

**The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund
for the Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount Catchment Area**

Annual Report 2023

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1. Establishment of the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee and the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund

A Community Gain Liaison Committee and a Community Gain Fund were established for the catchment area of Irishtown, Ringsend, and Sandymount, in accordance with Planning Permission, reference 29S.EF2022 and Industrial Emissions Directive Licence, reference W0232-01, granted by An Bord Pleanála and the Environmental Protection Agency respectively, for the Dublin Waste to Energy Project.

The relevant conditions are reproduced below:

Planning Condition No. 2

“A community liaison committee shall be established to liaise between Dublin City Council and the local community. The membership of this committee shall reflect the membership of the community gain administration board proposed by Dublin City Council in its submission at the Oral Hearing. The committee shall comprise 10 members having an independent chairperson, 3 local community representatives, 3 elected members of Dublin City Council, 2 officials of Dublin City Council and 1 representative from the operators of the waste to energy facility. The Community Liaison Committee shall have responsibility for the administration of the community gain fund account to be set up in accordance with condition No.3 of the planning permission and for decisions on projects to be supported by the fund in addition to acting as a liaison committee with the local community in relation to ongoing monitoring of the operation of the facility”.

Planning Condition No. 3

“A Community Gain Fund shall be established to support facilities and services which would be of benefit to the community in the general catchment area. This fund shall include a once-off capital contribution equivalent to 3% of the capital cost of the facility and an annual contribution per tonne of waste accepted for thermal treatment at the plant. The annual contribution shall be €1 per tonne in the first year following commissioning of the plant and thereafter shall be updated in accordance with the consumer price index. Details of the management and operation of the fund which shall be lodged in a special community fund account shall be agreed between DCC and the Community Liaison Committee referred to in Condition No.2 of Planning Permission.”

Licence Condition 2.3.2.8 (c)

“Establish a Community Gain Liaison committee and facilitate regular meetings of that Committee at a frequency to be agreed with the Committee. The Agenda for each meeting shall be prepared in advance.”

1.1 The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee

In line with Planning Condition No. 2, a Community Gain Liaison Committee was established. The current membership of the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee is as follows:

Table 1.1 Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee Membership.

Peter McLoone	Chairperson
Eimear McCormack	Community Representative
Anthony McDonald	Community Representative
David Turner	Community Representative
Cllr. James Geoghegan	Elected Representative
Cllr. Dermot Lacey	Elected Representative
Cllr. Paddy McCartan	Elected Representative
Kieran Mullins, Project Director, Dublin Waste to Energy Ltd.	Contractor Representative
Brian Hanney, South East Area Manager	DCC Official
James Nolan, Executive Manager	DCC Official

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Committee, the current role and responsibility of the Community Gain Liaison Committee is as follows:

1. To have responsibility for the administration and management of the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund.
2. To decide on projects to be supported by the fund which will benefit the local communities in the Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount catchment area.
3. To liaise between Dublin City Council and the local community in relation to ongoing monitoring of the operation of the Dublin Waste to Energy facility.

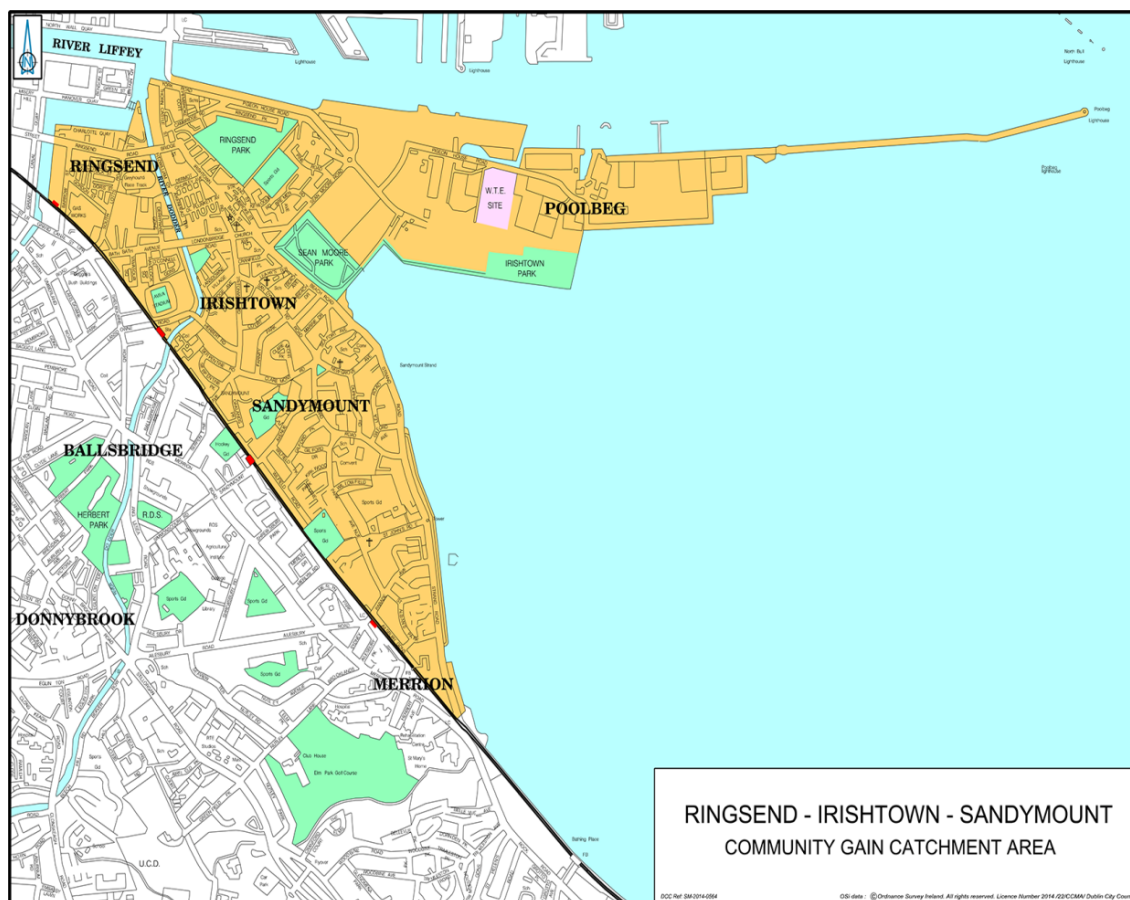
1.1.1 Committee Meetings

The Community Gain Liaison Committee convened on 4 occasions throughout 2023. Two of these meetings were dedicated to assessing each of the 47 grant applications submitted to the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme 2023. In addition, the Committee kept abreast of project developments by way of regular update reports, e-mail correspondence and telephone calls.

1.2 The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund

In line with planning condition no. 3, a Community Gain Fund was established. The Community Gain Fund provides financial assistance to community based clubs, groups, voluntary organisations, educational groups, individuals or businesses for the development of educational, environmental, community and recreational projects in the Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount areas, as defined on the map in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1 Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund Catchment Area.



The Community Gain Fund comprises a once-off capital contribution equivalent to 3% of the capital cost of the Dublin Waste to Energy facility and an annual contribution of €1 per tonne of waste accepted for thermal treatment at the plant. The annual contribution of €1 per tonne is updated in accordance with the consumer price index and will generally equate to circa €600K per annum. Since 2014, circa €14.4m has been credited by the developer, Dublin Waste to Energy Limited, to the Community Gain Fund. Dublin City Council administers the Community Gain Fund and disburses grant payments on behalf of the Community Gain Liaison Committee and Dublin Waste to Energy Ltd.

2. The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee developed the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme (the Scheme) which is an agreed mechanism to assess and fund proposals from local community groups, voluntary organisations, environmental, arts and educational groups, sports clubs, individuals and businesses for the development of environmental, community, educational and recreational projects. The Scheme is funded by Dublin Waste to Energy Limited through its Community Gain Fund and the disbursement of grants is facilitated by Dublin City Council.

Applications are invited to submit proposals to the Scheme for assessment by the Committee and the amount to be contributed, if any, towards a proposed project is at the absolute discretion of the Committee. The local area to benefit from qualifying projects comprises the areas of Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount as indicated on the map in Figure 1.1. Priority is given to projects that enhance their local area and in so doing provide the maximum opportunity to advance community, educational, recreational and environmental initiatives.

Successful grant applicants are issued with a grant award letter detailing the specific documentation required for the drawdown of the approved grant funding. Furthermore, they are also given a date by which the project must be completed and the grant funding drawn down. Grant funding is not released to the beneficiary until all the required documentation has been submitted and verified by the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee. Grant funding not availed of in respect of any Scheme is carried forward and used to fund future Schemes.

The Committee has run five Schemes to date, one in 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023. Thus far, a total of 165 community groups, societies, schools, institutions and sporting organisations in the Ringsend, Irishtown and Sandymount catchment area have been awarded grant funding of circa €12.29m. Table 2.1 refers. Appendix 1 exhibits a selection of photographs of completed projects in respect of the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme 2016-2023.

To date approximately €11.38m has been drawn down by approved grant applicants. The disparity between the total amount approved to the total amount drawn down is due to the fact that some grant recipients did not draw down all of their approved grant funding and on six occasions approved grant applicants withdrew their projects and did not drawdown any of their grant funding. In addition, thus far, the total amount of grant funding drawn down in respect of the 2023 Projects Grant Scheme is €236,976 and the balance remaining for drawdown is €758,051. This scheme is ongoing and grant recipients have until the 1st September 2024 to complete their projects and draw down their grant funding.

Table 2.1 Number of Grant Applications Approved per Scheme with Reference to the Total Amounts Approved per Scheme and the Amount Drawn Down.

Projects Grant Scheme	No. of Applications Approved	Total Amount Approved	Total Amount Drawn Down
2016	32	€4,809,301	€4,801,683
2017	35	€4,246,074	€4,167,811
2019	38	€1,732,180	€1,703,016
2021	28	€508,423	€470,921
2023	32	€995,027	€236,976
Grand Totals	165	€12,291,005	€11,380,407

2.1 The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grants Scheme 2023

The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme 2023 was open for applications from the 7th April 2023 to the 19th May 2023 inclusive. On this occasion €1m was available for disbursement to eligible projects within the Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount catchment area. 47 grant applications were received requesting grant funding in excess of circa €4.2m.

The Community Gain Liaison Committee held four meetings throughout 2023. Two of these were dedicated to assessing each of the grant applications submitted to the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme 2023. The Committee carefully evaluated each application against the Schemes General Conditions and Criteria and determined that the projects they ultimately approved must:

- a) Enhance the local area of Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount and directly benefit the people within those areas.
- b) Have a positive effect on the available community facilities and services.
- c) Enhance the physical appearance of the local area, thereby promoting community pride.
- d) Seek to fulfil a genuine need within the community i.e. where there is lack of facilities and/or services of the type proposed.
- e) Be socially inclusive and accessible without discrimination to all members of the local community.
- f) Be viable and sustainable in the long-term.
- g) Be supported by the local community.
- h) Be possibly based on a co-operative proposal from several groups so as to create a more sustainable use of resources by sharing facilities.
- i) Be possibly formulated within the context of existing plans and strategies of Dublin City Council and other agencies.
- j) Have, where applicable, obtained planning permission. Projects awaiting planning permission may be approved grant funding in principle pending receipt of planning approval.

In accordance with the Scheme's General Conditions and Criteria the Committee also established that approved grant applicants must:

- a) Be compliant with all statutory obligations and regulations.
- b) Have audited financial records and have sufficient monies available to self-fund their project.
- c) Be formally established, hold annual general meetings and have a constitution or rules or memorandum and articles of association, as appropriate.
- d) Be registered with their national representative bodies, as appropriate.
- e) Be accessible to all members of the community without discrimination.
- f) Be able to demonstrate that they are representative of their local community.

2.1.1 Overview of Grant Applications Received

Table 2.2 refers to the number of grant applications received by area with reference to the total amounts requested by area.

Table 2.2 Number of Grant Applications Received by Area with Reference to the Total Amounts Requested per Area.

Area	Irishtown	Ringsend	Sandymount	Grand Totals
No. of Applications Received	5	25	17	47
Total Amount Requested	€342,451.64	€1,999,627.95	€1,940,813.02	4,282,892.61

On receipt of the grant applications, the Committee divides them into three categories, namely, those requesting amounts less than €20K, those requesting amounts of between €20K and €100K and those seeking amounts in excess of €100K. Table 2.3 refers.

Table 2.3 Number of Grant Applications Received by Category with Reference to the Total Amounts Requested by Category.

Category	Under €20K	Between €20K & €100K	Over €100K	Grand Totals
No. of Applications Received	15	20	12	47
Total Amount Requested	€104,598.00	€1,003,103.18	€3,175,191.43	€4,282,892.61

The applicant organisations were representative of a broad range of sectors within the Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount community as shown in table 2.4.

Table 2.4 Number of Grant Applications Received by Sector with Reference to the Total Amounts Requested per Sector.

Sector	No. of Applications Received	Total Amount Requested
Arts	1	€16,900.00
Community	13	€1,011,501.40
Education and Training	13	€1,262,633.15
Environment	2	€51,870.00
Heritage	3	€399,134.77
Sports and Recreation	15	€1,540,853.29
Grand Totals	47	€4,282,892.61

Similarly, the types of projects proposed by applicant organisations were diverse as indicated in table 2.5.

Table 2.5 Number of Grant Applications Received by Project Type with Reference to the Total Amounts Requested per Project Type.

Project Type	No. of Applications Received	Total Amount Requested
Construction or Development of New Facilities or Services	1	€250,000.00
Community Arts	1	€16,900.00
Community Education	10	€413,513.22
Environmental	2	€51,870.00
Heritage	3	€399,134.77
Public Area Enhancement	1	€41,820.00
Purchase of Equipment or Resources	11	€216,340.92
Renovation or Upgrade of Existing Facilities or Services	18	€2,893,313.70
Grand Totals	47	€4,282,892.61

2.1.2 Overview of Grant Applications Approved

Following two grant application assessment meetings during which the Committee discussed and deliberated over every application and evaluated each one against the Projects Grant Scheme General Conditions and Criteria, 32 grant applications were approved and a total of €995,027 in grant funding awarded. Unfortunately, on this occasion the Committee had to decline 15 commendable applications. The successful grant applicants are listed in table 2.6 together with a brief project summary and the value of the grant awarded.

Table 2.6 Summary of Successful Grant Applicant Organisations.

Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme 2023		
Approved Grant Applicants		
Applicant	Project Summary	€ Approved
Poolbeg Yacht & Boat Club	Disability Pontoon	€21,290
Sandymount Community Centre	Centre Modernisation	€100,000
Cambridge FC	Clubhouse Development	€100,000
The Irish Nautical Trust	Maritime Training Equipment	€36,799
St. Matthew's NS	Sensory Space Development	€44,000
Sandymount Park Educate Together SS	Educational Technology	€54,270
Ringsend College	Classroom Renovation	€50,000
Sandymount & Merrion Residents Assoc.	Plans for Sandymount Village	€41,820
St. Patrick's GNS	Educational Resources	€27,000
Dublin City Coastal Rowing Club	Maritime Equipment	€25,000
Stella Maris Rowing Club	Maritime Equipment	€10,000
Dublin Central Mission	Dementia Garden	€22,700
Ringsend Community Services Forum	Community Education and Skills Training	€20,000
Enable Ireland Sandymount School	Playground Redevelopment	€88,000
Scoil Mhuire GNS	Playground Installation	€100,000
Ringsend & Irishtown Community Centre	Café and Tranquillity Room Development	€34,000
Shellybanks Educate Together NS	Educational Resources	€65,000
Brabazon Trust	Fire Precaution Upgrade	€37,100
Ringsend Crèche	Portacabin Fit Out	€25,000
1st Port of Dublin Sea Scouts	Club Facilities Upgrade and Maritime Equipment	€20,000
Ringsend Irishtown Tidy Towns Group	Community Biodiversity Garden	€3,000
St. Patrick's BNS	Educational Technology	€8,800
Dublin Vikings Dragon Boat Club	Club Equipment	€3,213
Ringsend Girl Guides	Guiding Programme Resources	€4,000
Raytown Angling	Maritime Equipment	€4,000
Early Learning Initiative	Plastic Free Playgroup	€3,000
Church of St John the Evangelist	Church Interior Painting	€7,800
The Lir Academy	Theatre for Teenagers	€16,900
The Breakthrough Project	Student Bursaries	€7,000
Ringsend & District Response to Drugs	Replacement Gates	€4,900
Poolbeg Quay Residents	Community AED Device	€2,435
Raytown's Men's Shed	Education and Skills Training	€8,000
Total Grant Funding Awarded		€995,027

Each applicant organisation was informed of the outcome of the Committee's appraisal by way of letter. The successful applicant organisations were notified of the amount approved in principle and advised of the specific conditions that must be met in order to drawdown the grant funding in each case. Each successful grant applicant was given until the 1st September 2024 to complete their project and drawdown their grant funding.

Table 2.7 shows the number of grant applications approved in each category with reference to the total amounts approved in each category.

Table 2.7 Number of Grant Applications Approved by Category with Reference to the Total Amounts Approved by Category.

Category	Under €20K	Between €20K & €100K	Over €100K	Grand Totals
No. of Applications Approved	12	13	7	32
Total Amount Approved	€73,048	€515,620	€406,359	€995,027

The number of grant applications approved from the Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount areas with reference to the total amount approved by area is represented in Table 2.8 and illustrated in Figure 2.1.

Table 2.8 Number of Grant Applications Approved by Area with Reference to the Total Amounts Approved by Area.

Area	Irishtown	Ringsend	Sandymount	Grand Totals
No. of Applications Approved	3	19	10	32
Total Amount Approved	€40,213	€394,124	€560,690	€995,027

Figure 2.1 Total Amounts Approved by Area.

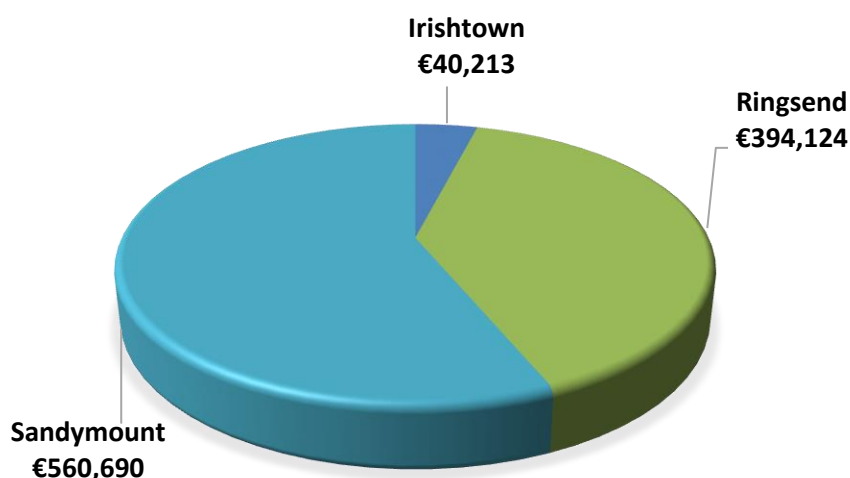


Table 2.9 shows the number of grant applications approved by sector with reference to the total amounts approved by sector and is illustrated in Figure 2.2.

Table 2.9 Number of Grant Applications Approved by Sector with Reference to the Total Amounts Approved by Sector.

Sector	No. of Applications Approved	Total Amount Approved
Arts	1	€16,900
Community	10	€279,995
Education and Training	12	€503,869
Environment	1	€3,000
Heritage	1	€7,800
Sports and Recreation	7	€183,503
Grand Totals	32	€995,027

Figure 2.2 Total Amounts Approved by Sector.

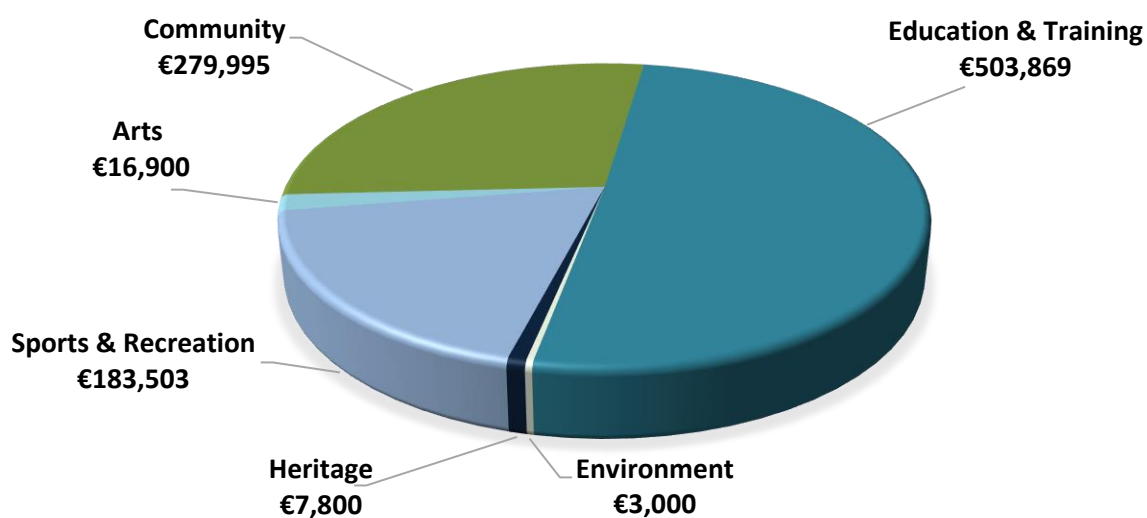
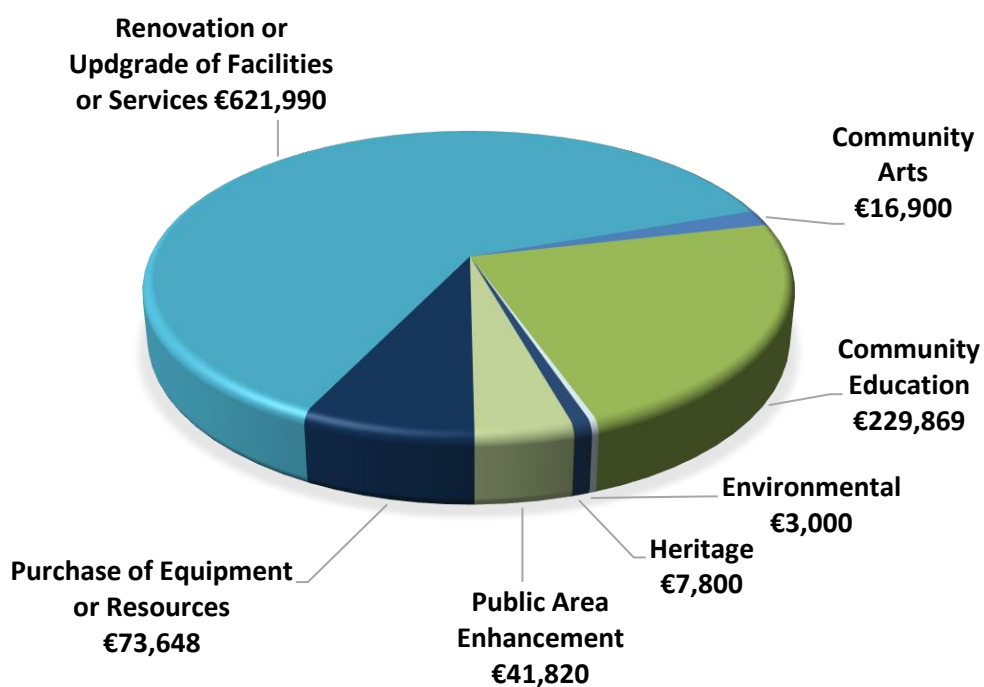


Table 2.10 shows the number of grant applications approved by project type with reference to the total amounts approved by project type and is illustrated in Figure 2.3.

Table 2.10 Number of Grant Applications Approved by Project Type with Reference to the Total Amounts Approved by Project Type.

Project Type	No. of Applications Approved	Total Amount Approved
Community Arts	1	€16,900
Community Education	9	€229,869
Environmental	1	€3,000
Heritage	1	€7,800
Public Area Enhancement	1	€41,820
Purchase of Equipment or Resources	7	€73,648
Renovation or Upgrade of Existing Facilities or Services	12	€621,990
Grand Totals	32	€995,027

Figure 2.3 Total Amounts Approved by Project Type.



3. Finance

The Community Gain Fund comprises a once-off capital contribution equivalent to 3% of the capital cost of the Dublin Waste to Energy facility and an annual contribution of €1 per tonne of waste accepted for thermal treatment at the plant. The annual contribution of €1 per tonne is updated in accordance with the consumer price index and will equate to approximately €600K per annum. Since 2014, circa €14.4m has been credited by the developer, Dublin Waste to Energy Ltd., to the Community Gain Fund. The disbursement of the Community Gain Funds, on behalf of the Community Gain Liaison Committee, is being facilitated by Dublin City Council.

Table 3.1 shows the capital contribution payments from Dublin Waste to Energy Limited and Table 3.2 shows the annual contribution payments in respect of years 2017 to 2023 inclusive.

3.1 Contributions from Dublin Waste to Energy Limited.

Table 3.1 Schedule of Capital Contribution Payments from Dublin Waste to Energy Limited to the Community Gain Fund.

Date	Payment Amount	Cumulative Total
31-Oct-14	€178,553.03	€178,553.03
31-Jan-14	€970,622.57	€1,149,175.59
30-Apr-15	€991,384.55	€2,140,560.14
31-Jul-15	€1,157,480.39	€3,298,040.52
31-Oct-15	€1,812,520.85	€5,110,561.38
31-Jan-16	€1,265,442.68	€6,376,004.06
30-Apr-16	€1,406,624.15	€7,782,628.20
31-Jul-16	€623,897.50	€8,406,525.70
31-Oct-16	€607,287.92	€9,013,813.62
31-Jan-17	€321,810.69	€9,335,624.31
30-Apr-17	€539,811.48	€9,875,435.79
31-Jul-17	€291,705.82	€10,167,141.61
31-Oct-17	€170,248.24	€10,337,389.84
31-Jan-18	€43,600.16	€10,380,990.00

Table 3.2 Annual Contribution Payments from Dublin Waste to Energy Limited to the Community Gain Fund.

Year	Payment Amount	Cumulative Total
2017	€278,702	€278,702
2018	€599,001	€877,703
2019	€601,103	€1,478,806
2020	€608,897	€2,087,703
2021	€622,175	€2,709,878
2022	€629,639	€3,339,517
2023	€691,777	€4,031,294

3.2 Payments of Grants from the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund.

The administration of the Community Gain Fund and the disbursement of grants is managed by Dublin City Council on behalf of Dublin Waste to Energy Ltd. and the Community Gain Liaison Committee. A separate cost centre is set up in respect of each Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme. Each cost centre is used solely to manage the payment of grants to each Scheme's approved grant applicants.

In respect of the Projects Grant Scheme 2023 each successful grant applicant was issued with a grant award letter detailing the documentation required for the drawdown of their approved grant funding and a grant agreement form which details the specific conditions associated with their allocated grant funding. In addition, each approved grant applicant was assigned a date by which their grant aided project must be completed and their grant funding drawn down. As the Dublin Waste to Energy Projects Grant Scheme is a reimbursement scheme, successful grant applicants are required to self-fund their project and upon completion of their project submit receipts for the expenditure incurred. It must be emphasised that grant funding is only released to the recipient when all the required drawdown documentation has been submitted and verified by the Community Gain Liaison Committee. Also worth highlighting is that grant funding not availed of in respect of any Scheme is carried forward and used to fund future Schemes.

3.3 The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund Income and Expenditure 2023

Table 3.3 provides an analysis of the income and expenditure for 2023 in respect of the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund.

Table 3.3 Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund Income and Expenditure 2023.

Expenditure Year 2023	Amount €
Administrative Expenses	€63,579.56
Chairpersons Allowance	€15,000.00
IT Expenses	€1,348.57
Advertising	€1,015.23
Legal Service	€33.28
Total Expenditure	€81,012.64

3.4 The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund Audit

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Committee, each year the Local Government Auditor carries out an audit of the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund accounts.

In January 2024, the income and expenditure transactions of the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund in respect of year end 2023. The Audit determined that the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain fund has adequate management controls in place for administering the fund. The auditor did not identify any significant reportable issues and, as such, no recommendations were made.

4. Communications

Open and transparent communication and interactions with the communities of Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount is an important role of the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee and a vital aspect of the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme.

In order to achieve ongoing communication with the community three Community Representatives and three Local Councillors sit on the Committee. These members provide an important link and interface between the Committee, Dublin Waste to Energy Ltd. and the local community. They represent the interests of the local community; they disseminate information on behalf of the Committee; deliver feedback and raise issues of relevance to the Committee. They provide the Committee with local knowledge and their contribution has been instrumental in the ongoing success of the Dublin Waste to Energy Projects Grant Scheme.

Further communication and consultation with the local communities of Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount is achieved through a dedicated e-mail address, cglc@dublincity.ie and a direct telephone line, 01 2226293.

The Committee also has an e-mail notification list where over 120 local community groups and clubs etc. receive regular e-mail updates in relation to the Projects Grant Scheme, copies of recent reports, and are immediately informed when the Projects Grant Scheme is launched and open for applications.

In addition, the Committee publishes notifications, information and advertisements in the free bi-monthly local community newspaper NewsFour which serves the population of Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount.

The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain website, www.dublincity.ie/dwte is regularly updated with the latest Community Gain Fund and Projects Grant Scheme news, information and announcements including the minutes of the Committee's meetings and project reports. Throughout 2023 there were 3,534 website visits. Table 4.1 refers.

Table 4.1 The Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund Website Analysis 2023.

Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund	
Website Analysis 2023	
Website Pages	Webpage Views
Website Homepage	1,123
Committee Membership	204
Minutes of Committee Meetings	156
Community Gain Fund Annual Report	309
Community Gain Projects Grant Scheme	744
Community Gain Fund Information	397
Dublin Waste to Energy Grant Recipients	601
Grand Totals	3,534