

**Kilkenny County Council's
Environmental Education & Awareness Strategy 2021**



Waste

Litter



Climate Change

Biodiversity



Sustainable
Development Goals

Waste

Kilkenny County Council as part of the Southern Waste Region has a strategic vision to rethink our approach to manage waste by viewing waste streams as valuable material resources, leading to a healthier environment and sustainable commercial opportunity for our economy. It is a priority of Kilkenny County Council to meet the objectives of the Southern Waste Management Plan 2015-2021.

Strategy Objectives

- Promote the waste hierarchy and collaborate with the Southern Waste Region
- Educate on waste prevention and waste segregation
- Encourage and support the recovery, repair & reuse of waste
- Train, network & collaborate to implement waste prevention and re-use projects
- Promote the Kilkenny County Council Green Charter to encourage festivals, community events and venues to improve their environmental performance

Actions 2021

1. Continue to collaborate with the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) and develop waste prevention projects.
2. Promote and update the repair platform www.repairmystuff.ie. The concept originated as a county Repair Directory in Kilkenny and was duplicated by other Councils which led to its eventual transfer to an online platform by Monaghan County Council.
3. Assist public venues to improve their environmental performance.
4. Continue to support the green school programme by virtual school visits and provide supports and suggestions to environmental online resources.

Collaborative Partners; Regional Waste Office, CIT, EPA, LAPN, Schools, Communities, Dunmore Recycling Centre

Litter

The Council's Litter Management Plan will be replaced in 2021. Strong emphasises will be on waste enforcement regulations and the requirement to eliminate litter pollution in collaboration with local communities.

Strategy Objectives

- Increase awareness of the problems associated with litter and dog fouling
- Support youth education via the Green Schools programme and collaborations with other partners
- Work in partnership with local community organisations i.e. Tidy Towns groups
- Encourage the public to report of illegal dumping that occur on public lands
- Collaborate with other Local Authorities on litter themed campaigns

Actions 2021

1. Execute a new dog fouling information campaign in collaboration with Carlow, Wexford and Waterford Local Authorities
2. Complete community initiatives on dog fouling in tandem with the roll out of the regional dog fouling campaign
3. Assist the enforcement team to roll out an anti-dumping campaign with the assets produced by the regional waste office in late 2020
4. Advance the feasibility study of completing an All County Clean Up Day Initiative
5. Support the roll out of the National Spring Clean focusing on individuals and family unit in 2021
6. Support tidy towns entrants via the Tidy Towns Forum, encourage new participants and highlight funding streams available.
7. Complete a community mural, to celebrate biodiversity outside of Kilkenny City.



Collaborative Partners; Other Councils, Tidy Town groups, community groups, schools, An Taisce, area offices and waste enforcement staff.

Climate Change

Climate change is recognized as the most serious and threatening global environmental problem. Kilkenny County Council is committed to reducing its energy consumption and adopted its Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in 2019 listing 151 actions.

Strategy Objectives

- Assist with the implementation of Kilkenny's Climate Change Adaption Strategy
- Facilitate educational opportunities for climate change workshops to promote better understanding of how to reduce emissions
- Collaborate with the Councils Energy Team to achieve targets and raise awareness of their activities
- Collaborate with interested parties to submit funding proposals to support climate change community projects

Actions 2020

1. Review Adaption Strategy actions and ensure all actions associated to the EAO are completed
2. Promote plastic prevention campaigns, including primary school lesson plans, work with City Hall to encourage the installation of two water fonts, promote refill.ie map.
3. Become a Climate Change Ambassador by completing An Taisce's "CCA" programme.
4. Provide training to Tidy Towns, Development Associations and individuals on sustainable gardening, basic GIY skills and greener cleaning skills.
5. Collaborate with interested groups on funding proposals who have projects that promote climate change within a community setting.

Collaborative Partners; Other Councils, Tidy Town Groups, community groups, schools, An Taisce, Climate Change Co-ordinator, CARO, 3CEA, An Taisce, Education facilities, and local libraries

Biodiversity

Kilkenny County Council is a proud partner of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, therefore work with schools and community groups through funding opportunities &/or



green schools always present opportunities to advise groups about biodiversity and highlight the relevant assistance available to them.

Collaborative Partners; Heritage Officer, Biodiversity Data Centre, Tidy Towns and Community Groups, Schools

Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.



There are three goals which have particular relevance to the Environmental Education & Awareness Strategy 2020

- No. 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities
- No. 12 Responsible Consumption Production
- No. 13 Climate Action



The SDG's act like an umbrella overarching this strategy and the relevant goals will be highlighted publicly in line with the Department of Communication, Climate Action and

Environment request to raise the SDG's profile on a local level when a relevant project or initiative is being undertaken as part of the Environmental Education & Awareness Strategy.