

DUBLIN 15 COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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A Chara

On behalf of DUBLIN 15 COMMUNITY COUNCIL I wish to make the following submission on the Dublin Regional Waste management Plan.

General

We believe the proposed development is a gross over development of the site, and should be amended or refused. Our specific concerns are as follows:-

1. Bin size for collection of general household waste (black bin).
2. Frequency of collection of recyclable waste (green bin).
3. Implementation date for collection of compostable waste (brown bin).
4. Collection times & regulations on bins available for collection.
5. Collection of bulky household waste.
6. Domestic hazardous waste collection.
7. Collection facilities for Christmas trees.
8. Clean up of bonfire sites.
9. Destination of recyclable waste.
10. Location of waste disposal sites in Dublin 15.
11. Storage space in new developments for 3 or more full sized bins.

1. Bin size for collection of general household waste (black bin).
As recycling rates improve many families find that they need to put out the regular waste (black bin) every 3rd or 4th week. Fingal county council has a reduced charge for the smaller bin (€2.50 vrs €5 for a standard bin size). The feedback we have received is that many households would prefer to use the smaller bin size and have their waste collected more frequently. Unfortunately many people are discouraged by this as they incur an additional charge to replace the bin, we believe that high recycling / low general bin use should be encouraged by the local authorities replacing the standard bins with a smaller bin size free of charge.
2. Frequency of collection of recyclable waste (green bin).
The green bins are collected generally on a monthly basis, (sometimes longer intervals). As recycling rates have increased, many people have difficulty in fitting all their monthly recyclable waste into a standard bin, we believe that the frequency of this collection should increase. We recommend that the frequency is increased to 3 week interval, and the situation monitored.
At Christmas time, the amount of packaging waste increases significantly, we believe that collection frequency needs to increase at this time of year.
3. Implementation date for collection of compostable waste (brown bin).
The slow roll out of the collection of compostable waste (brown bin) is frustrating. Planning permission exists for ~ 2 years for a compostable facility in the Dublin 15 area, yet there appears to be no implementation date for this service. When is this going to happen?
4. Collection times & regulations on bins available for collection.
The collection time for some residents is early in the morning, however local authority bye laws prevent the bins being left out for collection the previous evening. This causes hardship for many people, particularly elderly or the disabled. We believe that these bye laws should be reviewed, and relaxed in certain areas. There is an obvious concern that anti social activities may result in litter from bins tipped over.
5. Collection of bulky household waste.
The elimination of the yearly bulky household collection causes hardship in socially disadvantaged areas. Where this service is provided (i.e in Fingal) it is expensive (€5 per item, max of 4 items). In affluent areas, old household items like furniture have a residual value that means they can be recycled through newspapers like the “buy & sell”, however in socially disadvantaged areas often there is little residual value to the household waste.
6. Domestic hazardous waste collection.
This is an area that is neglected by the Dublin local authorities, where the only option for residents is to dispose of domestic hazardous waste in the black bin. The residents are often unaware that dry batteries, paint, cleaning agents, old medicines etc. are hazardous waste. There is no public awareness campaign or effort by the local authorities to segregate or separately dispose of domestic hazardous waste. To achieve realistic separation of domestic hazardous waste, the collections of this waste needs to be free to the resident. An example of how this is effectively collected in North Kildare is where local companies sponsor domestic hazardous waste collection.

7. Collection facilities for Christmas trees.
Local authorities provide a free collection service for Christmas trees in January, this is effectively recycled into mulch for public parks. The problem that many residents have is that the collections is not managed by the local authorities, and are regularly and repeatedly set on fire by vandals. The collection of the trees needs to be actively managed by local authorities to prevent the arson and damage to public open spaces and adjacent properties.
8. Clean up of bonfire sites.
The lighting of bonfires at Halloween and at Christmas trees collection sites damages public open spaces and adjacent properties. The local authorities should publish a contact 'phone number for residents and a "snatch squad" to collect bonfire material.
9. Destination of recyclable waste
There is concern that when residents go to the effort of separating their waste at source, it is disheartening to hear media reports of recycle waste being disposed of in landfill, either in Ireland or in other countries. There needs to be an active monitoring to ensure that the waste is actually recycled, actual performance (showing the % actually re-cycled) should be published yearly to instill confidence that the separation at source is worthwhile.
10. Location of waste disposal sites in Dublin 15
As noted above, when planning permission was applied for a Waste Materials Recovery Facility and Biowaste Treatment facility in Dublin 15 (F02A/1474 Celtic Waste Limited The Millennium Business Park, Cappagh Road,) there was no objection or appeal by the Dublin 15 Community Council. We believe that as a community we have absorbed our share of the waste management infrastructure for the Dublin reigon. We will resolutly oppose any municiple incinerator or landfill proposed for the Dublin 15 area.
11. Storage space in new developments for 3 or more full sized bins.
The planning environment for new developments has changed significantly over the last 10 years, new developments have changed from a low density outer suburban environment with front and rear gardens as standard, to a higher density where gardens are no longer the norm. At the same time we have moved to a situation where each housing unit is expected to have room for a 3 full sized wheelie bins (black/ green/ brown). In addition residents are expected to collect glass and plastics to transport to a "bring centre".
Bye laws are needed to ensure that all new residential developments include space for all these bins & waste collection infrastructure. It is evident from the construction of new residential developments in Dublin 15 that only 1 bin space is provided per house / apartment.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran O'Neill

Chairperson, Dublin 15 Community Council