

SPC September 30, 2020

COVID Impacts on Climate Change Action Plan

COVID is changing the nature of responding to climate change in the city. It is providing an opportunity to implement changes to the city that will facilitate behavioural changes, for example the shift to active modes of travel.

Pedestrianisation trials were well received in August and new cycling infrastructure continues to be implemented. Additional work is being done to promote active travel in schools as part of the COVID Mobility Plan.

Another challenge is the movement of goods into the city and waste out of the city. Businesses, particularly those in food and beverage have adapted their service to a takeaway model with single use packaging. This has adverse consequences for waste services, with higher volumes of waste being disposed of in the public realm. During the lockdown, waste services has seen an increased in illegal dumping. Yet these services have continued to be provided.

There are plans to introduce segregated waste into the city in October, however, this will require adaptation due to social distancing.

There are lessons from the lockdown in March and April that will be applied as the situation evolves:

- DCC will ensure the continued availability of services and infrastructure – recycling banks / civic amenity sites / bring centres / waste collections by authorised collectors remain in operation. However, in instances where bins or amenity sites are full
 - DCC requests that public bring waste home with them, especially in public spaces and parks – “Leave no trace”
 - Do not leave waste at amenity sites as this will become a hazard, especially in the fall and winter.
- DCC is continuing to provide a full waste management service
- Communication regarding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) disposal- PPE should be disposed of properly and preferably in household waste but if not possible then always in a litter bin.
- DCC advises that if people are revisiting the idea of clear-outs or renovations to use permitted collectors for skips/ skip bags / waste disposal

Climate Action Team Updates

Progress has been made in relation to the development of an engagement strategy around the CCAP both internally and externally. The first phase of the engagement strategy is set to commence in October. This is primarily internal and will establish the basis for external work in 2021. .

The Climate Team has been supporting the Environment and Traffic Team with the programme for Bike Week, as this is an ongoing action in the CCAP, but also supports the work of the COVID Mobility Team.

The Climate Team has joined the DCC Creative Ireland team. We will be contributing and collaborating on various projects. There is a smaller project that will be looking at food and climate change.

The Climate Team is working on an application for the European Green Capital Award 2023. The application is at draft stage and will require approval from the Chief Executive and the Lord Mayor in order to be submitted.

The Climate Team and Smart Dublin are collaborating on several projects in relation to air quality and transport. A short research piece on shared mobility in Dublin is set to commence in October. Smart Dublin is exploring the potential of expanding the staff mobility hub to other council buildings.

Finally the first annual progress report is being drafted and will be presented to the SPC at its next meeting.