
Report on illegal dumping across Dublin City Council Administrative Area.

Illegal dumping in all forms has been an ongoing issue for many years and will unfortunately continue to be so going forward into the future. In attempting to address and manage the issue the City Council takes a comprehensive and wide ranging approach to the problem of illegal dumping in an attempt to mitigate or whenever possible eliminate the impact that illegal dumping has across society and the public perception of the City as a whole.

The Waste Management Department is at the forefront of dealing with the results of illegal dumping once it has taken place and routinely removes and cleans up all manner of illegal dumping materials. Household refuse in bags, bulky waste items and general fly tipping are all issues we have to respond to although by far the vast majority of illegal dumping consists of the illegal disposal of household waste in discarded bags across all areas of the City. It is particularly problematic in certain areas most notably the bag collection areas in and around the City.

There are a number of factors, which contribute to illegal dumping practices many of which are outside the remit of the City Council to resolve such as National and European legislation and policy around the environment and related issues.

However, in an attempt to address those issues which we can influence the City Council has adopted and implemented the following initiatives and strategies in order to remove and deter illegal dumping as much as possible.

Waste Management Department Operations:

In 2021 Waste Management Department received approximately 12,096 complaints of illegal dumping through our CRM reporting system. This is an overall reduction of 9% on the 13,289 reported in 2020. The 02nd, 3rd and 04th quarter of 2021 was significantly down on the same periods in 2020. The attached spreadsheet gives detailed numbers on a monthly basis of illegal dumping reports received throughout 2019, 2020 and 2021.

When an illegal dumping report is logged on our CRM reporting system by our customer services department or indeed any other section it is immediately and automatically channelled directly to the local area office who first determine if there may be a possibility of identifying the perpetrators of the illegal dumping. This is generally only possible in the case of dumped bags, which might conceivably contain materials, which would allow us to identify the source of the bag such as household bills etc. Unfortunately, due to increased public awareness, GDPR legislation and a general reluctance on the part of private households to dispose of personal information because of issues such as identity theft this is an increasingly fruitless exercise. It is the objective of the waste management department to respond to all such complaints within a 24h period from having received the report.

Facilities:

The City Council provides access to 84 bottle banks, 9 Bring Centres, 46 textile banks and 2 x Civic Amenity Sites located across the City to enable and encourage citizens to dispose of their waste in a responsible and legal manner.

Initiatives:

The City Council continues to promote and develop projects under the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Anti-Dumping Initiative in addition to developing awareness campaigns and litter education and awareness programmes.

Some of the Anti-Dumping Initiatives undertaken in 2021 include:

- Darndale Biodiversity project
- Mattress and WEEE Amnesty Dublin North West Area
- Cherry Orchard Reclaim to Graze
- Reclaim the Space, Richmond Hill Lane
- Clearing of Altona Laneway, to support access to the back of property for wheelchair user and to improve the general area/prevent illegal dumping at this blackspot Mattress Amnesty, Dublin 12

Enforcement:

Illegal dumping is dealt with in the Litter Management Plan 2020-2022 under the pillar of enforcement. This provides for:

Concentrating enforcement resources to areas where illegal dumping is prevalent

The use of CRM mapping to identify and target specific locations

Requirement for all households to have a waste collection provider

Use of CCTV and other surveillance methods in illegal dumping blackspots to act as a deterrent. At present CCTV cameras are in place at 7 bottle and clothes banks in the city. These cameras act as a deterrent and can be moved from site to site when necessary.

Education:

The City Council is the only Local Authority with a dedicated Green Schools Officer. This officer works in conjunction with An Taisce in delivering the Green Flag Schools program to 273 secondary and primary schools in our Administrative Area. In 2021 this officer visited approximately 80 schools to deliver an environmental educational awareness programme to children of all ages. In 2022 it is proposed to include the presence of a Litter Warden along with the green schools officer on school visits in order to reinforce the importance of proper disposal of waste at an early age. Additional schools programs such as Picker Pals, Relove Fashion, and Composting for Schools are all designed to promote environmental awareness and encourage responsible waste management and disposal.

Online Residential Household Bulky Waste Collection Service:

The City Council offers a highly subsidised online residential household bulky waste collection service at a cost of approximately €180,000.00 per year, which is widely used and accessible to all areas under the responsibility of the City Council. At present approximately 3000 households per year would avail of this service facility for a nominal fee.

Community Engagement:

Increased community participation is considered essential in tackling and quickly resolving illegal dumping issues. In 2021, the Waste Management Department in co-operation with local area offices and local residents provided in excess of 5000 community clean-ups.

In order to encourage greater participation in such clean-ups we provide necessary supplies such as bags and/or litter pickers and the subsequent removal of all collected materials after the community clean –up is complete.

Future Planning:

Today's linear economic model, based around 'Take – Make – Waste', is environmentally and economically unsustainable. The Programme for Government acknowledges this and recognises that Ireland needs to establish a circular economy to help achieve our climate ambitions.

The 2020 Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy reconfirmed the link between the circular economy and climate action and mandates a whole-of-government approach to ensure a successful transition to a circular economy.

The recently published Circular Economy Strategy provides a national policy framework for Ireland's transition to a circular economy. The Circular Economy Bill 2021 introduces a range of legislative measures which give effect to and underpin national policy.

Finally the Local Government Sectors National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy to be published later in 2022 will provide a framework at a local level to deliver national policy. The Plan will also set targets for prevention, reuse and reduction in contamination.

Eithne Gibbons

Head of Waste Management Services

20th January 2022.

Performance Standard	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Q. 1 Total	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Q. 2 Total	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Q. 3 Total	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Q. 4 Total	2021 Total
Total no. of reports of illegal dumping received in the period	2610	933	1246	4789	1082	693	781	2556	836	855	832	2523	831	748	649	2228	12096
No. of tonnes of illegally dumped household waste removed by the City Council in the period	178.14	267.66	289.06	734.86	325.04	287.68	371.02	983.74	338.09	293.64	239.96	871.69	256.94	251.94	199.2	708.08	3298.37
Cost of removal for the period, including labour, fleet and disposal	€70,344.40	€74,999.40	€76,112.24	€221,456.04	€77,984.20	€76,040.48	€80,374.28	€234,398.96	€78,611.80	€76,350.24	€73,559.04	€228,521.08	€74,622.62	€74,182.00	€71,439.52	€220,244.14	€904,620.22

Performance Standard	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Q. 1 Total	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Q. 2 Total	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Q. 3 Total	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Q. 4 Total	2020 Total
Total no. of reports of illegal dumping received in the period	1295	660	1026	2981	1491	1270	1409	4170	1436	1054	976	3466	880	1019	773	2672	13289
No. of tonnes of illegally dumped household waste removed by the City Council in the period	271.98	260.12	173.64	705.74	260.54	241.18	437.52	939.24	242.66	137.4	225.52	605.58	341.12	367.08	256.76	964.96	3215.52
Cost of removal for the period, including labour, fleet and disposal	€91,430.32	€86,588.44	€83,666.97	€261,685.73	€81,769.12	€85,589.54	€95,798.72	€263,157.38	€85,652.48	€80,192.48	€60,841.60	€226,686.56	€78,807.92	€80,169.28	€74,432.64	€233,409.84	€984,939.51

Performance Standard	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Q.1 Total	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Q.2 Total	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Q.3 Total	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Q.4 Total	2019 Total
Total no. of reports of illegal dumping received in the period	1135	761	803	2699	860	866	887	2613	1111	866	808	2785	856	951	959	2766	10863
No. of tonnes of illegally dumped household waste removed by the City Council in the period	367.48	328.45	320.24	1016.17	395.88	367.64	803.72	1567.24	374.46	325.57	211.18	911.21	296.45	299.48	339.64	935.57	4430.19
Cost of removal for the period, including labour, fleet and disposal	€101,025.71	€98,405.55	€97,853.49	€297,284.75	€103,066.41	€101,379.86	€96,808.08	€301,254.35	€99,657.10	€99,464.72	€89,500.93	€288,622.75	€88,609.37	€89,376.61	€93,488.40	€271,474.38	€1,158,636.23