

CLIMATE NEWS



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Dublin City Council Climate Action Team Official
Newsletter



COLLABORATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Dublin's cooperation with Seoul as part of the IURC program is well underway! IURC stands for International Urban & Regional Cooperation and it is a program designed to foster dialogue and learning between cities and regions on various thematic areas such as urban planning, transport and much more. Representatives from Dublin City Council attended the bi-lateral meetings and spoke about our Walking & Cycling Action Plan and outlined initiatives that have been put into place to encourage active travel. We learnt from JooHee Hong about the Seoul Pedestrian Friendly Policy, including the landmark 'Seoullo' project which converted an overpass to a pedestrian and public realm space designed to allow walking and relaxing.

2015_ Seoul Station Overpass



2017_ Seoul Station Overpass

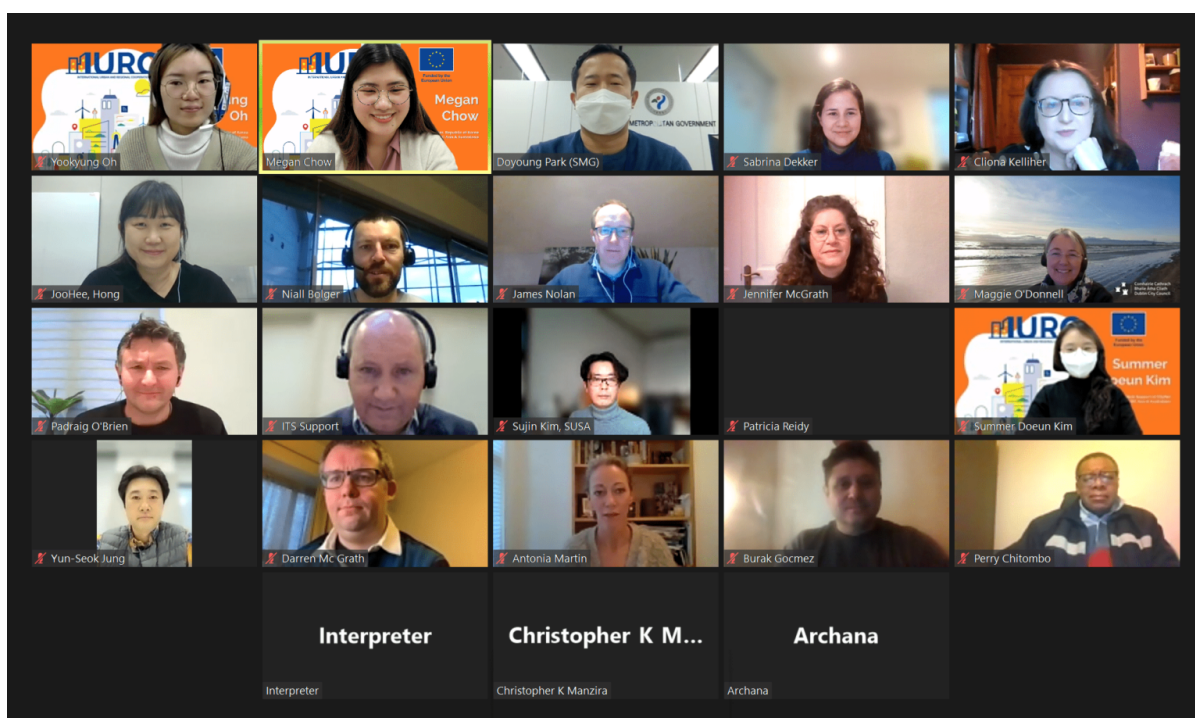
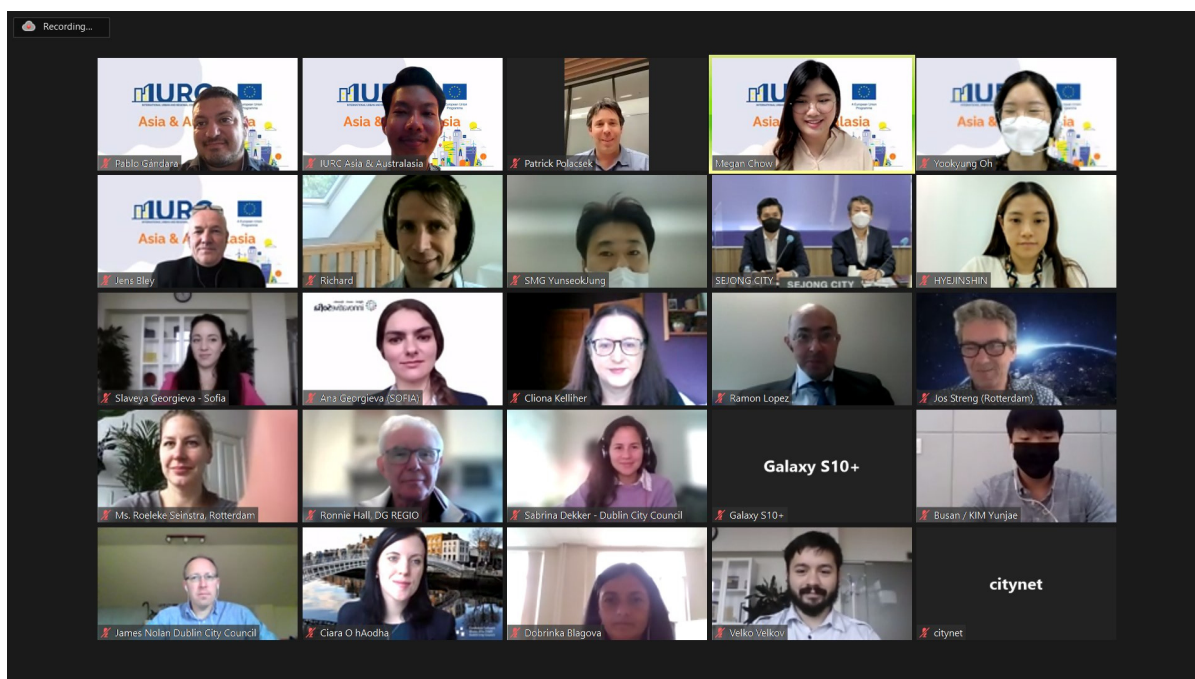
The design by Winny Mass, the winning design in the International Design Competition for the Renewal of the Seoul Station Overpass, has been discussed and developed

Resulting in pedestrian paths which will
re-connect the East and West with nearby areas



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Despite the time and language differences, our two cities have been able to come together and share knowledge and enthusiasm for sustainable transport policies, ably hosted by Megan of IURC. You can read more about the 27th January meeting [HERE](#).

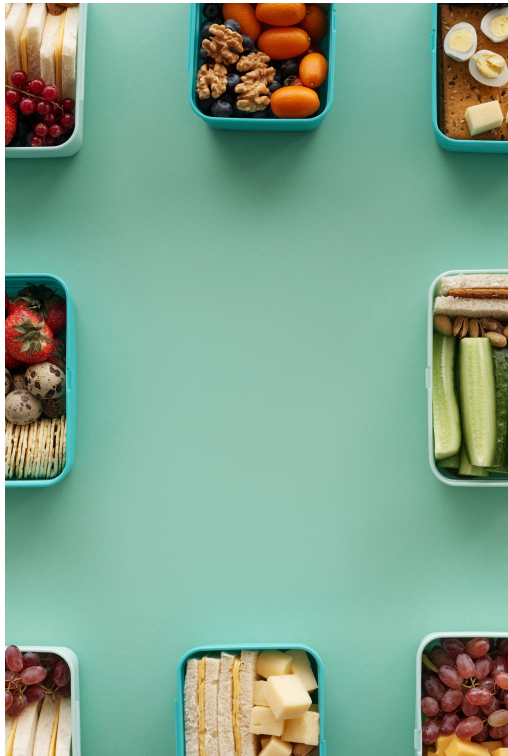


REDUCING WASTE IN THE OFFICE



Now that we are beginning to return slowly to normality and getting back to the office, we can create some good habits right from the start that will reduce waste and do a little bit to help the environment. You may think that the small actions you take don't make a difference, but when combined with everyone else's efforts, they can really effect change.

Here are just some of the ways that making an effort to recycle and reduce waste can make a difference, courtesy of [MyWaste.ie](https://www.mywaste.ie)



- **You can make a bicycle out of 650 recycled aluminium cans.**
- **If you recycle one aluminium can today, it can be made into a new can, get filled and be back on the shelf in just six weeks.**
- **Approximately 75% of the aluminium ever produced is still in circulation today.**
- **Each ton of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 2.2 cubic metres of landfill space and 7,000 gallons of water.**
- **It is possible to recycle one sheet of printer paper up to 7 times.**
- **Producing plastic products from recycled plastics reduces energy requirements by 66%.**
- **Recycling just 1 tonne of plastics saves 1,000–2,000 gallons of petroleum.**

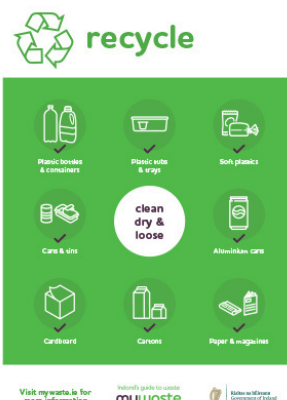
You may have noticed the segregated bins in the office - the aim should be to use the general waste bin last - and only for items that aren't suitable for recycling or food waste. Items going into the recycling bin should be clean and not contaminated with food, so if it's not possible to get your container clean, that's one instance where the general bin is the place to go.



What can I Compost?

Any kind of food can go in the brown bins, cooked or uncooked. It's also suitable for compostable cups or for kitchen roll and paper napkins. It's important not to contaminate the bin with plastics or any kind of non-compostable items.

What can I Recycle?



You can recycle soft plastics, any kind of plastic packaging, cartons, cans and paper. Make sure that they are clean and not contaminated with food waste!

Bring Your Own Cup!



mywaste

WE DISCARD 22,000 COFFEE CUPS EVERY HOUR.
THAT'S 200 MILLION A YEAR!



SINGLE-USE IS USELESS.
BRING YOUR OWN CUP / BAG / BOX.

Visit [MyWaste.ie](https://www.mywaste.ie) for more information



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



It really helps to bring your own reusable cup - lots of places offer a discount for your reusable cup and it's the best option for takeout coffee, much better even than compostable cups. [The Conscious Cup Campaign](#) explains why: 'Apart from logistical problems with recyclable or compostable takeaway cups, both of these options use up valuable resources for what is essentially a single-use item. Both require raw materials and energy to make, transport and dispose of them, these resources can never be recouped.'

What does the Latest IPCC Report Mean for Dublin?

by Sabrina Dekker, Climate Action Coordinator



In February 2022 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released Working Group II (WGII)'s contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report - Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. WGII is focused on the impacts of climate change specifically adaptation and vulnerability.

What does the report mean for coastal city like Dublin?

It is dire, but science is about fact, and the fact is we are now faced with living in cities, in countries, and on a planet impacted by climate change of our own making. While mitigation of climate change, reducing the amount of greenhouse gases we put into the atmosphere is essential, we need to channel our energies to living with the locked-in impacts of climate change that we know of, and to preparing for the unknown. This is not easy.

Sacrifice, a word one only wants to hear very infrequently. However, sacrifice is being used with the regularity of a parent saying 'no' to their child(ren), when we talk about the scale of change needed. It is daunting. However, if we choose not to sacrifice our love affair with convenience, we lose many things far more valuable – our identity, our home, our culture, our community.

The report is over 3000 pages. (I'm still reading through it) What is evident is that we are no longer in a fire drill scenario, the fire has started. Many have not and will not escape. Climate change is indiscriminate in many regards, what is clear though is there are individuals that are more vulnerable – elderly, children, homeless, economically and socially marginalized urban residents (IPCC, 2022) – to the impacts of climate change.

What is also evident is the interconnectedness of climate change impacts. The impacts of climate change are no longer an occasional flood event, or storm limited to an area. In cities, the impacts of climate change meet and exacerbate existing risks. The report states, "Infrastructure, including transportation, water, sanitation and energy systems have been compromised by extreme and slow-onset events, with resulting economic losses, disruptions of services and impacts to wellbeing" with high confidence (IPCC, 2022).

What does this mean? When considering the report states that current approaches to climate adaptation are inadequate, and have a tendency to move risk from one sector to another, or one place to another, it means the current silo'd approach is harmful. Adapting to climate change requires a systems approach, and one where the centre of the system is our health and well-being.

Continued..



How do we move to a systems approach to save our home?

Think of our home - the planet - as your favourite jumper, and it has a loose thread (or in my case worn elbows).

One idea is to knot the thread that is coming loose in your jumper, but you know you will have to be careful putting the jumper on. It's tight and you could break the thread again. There are other options. You know if you cut or pull the loose thread, it will unravel slowly or quickly. The knitting has connected the threads of the jumper. Another option is to mend it, a lot more effort as you have to find the right thread or be creative if it is a hole. This will take time and patience, but it is worth it. You get to keep your jumper.

This isn't a perfect metaphor but, I hope the essence is clear. We all have agency, irrespective of who we are and the means we have. We are part of a system whereby we are all connected. Some of us need to pull, and others to push in order for the whole system to adapt and be resilient to climate change. We know that inclusive climate action can accelerate transformative climate change adaptation (IPCC, 2022) and insure health and well-being are prioritized.

As a city, we are insuring that planning integrates adaptation into everyday decision-making and that our work aligns with the 2030 Agenda, which calls for meeting the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals. This takes time, especially to insure that the city is a place where everyone can live a good life. We know we all depend on a healthy environment for clean air, water and food to live healthy and full lives.

Cities around the world face this challenge: Cities need to be redesigned for the climate crisis. Can they make us happy, too?

IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press.

Health-in-all-Policies

We are delighted to have a contribution from Dr.Cale Lawlor for this issue. Dr. Lawlor is a Senior Medical Officer at the Department of Public Health, with an interest in global health and the environment.

Health-in-All Policies and why it matters to the climate.

At the cornerstone of all the decisions we make about our world, our society and our future, should be health. This includes health of people, but can include health of flora, fauna and the general environment, if we are looking from the point of view called Planetary Health. While there are many competing needs and sectors, such as the economy, politics, agriculture etc., when we follow their missions along far enough, we all come to the same point; they are trying to protect the health of humanity. Given this, the health impacts and implications of all policies (Health-in-All Policies) need to be given priority, because if health isn't considered, and is detrimentally impacted, this invariably means a policy is fighting against its own ultimate objectives.

Health-in-All Policies is a movement gaining traction around the world where each new policy, decision, regulation and initiative should consider the downstream health impacts of changes, and work to promote health and wellbeing. It is a movement supported by the World Health Organisation (see link below). If looking from a Planetary Health point of view, this includes of the natural world and environment. Into the future, this will become imperative, because if we consider human health and wellbeing, and Planetary Health, we have to consider the climate and climate change.

The fight against climate change is also a fight to protect human health and wellbeing. When we consider health in our policies, we consider the climate, and vice versa. They are not separable from each other.

https://www.who.int/social_determinants/publications/health-policies-manual/key-messages-en.pdf



DUBLIN REGION OPEN DATA CLIMATE ACTION CHALLENGE

The Dublin Region Open Data Climate Action Challenge seeks innovative ideas and applications that use open data to drive climate action. Entry is open to individuals and groups of all ages and backgrounds through completing a short application form which will be available on <https://smartdublin.ie>. The launch date for the Challenge is 30th March 2022.

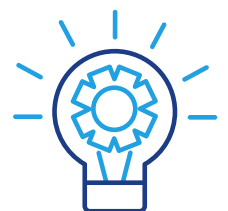
The Challenge is organised by Smart Dublin; the Climate Action teams within the four Dublin local authorities (DLAs): Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin; the Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office (CARO); Codema, and; Derilinx. Funding is provided by these organisations and from DPER's Open Data Engagement Fund.

Organisers of the Challenge realise that human induced climate change is the most pressing challenge of our time. We also realise environment-related data that can be used to raise awareness of climate issues and inspire climate action. Much of this data, for example on emissions, weather trends, flooding or air quality, can be accessed as open data on the Dublin Region and National open data portals. So we are looking for researchers, students, data scientists, and anyone willing and able to work with this open data to create analyses, build models, design interactive maps and develop applications to show us what can be done.

All proposals which use open data to support climate action are welcome. However, alignment with the DLAs Climate Change Action Plans 2019-2024 is of interest, especially under the following five themes: Energy & Buildings; Nature-Based Solutions & Biodiversity; Flood Resilience; Transport, and; Resource Management and Circular Economy.

Shortlisted participants receive €1,000 (to the value of) to take part in the eight week challenge. At the end of which, the most innovative, engaging and practical solutions will be awarded the following: first prize €5,000 (to the value of); second prize €3,000 (to the value of), and third prize €2,000 (to the value of). This Challenge will also allow participants to benefit from subject matter expertise from the Challenge organisers as they develop their projects.

For more information on the Challenge, you can visit the website at <https://smartdublin.ie> and/or contact Smart Dublin Projects Coordinator, Luke Binns on luke.binns@smartdublin.ie.



NATIONAL TREE WEEK 2022



National Tree Week takes place in March every year - you can find the details of this year's program here: [NATIONAL TREE WEEK](#)

Did you know that Dublin City Council has a Tree Strategy?

The Tree Strategy seeks to provide a coordinated approach to the management of trees in Dublin city. The strategy sets out a long-term vision for the management of public trees. It also creates a greater awareness of, and appreciation for this valuable resource within Dublin City Council, other relevant agencies and among the public.

You can find the Tree Strategy here: [Dublin City Council Tree Strategy](#)

