

# CLIMATE NEWS



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

Dublin City Council Climate Action Team Official  
Newsletter

## 5 EASY ECO RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

You may hate New Year's resolutions but there's no doubt that there's something about the (slightly!) brighter days that inspires rejuvenation.

If you've wondered about taking some action to help the environment but weren't sure where to start, here are 5 easy changes you can make that can be done long term without any huge effort.

- **Ditch the disposable coffee cups!** According to a study by Recycling List Ireland, we throw out about 200 million cups each year. Switching to a reusable cup can make a big difference and might also save you some money as many cafés offer a discount for reusable cups.
- **Leave the car at home for short journeys where possible.** According to the CSO (2019), 70% of car journeys as driver are 15 minutes or less. The issue with this from an emissions perspective is that your car doesn't run as efficiently and creates more pollution (including within the car which impacts your own health). Walking or cycling to the shop or school can improve your fitness too. Don't forget to get the gear! Dressing for the weather makes bad weather journeys so much easier.
- **Switch off lights and appliances when not in use.** This can help reduce carbon emissions. You can also lower the thermostat in your house. Did you know that turning the thermostat down by one degree can reduce your heating bill by 10%? ([SEAI](#))



- **Reduce food waste.** Irish households throw out about 150kg of food every year, at a cost of approximately €700 ([EPA](#)) Food waste contributes to greenhouse gas emissions but it also makes sense to try and save some money at home. Do what works for you! Some options are: Create lists, check the fridge before leaving home, check expiry dates on products, ignore multi-pack special offers if you won't use them and try to use up leftovers. 1. Check out [Eat the Streets](#) for lots of great tips on how to reduce food waste and learn some new cooking skills.
- **Think about shifting shopping habits.** It can be tempting in the cold post-Christmas months to indulge in a bit of retail therapy. But switching from buying new to opting for pre-loved can give the same mood boost with a much lesser impact on the environment. On street charity shops and online thrift outlets can have an amazing range of clothes, shoes and accessories. Some of the larger charity shops also have furniture sections and it's always worth checking out freecycle platforms if you are looking for something in particular. If you want to try a more advanced resolutions, you could learn some new sewing skills so that you can refashion or upcycle your thrift shop finds. (See details below for Rediscovery Centre sewing workshops)

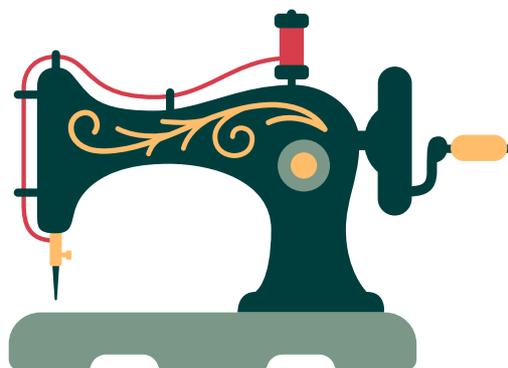


## REDISCOVERY CENTRE WORKSHOPS

Would you like to improve your sewing skills or learn about upcycling or upholstery? The Rediscovery Centre are hosting workshops at the end of January/beginning of February which can help you enhance the life span of products, or personalise them to your own taste, and have some fun at the same time.

Check out the workshop details below:

[Rediscovery Centre Workshops](#)



# GENDER AND TRANSPORT

‘Transport is often seen as gender-neutral, providing benefit to all equally. However, a growing body of international research highlights that this is not the case.’ ([Travelling in a Woman’s Shoes Report](#))

Research has shown that women and men access and use transport in different ways. Acknowledging this and creating transportation modes and civic spaces which are inclusive of everyone, leads to social benefits and contributes to climate action and decarbonisation.

An example of one of the differences is movement pattern – whilst public transport has been designed around a direct commute to work and home:

‘Bus and metro networks tend to prioritise routes that bring commuters from the suburbs and outer boroughs into the city centre. These routes are assumed to offer the greatest economic benefit to the city, and they are statistically more likely to be used by men, travelling to and from workplaces[1].’

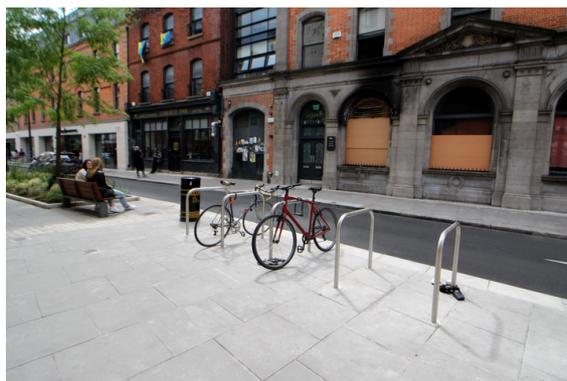
Women’s patterns of travel are likely to reflect their home and childcare responsibilities, and often involve shorter but more complex journeys. With age and an increase of the aforementioned responsibilities, the car can become a more attractive option, as the public transport network cannot meet these needs without placing a considerable extra time and inconvenience burden on women.

Nadia Williams speaks about the [power dynamics of road travel](#) and how inclusive design can mitigate against some of this dynamic.

‘A segregated cycle track is an example of this: It recognises and accepts that the vulnerable shouldn’t be mixed with the relatively invulnerable, and keeps them safe by keeping them separate.’

Safety is another concern for women using public transport. According to the Scottish Gender Matters Roadmap, ‘women cite public transport as a ‘hotspot’ for gendered abuse and sexual harassment, and raise concerns about poorly-staffed services and termini, as well as services that are poorly connected, especially at night.’

[1]<https://www.c40.org/women4climate/resources/women4climate-report-gender-inclusive-climate-action-in-cities/>



Similarly with regards to cycling, statistically women are less likely to cycle than men and this underrepresentation is true for Ireland and other countries globally. As with public transport, safety is one concern. However there are other factors involved such as access to physical infrastructure, for example parking sheds or bike signals. Bicycle compatible workplaces can encourage more people to cycle, although this is not specific to gender. Another factor explored by Carroll et al., (2020) is that apartment living has an impact on cycling rates and the physical exertion of carrying a bicycle from apartment to exit point is a deterrent, therefore providing safe and secure entry level bicycle storage could address this issue.

Overall, the complexity of this issue, and the need for a large reduction in carbon emissions from vehicles would suggest that a cross sectoral and inclusive approach, including consultation, would go some way to change travel patterns.

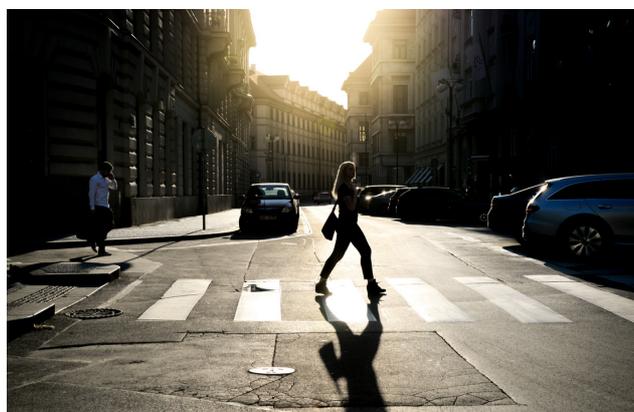
There are lots of initiatives from around the world which have tried to address some of the issues women face whilst using public transport or walking/cycling.

[Transport for London](#), in cooperation with other agencies, launched a campaign last year to combat sexual harassment on public transport and to encourage passengers to be active bystanders.

[In Egypt](#), there is a women only taxi service, which allows women, either resident or visitor, to feel safer when making small journeys by taxi.

[In Mexico City](#), cycling enthusiast Gaby Hernández Castillo runs a bike rental and tour company, with a mostly female staff. Gaby has been challenging the notion that bicycle mechanics and guides should be male. Gaby began her advocacy with the first free bike school in the city called [Mujeres en Bici](#).

[Vienna](#) has for a long time implemented gender-equitable planning, with a dedicated department to allow progress on gender mainstreaming in public realm and transport planning.



# COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME



The Community Climate Action Programme was developed after consultation with community leaders who participated in the Government of Ireland Climate Conversations programme. Community leaders expressed a desire to support the government efforts to tackle climate change and the biodiversity emergency through locally developed projects which meet local community needs.

Under Strand 1 'Building Low Carbon Communities' Local Authorities have been allocated €24m to support communities with their efforts, with Dublin City Council allocated €1,938,000 from the fund.

The fund has three primary objectives:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Build climate resilience
- Support the transition to a lower carbon economy

These objectives will be achieved by taking action in five thematic areas:

- Community energy
- Travel
- Food and waste
- Shopping and recycling
- Local climate and environmental action

Local community groups are encouraged to take a holistic approach to their climate actions by developing projects which incorporate at least three of the thematic areas if possible. Dean Eaton [dean.eaton@dublincity.ie](mailto:dean.eaton@dublincity.ie) the Community Climate Action Officer is available to help groups develop their proposals.

There are three categories of funding available, see below, with projects able to be fully funded by the Community Climate Action Programme, no match funding required.

Project Scale	Project Value	% of fund
Small Scale Projects	Up to €20,000	10%
Medium Scale Projects	€21,000 to €50,000	40%
Large Scale Projects	€51,000 to €100,000	50%

## Who can apply?

This project is open to not for profit organisations such as community groups, resident associations and sport clubs who are located within the Local Authority area and whose action projects are undertaken within Dublin City Council's boundary.

Unfortunately private individuals, commercial undertakings, education institutes, national organisations and financial institutions cannot apply.

### Competitive process

The awarding of funds will be made via a competitive process, with the projects that meet the primary objectives detailed above and which make the biggest contributions towards the successful delivery of local and national climate plans and which are delivered in an inclusive manner for the benefit of all, most likely to be successful. Workshops are being offered by DCC in partnership with GAP Global Action Plan to help communities develop their proposals.

F2 Centre, 3 Reuban Plaza, Rialto, Wednesday 24th January 7-9pm, register [here](#).

St. Kevin's Community Centre, Bloomfield Avenue, Thursday 25th January 6-8pm, register [here](#).

Once again if you wish to learn more about the programme, or if you have any questions, please contact our Community Climate Action officer, Dean Eaton [dean.eaton@dublincity.ie](mailto:dean.eaton@dublincity.ie)



## Dublin City Community Climate Action Programme

Building low carbon,  
sustainable communities



**Dean Eaton**  
Community Climate Action Officer  
Dublin City Council



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

# OTHER NEWS

## Enfuse 2024 Now Open!

ENFUSE matches local enterprises and social enterprises with teams of Master's university / college students. During semester 2 (January-May) as part of a module, students work in teams of 4-6 members with selected enterprises. The students help provide insights, propose solutions and ultimately present a bespoke and tangible plan that sets out how the enterprise can innovate, address challenges and develop opportunities. ENFUSE is a great, no-cost opportunity for enterprises to target specific challenges and to get a fresh set of eyes on the business. Student teams can assist enterprises with: Strategy, Marketing, Digital Marketing, Innovation, Digital Transformation, Project Management, Tourism / Hospitality / Event Development, New Product / Service Development, Finance, Data Analysis, Machine Learning, and more.

### Enterprise - Benefits of Participation

- Market research, insights and new ideas
- Tangible plan on how to address challenges
- No cost to the enterprise
- Short-term (January – May)
- Promotional opportunities on Social Media and in Press
- Opportunity to screen potential employees from student teams (Grants available to support employing graduates: [LEO Priming / Business Expansion Grants](#); Enterprise Ireland [Gradstart](#))
- Potential to win supports at the ENFUSE Finals 2024

·Deadline for submitting Applications: 23:59, 18/01/2024

**‘With ingenuity, creativity, and flair, the fantastic team of students devised an intelligent marketing campaign that translates a complex topic into something that will really resonate with our target. Taking part in ENFUSE helped us think outside the box, provided us with a framework for how to translate theory into publicity, and shaped our marketing for the years to come.’ Steve O'Reilly – [The Rediscovery Centre](#)**

**[Apply Here](#)**