



South Dublin County Council CLIMATE CHANGE NEWSLETTER

01/2021

ENERGY EDITION

Welcome to South Dublin County Council's new Climate Change Newsletter. This newsletter will keep you up to date on what your council is doing to tackle climate change. In 2019 South Dublin County Council published its first Climate Change Action Plan (2019 – 2024).

The plan has 4 key targets

40%
 reduction in the council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030

GHG

33%
 improvement in the council's energy efficiency by 2020

Make Dublin a climate-resilient region by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events

Actively engage and inform our citizens on climate change

Features 130 actions across six key areas

The actions of the plan are continually monitored and updated by the Climate Team working across all Council Departments.

A copy of the plan can be downloaded at <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/climate-change/2019-sdcc-climate-change-action-plan-final.pdf>.



SDCC presents the first Climate Action Progress Report



started and 1 action has been postponed due to Covid-19 safety operating procedures.

The main achievement presented was that SDCC surpassed its improvement in energy efficiency target of 33% by 2020, one year ahead of schedule, and that we are well placed to meet our 40% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030.

Achieving this milestone, is a significant feat, and is a result of a sustained effort across all departments within SDCC to manage energy and reduce waste. Our new energy improvement target is set at a 50% improvement (over the baseline figure) by 2030. Our progress towards this target is underway, and we will realise it through continued efficiency improvements to our buildings, our fleet and public lighting upgrades.

SDCC presented the first annual update of the Climate Change Action Plan to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in October 2020. The update gave an indication on the

progress being made on the 130 actions described in the Plan.

Of the 130 actions, 7 have been completed, 111 are ongoing, 11 have not yet

SDCC achieves 2020 Energy Target



Achieving a 33% improvement on energy efficiency by 2020 and a 40% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 are key actions of Climate Action Plan.

For the last four years Codema, on behalf of South Dublin County Council, carried out an annual review on the total amount of energy consumed by the council. The 2019 Energy Review concludes that SDCC has achieved a 34.4% improvement in Energy Efficiency since 2009, reaching our target one year ahead of schedule. In addition, SDCC has reduced CO2 emissions by 33.6% since 2009.

The Review also established that in 2019 South Dublin County Council consumed 47 GWH (Gigawatt Hours) of primary energy, resulting in 8,678 tonnes of CO2 being produced.

Electricity, our main source of energy, accounts for ¾ of our energy bill - carbon reductions were achieved by implementing a range of measures, including the installation of solar panels on County Hall.

The significant energy users that account for 80% of our consumption are;

- Public Lighting 44% - phase 1 of the Public Lighting upgrade (2014-2020) saw 9,689 55-watt SOX lights switched to LED units.
- Leisure Centres 15%
- Offices 12%
- Transport 9%
- Housing, Community & Miscellaneous 20%

The energy consumed amounted to 20.7 GWh, 3622 tonnes of CO2 and cost an estimated €1.3 million.



Tallaght District Heating Scheme

The Tallaght District Heating Scheme will use waste heat from a data centre in Tallaght to provide low carbon heat to public sector buildings (including County Hall), as well as 1400 nearby residential apartments and over 12000m2 of commercial buildings.

The Scheme, which will be the first of its in Ireland, will reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the South Dublin County area by 1900 tonnes per year.

The objective of the scheme is to de-

crease greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of fossil fuels for heating in the area in order to contribute to national level renewable energy, energy efficiency and CO2 targets and establish Tallaght as a leader in innovation in the area of climate change.

The Tallaght District Heating Scheme delivers a high level of innovation in the heating sector, with the Amazon data centre to be used to supply waste heat to heat nearby buildings, and will be the only such system in Ireland and the UK.

The scheme is a partnership between the Council and Codema and is partly funded by the European Union's Heat-Net NWE programme, a multi-million euro fund for schemes that reduce CO2 emissions in Europe's north-west, by €4.5 million from the Project Ireland 2040 Climate Action Fund and through direct funding from South Dublin County Council.

Home Energy Saving Kits

The Home Energy Saving Kits can help citizens identify areas in your home where energy improvements can be made.

South Dublin County Council, working in partnership with CO-DEMA, have made Home Energy Saving Kits available to the public through libraries throughout the County.

The kits encourage citizens to become more energy-aware and are available for the public to borrow free of charge from three of SDCC's libraries - County Library (Tallaght), Lucan Library and Ballyroan Library - with further expansion planned.

The kits contain six tools for householders to assess how energy-efficient their homes are. The scheme is the first of its kind in Ireland, and has had great success, having been used in over 1,000 homes across the country so far, as well as garnering awards and recognition, both nationally and at an EU level.



News In Brief

- SDCC has installed 9 water stations in high traffic public areas. To date more than 25,000 litres of water have been dispensed from the units eliminating the need for up to 50,000 plastic bottles. Water stations are located at Clondalkin Village, Griffeen Park, Lucan Village, Rathcoole, Rathfarnham Castle, Rua Red (Tallaght), Tymon Park North, Tymon Park South, Waterstown Park.
- In 2020 five South Dublin parks were awarded prestigious Green Flag awards. The award, which is established in more than 50 countries, rates the management of parks by local authorities across several criteria including conservation, sustainability, and community involvement.

The parks awarded Green Flags in 2020 were:

- o Waterstown Park
- o Tymon Park
- o Sean Walsh Park
- o Corkagh Park (photo below)
- o Rathfarnham Castle Park



- The SDCC Biodiversity Plan 2020-2026 is about to be published. The plan outlines a series of objectives and actions that aim to achieve the protection and enhancement of the County's biodiversity. The plan will be published on the Council website when published.
- Draft text for Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2020 was published by the Government in early October. The proposed legislation commits the Government to cutting carbon emissions by 7% per year from 2021-2030.
- In September the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications launched a new Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy. Find out more about the plan at <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/environment/topics/waste/waste-action-plan-for-a-circular-economy/Pages/default.aspx>.

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. If you would you like to receive a copy of this newsletter, please email climatechange@sdbulincoco.ie