



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EDITION

The most recent waste report from the Environmental Protection Agency found that in 2020 waste generated in Ireland increased to 16.2 million tonnes (3.25 tonnes per person).

This is unsustainable and a fundamental shift in how we manage waste needs to be introduced. As a society we need to change from our current linear (take, make, waste) system to a more circular one where resources are kept in use for longer.

The Resource Management chapter of our current Climate Change Action Plan highlights the importance of managing our resources to minimise and prevent the amount of waste we produce.



Update On Resource Management Action In The Climate Change Action Plan

In recent years the waste policy landscape has changed and in 2020 the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications published the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy. This new national policy moves the focus away from waste disposal management and sets out a roadmap for how we can embrace the circular economy.

While we pivot to a more circular economy, we need to ensure not only that waste is managed effectively but also that we reduce the amount of waste we produce, thereby

eliminating the need to manage it.

In South Dublin County Council, we continue to monitor and review the use of resources in our own operations. We also develop awareness campaigns for South Dublin communities to help them understand and enjoy the benefits of reducing waste.

Actions in the Resource Management chapter of our current Climate Change Action Plan were developed with the Waste Management Plan for the Eastern Midlands Region (2015-2021) in mind and highlight the need to prevent waste.

A key objective of this chapter of the plan is to empower the citizens of South Dublin to change their behaviour and reduce the amount of waste they are producing in their daily lives. We do this by running campaigns and events throughout the year which promote better resource management and highlight our impact on the climate.

Eco-Week is an important event in the annual calendar. The Environmental Awareness Office of South Dublin County Council works with environmental educators from across Ireland to engage schools in South Dublin on a range of environmental issues. Through Eco Week the Council offers schools around the county a fantastic opportunity to attend events, seminars, talks and workshops which will educate them on the environment and climate change and biodiversity, helping them to become part of the solution to

environmental issues.

As food waste is a major contributor of greenhouse gases, the local authority works with the EPA's Stop Food Waste programme to deliver campaigns throughout the year which promote the message to the citizens of South Dublin.

The local authority also plays an important role in managing the waste in the county. We manage waste facilities such as Ballymount Civic Amenity Site and the network of bottle banks in the public realm, ensuring that there is access to good recycling facilities for communities in South Dublin.

Installing water fountains in the public realm and supporting initiatives such as the Conscious Cup Campaign further demonstrates our commitment to reducing waste.

For updates on all Resource Management actions in the CCAP please visit the South Dublin Climate action website at www.southdublinclimate.ie.



Solar Photovoltaic Project At Arthurstown

As part of South Dublin County Council's commitment to climate action and its climate targets of a 51% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions and a 50% improvement in its energy efficiency, the Council is investigating the potential for a solar energy project at Arthurstown Landfill Site.

Arthurstown is a former landfill located outside Kill, Co. Kildare, which has been closed since 2013. The site still requires energy to treat the run-off from the previous landfill operation (currently the site is using approximately 365,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per year).

Phase 1 of the solar energy project is to generate a sufficient supply of renewable energy to reduce the energy imports to the site for the operation of the landfill aftercare stage. A second phase will maximise the potential of the site to deliver a commercially viable renewable energy project (in the region of 5 megawatts (MW)).

South Dublin, working with Codema (Dublin's energy agency), are assessing the feasibility of different solar photovoltaic (PV) options for the site. Technical analysis involves exploring different PV system sizes to support the aftercare treatment: 40 kilowatts (kW), 200kW, and 400kW. The merits of each system are assessed based on their respective energy generating capacity, the site's energy requirements, and the amount of emissions and external electricity imports that each PV system would avoid.

As PV takes its energy from the sun, it is a variable technology meaning it is not available on demand 24/7. Therefore, the analysis is also exploring battery storage and grid connection options, the latter of which would allow revenue to be generated from exporting any unused renewable electricity back to the national grid.

Ireland recently announced an increase to its national target for solar generation to 5.5 gigawatts. Projects such as this, if suitable, would not only contribute to the Council's climate targets but also our national targets.

The first phase of the project is currently in early design stage with a view to proceeding to planning, procurement of an energy supply company, final design and construction in 2023. The large-scale project will proceed to Feasibility Study Stage in Q1 2023, which will include a high level analysis of system design, grid connection, financing and risk assessment.

To keep updated on the project please visit our website, www.southdublinclimate.ie.

Landmark Circular Economy Act Comes Into Law

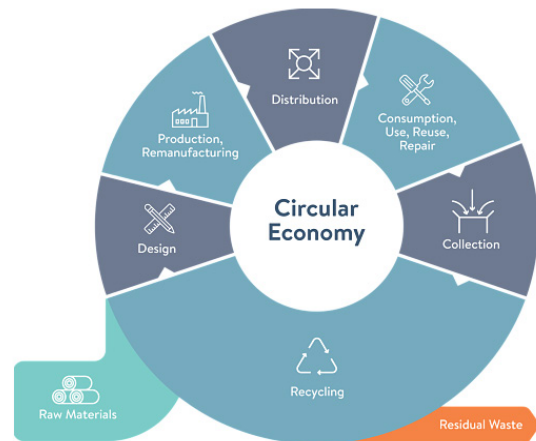
"In the circular economy system, we replace our current take, make, use and dispose system. Instead, we use less raw materials, we design products for long-life and recyclability, we share products or use them for longer, we reuse and repair things before we recycle or throw them away." EPA website.

The Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act was signed into law in 2022. The landmark Act, which received broad cross-party support, will see Ireland shift away from our current "take, make, waste" system to a more circular, sustainable pattern of production and consumption.

The circular economy will also play a key role in helping the country achieve our climate targets as a country.

The Act:

- makes provision for the introduction of regulations to prohibit the supply of single-use items which are a significant source of plastic pollution. Items such as single-use cups, containers, packaging, and plastic bags could be replaced by reusable and recyclable alternatives.
- makes provision for the introduction of a "latte levy" to reduce the amount of single-use coffee cups and to incentivise reusable alternatives.



- places the Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy 2022-2023 and the National Food Loss Prevention Roadmap on a statutory footing, establishing a legal requirement for Government to develop and periodically update these 2 policies.
- consolidates the government's policy of keeping fossil fuels in the ground – by introducing prohibitions on exploration for and extraction of coal, lignite and oil shale.

For more information on the Act gov.ie - [Landmark Circular Economy Act signed into law \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/landmark-circular-economy-act-signed-into-law/).

News in Brief

New Climate Grant Announced For Communities.

South Dublin County Council recently received news confirming funding for a new Community Climate Action Fund to support communities of all sizes to build low carbon communities in a considered and structured way.

South Dublin has been allocated €1.07 million under the fund and we will shortly be recruiting for a Community Climate Action Officer to manage the fund and work in partnership with communities across South Dublin.

We are expecting to launch the grant in early 2023 and more information on how to apply will be made available on our climate website www.southdublinclimate.ie.

Climate Action Plan 2023

The national Climate Action Plan 2023 was launched in December 2022. The plan implements the newly established economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.

Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2023 sets out actions to reduce overall national emissions by 51% by 2030 and reach net zero emissions no later than 2050. Click the following links to view the Plan Summary Document or the full Climate Action Plan 2023.

Website

The Council's dedicated website, www.southdublinclimate.ie, is the home of climate action in South Dublin. The site aims to provide comprehensive information on the status of the actions and projects that we are undertaking to address the climate crisis, as part of our Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024.

The site delivers advice on what citizens can do to take climate action, from day-to-day tips to longer term solutions. It is all about supporting climate action, reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, taking steps to adapt to the effects of climate change, while helping nature in the face of the biodiversity crisis.

As a key citizen engagement action, the next iteration of the site will launch soon, bringing a more dynamic, immersive experience.

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