

Environmental Awareness Newsletter

December Newsletter 2019

16th December 2019

Merry Christmas

From everyone here in the Litter and Environmental Awareness Section, we wish you and yours a very merry Christmas.



Notable dates

- Civic Amenity Recycling Centres opening hours will change over the holiday period (more information on page 2).
- Details of the dlr Environment Grant 2020 will be available in January. All applicants will be contacted directly.
- The public consultation on Waste Levies will close at 5pm on Friday 20 December 2019 (more information on page 3)
- Green-Schools renewal deadline is the 27th of March. Please contact us as soon as possible to arrange a visit.

Contact us

For queries relating to environmental outreach programmes please contact us directly by email EnvAware@dlrcoco.ie or call 01-2054700. Martha Casserly (Environmental Awareness Officer) and Niamh Moran (Environmental Schools Officer).

For general queries please call 01-2054700, email info@dlrcoco.ie or visit our Civic Hub in Dún Laoghaire or Dundrum.

Recycled Christmas Decoration Competition

Environmental Awareness recently invited all local primary schools to run a recycled Christmas decoration competition. Each school selected just one decoration, from hundreds of entries, to represent their school.

This year we had 42 School Champions in attendance at County Hall, on 11 December 2019, hoping to be crowned the Overall County Champion.

St. Gerard's Junior School were crowned the Recycled Christmas Decoration Champion at the 17th Annual Awards Ceremony. Their 'Rudolph' decoration was made from wood, pine cones, twigs, a bell and rope. Rudolph was not only a wonderful decoration but a great example of how to upcycle unwanted materials into a unique and thoughtful gift.



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Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas tree recycling will take place from Thursday 2nd - Sunday 12th January 2020 inclusive between 9.30am and 3.30pm at the following locations.



- Blackrock Park (Phoenix Terrace Entrance)
- Cabinteely Park Car Park
- Killiney Hill Car Park
- Marlay Park, Grange Road Car Park
- DLR Parks Depot, Sandyford Road (near Kilcross Estate)
- Shanganagh Recycling Centre Car Park
- West Pier Car Park, Dún Laoghaire

One Christmas tree per car will also be accepted free of charge at the Ballyogan Recycling Park for the month of January 2020, except on New Year's Day when the facility will be closed.

Christmas and New Year Recycling Arrangements

Ballyogan Recycling Park

- Tuesday 24th to Thursday 26th December 2019 Closed
- Friday 27th December 2019 Open 8:30am – 5:30pm
- Saturday 28th December 2019 Open 9:30am – 5:30pm
- Sunday 29th December 2019 Open 10:30am – 5:30pm
- Monday 30th - Tuesday 31st December 2019 Open 8:30am – 5:30pm
- Wednesday 1st January 2020 Closed
- Normal opening hours will apply from Thursday 2nd January 2020

Eden Park and Shanganagh Recycling Centres

- Tuesday 24th - Thursday 26th December 2019 Closed
- Friday 27th – Saturday 28th December 2019 Open 8:30am - 3.30pm
- Sunday 29th December 2019 Closed
- Monday 30th - Tuesday 31st December 2019 Open 8:30am – 4pm
- Wednesday 1st January 2020 Closed
- Normal opening hours will apply from Thursday 2nd January 2020

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From the mountains to the sea, let's keep dlr litter free!

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council are delighted to support voluntary clean-up initiatives by providing free litter pickers, gloves and blue dlr branded bags (subject to guidelines). We will collect the blue bags following the event. We also have a limited number of high-vis vests available and are currently awaiting an order of rings that hold bags open.



To collect equipment

- Please visit the Civic Hub at County Hall, Dún Laoghaire or our office in Dundrum to collect equipment.

To organise bag collection

- Once you have the date and location for your clean-up, please notify the Civic Hub by calling 01 2054700 or emailing info@dlrcoco.ie.
- To ensure an efficient collection, we kindly ask that you give as much notice as possible.

Consultation on Waste Levies

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment Richard Bruton T.D. announced a number of proposed environmental levies to encourage more sustainable behaviour, which will now be put out to consultation.

- An increase to the existing Plastic Bag Levy.
- Expanding the Plastic Bag levy to include medium weight plastic bags.
- A Waste Recovery Levy at €5 a tonne.
- An increase to the Landfill Levy by €5 per tonne to €80 per tonne
- A levy on disposable cups - the rate is to be determined following market research but likely to be 10c, 15c or 25c

Submissions may be made by email to environmental.levies@DCCAE.gov.ie

The public consultation will close at 5pm on Friday 20 December 2019. For more information please visit the DCCAE website [here](#).



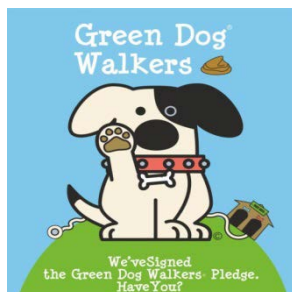
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Green Dog Walkers

The Green Dog Walkers scheme is a positive and pro-active way to encourage and support responsible dog ownership in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. It aims to increase awareness of the problem of dog fouling which is among the most anti-social forms of littering.

When you sign up to the scheme, we will send you a complimentary green dog walker "doggie bone" poop bag dispenser with a roll of bags. An application form can be downloaded from our website.

If you are running a community event and would like to distribute Green Dog Walkers leaflets and doggie bones, please contact Martha Casserly, Environmental Awareness Officer directly (EnvAware@dlrcoco.ie).



The Community Environment Action Fund (Local Agenda 21)

A total of €36,800 in funding has been awarded to local schools, educators and not-for-profit groups under the Community Environment Action Fund (Local Agenda 21) 2019 to 2020.

The Community Environment Action Fund furthers the objectives of the Local Agenda 21 action plan which was agreed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 (the "Earth Summit"). A total of twenty-nine projects will be supported.

Each of these local initiatives complements, at a local level, sustainable policies to prevent waste, tackle climate breakdown and enhance biodiversity. A wide variety of projects will be supported including school gardens, waste prevention, compost schemes, educational initiatives and school biodiversity projects.

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My Waste

Did you know that one million tonnes of food waste is produced in Ireland annually? That's enough food waste to fill Croke Park two and a half times! Preventing waste and recycling were possible really does make a difference. Positive choices can reduce climate impacts.

My Waste is Ireland's new official guide to managing waste. The MyWaste App and website have all the information you need to know about how to manage your waste responsibly, efficiently and in the way that suits you. Browse this site for ways to help you prevent waste, reuse and upcycle. For further information, please visit www.mywaste.ie



Sensationally Sustainable Christmas

Making small changes this festive period can have a big impact! This factsheet has some ideas to help you have a sensationally sustainable Christmas!

1. **SNUB- Say No to Unwanted Bags!**
2. **E(co) Cards** - e-cards can be a thoughtful virtual option.
3. **Think Local** –supporting local shops and locally made products will reduce the carbon footprint.
4. **Get crafty** - consider wrapping gifts inside a scarf, recycled paper, newspaper or a reusable gift bags.
5. **Deck the halls** – plastic tinsel can't be recycled. Wooden baubles, knitted ornaments and hand-crafted treasures can be reused year after year.
6. **Light up** – not all fairy lights are created equal. Opt for LED lights. LEDs last longer, use less electricity and don't generate heat.
7. **Party time** – invest in some reusable party accessories. Durable products may cost a little bit more but will save you money in the long term and create less waste.
8. **Creative cooking** - plan ahead to minimise waste. If you have leftovers, transform them into new recipes or share them with someone in need.
9. **When the party's over** – donate unwanted clothes and toys to charity. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Civic Amenity Sites and Bring Banks can take unwanted recyclable items. Visit the Council's website for details on where to drop off unwanted Christmas trees for responsible recycling.