

Minutes of the Climate Action Subcommittee Meeting held on 15th March 2021, Via MS Teams

In attendance:

Liam Bergin	Cllr. Claire Byrne
Sabrina Dekker	Cllr. Joe Costello
James Nolan	Cliona Kelliher
Michael Goan	Joanne Rourke
Robert Moss	

Meeting began with introduction from Liam Bergin who was welcomed by Cllr. Byrne.

Introductions from members to bring Liam up to speed

Minutes proposed by Cllr. Costello

Seconded by Cllr. Byrne

Matters arising:

Climate Bill - update from CB, 78 amendments pre-legislative scrutiny. Should go to cabinet in the next week or two.

To be sent to this committee once it is approved.

New Climate Action Plan consultation launched also and revising 2019 plan.

Robert Moss introduced himself.

Presentation from Joanne re resources - summary

3 Regional Waste Management Offices but collaboration means a similarity between plans and a national approach is taken also.

45% of emissions come from the way we use materials and the way we use land.

Research by the Ellen McArthur Foundation - 5 most important materials in this regard are

Cement, Aluminium, Steel, Plastics, Food

Food waste = methane which is a very potent gas in terms of emissions.

Plastics - breakdown means release of CO₂.

Political, societal and economic complexity of material use.

Circular economy - alternative to current model.

Less materials coming in and less going out.

Regenerating natural systems.

Change of mindset is part of the process of introducing a circular economy

Economic development office and collaboration with DCC around circular economy. (MODUS).

Interest in being partners in research within this arena. Green Deal/Horizon Projects.

Modus - co-creation with top consultants in the area. €75 cost is very reasonable and the course is innovative.

Just 25% of businesses had heard of the circular economy - survey in 2018.

Sustainable Packaging event as part of business week.

Circular Economy Mentoring and Innovation Award

Brown bin using is only at 50% of optimum so campaign to encourage people to use brown bin is underway.

Particular issue is apartments and segregation of waste. Recommendations have been issued in relation to this. One of the easiest way to get people to use brown bin is to get them to use a caddy.

Commercial waste campaign - a suite of assets including posters, bin stickers, training videos etc.

Reuse month and Conscious Cup Campaign - domino effect with one environmental action.

Conscious cutlery campaign put on hold for the moment.

M.A. in Product Design for the Circular Economy - Elaine Butler from blog 'Living lightly in Ireland' created a modular sofa that can grow with the family, as well as recommendations re behaviour change.

DCC Staff Covid/Climate Change Survey - reports to be sent to Liam.

Question from Robert - waste management should provide biodegradable bag liners,

Q. Are waste management willing to provide bag liners?

A. It would make sense for waste management companies to provide them. Also costs for DCC would be large. If liners are provided, control over liners is easier. Policy would have to be Dept. led in conjunction with LAs and Regional Waste. All waste providers would need to be on the same page. Panda engaged well on that process.

Q. Plastic waste - what capacity do we have in Ireland to recycle plastic or is it all being sent abroad?
Technical side of the house - we are possibly not exporting as much as we did.

A. Talk to trans frontier shipping office about that. (Re volumes, etc.) Email address -
nationaltfs@dublincity.ie

Q. Rainwater harvesting for apartment complexes? Would EMWR be interested?

A. (out of remit of EMWR as it is water but a study would be good and useful - suggestion to talk to
Water dept. and engineers there)

Question from Cllr. Costello

Q. Do we have further info on committee re remunicipalisation of waste - **update for next meeting
(action)**

What progress can be made on food waste in areas where bags are being used?

How to tackle the single use cups in cafés in Dublin. Much greater problem within pandemic scenario.

A. Brown bin liners are key. Bags and food waste in the city centre is a big issue

Locked caddies used in London - quite a successful campaign for apartments/houses with no brown bin
collection.

Communication around food waste prevention.

Re comment on Textiles - textile target coming in from EU. Textiles will not be allowed in main waste
bin. It will have to be done in consultation with charity shops

Resource centre do a lot of training re repair, etc. Millennials downwards are 'thriftig'. There are a few
platforms out there to share clothes. Clothes swapping can be promoted.

Liam shared link re bye-laws -

<https://councilmeetings.dublincity.ie/documents/s27108/Dublin%20City%20Council%20Waste%20Bye%20Laws%202018.pdf>

No specific legislation re separation of waste - consultation happened on domestic waste in 2018.

Brief doc - apartment blocks are mentioned. Houses fronting on to the pavement is another issue.

Providing bin liners is not currently within the bye-laws to prevent competitive advantage.

Amending a bye-law is the same as making a bye-law

A review might be on the cards - onerous task but reviewing bye-laws might be timely.

Cause for reviewing in 2022?

Covid was a major hit in terms of recycling. We are a small stakeholder so it is cheaper scale wise to
outsource.

We don't have a large waste industry so we work in collaboration with other jurisdictions

China dramatically reduced the amount of plastic they were taking in so we are still adjusting to global events.

Liam is not aware of anywhere in Ireland who recycle plastic.

Waste to energy - biofuels to be made out of plastics. Lengthy regulatory procedure.

Rainwater harvesting is something we are very conscious of - SUDS - DCC are engaging in a consultation on how drainage is managed. Project lead has just been appointed in relation to that. (Adrian Conway).

SPC - re remunicipalisation.

We have regressed in a lot of ways due to Covid.

We haven't been great at enforcing EU directives around food waste.

CB - looking at reforming bye-laws now.

Sabrina

Comhairle Climate Conversation happening Thursday.

Eat the Streets - soft launch Monday - focused on food waste and reducing what gets into the bin. We have just finished filming the recipes.

Highlighting - don't throw food in the bin.

One recipe is focused on using leftovers.

Social farming/Urban Farming - engagement with suppliers/producers/growers.

We are asking chefs to do blogs on fermenting/pickling etc.

Focus groups - aim to do more with outdoor groups.

2nd Creative Ireland has happened - also climate related.

Question from JC - festival every year, streets are closed off, etc. Remote festival to possibly happen this year. Could Eat the Streets be connected in some way with this?

Talk to Sabrina separately re specifics on this.

Sabrina - offline piece is self-guided.

Q. from CB - training staff - how is that progressing?

Development Plan deferred until next meeting.

SPC reports will focus on resource management

A.O.B -



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Joe - recovery and resilience fund - update for SPC (climate change aspect).

CB to follow up on this

Robert - is it possible to get Adrian Conway's contact details?

LB mentioned that is unsure where Adrian has an office currently but will update as progress is made.

Consultation process will take place also.

Cllr. Claire Byrne

Chair, Climate Action Sub Committee