

CLIMATE NEWS



Dublin City Council Climate Action Team Official
Newsletter

FAST FASHION FILM LAUNCH

Fashion Film created by Dublin Local Authorities Launched in style!

A collaboration between the four Dublin Local Authorities and funded by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, “Losing the Thread: The Cost of Fast Fashion”, premiered on Friday, October 3rd, at the Lighthouse Cinema in Smithfield. The launch of the film, which delves into the local and global consequences of fast fashion, saw over 150 Secondary School students from across Dublin celebrate its launch and participated in a day packed with related activities.

The film, which is now available for sharing on the [MyWaste.ie website](https://www.mywaste.ie), takes an honest look at Dublin’s (and Ireland’s) Fast Fashion problem. It examines the environmental impact, the ethical dilemmas and shares the opinions of shoppers on Dublin’s shop streets. It ultimately ends with an inspiring turn, showcasing positive and practical steps we can take, featuring expert opinions from Ireland’s burgeoning circular economy space.

In a joint statement on the film the Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Mayors of Fingal County Council and South Dublin County Council, and Lord Mayor of Dublin City Council said:

"This powerful short film shines a light on the pervasive issue of throwaway culture and grounds it at a local level. We are delighted to engage students with this launch who are the future and are key to fostering a culture of awareness and action that supports long-term change."

The launch was a vibrant mix of education and inspiration which included a circular clothes swap, upcycling workshops, expert advice and an interactive panel discussion with experts in the circular economy. The activities included a fully circular swap shop where over 200 items of clothing were traded! The film and launch are part of the four Dublin Local Authority’s commitment to supporting circular economy and reducing textile waste.

The creation of the film was supported by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment and the Regional Waste Planning Offices.



Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Pamela Kearns, Councillor Colm O'Rourke representing the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Eimear Carbone-Mangan representing the Mayor of Fingal County Council and Cathaoirleach Jim Gildea of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Ciouty Council. Courtesy of Conor McCabe Photography.

'The film that we are about to watch is a collaboration between the four Dublin Local Authorities, and it looks at the real cost of fast fashion. More importantly, though, it shows us that there are lots of ways that we can make a difference as individuals by making sustainable consumer choices. Whether it be buying less, buying second hand or repairing clothes, those choices, magnified by many, will help reduce emissions and protect our environment.'

(Councillor Colm O'Rourke)



Panellists Danson Matekwa, Carrie Ann Moran, Joanne Rourke, and host Jo Linehan. Courtesy of Conor McCabe Photography

Feedback was really positive on the day, with a busy atmosphere and lots of engagement with the swap shop, and with the post film panel discussion. Some of the comments below highlight how the film made an impression and generated a commitment to changing buying habits.

When asked ‘What’s one change you plan to make?’, some student comments were:

‘Try shopping in my own wardrobe’

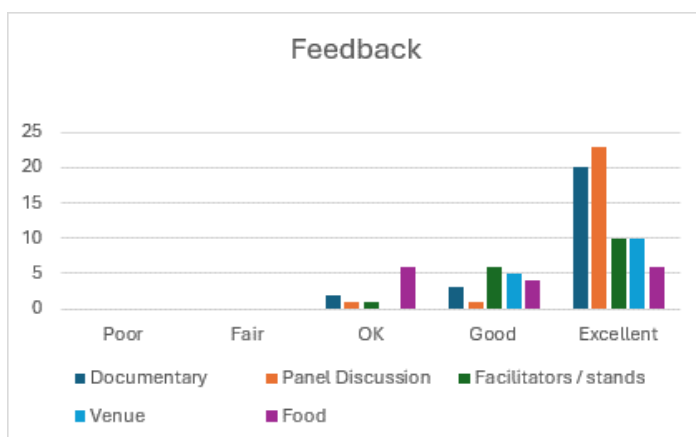
‘Buy secondhand’

‘Get Vinted’

‘To learn a new repair skill’



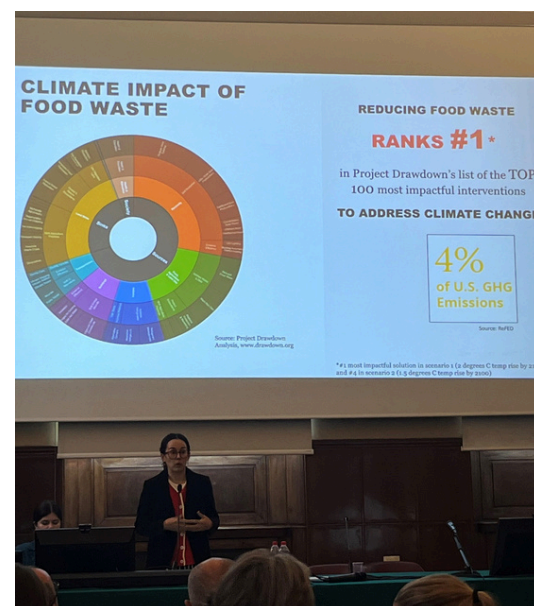
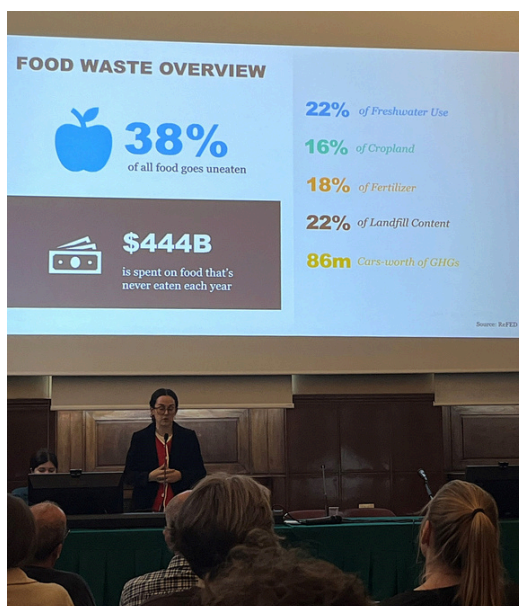
Photo courtesy of Conor McCabe Photography



Day two also featured the Regional Dialogues which examined the work of cities in establishing sustainable food systems.



The link between sustainable food systems and climate change is very clear. The presentation slides below from the Urban Agenda Day One Food Policy training show the impact and how crucial it is that we connect food and climate.



In related news, congratulations to the University of Barcelona who have completed the Menu of Good Governance prototype, which is part of the Cultivate Project. This is a great resource for accessing information about sustainable food practices and policy, and can be used for inspiration or guidance. The link to the Menu is below:

[Menu of Good Governance](#)

BIODIVERSITY ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: LOUIS HAUGH

Dublin City Council's Biodiversity Artist in Residence brings fresh insight into city's motto.



What Do Words Mean is an artwork made by Louis Haugh as part of his time as Biodiversity Artist in Residence programme in Dublin City Council. This residency programme is funded by Creative Ireland and curated by Ruth Carroll. The work is the result of six months of artist-led engagement between the artist and the community of staff members working in the Council, which focussed on how language and its use can impact the way in which we relate to nature in the city.

Participants were invited to engage with different aspects of the interior architecture of the Council's buildings, by imagining the scale of some of Dublin's tallest trees within the built environment. Using specific lengths of ribbon representing individual trees' heights, as defined by the Council's Tree Officer, Ludovic Beaumont.

Through this exercise, they moved through and occupied the Council's buildings in new ways, with the purpose of playing a game of word association as a closing exercise. In this game, participants were asked to respond to a list of six words; city, citizens, obedience, happy, nature and biodiversity, four of which were taken directly from Dublin City's Latin motto *Obedientia Civium Urbis Felicitas* or Happy the City Where Citizens Obey.

Collectively, a lexicon of new terminology and interpretations was generated, from which new translations of the motto are possible. Happy becomes Joyous, City becomes Land, Citizens becomes People, Obey becomes Collaborate, and so on and so forth. In this manner, infinite translations in both Irish and English become possible, which reflect the ever evolving spirit of Dublin.

In October 2025, a series of thirty six flags will be flown along the north and south banks of the river Liffey, from O'Donovan Rossa Bridge to the Millenium Bridge, highlighting some of these new translations in both languages.

Dublin City Council's Biodiversity Artist in Residence Programme is funded by Creative Ireland, through the Creative Climate Action Fund and Dublin City Council. These residencies aim to bring about organisational change by embedding artists in the council to facilitate a greater understanding of the value of nature in the work addressing climate change.



Installation photos courtesy of the artist.



REDUCE YOUR USE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH!

Energy is all around us.

From the lights that help us see in the dark, the heat that keeps us warm in the cold to the phones that help us stay connected when apart, energy powers our daily lives.

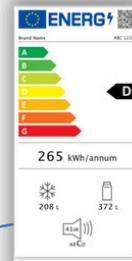
It's a valuable resource but now, more than ever, we must manage it wisely.

This year Dublin City Council are participating in the National Reduce Your Use campaign, committing to reducing our energy use over the winter months.

The DCC Energy Management team have been busy over the past few weeks as they've launched the campaign. In the civic offices, this October, they've held an information stand in the canteen, meeting staff across different departments, getting their views, and talking about the ways we can all reduce energy use both at home and at work. Outside the offices, the team has held stands in local libraries, meeting with the staff there and promoting the home energy saving kits available for the public to borrow in all libraries across Dublin.

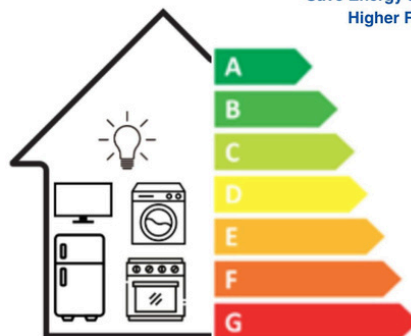
The team are also creating posters to bring awareness to energy labels and looking at the ways in which we view energy and the way we view energy waste. As materials are released over the next few weeks staff are urged to bring their ENERGY and join in as we begin to reduce our use, together.

Do You Know ENERGY Labels?



Found On Electrical Products

Save Energy and €€€ with Higher Ratings



What COLOURS Fill Up Your Home?








REDUCE YOUR USE

We're pledging to Reduce our Use this winter.

Join us on our environmental journey to lower energy use and carbon emissions.

TO LEARN MORE VISIT
www.seai.ie/reduceyouruse/public-bodies

We're taking part. Join us!





Energy Community E-Learning

DIVERGENTLY TOGETHER

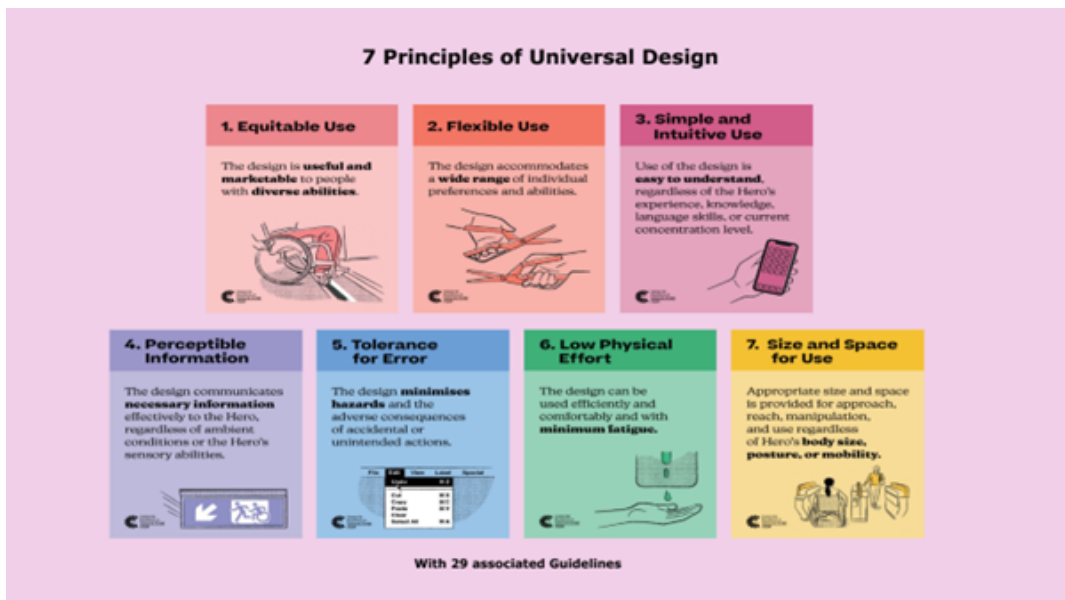
I attended this workshop organised by Divergently Together on the 1st October in DCU. Having attended a previous workshop led by artist Alan James Burns, I had an idea of what to expect but the inclusion of a ‘Know before you go’ document was really helpful. As an autistic person, one of the things I find challenging is navigating new environments and it’s an absolute joy to have a document like this with clear details, photos, maps and accessibility details.

‘Divergently Together is a shared-island community engagement project that uses STEM technologies to facilitate the participation of disabled and neurodivergent communities in climate action. Led by Alan James Burns, together the project advocates for a just transition while breaking down stigmas around neurodiversity and disability in the process.’ (Divergently Together)

As mentioned in previous issues of this newsletter, the disability and other marginalised communities are proportionally far more affected by climate events than the general population. It’s great to see projects like this addressing the issue and exploring the barriers, but also the skills on offer from neurodivergent and other disabled people.

It was a very full day and so many interesting presentations. First up was a look at Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark which is a beautiful example of partnership, inclusivity and a commitment to preserving and celebrating nature.

There was a presentation from Dr. Gerald Craddock from the Centre for Excellence in Design, looking at legislative requirements and how we can make public services accessible for everyone.



There was a talk from Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan who is one of the contributors to 'Wired our own Way', published in 2025, which is an anthology of Irish Autistic Voices – I was also lucky enough to have an essay accepted for the volume, so it was great to hear from Chandrika.

Dr. Sarah Bell from Sensing Climate spoke and then we had an interesting discussion around alt text and using sensory language with Emilie Conway.

There was also a gentle sensory space which allowed for breaks and calm, and which featured a foraged collection of nature objects collated by Emma Mohan-O'Grady.

The below quote from Emma encapsulates the experience of the room for me:

'I just started touching things. Leaves, trees, and grass. I began to interact with the greenery around me, I made a daisy chain. I played with leaves and stinned by doing repetitive movements with everything around me. My body instinctively knew what to do. No restrain needed, no mask worn.'

It felt like a very productive day – I took away a lot of practical tips and insights into different types of disability. It was also a celebration of nature and diversity.

Cliona Kelliher



[Link to Divergently Together Resources](#)

DECARBONISING DUBLIN SUMMIT

DCC Attend Codema's Decarbonising Dublin Summit

The Aviva stadium is typically home to crowds roaring, two teams going head-to-head. On Tuesday 21st October though, a different type of game was at play. Members of Dublin City Council attended the Decarbonising Dublin Summit, Ireland's only event to focus solely on the Dublin Region, organised by Dublin's Energy Agency, [Codema](#).

It was a room of innovators, industry leaders, and policymakers, who created the space and time to come together, not only to listen to one another but to have the conversations around shaping a fairer, greener Dublin.

Spoken in these conversation were the challenges and opportunities for the capital to meet its climate and energy targets towards 2030 and 2050, looking fully at the progress, the setbacks, the challenges, and the opportunities.

The panel provided inspiration for these discussions with their expertise in areas such as sustainable transport, district heating, geothermal energy, and the psychology of climate change while real-impact stories from Phibsboro Village and the Balbriggan Sustainable Energy Community, showed the importance of grassroots solutions that fulfil local community needs.

In seeing the breath of solutions and variety of ideas from industry to bottom-up approaches it's clear that there is not one sole solution behind reaching our targets and that there also is not one sole voice.

With the usual chants of the Aviva not present, voices were heard through the results of the 'Your Voice, Dublin Future Survey' conducted by Codema. Insights were announced on the views of Dubliners on how the city can move away from fossil fuels and become more energy efficient.

It was these multiple voices and the theme of a community that underlay every conversation and the importance of an inclusive, and just transition where all benefit from change, with Gary Tyrell from South Dublin City Council capturing this idea perfectly in that 'When we talk about innovation who are we innovating for and are they in the room?'

Leaving the conference, an environment of collaboration and sharing of strategies, ideas, and knowledge it was clear that whether from local authorities, industries, or communities, each team was a part of something much bigger.

It's clear that Dublin and Ireland's transition to sustainable energy will depend on this kind of a collaborative team. A team that are playing the same game, listening to the chants of each other and leaving no one behind.

Laura Fleming, (DCC Energy Team)