

Dublin Region Environment SPCs Meeting

Follow-up Report

Date: 5th July 2017 | 4pm

Location: Dublin City Council, Wood Quay Venue

Aim: Update and Progress on Climate Change Action Plans

Attendees: Mary McCambley (Labour Party)
Angela O'Flynn Bury

DCC:
Naoise Ó Murí (Fine Gael)
Ciaran Cuffe (Green Party)
Claire Byrne (Green Party)
Robert Moss (PPN)
Robert Colleran (Dublin Docklands Business Forum)

SDCC:
Pamela Kearns (Labour; SPC Chairperson)
Enda Fanning (Sinn Féin)
Ed O'Brien (Fianna Fail)
Dominic Anderson (Sectoral rep IFA)

DLRCC:
Ossian Smyth (Green Party)
Alex White (Labour Party)
Seamus O'Neill
Sorcha Nic Cormaic
Elizabeth Swan Wick
Diarmud McAree (Sectoral Rep)

Officials:
Vincent Norton (DCC)
Ciaran McGoldrick (DCC)
Austin Baines (DLRCC)
Gilbert Power (FCC)
Teresa Walsh (SDCC)
Chris Galvin (SDCC)
Stephen Byrne (SDCC)

FCC:
David Healy (Green Party)
Paul Donnelly (Sinn Féin)
Seamus McGrath
Charles Sargent

Codema:
Gerry Wardell (Codema)
Sabrina Dekker (Codema)
Verena Brennan (Codema)

Presentations

- Welcome, introduction and MC by Vincent Norton, Executive Manager, Environment and Transport, Dublin City Council
- 'Codema's Focus on Climate Change' presentation by Gerry Wardell, Director of Codema
- 'Climate Action Plans' presentation by Sabrina Dekker, Climate Change Researcher of Codema
- '1st Climate Change Workshop' presentation by Verena Brennan, Energy Awareness Manager of Codema



OUTCOMES

- Move away from Diesel cars
- Building standards/ quality of life/ health & safety following fire in London's Grenfell Tower
- Joint workshop with members of SPC proposed
- Clear reduction targets are needed – what does the council control? Role of council to showcase/pioneer → communicating successes
- We should be aiming for higher targets in line with 40% reductions by 2030 as part of Covenant of Mayors
- Regular progress reports on climate change action needed
- Claire Byrne suggested public event in Oct e.g. in the Mansion House which would be open to all age groups
- David Healy proposed high public engagement at an early stage of the action plans, communicating via a dedicated website and social media
- City of Vancouver a good example for public engagement; however additional funding required to implement this
- Diarmuid McAree, Vice Chairman of a UN/ECE/ILO Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector and part of the SAGE (Shankill Action for a Green Earth) community group, highlighted the role of trees as the key to reducing CO₂ emissions and recited his recent initiative in Shankill, where the residents had planted xx trees for each citizen
- There needs to be a more permanent governance structure put in place and resources must be pooled more formally
- Link in with Tidy Towns to encourage tree planting, biodiversity and education on LEDS
- Electric car points should be mandatory
- We need a bottom-up approach to climate action and involve the children/ Green Schools
- Can we utilise unused land for additional tree planting to reduce flooding? Vacant site levy coming into effect
- Grey water recycling for municipal buildings
- Learnings should be taken from PURE Mile – an environmental initiative to protect uplands and rural environment
- Localised flooding can often be solved through local involvement of the community and awareness raising e.g. plastic bags obstructing overflow pipes
- Dundalk Blackrock Park is 50% managed by the community; Limerick Community Park another successful example
- Engagement with governmental departments needed
- LAs have increased responsibility in waste management
- Compliance is a big issue (e.g. illegal dumping, littering etc)

NEXT STEPS

- Send out report from 1st Climate Change workshop to SPC members
- Decide on next date and venue for SPC meeting
- Send out soft copy of existing *Draft Strategy for Climate Change*
- Provide date for joint workshop with DLA members
- Check possibility for public event with CEOs/budget/existing structures



