, the climate team's attention turned to making improvements to the site. This project is at an advanced stage. The objective is to make the website more visually dynamic and increase its interactive elements. Development is underway on interactive maps and ways of showing our progress towards our targets and actions dynamically through dashboards, among other user improvements.

New Waste Plan Looking For Feedback

While considerable progress has been made in the management of waste in Ireland, there is still lots to do if we are to successfully move away from our current take-make-waste system to a more circular one which will see resources reused and recycled.

The National Waste Plan for a Circular Economy 2023-2029, which is Ireland's framework for the prevention and management of waste over the life of the plan, is currently out for public consultation.

The plan contains six national targets:

- 1% reduction in residual waste person/year
- 2% reduction in construction & demolition waste
- 90% of material in compliance
- 10kg reuse of materials per person per year
- 10 civic amenity sites providing reuse
- 3 collection schemes established to facilitate repair.

The plan wants to ensure that when a product reaches the end of its life, its materials are kept within the economy wherever possible. Products can be productively used again and again, thereby creating further value. By transitioning to a circular



economy, we can reduce pressure on our natural resources, help achieve climate targets, support the Sustainable Development Goals and create sustainable growth and jobs. The public consultation is open until July 5th 2023. Submissions or observations can be made online at www.mywaste.ie, by email to submissions@nationalwasteplan.ie or by post to the Lead Authorities.

To read National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2023-2029 click <https://www.mywaste.ie/national-waste-plan/>.

News in Brief

New Climate Action Plan

On 24th February 2023 Minister Eamon Ryan issued a formal instruction to all Local Authorities to deliver a statutory Climate Action Plan (CAP) within 12 months.

Work has already commenced on delivery of our CAP. The draft Climate Action Plan is scheduled to go on public consultation in September 2023.

Summer Climate Events At Ballyroan Library



GREEN '23 SUMMER EVENTS AT BALLYROAN LIBRARY

WE'LL BE RUNNING ECO THEMED EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE LOGO!

Booking on [eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie)

ULTIMATE UPCYCLING COMPETITION
TRANSFORM YOUR OLD CLOTHES, SMALL PIECES OF FURNITURE, BAGS ETC INTO SOMETHING TO TREASURE. TAKE A PHOTO BEFORE YOU START WORKING. BRING THE FINISHED ITEM WITH THE PHOTO AND DISPLAY IT AT THE LIBRARY.
JULY 1ST 2:00-4:00 PM

BOOK SWAP
CALLING ALL BOOK LOVERS! BRING UP TO 5 BOOKS, ANY AGE OR GENRE, IN GOOD CONDITION AND SWAP THEM FOR THE SAME NUMBER. DROP OFF BOOKS MONDAY EVENING OR TUESDAY BETWEEN 11:00AM AND 4:00PM AND COLLECT SWAP TOKENS. WE WILL RECYCLE BOOKS NOT SWAPPED.
JULY 18TH, 18:00-19:00PM

ADULT CLOTHES SWAP
BRING UP TO 3 ITEMS OF CLEAN ADULT CLOTHING, IN GOOD CONDITION AND SWAP THEM FOR THE SAME NUMBER OF ITEMS FROM 6:00PM-7:00PM. DROP OFF CLOTHES MONDAY EVENING OR TUESDAY BETWEEN 11:00AM AND 4:00PM AND COLLECT SWAP TOKENS. WE WILL RECYCLE ANY CLOTHES NOT SWAPPED.
AUG 22ND, 18:00-19:00PM

01 494 1900
ballyroan@sdblincoco.ie
www.southdublinlibraries.ie

South Dublin Libraries

Ballyroan Library are running a series of eco- events throughout July and August.

These events will help participants reduce their impact and maybe learn a new skill.

- July 1st 2pm - 4pm - Ultimate Upcycling Competition
Transform old clothes, small pieces of furniture, bags etc into something to treasure. To enter the competition, take a photo before you start working, bring the finished item with the photo and display it at the library.
- July 18th 6pm - 7pm - Book Swap
Bring up to 5 books in good condition and swap them. Books can be dropped off Monday evening or Tuesday between 11am and 4pm and collect swap tokens.
- August 22nd 6pm - 7pm – Adult Clothes Swap
Bring up to 3 items of clean adult clothes in good condition and swap them for the same number of items. Clothes can be dropped off Monday evening or Tuesday between 11am and 4pm and collect swap items.

To book a place on any of these events go to [ballyroanlibrary.eventbrite.ie](https://www.ballyroanlibrary.eventbrite.ie) . For more information call 01 4941900 or email ballyroan@sdblincoco.ie.

Heatwaves

World Weather Attribution Group analysis has estimated that there were more than 20,000 “excess” deaths across Europe in 2022 due to summer heatwaves. Temperatures in Dublin reached 33oC at the Phoenix Park in mid-July last year, while the thermostats tipped over 40C across the UK during the same time.

Already this year national temperature records for April were broken in Spain (38.8 oC) and Portugal (36.9 oC).

More extreme heatwaves are one of the expected changes resulting from climate change.

This newsletter will examine more closely some of the actions we are working on, keeping readers informed on what we are delivering and how we are delivering them.

To sign up to this newsletter email climatechange@sdblincoco.ie