

LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021-2023



COMHAIRLE CONTAE MHUINEACHÁIN
MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

Foreword

The objectives of this plan shall have regard to the mission statement and objectives of the Monaghan County Council Corporate Plan 2020—2024, to make our county a vibrant and inclusive place for the people who live, visit, work, and do business here, now and for the future. The plan shall also have regard to the proper planning and development of the county and the provisions of the Monaghan County Development Plan and shall have regard to Monaghan County Council Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024 and Climate Action Charter.

The plan proposes to address the negative impacts of litter on our county, improve the quality of life and sense of wellbeing of our residents, and enhance our commercial and tourism potential through effective and efficient:

- Management and maintenance of our public realm
- Communication, education and awareness
- Enforcement of legislation and regulation.



Table of Contents:

- 1. Introduction:**
- 2. Legislation Context**
- 3. Review of Litter Management Plan 2018-2020**
- 4. Issues of Concern**
- 5. Education and Awareness**
- 6. Litter Enforcement**
- 7. Objectives of Litter Management Plan 2021 - 2023**
- 8. Waste Collection Facilities in County Monaghan.**

1. Introduction

Climate Change and its long-term effects need to be addressed at national and local levels, by counties, businesses and communities. Monaghan County Council is committed to leading and driving the national response to climate action, by delivering on the actions outlined in our Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 as well as progressing our climate obligations as outlined in the Climate Action Charter which was signed in January 2020, whilst promoting and protecting a clean, safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable. Delivering on these roles will present local authorities with substantial challenges which will require significant cultural and behavioural change and will also require substantial additional resources. Examples of commitments to date to assist with climate action within Monaghan County Council and its divisions, are the purchase of environmentally friendly plant and machinery, thus minimising fossil fuel consumption, the roll out of a compacting solar bin initiative in key locations throughout the county, introduction and promotion of biodiversity and the benefits of pollinator friendly planting, reduction in the use of pesticides and the promotion of green procurement for goods, services and works to support environmental and wider sustainable development, representing both short term and long term value for money.

Monaghan County Council has continued to support communities and advance the economic development of the County. Glaslough's achievements on winning of the overall title of Ireland's Tidiest Town in the 2019 Supervalu National Tidy Towns competition was remarkable. Success in the National Tidy Towns competition requires year-round dedication across a wide range of areas. These are not limited to caring for the physical appearance of the village through daily litter picking, weeding and maintenance; the competition also looks for communities who are actively taking steps to promote environmental responsibility. Monaghan County Council will continue to promote the importance of

looking after our wildlife, our biodiversity and of sustainable resource management to quality of life improvements to other towns and villages throughout the county.

The Litter Management Plan encompasses the period 2021-2023

The Litter Management Plan is a statutory plan as prescribed in Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended). This plan details the measures that are being taken by Monaghan County Council in relation to litter prevention and control in the period ahead, with the assistance of community and voluntary groups, schools, businesses, retailers and all citizens of County Monaghan.

County Monaghan has a land area of 500 square miles and a population of 61,386 (C.S.O. 2018 census) persons. The countryside is characterised by rolling hills or drumlins, with no major mountain ranges or rivers. The N2, one of the major road networks linking north and south, traverses the County. The resultant large volume of traffic travelling through the County on a daily basis can give rise to a litter problem along this stretch of roadway.

Litter management is a demanding task for Monaghan County Council and despite the best efforts of Monaghan County Council and the people of Monaghan, litter is still a major environmental problem. Whilst the vast majority of citizens of our county are actively committed to the prevention and eradication of litter from our community, the problem still persists. Its presence devalues our living environment, generates a negative impression of our County, and places a huge burden on Monaghan County Council's finances.

Litter Management Plan - obligation to make a plan, its purpose and its application

Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 requires Local Authorities to make and implement a Litter Management Plan and review this plan every three years. Monaghan Local Authorities adopted their first Litter Management Plan in 2000 with the latest plan adopted in 2018.

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

A litter management plan shall

- (a) specify such objectives as the local authority deems are appropriate to prevent and control litter in its functional area,
- (b) specify the measures to encourage public awareness with a view to eliminating litter pollution, including educational and information measures directed at young persons,
- (c) specify the measures or arrangements that are to be undertaken by the local authority in order to attain the objectives of the plan, and
- (d) include information on, or be formulated having regard to—
 - (i) an appraisal of all existing litter prevention and control programmes being operated by the local authority,
 - (ii) the policies and objectives of the local authority in relation to the prevention and control of litter
 - (iii) the measures which, in so far as the local authority can determine, will or may be taken during the relevant period by persons other than the local authority for the purposes of preventing and controlling litter,
 - (iv) the facilities at which waste may be deposited by members of the public for recovery or disposal within the meaning of the Waste Management Act, 1996 .
 - (v) the steps to be taken by the local authority to enforce the provisions of this Act in its functional area
 - (vi) any incidental and ancillary matters.

This plan for Monaghan County Council has been prepared in accordance with the requirements and replaces the Litter Management plan adopted by the Council in 2018. As part of the consultation process, a Request For Quotation (RFQ) document was prepared and advertised on e-tenders seeking quotes from two consultants to carry out a pre-consultation process with three main groups in Co. Monaghan – Tidy Towns Network, PPN Network and Comhairle na nOg.

The objective of the consultation was to gain insight

into the opinions of the participating groups on the efficiency of the existing Litter Management Plan and to determine what these groups would like to see included in the new plan.

A further objective was to evaluate what Environmental Services do effectively or areas that require improvement. This pre-consultation took place online during December 2020 and January 2021 and a report was obtained.

Following this pre-consultation, a draft plan was presented to the Climate Action and Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee in April 2021. Comments were included in the draft, and the draft Litter Management Plan was released for public consultation during the months of May and June. In order to publicise this, a notice of intention was placed in local newspapers and advertisements placed on local radio.

A copy of this draft plan was also made available at council offices, libraries and on the council website with submissions invited from the public via the Council's website and in writing during an eight-week period in 2021.

The draft plan included submissions and was presented to the Climate Action and Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee, Corporate Policy Committee and formally adopted at a full Council meeting. Once adopted, the Litter Management Plan was published and available on the Council's website.

Litter related budgets

In 2020, Monaghan Co. Council spent €1,017,755 on litter related activities including street sweeping, materials, skip hire, maintenance, employment of litter wardens and awareness and education activities. This is a major financial spend on behalf of both ratepayers and residents of the County.



2. Legislation

The Litter Pollution Acts 1997 – 2009 give extensive powers to local authorities to deal with litter. Section 2 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 defines litter as ‘any substance or object, whether or not intended as waste (other than waste within the meaning of the Waste Management Act, 1996 which is property consigned for disposal) that, when deposited in a place other than a litter receptacle or other place lawfully designated for the deposit, is or is likely to become unsightly, deleterious, nauseous or unsanitary, whether by itself or with any other such substance or object, and regardless of its size or volume or the extent of the deposit’.

The definition of litter

The definition of litter therefore is quite wide and includes graffiti, fly-tipping, domestic refuse placed in local authority litter receptacles, casual pieces of paper or cigarette ends and anything else large or small which is or is likely to become unsightly.

On the spot Fine

Leaving or throwing litter in a public place or in any place that is visible from a public place is an offence which can be subject to an on-the-spot-fine of €150 or a maximum fine of €4,000 in court. A person convicted of a litter offence may also be required to pay the local authority’s costs and expenses in investigating the offence and bringing the prosecution to court.

Public place

Under Section 6 (1) of the Act, the owner or the person responsible for a place to which the public has access is obliged to keep the place litter free, regardless of how the litter got there. This applies to any public place which may include the precincts of a shopping centre, a school campus, a public park, or even a bus station.

Private property

Under Section 6 (2) of the Act, the owner or occupier of property which can be seen from a public place is obliged to keep it free of litter. Basically, any outdoor area on a property that is visible from a public place must be kept free of litter.

Litter black spots

Where litter has accumulated on property for whatever reason and the litter is visible from a public place, the local authority can issue a notice to the owner or occupier requiring the prompt removal of the litter. Such a notice can also set down precautionary measures to be put in place to prevent a re-occurrence.

Illegal dumping

The litter laws have increased the powers of local authorities to combat the problem of illegal dumping of refuse and rubbish. Where a local authority finds material that is illegally dumped and establishes the identity of the owner of the material, that person may face a prosecution and may be required to pay the associated costs incurred.

Major events

The promoters or organisers of major events are required to ensure that they have litter control measures in place at the venue and in the surrounding vicinity before, during and after the event. This applies to football matches and other social and sporting events at which large crowds attend. Section 17 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 enables the Local Authority to serve a notice on an event organiser requiring that appropriate measures are put in place to prevent the creation of litter.

Mobile food outlets

Under Section 15 of the Act, operators of mobile food outlets selling fast food or beverages, or other outlets such as those selling farm produce are obliged to provide suitable litter bins in the vicinity of their outlets. Also, they must clean up any litter arising from the operation of their outlets within a radius of 100 metres from their outlet.

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is a litter offence under Section 22 (1) of the Act. Dog owners must remove their pets’ waste from public places and dispose of it in a proper manner. This obligation applies to the following places:

- Public roads and footpaths.
- Areas around shopping centres.

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

- School/sports grounds and recreational/leisure areas.
- Beaches.
- The immediate area surrounding another person's house.
- Guide dogs and working dogs (herding of livestock, Garda and Custom and Excise dogs) are exempt.

Advertising Posters and signs

Under Section 19 (1) of the Act, it is forbidden to erect posters/signs on poles, grass verges, roadsides or other structures in public places without permission from the Local Authority. However, some exemptions for local events exist under the Planning Regulations.

Advertising flyers

Under Section 19 (2) the placing of advertising leaflets on car windscreens is prohibited.

Anyone wishing to distribute advertising leaflets in the street should first check with the local authority to see if there are any local litter restrictions in place, which local authorities are entitled to introduce.

Business Owners

Business owners, as with all property owners, within the urban areas are legally obliged to keep the footpaths and pavements in front of their property free of litter. Failure to do so could result in a €150 on the spot fine being issued. A number of businesses have been identified nationally as potential litter generators¹. Operators any of these businesses should be extra vigilant, for example:

Bars and pubs should ensure that no cigarette butts are left on the pavement outside the premises.

Banks should ensure that ATM receipts are not left on the pavement.

Takeaways should ensure that the area outside their premises is kept free of litter. Sweet shops/convenience stores should ensure that no receipts, wrappers, lottery cards etc. are on the pavement outside the premises.

Bookmakers/Turf Accountants should ensure that betting slips or cigarette butts discarded outside their premises are removed.

¹ Potential Litter Generator is the collective term given to premises, sites or activities which are likely to give rise to litter pollution.

Presenting refuse for Collection

Taking a few small precautions in the way refuse is presented for collection will help enormously in preventing the creation of litter. One of the most effective ways of doing this is to avail of a refuse collection service and use wheeled bins.

Under Section 3 (3) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 it is an offence to dispose of household refuse in street litter bins.

County Monaghan Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye Laws 2019

County of Monaghan (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws, 2019 were adopted and came into effect on 1st February 2020. These now repeal the 2009 County of Monaghan Byelaws for the Collection, Storage and Presentation of waste and certain related waste management matters dated 2009.

The purpose of making the bye-law is to ensure that households and businesses provide evidence of participation in an authorised waste collection service, use approved receptacles and storage, appropriately segregate waste and remove hazardous waste and ensure that an orderly waste collection is carried out in County Monaghan.

The penalties proposed for contravention of the bye-law is a fixed payment notice of €75 to be paid within 21 days and failing payment of the fixed penalty notice a maximum penalty on conviction of €2,500. Penalties for continued offences post-conviction are also provided for. The following is a summary of the new bye laws.

- Obligation to Participate in a Waste Collection Service
- Maintenance and Management of Waste Containers
- Location for container storage
- Use of Waste Containers on Collection Day

Examples include fast-food outlets, derelict land, tourist attractions and secondary schools.

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

- Collection Times and Container Removal
- Prohibited Waste Types
- Segregation of Household Waste, Contamination Prevention and Extending Food Waste Collection
- Additional Provisions for Householders not availing of a Kerbside Collection Service
- Provisions affecting Multi-user Buildings, Apartment Blocks,
- Interference with Orderly Waste Collection
- Additional Provisions for Commercial Waste
- Enforcement Provisions/Fixed Payment Notices

3. Review of Litter Management Plan 2018-2020

The following objectives have been achieved over the life of the previous Litter Management Plan.

Eliminate Litter in County Monaghan

Litter continues to be evident in County Monaghan however progress is being made in the number of litter free areas being reported on in National Litter Monitoring Programme. Latest 2019 National Litter Monitoring Statistics shows that 5.6% of sites in Monaghan are deemed litter free.

Raise Awareness of the Litter Management Plan

The 2018 -2020 Litter Management Plan was distributed widely once adopted, and in addition an annual progress report is provided to elected members through the Chief Executives Report.

Develop and continue the current programme for street cleaning for street cleansing for towns and villages throughout the County

Monaghan County Council undertakes a comprehensive street cleaning service in larger towns in the county through its Municipal Districts. The service is a combination of mechanised cleaning on a rota basis with manual sweeping as necessary and also involves the service of litter bins in larger towns and villages. In some villages these bins are

managed in partnership with local Tidy Towns and community groups. Over the past three years, Monaghan County Council spent €2,191,282 on street cleansing. In 2020 the costs of street scavenging and sweeping was €758,754. This continued investment ensures that in particular the urban areas of the County are kept litter free.

Continue the high level of enforcement that exists in the County under the Litter Pollution Act

The number of litter fines issued in 2018 was 80, 90 in 2019 with a total of 200 litter fines being issued in 2020. Monaghan County Council has also utilised CCTV much more extensively to detect and deter littering during the lifetime of previous plan. For example, in 2020 surveillance operations with 3 number mobile cctv units at different locations, specifically bottle banks, were carried out to detect and deter littering.



Develop new partnerships with various voluntary public and commercial bodies with the view to creating joint anti-litter initiatives.

Relationships were built up over the life of the plan with organisations, businesses, statutory and voluntary bodies who share the aims of Monaghan Local Authorities in relation to litter. Particular focus is given to Tidy Towns and much progress has been made in this regard with County Monaghan Towns winning a number of prizes nationally such as Glaslough winning the **2019 SuperValu National Tidy Towns** Competition. This title was previously held by Glaslough 41 years ago. Silver medals were also awarded under the various categories to Carrickmacross and Monaghan town. Over 23

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

villages and communities including Ardagh, Drum, Inniskeen, Greenan’s Cross entered this national competition. Marks are awarded in this competition under the following categories :-

- Community – Planning and Involvement
- Streetscape & Public Places
- Green Spaces and Landscaping
- Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality
- Sustainability – Doing more with less
- Tidiness and Litter Control
- Residential Streets & Housing Areas
- Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes



Develop and implement a wide-ranging public programme of anti-litter initiatives.

Monaghan County Council is innovative in delivering awareness campaigns. Examples include "Drivers, Watch out, CCTV about". These road signs are strategically placed on all regional roads outside the five main towns within the county to act as a reminder to road users. These signs also warn of the €150 penalty.

Further CCTV anti-litter campaigns specifically targeting drivers, have taken place annually on the N2. These projects aim to act as a deterrent to road users that discarding litter from vehicles including coffee cups, food waste etc are subject to a litter fine. Liable drivers were issued with a €150 litter fine and in the event of non-payment, fines were referred to our legal team to initiate legal proceedings. There is an online facility, which may be used for payment of fines as fines may issue to residents outside the county Monaghan jurisdiction, which may be passing through.

Implement a comprehensive primary and secondary school campaign

The national Green School’s programme, co-ordinated by An Taisce and supported locally by Monaghan County Council Environmental staff, is the starting point for most schools to take action on litter and other environmental issues. It promotes whole school activity to develop environmental awareness, both in the school itself and the wider community. The theme for the first green flag is "Litter Recycling and Waste Management" so a clear emphasis is given to raising awareness and reducing littering both in and outside the school. Other themes are energy and water conservation and consumption, climate action and biodiversity, travel and marine.

Greenschool’s is a cornerstone of Monaghan County Council’s litter awareness campaign. Schools continue to participate in the programme on an annual basis. At end of 2020 total registrations for the programme was 71 schools, 1 pre-school, 11 secondary schools and 59 primary schools. Staff members visit primary and secondary schools throughout the county to talk to students on a wide range of environmental issues with litter related matters, being especially popular.



BHC Green Schools Committee 2nd Green Flag!

PIC•COLLAGE

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

Encourage the public to report litter incidences to Monaghan County Council.

The number of litter related complaints has increased annually during lifetime of this plan. In 2018 there were 324 litter related complaints received, 2019 335 number of litter related complaints and in 2020 376 number of litter complaints were received, showing a slight increase during the duration of the last Litter Management Plan.

There are a number of ways to report littering, with email and mobile based applications such as

- See it, Say it App
- Fix My Street App
- FREEPHONE – **1800 200014** confidential line where incidents can be reported
- Email litter@monaghancoco.ie

Increase awareness of the dog fouling problem in County

Monaghan County Council has greatly increased the number of dog bag dispensers available in the County along popular walkways, as well as increasing signage in parks and urban areas.

Monaghan County Council continue to support dog fouling awareness issues annually including a visible joint inspection with the Dog Warden and Environmental Patrol Officer. Municipal District staff ensure these dispensers are stocked and emptied regularly.

Carrickmacross Tidy Towns have collaborated with the Municipal District for the creation of a dog park to help reduce the problem of dog fouling in public areas. Pet parents bring their pets to the park to get exercise and ultimately reduce dog fouling on public streets. This pilot project supported by the Municipal District is underway with the site designated. Funding was recently secured to finalise the park.

Continue with the management of litter at Bring Banks

A number of new mobile CCTV units are situated at bottle banks throughout the county and are used to target recycling banks which have a high rate of illegal dumping. These CCTV units are proving to be

very effective and act as a deterrent in the illegal disposal of waste. The use of CCTV and other technologies are conducted in a manner compliant with all legal and statutory requirements including GDPR. Leaving bottles at a bottle bank when full, can cause serious injury to staff maintaining them. Bottles may be broken and not visible if left in plastic bags, once lifted they bag can split and cause a serious injury. If bottle banks are full it is advised that the user returns on another occasion. Promotional campaigns informing the public of these messages will continue to take place.



Identify major litter black spots in County with a view to eliminating them.

In 2020 Monaghan County Council €109,784 was received under the Anti Dumping Initiative 2020. Projects funded included:

- a. Clean up of large-scale illegal dumping sites
- b. Preventative and abatement projects
- c. Subsidised bulky good disposal at Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross Recycling Centres.

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

Address the problem of chewing gum litter through a combination of awareness raising and enforcement action.

Monaghan County Council continues to participate and co-operate with the Gum Litter Task Force. The GLT is charged with developing and implementing an action plan to tackle gum litter in the most sustainable way – by changing disposal behaviour and encouraging the public to dispose of their gum responsibly in a bin. The GLT campaign has been developed to incorporate a set of integrated initiatives including education and awareness raising measures to ensure the greater visibility of the €150 fine for littering and reminding people that incorrectly disposed of chewing gum is actually littering.

Maximise participation in Spring Clean

Spring Clean is the largest anti-litter initiative in County Monaghan with over 50 community groups participating on an annual basis. These groups are supported by Environmental Services who arrange skips to be delivered at a specific location within their community, on their requested date, free of charge. Litter pickers and bags are further distributed to assist with these events and are available throughout the year to voluntary groups.



Implement the National Litter Pollution monitoring system.

Annually all local authorities including Monaghan County Council carry out surveys over various locations within the county. This data is inputted and analysed as per the requirements of the National Litter Plan Monitoring System.

Performance Indicators 2018-2020

Indicator	2018	2019	2020
Number of litter related complaints (source RMCEI plan)	324	335	376
Number of on the spot fines	80	90	200
Amount spent on scavenging activities	€682,533	€749,995	€758,754
National Litter Monitoring system % of sites deemed Litter Free (LP1)	19.4%	5.6%	Not available to date (National average %)

4. Issues of Concern

Litter, as well as being unsightly, has many detrimental aspects which affect the ability of the County to develop to its full potential –

- The desire of the County to market itself better as a tourist destination will continue to be hampered by a careless attitude to litter.
- Money spent on cleaning up litter could be better spent on providing enhanced amenities in our towns and villages.

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

Causative Factors of Litter

According to the National Litter Pollution Monitoring system results for County Monaghan (based on 2019 figures), pedestrians continue to constitute the largest causative factors of litter at 64.3% on our urban streets. The type of litter found tends to be packaging-related and relate to people smoking, eating or drinking on the street and at gathering points eg. bus stops It is clear that a societal shift in attitudes to dropping litter on our streets is needed.

Cigarette Litter

The results of the 2019 National Litter Pollution Monitoring System indicated that cigarette litter is one of the major causes of litter on our streets and footpaths at 68.5%. Under Section 6 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003, all occupiers of a public place shall keep their place free of litter, including cigarette butts. This includes owners of businesses, houses and public houses.

Gum Litter

Food related litter, at 14.8%, is the second largest category of litter pollution recorded. Chewing gum is the single largest litter component in the food related litter category, and also the second largest component nationally, comprising 13.7% of all litter recorded in the litter quantification surveys carried out in 2019.

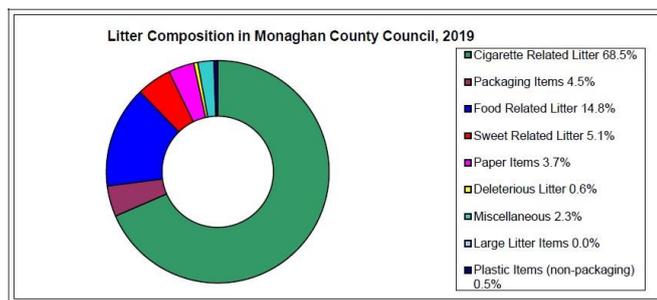


Figure 2-1 Composition of Litter Pollution in Monaghan in 2019

Illegal dumping

Illegally dumped waste is the most visible and damaging type of litter. It occurs not just in isolated rural areas but also in public open spaces. This type of litter results in the largest volume of complaints from the general public to Monaghan County Council and can range from a black bag to large scale illegal dumping. Whilst the Litter Patrol Officer will

make every effort to search for evidence, often no evidence can be found.



Convenience Food Outlets

With the growth of convenience food consumption, there has been a sharp increase in the volume of litter disposed alongside of roads and footpaths within a one mile radius of towns and villages. This is not only unsightly but it is hazardous for our flora & fauna.

Dog Fouling

Dog Fouling throughout the County can be seen as a major source of litter. Dog owners are aware that dog fouling is an offence and are responsible for managing their dog's waste. To promote further awareness, Monaghan County Council has erected information signs throughout the County to highlight this issue. Dog fouling bins are provided in towns, along popular walkways and parks. Dog litter bags are also provided for users to clean up after their dog.



Abandoned Cars

Cars are often abandoned on roadsides and on public open spaces, including residential estates. Abandoning a vehicle is an offence under Section 71 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended. On the spot fines may be issued in respect of abandoned vehicles.

Major events

Major events such as sporting events, concerts, festivals etc. can generate a substantial amount of litter. The nature of the litter is usually casual and packaging related. In 2019 Muckno Mania festival was supported by Monaghan County Council in providing a green festival. Bins specifically for plastic bottles and aluminium cans were provided and a video also produced.

Illegal dumping in forests

Access to the forests is a considerable asset to the public, but exposes Coillte to indiscriminate dumping, a problem which appears to be increasing. It is felt that the problem of dealing with dumping in the forests is a significant issue, affecting the attractiveness of the forests and quality of public access and recreation.

Illegal and unauthorised signage

The proliferation of unauthorised signage along the public road whether that is for events, businesses, auctioneering signs, private messages or guerrilla marketing is a cause of concern. These signs and their fixings, which are often left behind once signs are removed, are a form of litter as well as a general safety concern for road users.

5. Education and Awareness

The environmental awareness programme operates at all levels throughout the county targeting schools, businesses, community groups, sporting groups householders, Tidy Towns and resident’s associations. Some of the typical campaigns are described below.

Schools

The Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO) visits primary and secondary schools throughout the county during term time. There are 62 primary schools and 12 second levels schools in the county which cater for approximately 13,000 school children.

Schools are encouraged to participate in the Green Schools programme, which is an international programme promoting responsible behaviour among school children and the wider community towards the environment. It is organised nationally by An Taisce, with local support provided by local authorities. Activities undertaken in the schools include; talk on litter and other environmental topics by EAO, to junior cycle classrooms, provision of expert workshops, and provision of free resources such as litter pickers and bags to encourage participation.

An incredible €2,766,609.67 was saved nationally across all themes of the programme during the 2019 academic year. €34,446.42 was saved in Monaghan alone across the various themes.

Monaghan Savings: €34,446.42

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	numbers	Waste Diversion kg/year	Energy Reduction Kwh/year	Water Use Reduction litres/year	Trees planted per year
Awarded Schools L&W	67				
Awarded Students	10,315	64,241.82			
Awarded Teachers	719	4,477.93			
Awarded Schools Energy	51				
Awarded Students	7,486		202,122.00		
Awarded Teachers	503		13,581.00		

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

Awarded Schools Water	43				
Awarded Students	7,131			2,053,728.00	
Awarded Teachers	508			146,304.00	
Awarded Schools Biodiversity	11				209
Total Actual Reduction		68,719.75	215,703.00	2,200,032.00	
Cost Reduction per year for awarded schools		€3,435.99	€25,884.36	€5,126.07	
CO2 Reduction in kg CO2/year			116,048.21		
TOTAL REDUCTION ACROSS ALL THEMES PER COUNTY				€34,446.42	
Assumed 180 days in the school year					
Landfill cost/kg = € 0.05	Electricity cost/unit = € 0.12		Water cost/litre = € 0.00233		
Waste reduction pppd=	0.07 kg				
Energy reduction pppd =	0.24 kWh				
Water reduction pppd =	1.6 ltrs				
CO2 reduction per kWh =	0.538 kg CO2				
Trees planted per school =	19				

During the lifetime of this plan Monaghan Local Authorities will:

- Continue working with registered schools and encourage new schools into the programme
- Encourage participation by Secondary Schools in specific projects such as ECO Unesco Young Environmentalist and Junk Kouture.

Competitions were also organised with both primary and secondary schools competing such as “Sing” which primary schools participated in. This competition was won by Gaelscoil Ultain, Monaghan, with prize money of €1,000 being awarded to the winner.



Most recently Environmental Services commenced an Environmental Cinematic Competition for Transition Year Secondary schools with 10 number schools being involved, which had to be postponed due to Covid-19. Each participating school will produce a short movie with an anti-litter message. A video production company will assist the schools in producing and recording the movies and

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

adjudicators will announce the winning school at an awards event in Omniplex Monaghan in the coming year. The winning movie will also be screened in the Omniplex Monaghan for a month after the awards.

Poster competitions were organised in conjunction with Cavan Monaghan Science Week festival which takes place annually in November. The winning poster is used in a billboard and social media campaigns. The theme in 2019 was “Climate Action”. This poster was further used on social media in the promotion Plastic Free July 2020.



National Spring Clean and World Clean Up Day

National Spring Clean Month occurs annually in April. It is organised nationally by An Taisce, is supported by Local Authorities and it has three main objectives;

- To heighten awareness of litter and waste issues.
- To encourage clean-ups throughout the month of April.
- To promote sustained, practical involvement in looking after the environment.

Anybody wishing to do a cleanup locally should register their event with An Taisce (www.nationalspringclean.org). They will then receive a Spring Clean Kit, guidance documents and be covered for insurance purposes.

The success of National Spring Clean depends on the help and support of all people who take part. Each event, no matter how small, will be a positive step towards a litter free environment.

In conjunction with the Roads Department roads maintenance programme, litter picks by the appointed contractor are carried out on a biannual basis along National Primary and National Secondary routes throughout the county. These are carried out in May and September.



Funding for Tidy Towns & Residents Association Network

In addition to resources allocated for skip hire, litter pickers etc, a sum of money is made available each year for the above network entitled “The Community and Environment Fund. The aim of this fund is to support community groups in County Monaghan who wish to undertake environmental projects which will enhance the quality of life of local communities, enhance the appearance of an area and improve the quality of the environment in an area. Financial support in the sum of €71,000.00 in 2020, considered a range of activities, including repairs and maintenance, painting, purchase of bins, litter control, planting of flowers, biodiversity related projects, etc.

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023



- Litter Awareness Campaign focusing on playparks, loughs and secluded spots in the North Monaghan region
- Get into the Green in collaboration with An Dochas Women's Group, Monaghan
- Open Pop up Green Space in front area of Courthouse, Monaghan
- "Bin your butt" cigarette litter campaign
- Dog fouling campaign
- "Santa Cam" CCTV footage



During the life time of this plan Monaghan Local Authorities will:

- Provide resources in the budget for the Community and Environmental Fund.
- Assist new resident associations by providing them with support and guidance.

Social Media

Subsequent to the last plan being adopted, the increasing use of social media as a way to engage the general public, Tidy Towns and community groups has intensified. Monaghan County Council has actively embraced this media platform via Facebook and Twitter and has utilised this in the running a number of campaigns. Examples include

- Bulky Goods Amnesty – large bulky items including mattresses, armchairs, sofas, beds, wardrobes
- Collection of Old Musical Instruments for refurbishment and re-use (Repair My Stuff)

6: Litter Control & Enforcement

Environmental Services of Monaghan County Council has a dedicated team of staff who deal with all aspects of the enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003, the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended and associated waste regulations.

All complaints received are logged onto a handheld electronic device, investigated and a report compiled.

During the lifetime of this plan Monaghan County Council will:-

- Continue to employ and resources the Litter Patrol Warden
- Based on risk, all complaints will be investigated in a timely manner.
- Continue to use technology to record all litter investigations

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

Use of CCTV

The use of CCTV supplements the work of the Litter Patrol Officer, in that it can be used to monitor problem areas such as litter blackspots or bottle banks. Its use is not without its limitations.

Problems including facial recognition which is not possible and can be costly, privacy issues and resources needed to view footage obtained.

Recent developments in environmental enforcement include use of drones and similar technology as a way to monitor and measure sites for illegal dumping. During the lifetime of this plan, Monaghan County Council will:

- Have an annual CCTV monitoring programme
- Continue to liaise with Waste Enforcement Regional Authority on use of drones and other such technology.
- Be cognisant of GDPR related issues and carry out Data Protection Risk Assessments prior to use of any initiatives involving the use of personal data.

Numerous litter and waste focused events have taken place including

- **World Clean Up Day 2019** – Environmental Services held their first World Clean Up Day in 2019 on Sliabh Beagh. Several groups organised their own local clean ups and were supported by the local authority in doing so. In addition, the Heritage Office and Environmental Services collaborated to mark the occasion – a free family day out in the Sliabh Beagh area of North Monaghan. The event was very well attended and included a number of interactive environmental and heritage-based workshops, as well as a clean-up in an area of the bog most affected by litter and waste. Litter is predominantly left in Sliabh Beagh before, during and after the bog cutting season – lots of plastic bags and bottles were recovered as well as some old chairs, tyres and pallets.
- World Clean Up Day 2020 was a more low key affair, with groups carrying out their

own litter picks across the county, in line with government regulations that existed. Support was also provided with the provision of skips, litter pickers and bags to groups participating.



- **Reuse month – October** – Upcycle Challenge 2020 was organised by My Waste and the EPA. This was a national competition which was open to individuals, schools and community groups with a prize for the best project in each category. Applicants from Co. Monaghan have been very successful in this competition in 2019 and again in 2020. The Social Media Winners Choice Award for 2020 was Ms. Ann McKenna for her Memory Teddy Bear, which makes teddy bears out of upcycled deceased people's clothes, for their loved ones.



- **Bikes for Africa** – Monaghan Rotary Club in association with Monaghan County Council, McElvaney Motors and Grahams of Monaghan organised a very successful event “Bikes for Africa” on 25th May 2019. People turned out in their hundreds to donate their old bikes to this very worthy cause. The 500 bikes collected will now be sent to Loughlan House, the correctional

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

facility in Co. Cavan. Here, inmates are offered rehabilitation and training, as well as the chance to support local organisations such as Monaghan Rotary Club in charitable events. In this instance, the Irish Prison Service will facilitate the refurbishment of the bicycles collected in preparation for their delivery to Africa.

- **Get into the Green Scene** - Environmental Services, along with NCCWN Dochas for Women Monaghan, organised an environmental awareness event which was held in St Joseph’s Pastoral Centre, Monaghan Town in January 2020. The event was very well attended – over 80 participants from across the County. There were 19 exhibitors, all offering their advice and expertise on various environmentally themed topics - water quality, biodiversity, composting, recycling etc. Local groups such as Tidy Towns, the Public Participation Network, Friends of Rossmore Park, Transition Monaghan, Monaghan Allotments, Monaghan Men’s Sheds and The Local Community Shop, Monaghan Town were also among the exhibitors. Monaghan County Council services represented were Monaghan Town Library, Map Alerter, Tourism and Environmental Services. CMETB and MIDL were also involved.



- **Bulky Goods Amnesty** – These annual collection events, which are held at the two recycling centres, Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross, allow for customers to dispose of large items including mattresses, sofas, chairs and other large unwanted household furniture. As always these events proved hugely successful and are funded under the Anti Dumping Initiative Grant. A total of 50 tonnes was deposited at both recycling centres with approximately 600 people visiting these sites



- **Plastic Free Festival** - The Making Waves Festival was a massive success and was held in 2018. This Festival featured the RIPE TIDE MOVEMENT, the highly acclaimed band. This was a plastic free festival and was the first to be held within the county. A number of measures were taken to green this local music and food festival, including a series of exhibitors on a sustainable lifestyle like repairmystuff.ie, refill.ie, and the conscious cup campaign. The festival used compostable glassware for the bar area.

7: Objectives of Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2023

Eliminate litter in County Monaghan

- The Litter Management Plan sets out a number of strategies, objectives and actions to eliminate litter in the County.

1. Raise awareness of the Litter Management Plan, its contents and objectives

- Publish the Litter Management Plan through the Monaghan Co. Council website www.monaghancoco.ie and do a number of social media campaigns throughout the lifetime of the plan to raise awareness
- Promote the contents of the plan to all staff and seek their support to help implement the measures.
- Distribute the plan to various towns and villages through the Tidy Towns & Residents Association Networks, with a view to monitoring success in achieving objectives.
- Avail of the local radio station services to ensure that the availability of the plan and its contents are made known.
- Prepare an annual progress report on the plan and place on Chief Executives report in March
- Publish the annual report as a promotional article on the Litter Management Plan in at least one newspaper in the county annually.
- Include relevant litter information on monthly Chief Executives Report.

2. Develop and continue the current programme for street cleansing for towns and villages throughout the County

- Continue the current street cleansing programmes within the major towns.
- Continue to use road sweeper weekly in towns and villages throughout the County
- Continue to liaise with Municipal Districts in relation to their role in litter management in towns and villages, to include the frequency of litter bin emptying, clean-up of

heavily littered areas, weekly inspection of play parks and general maintenance including grass cutting and litter picking

- Provide resources in annual budgets to cater for street cleansing operations.
- Where resources are available and where it is feasible from health and safety perspective, Monaghan County Council will try to coordinate litter picking with verge trimming and road maintenance closures.
- Municipal Districts, in their plant replacement programme for litter management, shall take account of new energy efficient and machinery operated on renewable energies e.g. New electrical vehicle in Carrickmacross.

3. Continue the high level of enforcement that exists in the county under the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2009

- Continue the work of the Environmental Patrol Warden and Litter/Traffic Wardens employed in the County to enforce the terms of the legislation.
- Issue on the spot fines in respect of all offences detected.
- Where practicable, initiate legal proceedings in cases where payment of fine is not received in accordance with the Act.
- Recoup associated costs if successfully prosecuted.
- Implement new payment system on www.fines.ie

4. Utilise CCTV as an enforcement and deterrent measure

- Use CCTV to detect offences particularly at bring centres.
- Operate cameras as per Monaghan County Council policy as per GDPR.
- Ensure value for money through proper public procurement

5. Develop new partnerships with various voluntary, public and commercial bodies with the view to creating joint anti-litter initiatives

- Create collaborative partnerships with businesses, resident's associations, tidy

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

towns groups and any other concerned parties with the view to creating a cleaner sustainable environment in County Monaghan such as Carrickmacross Tidy Towns Plastic Bottle Return Vending Machine

- Subject to the availability of finance, provide assistance by way of a grant to Residents Associations and Tidy Towns Groups in respect of the environmental presentation of their local areas, a key component of which must be litter control.
- Continue to support local tidy areas competitions
- Introduce a new Adopt a Kilometre of Road initiative
- Work with communities throughout the County to ensure maximum participation in National Spring Clean, World Clean Up Day to achieve a partnership approach to dealing with improperly disposed of litter by providing skips, litter pickers and bags
- Develop partnership approaches with all denominational churches in County Monaghan to deliver environmental awareness message to their community via local parish bulletins.
- Utilise toolkit developed by the GAA, in partnership with the LGFA, Camogie Association, Climate Action Regional Office and local authorities across Ireland, who recently launched a Green Club project, to offer support and guidance to clubs in the areas of Nature & Biodiversity, Energy Savings, Waste & Plastic Reduction and Transport and Travel.

6. Develop and implement a wide-ranging public programme of anti-litter initiatives

- Avail of the Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti Grant Scheme from the Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications which will be co-funded from the Council's own resources for the provision of anti-litter promotional material including litter awareness campaigns in local newspapers and radio, social media such as Be Clean, Keep it Green campaign for public parks and

playground

- Use website and social media to promote litter related activities taking place in the County.
- Have at least one major social media campaign per annum such as dog fouling, urban littering etc.
- Use digital and electronic billboards as a means of advertising

7. Implement a comprehensive primary and secondary school campaign

- Encourage participation and provide support for the International Green Schools programme which demands Litter Action Plans from successful participants.
- Provide support by the way of resources and workshops to schools that have demonstrated their commitment to good litter management procedures.
- Encourage schools to support their local Tidy Towns Groups and Residents Associations in environmental initiatives, including litter management.
- Organise regular Environmental Awareness Officer visits to schools to create and sustain awareness on litter.
- Encourage participation in ECO UNESCO Young Environmentalist and Junk Kouture Competition.

8. Encourage the public to report litter incidences to Monaghan County Council.

Monaghan County Council will make it as easy as possible for the general public to report littering offences and locations of illegal dumping by offering a variety of ways to do so. The general public can :-

- **Phone Litter Hotline 1800 200014** or environment section on 042 9661240
- Email Environment Section **litter@monaghancoco.ie**
- Use www.monaghan.ie and follow fixyourstreet portal.
- Use EPA smart phone app "See it, Say it"
- Twitter @MonaghanCoCo.
- Facebook, MonaghanCoCoEnvironment.

Monaghan County Council will ensure that:

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

- Advertisements are used in local media to sustain awareness of these methods.
- Ensure that the Hotline is checked by a designated official at regular intervals, so that all reports of littering can be followed up in a prompt and efficient manner.
- All complaints will be logged onto GIS database system and will be investigated as per Environmental Enforcement Policy adopted in 2017.
- Continue to collate and report on the % numbers of Environmental pollution complaints closed as part of the annual NOAC indicators E2

9. Implement a programme for the selection, placement, maintenance and emptying of bins

- Municipal Districts will continue to deliver bin replacement and selection, placement, maintenance, emptying and site selection within their respective areas.
- All new litter bins will be provided with cigarette ashtrays.
- Continue roll out of solar powered compacting bins in areas of high demand

10. Work with businesses in the County to implement the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2009.

- Implement litter awareness campaigns with local businesses such as Gum Litter; take away packaging, disposable coffee cups etc.
- Arrange for EAO to liaise with local business owners to help prevent litter such as ATM machine receipts, chewing gum, cigarette litter and take-away packaging.
- Review and act on recommendations made in reports issued by Irish Business Against Litter.

11. Increase awareness of the dog fouling problem in the County

- Erect dog fouling signs and bag dispensers where necessary and maintain appropriately.

- The Dog Warden and Environmental Patrol Warden will conduct joint inspections in public areas such as playgrounds to enforce litter and dog control legislation.
- Undertake an annual campaign regarding the legal obligations on dog owners, and the health impacts of dog fouling.

12. Continue with the management of litter at Bring Bank centres throughout the county to ensure they are maintained to the highest standard for all users.

- Continue the regular spot checks of all bring banks centres by the Environmental Patrol Warden.
- Continue to liaise with the service contractor on a regular basis to ensure efficient servicing is undertaken in compliance with the service contract.
- Develop linkages with local community groups to report any cases of littering at sites.
- Develop and implement annual maintenance programme for bottle banks including power washing, branding and bin replacement.

13. Identify major litter black spots in the county with a view to eliminating as many as possible over the timeframe of the Litter Plan

- Identify and record major litter black spots.
- Encourage community groups to report major litter black spots.
- Use ADI funding to assist in clean- up of black spots.

14. Address the problem of chewing gum litter.

- Continue to be involved with the national chewing gum awareness initiative organised by the Gum Litter Task Force.

15. Maximise participation in National Spring Clean and World Clean Up Day.

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

- Undertake an annual media campaign to advertise and promote National Spring Clean and World Clean Up Day.
- Continue to support Tidy Towns & Residents Association Network and other voluntary organisations in undertaking community clean-ups during National Spring Clean and World Clean Up Day.
- Focus on schools in the county to encourage participation in community clean-ups as part of their Day of Action for the Green Schools Programme.
- Support the efforts of the voluntary sector by providing skips, bags, and litter-pickers etc. to assist in the efficient and safe clean-up of local communities.
- Encourage registration for volunteers on www.nationalspringclean.org

16. Implement the National Litter Pollution Monitoring system and to use it to actively monitor the activities and performance of the local authorities in tackling litter

- Undertake annual surveys on the level and composition of litter within urban and rural areas as requested by the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System.

17. All events including those organised by Monaghan Local Authority will be arranged and conducted so as to not create any litter.

- No Monaghan County Council commemorative event or occasion will release balloons or sky lanterns as they are a cause of litter.
- Monaghan Local Authorities will discourage the release of balloons by community groups or other statutory agencies to commemorate or mark an occasion due to the detrimental effect of litter.
- Events subject to planning will be required to submit a litter management plan to the Local Authority.
- All events in the County will be organized in such a way as to minimise the amount of litter generated.

- Provide in Monaghan County Council tender for waste management – extra supply of bins for events.

18. Implement the removal of racist graffiti within the county as per requirement of National Migrant Integration Strategy

8: Waste Disposal Facilities in County Monaghan.

Location of Bring Sites Number Sites	Location
1	Monaghan town - Shopping centre carpark
2	Monaghan town - Shopping centre carpark
3	Monaghan town - Glaslough Street carpark
4	Monaghan town - Corolvin resource centre
5	Clontibret - Churchchurch carpark
6	Scotch Corner Recycling Centre
7	Castleblayney town - Commons carpark
8	Castleblayney Town – Crescent Hill
9	Mullan Housing Estate
10	Emyvale - Rear of community centre
11	Carrickroe - Church carpark
12	Tydavnet - at Community centre
13	Glaslough Community Centre
14	Scotstown - rear of Church
15	Ballybay- entrance to mart
16	Latton - Church carpark
17	Rockcorry - beside teapot row
18	Aghabog - Church carpark
19	Newbliss - village carpark
20	Scotshouse - housing estate
21	Clones - 98 Avenue council carpark
22	Clones - Rear of Apple Green
23	Oram - GAA pitch
24	Carrickmacross - rear of Supervalu
25	Carrickmacross Recycling Centre
26	Lisdoonan
27	Inniskeen
28	Sloan's shop, Monaghan town

Litter Management Plan 2021–2023

Location of Recycling Centres

Scotch Corner, Annyalla, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan, A75 P267. **Phone:** 047 80888

Carrickmacross, Convent lands, Magheross, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, A81 YT50
Phone: 042 9661500

Opening Hours for both facilities:

- Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm
- Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm
- €4 entrance fee

Please note: Commercial charges apply and prices may be subject to change.

